

News from Paul and Sarah Tester: CMS Mission Partners in Lima, Peru



May - June 2011

“Train up a child in the way he should go...” Proverbs 22:6



“The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life” - John 4 v 13-14

Dear Praying Friends,

iHola! Thank you so much for taking the time to catch up what's happening here in Peru. As the dreary winter weather sets in, the children and young people here keep our days colourful and time seems to fly by!



Sarah and friends at the Compassion project

Thanks so much for your prayers for the Compassion project at San Juan Evangelista where attendance is certainly improving. We have been aware of cultural differences as we, in our British way, would like to call Compassion to get a definitive word as to whether the project is ok or not. However, the Peruvian way is, if no-one has come to say it's closing, keep on working hard and don't ask questions! It would seem that the project will remain open, at least for the next few months. Recent highlights for Sarah at the project have been reading stories to the children as they wait to be collected and for Paul eating lunch with the teenagers (he gets a good portion of meat as the cook feels sorry for him being married to a vegetarian!).

Sarah writes: The children's ministry at San Patricio, Ventanilla is exhausting but lots of fun. Up to eighty children are coming and I'm trying to spend more time visiting and praying with families. When I visited Samir's (8) house, his mum said he'd insisted they clean the house beforehand. I was served toast, honey and hot chocolate and sat on Mum and Dad's bed while we watched Samir's favourite film (the television is one of the family's few possessions). Precious moments!

I've been enjoying the challenge of leading the youth group at San Pablo. As the 20th young person walked into the mission last week, Diego (15) commented, 'we're not a youth group now, we're a people!' Although I struggle to always keep the kids quiet during the teaching it's lovely to see them engaged with the responsive art activities as they sing along to the worship CD. The community has applied for a legal electricity source but we're not sure how long it will take. In the meantime we continue by candle light, trying to avoid tripping over the wet dogs that lie on the floor escaping the drizzle! Unfortunately there is no longer a Sunday service as the adults weren't attending. We are praying for a way forward.



Elias (left) and chums, San Patricio, with the new puppet theatre!

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Youth Leaders exchange thoughts in Arequipa

Paul writes: Much of my time is spent investing in youth leaders, most of them young people themselves. I am meeting monthly with some of the male youth leaders from various churches in Lima to pray and help disciple them. In both San Patricio and San Juan Evangelista churches I am also meeting monthly with the young leaders to train, pray and encourage. I've also been involved in leading workshops for youth leaders in both Lima (where we gathered nearly 40 - a huge encouragement) and Arequipa. All of this is important but the most encouraging part of this ministry has been the one to one times where young leaders have shared and shown how much they are developing in both leadership skills, and more importantly, in their faith. It is wonderful to see young people with a living and strong faith serving God in this way. The challenge continues to be involving adult leaders in youth

ministry. As a diocesan youth ministry we are looking at ways to challenge the church on this point and to encourage more adults to get involved. We are currently meeting with all of the diocesan clergy, one by one, to listen to their vision for their churches and for their youth ministry. We will then look at the ways we can support the churches as they work with young people and plan to put together a day for the clergy which equips, encourages and challenges them in their parish youth ministries. Watch this space for more news!

Bite size Highlights:

- ⇒ We are off to England for 3 weeks on the 3rd July for Paul's sister's wedding and for some holiday with family.
- ⇒ We have a team from St Thomas', Chesterfield, one of our link churches, coming to work at San Juan Evangelista from 27th July -17th August, helping with a children's holiday club and lots of practical work around the church.
- ⇒ The diocese has found a lawyer willing to take on the case of the birth certificates for the girls in the children's home. Progress seems to be being made!
- ⇒ Ollanta Humala has been elected as Peru's new president and takes up office on Independence Day, 28th July.

For your prayers:

Please thank God:

- That it seems that the Compassion project at church will remain open for the time being.
- For Mauricio (8) (seriously injured in April by a falling rock) as he returned home and continues his recovery.

Please continue to pray for:

- Safe journeys (3rd & 25th July), for the wedding (23rd) and relaxing times with our families
- The Compassion project, that attendance would continue to be high
- The youth leaders across the diocese as they continue both in their walk with Christ and in their ministry with young people.
- For the girls in the children's home as decisions are made about their future after the children's home, and for their birth certificates.
- The team from St. Thomas', Chesterfield.
- Those with extra responsibilities while we are away, especially for Lily (San Pablo), David (San Patricio) and Javier and Teófila (San Juan Evangelista).

What would you do? - Going deeper No. 19

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:

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a prophet? We perhaps imagine it to be an exciting life, hearing from God, performing a few miracles and having people in awe of your amazing relationship with God! But what about the awkward fact that many prophets had people reject them, refuse to listen and even persecute them.

If you believe God has challenged you to challenge others and people don't listen or respond as you hope, how would you respond? Where do you draw your strength and patience from? Can you make people listen and respond? How long do you persevere for?

With love and prayers from us both, Paul and Sarah