

## Paul, Sarah & Sophia Tester



March 2013  
A Whistle-stop UK tour!

## CMS Mission Partners in Lima, Peru



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

*Dear Praying Friends,*

Since we last wrote, we have seen a good number of you! In the last three months we have travelled to the UK and back to Peru, visited six of our link churches, seen lots of our family, Paul has completed the first term of his MA and visited Ireland and now we are back in the warmth of Lima thinking of you all in the snow in the UK!

It was great to see many of you as we visited link churches and supporters around the UK. It is a real privilege to spend time with so many people who are interested in God's work here. Sophia was of course the star of the show, and her patience with her parents and smiles for the new people she met made things a lot easier. It took her a while to get used to putting a coat on instead of suncream and to understand that when you're not in a desert, water may fall from the sky, which means it's not a good time to go to the park! With all of our travelling and visiting we're sure she got suspicious that each time she got in the car she had a new bedroom coming up. Thank you to those who opened up your homes and to all of you for your on-going support.



"Where to now parents?"



Sharing at one of our link churches

It was, of course, wonderful to be able to spend time with family. One of the things that we find hard about being in Peru is that our family misses out a lot on seeing Sophia grow up. We spent our first Christmas in five years in the UK and had both sets of parents with us on Christmas Day. Sophia particularly enjoyed getting to know her cousins, often shrieking so excitedly with delight when she saw them that she'd frighten her little cousin Daniel. Sophia's baptism on the 17<sup>th</sup> March was a particular highlight as we had all our close family all together with Paul's sister and husband arriving back from several months in New Zealand just in time to be there. The baptism at our home church in Aylesbury included a live link up with Peru so that Sophia's Peruvian Godmother could be involved. We now continue with the challenge of being good Christian parents to her!

Thank you for your prayers for the journeys to and from Peru. The journey to the UK was hard work for Sophia as, without going into further details, it did involve three changes of clothes! However we all

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From the snow in the UK to the heat of Peru

survived and the flight back to Peru, whilst not easy, was significantly better. We were blessed with an additional seat for Sophia on the long flight from Madrid to Lima on a busy aeroplane and so thank you for your prayers.

Arriving back in Peru, we have been delighted to see and hear how things have carried on in our absence. That has been a real answer to prayer. At Misión San Pablo Lily has continued with the children's work and the vicar and his wife, Julio and Norma Montoya, from San Pablo's parent church, have been leading the youth work. A good number of young people from the mission also attended the diocesan summer camp which Lizbeth, the youth coordinator for the diocese organised. In Paul's absence it has been encouraging to see others taking on more responsibility for different roles on the camps. The camps went really well with more young people attending in both Lima and Arequipa and really positive reports from the youth leaders. Sadly part of the sound equipment and two cymbals were stolen from a locked room during the night at the camp in Arequipa, so it wasn't without incident. At San Juan Evangelista the young people themselves have led the group there and Paul was encouraged to see more attending the group than when he

left! A number of young leaders are now also tutors at the church's Compassion project, helping those younger than themselves. At Misión San Patricio, the children's work continues and although there is still nothing regular for the young people there they have met occasionally during the summer here. This of course does challenge us on our return as to where to invest time and energy. Paul is planning to help the young people take on the responsibility for the group at San Juan Evangelista for the long term so do please pray for them as he seeks to take a step back.

Paul has enjoyed studying again. This term he has been studying two theology modules. It has been challenging but in a good way. He has read more books in three months than in the last three years! He needs to complete two assignments by 25<sup>th</sup> April so do please pray for him, particularly that he would allow enough time to do them justice.

#### **For your prayers:**

Please thank God for:

- A blessed time in the UK.
- Wonderful supporters!
- Those who have been leading in Peru in our absence.
- Our safe return to Peru.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom as we get back into ministry here.
- The diocesan youth camp 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> April
- Paul as he completes his assignments by 25<sup>th</sup> April.
- Sophia as she settles back into life in Peru, particularly the constant attention and fussing outside of our home.
- Sarah as she begins to take on more responsibilities again at San Pablo.

*With love and prayers, Paul, Sarah and Sophia XXx*

#### **What would you do? - Going deeper No. 27**

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:

As a missionary family with a young child back in the UK you have lots of people that you want to see, places that you want to visit and you want to encourage those who have been supporting you by sharing about some of the fruits of your ministry. Lots of travelling and lots of different beds! At the same time you want to make sure that your child remains as settled as possible.

How do you decide how many visits to do? How do you help your child to remain as settled as possible? What are the steps you can take to make UK ministry a time you all look forward to?