

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



October - November 2011
Deep Joy!



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

Dear Praying Friends,

Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

Psalms 126:2-3

We feel so very blessed to be able to share with you the news that Sarah is 13 weeks pregnant! We are both completely over the moon and so grateful to God for this miracle of new life. Sarah is feeling generally well, and has already had two scans where we've heard Baby's heart beat and seen him/her dancing around (pleased to report that Baby seems to have a latino sense of rhythm!). Baby is due around 14th May and we plan to have the baby here in Lima.

We just wanted to take the opportunity to thank you so much for your prayers and to share our testimony as to how we've seen God's hand at work in our lives over this time. When we were back in the UK in 2010 Sarah had an operation in the July for endometriosis and was told by the doctor that it would be best to conceive in the months following the operation as the endometriosis could return making conception more difficult. Well, nothing happened and this year in July the endometriosis did return and Sarah was in some pain, but worse was the disappointment that it was another obstacle in starting a family (after already having waited 6 ½ years). Anyway, as is often said at our Church here, 'Nothing is impossible for God!' and at the very time when Sarah's body was weak God blessed us with this amazing gift. We are reminded of Jesus' words to Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. We have had a really special time sharing the news here with our friends and Church family and thanking God together. There have been lots of tears (handled more naturally by Sarah than Paul, who has had to learn to be more at ease with ladies hugging him and weeping on his shoulder!).

Life here in ministry also continues to bring us much joy (but please don't worry, Sarah has slowed down and is being very sensible!). It is great to have Paul's cousin Charlotte here with CMS as part of her gap year. Although here to work in youth ministry at San Juan Evangelista, she has been a particular blessing to Sarah at San Pablo's, on just one afternoon carrying 6 kilos of mandarins up the sandy hillside to the Mission and securing the flapping tin roof using nothing but a table and chair as a ladder, an old car tyre and a very long heavy wooden pole! Brilliant!



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Daleska and Rodrigo

We recently took the Sunday school children on a trip to a local park. They had a great time particularly feeding the fish and whizzing down the 'death slide'. They were very well behaved on the long walk from the Church to the park and back and want to go again soon. We have also been making use of the beautiful garden the team from St. Thomas' made for us, using it for games and one week we even did an entire Sunday school out there.

In the last couple of months since we last wrote much more has happened. The Diocesan Youth Ministry held its annual Family Fun Day to bring the Anglican congregations across Lima together and to raise funds for the youth ministry. It was great to see hundreds of people there enjoying sports, games, stalls and much more. We continue to work hard to try to improve the sustainability of the youth ministry here. Paul and Charlotte took the youth group from San Patricio, Ventanilla on a trip to the zoo which involved the two of us spending more than 9 hours on local buses! The young people had raised the funds to go themselves and very much enjoyed

the day. They are already looking forward to a trip out to celebrate Christmas! At San Juan Evangelista Paul organised two workdays with the congregation to paint the inside of the church and install a speed bump in the road outside church to protect the children from the project from passing traffic. He is also responsible for coordinating the construction work at Sagrada Familia mission where we enjoyed the visit of a team from the U.S. and where work continues to progress. Enough to keep us busy!



Enjoying the penguins at the zoo!

Bite size highlights:

- We had a lovely day celebrating the baptism of our new Goddaughter, Lynda Angélica (daughter of our good friends Jasper and Angélica)
- Fabiola's school attendance has been hit and miss over the past month as her mum has had more work. We hope Fabiola will soon be part of the Compassion project, helping the family to have a better routine.

For your prayers:

Please thank God:

- For Baby! That he/she is developing well and that Sarah is generally feeling good
- For the girls in the Children's Home, as their social worker managed to get their birth certificates sorted!

Please continue to pray for:

- Good health, safety and protection for Baby and Sarah
- Wisdom for Sarah in organizing her days so that she has enough time to rest

What would you do? - Going deeper No. 23
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:

Waiting is not something that comes naturally, especially to those of us from a western culture where most things come to us instantly. The wait for a baby has been at times very difficult. We know there are many others who are waiting for the same thing or for a different blessing from God.

How do you deal with waiting? Is it an opportunity or a frustration? Is time waiting a good thing or a bad thing? How can we make the most of times of waiting? Do we celebrate enough what God has given us already?

With love and prayers from us both, Paul and Sarah xxx