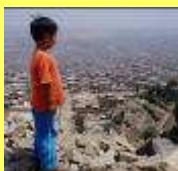
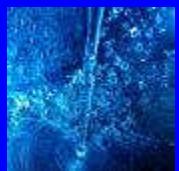


News from Paul and Sarah Tester: SAMS Mission Partners in Lima, Peru



August / September 2009
“Praise God from whom all blessings flow!”



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

Dear Praying Friends,

It had snowed overnight and as we snoozed on the bus, after an early start and a bad night's sleep on a church floor, we crossed the mountain passes at over 4000m on our way to Juliaca as part a youth mission team from Lima. So began our week long adventure with young people from Lima, serving the church's mission post in the high Andes. After a week of children's holiday club in the morning, youth club in the afternoon and many more activities besides (bonfire night, film night, karaoke night, trips out...) we were delighted to hear that the mission would now be able to start up both a Sunday school and a youth group. Thank you for your vital prayer support for this exciting venture which enthused both the Mission in Juliaca and the young people from Lima.



Some of the children from Juliaca after one of Sarah's craft activities!

Paul has been really encouraged to see the youth ministry side of things come on leaps and bounds in the last couple of months. Much of this has been thanks to the appointment of Lizbeth as diocesan youth ministry coordinator (see our June/July news). Having someone working full time has meant that the mission to Juliaca and other recent events have been of high quality and have encouraged growth in ministry with young people across the diocese.

Major events have included:



Young people from our church San Juan Evangelista celebrate winning the 12-16's football tournament

- ⇒ A youth leader training workshop for youth leaders from across Lima attended by 25 people with invited speakers challenging us in how we seek to show God's love to young people.
- ⇒ A day of activities for the young people from the new Missions in the north of Lima to encourage them to create a local youth ministry where they have space to develop and grow.
- ⇒ A youth organised family festival with games, sports tournaments, food, stalls, art competition and much more which brought people together from many churches and helped raise funds for the youth ministry.

At a local level the Compassion Student Centre at San Juan Evangelista received an additional 70 children in August, half of whom were teenagers - a first for our centre. We are delighted to say these children have integrated really well and have triggered a growth in the church youth group. There is now a group of around 15 young people that meet each Sunday morning, forming part of a new family service which the church has launched to reach out to parents as well as children. There are now also youth activities on Saturday afternoon as part of the student centre.

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A challenge at the Student Centre is to retain good tutors as the tutors are only given an 'offering' for what is a large time commitment. We've recently lost a couple of tutors and as a small congregation it's difficult to recruit. Please pray that God will make it clear who the right people are to work with these precious, exhausting children!

'El Arca' ministry is sailing along nicely (there are over 100 children registered in Ventanilla!) and Sarah is excited that plans are coming together to start the project at San Pablo mission in a needy area of Pamplona Alta. San Pablo is a mission of Santísima Trinidad (where we were based as volunteers back in 2000) and, as we used to help at the mission, Sarah already knows several mums and children. Ministering in San Pablo was where Sarah felt confirmed in her call to work among the poor and so it's amazing to be going back. A great blessing is that 'Aunty Lily', our great friend since 2000 and member of Santísima Trinidad congregation, will be helping too.

Bite-size Highlights:

- ⇒ Paul's parents visited for 3 weeks in August and September and we enjoyed a week away with them in Huaraz in the north of Peru.
- ⇒ Ali, a friend from Redcliffe College, came out to Peru as part of her college placement, helping Sarah out a huge amount with the children's ministry.

For your prayers:

Please thank God for:

- The youth mission trip to Juliaca and especially for all the young people and children who heard about Jesus.
- The successful events that the youth ministry has been able to put on over the last two months.
- The growth in the youth ministry at San Juan Evangelista.
- Donations to support Lizbeth in her important ministry.
- Visits from friends and family that have helped us greatly.

Please continue to pray for:

- Us to show God's love and wisdom in the busyness and for real spiritual growth in the children and young people.
- Follow up to the mission trip in Juliaca.
- For the youth ministry at San Juan Evangelista and the new family service on Sunday mornings. Pray for the outreach to adults.
- Paul's trips to Ica (26th-27th Sep) and Juliaca and Arequipa (8th-18th Oct) to strengthen the youth ministries there.
- For new committed tutors for the Student Centre
- For sustainable funding for Lizbeth's ministry.
- For God's guidance on how best to move forward the small youth group in Surco.
- For preparations to launch "El Arca" at San Pablo.
- For us to keep time and energy for each other and to relax.

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



Time out together in Huaraz

What would you do? - Going deeper No. 14
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:

In this prayer letter we've no shortage of things to include. Quite the opposite, we're always short of space. So here's a chance for you to help us. What do you put in a prayer letter? Why not let us know your thoughts.

Some people might just want a few bullet points. Some people might want a book! Do you put in everything or just highlights? Do you include every struggle (you don't want to demotivate your prayer supporters)? Do you include every need (you don't want it to sound like a begging letter)? Do you just put the good stuff (you don't want people to think it's all easy)? Do you just put in the ministry stuff (that's why we're here isn't it?)? Do you include lots of personal bits (you want to connect with people)? More photos, more words, more links to websites...? And how long to spend doing it? And how often?