

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



June / July 2009  
It's true – God is good!



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

*Dear Praying Friends,*

It's news time again! We hope this prayer letter finds you well and with a few moments to read our news and join us in prayer and praise. As ever another couple of months have flown by and we've lots to tell you. Do keep us in touch with your news and prayer requests - we love to hear from you. This month there seems to be a theme of being thankful for many blessings from God so let's dive in and tell you about some of them.

**Paul's News:** I am delighted to say that from June that the Diocese of Peru has been able to employ a diocesan youth ministry coordinator. Lizbeth has begun work on helping parishes and missions with their youth work and has already managed to clock up visits to Ica, Arequipa and Juliaca as well as around Lima to encourage and equip the church to serve and reach out to young people. She is a mature young Christian with a real passion to serve young



Lizbeth- The new diocesan youth coordinator

people and we believe she will make a huge difference in the church's work with young people. The diocese has given us a space in the diocesan centre as a base for the youth ministry and we have some of the funding we need for this new venture. We are now praying for a couple of funding applications we have made to be accepted plus we are working at making the youth ministry more sustainable. I am working with Lizbeth to organise a young people's mission trip to Juliaca in the south of the country which will be from the 24<sup>th</sup> July-2<sup>nd</sup> August. Sarah will be there as well and we'll be running a children's holiday club and youth activities plus lots more! Elsewhere, the youth group at San Juan Evangelista has switched to Sunday mornings to help us involve some of the older children from Sunday school who are the right age to join. This means I can now make it to this group every week as well as going across to San Patricio in Ventanilla with Sarah every Saturday. It's helping build stronger relationships with the young people in both places and we are seeing new members in both groups!

**Sarah's News:** God is faithful. Just when I was lacking in inspiration I was invited (who knows how?) to a conference hosted by World Vision entitled, 'Through play we'll rebuild the world'. Over the three days I picked up new ideas and felt really affirmed in 'El Arca' play scheme ministry. I have tried to take a step back at times in Ventanilla to watch the children play and enjoy themselves. Through visiting the children it has also been brought home to me just how much some of children need the chance to play. Iskra for example, a 9 year old, lives with her teenage sister and her mum who is completely blind due to an accident. On Saturdays Iskra and her sister accompany their mum into the city so that she can work and earn enough to feed the family. The other days when they are at school their mum is house bound. With her homework and the support she needs to give her mum on a daily basis, Iskra has little time left to play. From visiting a similar project run by World Vision nearby I was inspired by how the project is run by teenagers (supervised by an adult). There are several faithful, helpful 11/12 year olds who I am keen to train up to help in a more official role at 'El Arca', freeing me up to be able to spend more time



Lady's designer specs!

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talking to and praying with the children. I am thrilled that 'El Arca' is now being run by the teachers at Santísima Trinidad School (where I worked last year). I ran a training session with the teachers and am now popping in every few weeks to see how it is going. I'm really encouraged and the children are over the moon! Through the experience I now have with 'El Arca' I have also been able to suggest suitable games and toys for the Compassion Student Centre at our church. The children have been a lot calmer since they've had something to occupy them with in spare moments.



Children performing at the anniversary celebrations

### Bite-size Highlights:

- ⇒ Baby Robert, our new (and first) nephew arrived into the world safely on the 6<sup>th</sup> June weighing 6lbs 10oz. Sarah's sister Claire, husband Rob and little Robert are all doing well.
- ⇒ Ed and Jenny, friends from university came to stay with us as part of their holiday and tour of Peru. It was lovely to see them and we enjoyed showing them around Lima.
- ⇒ We helped with translation for the visit of a medical team from Canada, which also meant we got to visit one of the few missions in Lima we haven't been to yet. Sarah got to spend the day teaching children how to clean their teeth with a slightly scary fake set of teeth!
- ⇒ We enjoyed celebrating the church anniversary and the one year anniversary of the Compassion Student Centre
- ⇒ We visited Arequipa and Juliaca as part of the preparation for the mission trip to Juliaca and to take part in youth leader training.

### For your prayers:

Please thank God for:

- The safe arrival of Baby Robert
- That Lizbeth has begun her new role as diocesan youth coordinator and that funding is becoming available.
- The launch of 'El Arca' at Santísima Trinidad School.
- The conference hosted by World Vision.
- New young people in San Juan Evangelista and San Patricio.

Please continue to pray for:

- The final preparations for the youth mission to Juliaca, for good health (especially bearing in mind the swine flu epidemic and the high altitude) and safe journeys and that many will be impacted by the mission and will be encouraged to follow Jesus.
- For Lizbeth in her role as Diocesan Youth Coordinator and for this to be fully funded soon.
- For enthusiastic, committed teenage volunteers to help with 'El Arca' in Ventanilla
- For our time with Ali, a friend from Redcliffe College coming on placement for a fortnight in August to help with the children's ministry
- The seventy new children and several new tutors who will be starting at the Compassion Student Centre on 5<sup>th</sup> August

### What would you do? - Going deeper No. 13

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:

There's an expression in Peru ("Cuando llueve, moja todos") which literally means, "when it rains, everyone gets wet". What it really means is that if one person is blessed with something it should benefit everyone (read Acts 2:44-45). Typically mentioned by a passing thirsty friend who catches you sharing a fizzy drink with the young people, this expression demonstrates a communal attitude towards your time and belongings. Why wouldn't you share things with people even if that means you may never get them back or it might make things more difficult for you? Wouldn't you rather spend the evening chatting with people rather than racing off to finish planning tomorrow's Sunday school?

As mission partners, wanting to demonstrate God's love and generosity to people, how do we respond to these attitudes which are very different to those in the UK? Should we lend / give things we have (including our time, our home etc.) to people freely? Should we hide what we have so that things don't go "walkies"!? When, if at all, do we have **our** things and **our** time?

*Thank you for your support! With lots of love and prayers from us both, Paul and Sarah*