

Link Letter No.3 May 2011

Dear praying friends,

We've had a bit of an up and down time of things recently! Those on our email prayer list will have heard that there is the possibility that the Compassion project linked to San Juan Evangelista may be closed unless the children's attendance rate increases. The whole team involved in the project are working very hard to improve this and by early May we will know whether the project can continue. We ask for your prayers that attendance would increase and for the project to continue.

Paul recently led a Youth Alpha course with the young people from the project, including a weekend away where he saw God ministering powerfully in their lives. As God worked to heal some of their hurt inside, we have been reminded of how desperately these young people and children need Jesus and the support of His followers, the Church. The course has now finished but we ask for your prayers for the long term impact of their experiences and for the youth group at church which continues to grow following the summer camps and Alpha. Paul is now working with Javier, a fellow youth leader, to disciple a team of young leaders to help lead this growing group.

The children and leaders at San Pablo have been praying for Mauricio, a local boy linked to the project, who recently suffered

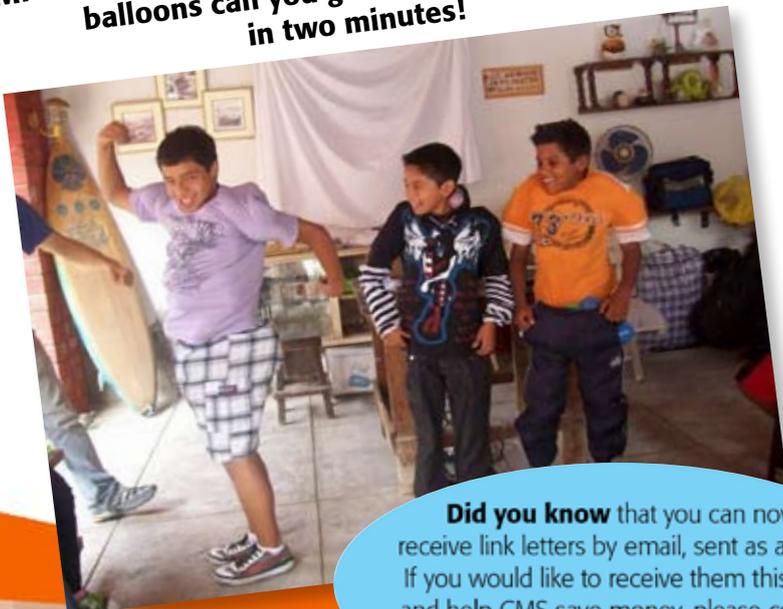
severe head injuries when a small rock fell from the hillside above where he was playing. He has been in hospital for a month and is no longer in a coma but progress is very slow. But Mauricio's community inspires us. Despite being very poor, they have helped the family significantly with medical costs by selling fried chicken and neighbours have donated blood (there is no automatic blood bank here. If you need blood you buy it at £25 a bag or find a donor).

On a brighter note, the children at San Pablo have been very excited by the arrival of tables and chairs (donated by a church in the UK – thank you!). Sarah was also thrilled that there were six boys and five girls at the first meeting of the new youth group that was held by candle and torchlight (we haven't been able to sort out electricity yet). Liz, aged 11, is learning to help lead the group (*see photo overleaf*) and we meet once a week to pray and plan.

We really need an adult male leader too to be a role model for the boys. Deacon Norma Montoya (the vicar's wife at San Pablo's mother church, Santísima Trinidad) has started up services again for adults on Sunday afternoons. Although attendance is low, we are hopeful that God will grow the congregation as the young people are encouraged to bring their parents.

Those of you who have been following Angela's story (from Ventanilla) will be pleased to know that she is receiving support from a psychologist to help her learn how to deal with the problems she faces but she still needs your prayers. Her Mum continues to suffer bad health due to minor strokes and

'Mr Muscle' on the Alpha weekend - how many mini balloons can you get into your clothing in two minutes!



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so Angela has to do much of the housework, cooking, and looking after her little sisters as well as attend school.

Bite-size highlights:

- Over 100 young people attended the diocesan youth gathering designed to encourage them in their faith following the summer camps and return to school. It included a sketch from the young people at San Patricio and Christian dances by those from San Juan Evangelista and San Pablo.
- Frustratingly, paperwork for the birth certificates for the sisters in the children's home has, after five months (!), been refused by the hospital where they were born. We now need to look for a lawyer to help with the case.
- Peru's general election passed off peacefully. There is now a run-off between the final two candidates in June. Please pray for the right person to be chosen.

What would you do? – Going Deeper No. 20

Getting to grips with cross-cultural mission and some of the issues we encounter. Take some time to chew over the issues! Here's this month's:

A poor Mum can't get papers for her children because she's fallen through the cracks in the administrative "system". A poor child fights for life but the health "system" needs to be paid for his treatment. Many poor children may not continue to receive much needed care because the "system" says not enough of them come.

Is a "system" good, bad or neutral? Where is God's heart for the poor and the powerless? How as Christians do we respond to the "systems" of this world?

"Let me be sand in the unjust machinery of the world, bring disquiet to the indifferent, disturb the smooth running of inhumanity. Let me bring thy peace." – Walter Pfister

For your prayers:

Please thank God for:

- The teenagers attending the youth group at San Pablo.
- The blessing of tables and chairs for everyone at San Pablo.
- The Youth Alpha Weekend.
- The Diocesan Youth Gathering.

Please continue to pray:

- That the Compassion project at church would continue



Top: Liz (right) at San Pablo's new candlelit youth group enjoying the new tables

Bottom: Brigitte and a new member of San Pablo enjoy dressing up in the new clothes

and for the young people post Alpha.

- For the growth of young leaders in the youth group at Church.
- For growth in the adult congregation at San Pablo and encouragement and strength for Norma (it is a tiring, sandy walk to the mission from the nearest bus stop).
- For Mauricio's health and for strength and peace for his parents and siblings.
- For Angela and family.
- For wisdom in deciding which of the many opportunities here we get involved in and when to take rest!

Love from us both,

Paul and Sarah xx

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