

Paul, Sarah & Sophia Tester



June 2012
Sophia arrives!

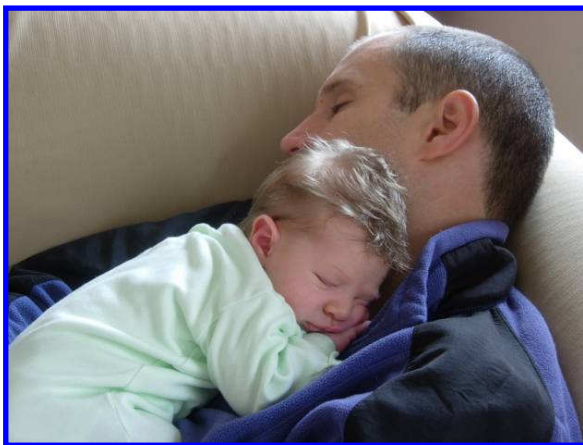
CMS Mission Partners in Lima, Peru



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

Dear Praying Friends,

Our first child, Sophia Lucy, was born here in Lima on the 9th May weighing 7lbs 10oz and measuring 52 cm. We thank God that she is very healthy and has grown significantly in the last four weeks. She has a very good appetite like her father and usually sleeps well too. That said, there have of course been times of great sleep deprivation for her parents! She is starting to develop her own personality. She likes listening to Dad singing hymns and worship songs, lying on her changing mat and reading her cloth book. She is not so keen on bath time and sleeping on her own in her cot, preferring to sleep on someone else's chest.



Thank you to everyone who has sent cards, letters, e-mails and gifts. We have been so blessed to have so many people who care and we are only sorry that we haven't been able to write back to everyone personally. It has been a great encouragement that whilst Sarah gave birth to Sophia here in Lima on the other side of the world so many people have been thinking of us and praying for us. The staff at the hospital were very kind and helpful, as were our neighbours who gave us a lift to and from the hospital. People from church have visited and the whole experience, whilst tiring and stressful at times, has been very blessed. We are now enjoying the visit of Sarah's parents who have been able to be with us for three weeks to help look after us and we look

forward to Paul's parents visiting shortly along with his sister and her husband. We feel that God has really looked after us through the whole time.

Since Sophia's birth we have been able to obtain her Peruvian birth certificate and will shortly receive her identity card. She is officially of dual nationality - Peruvian and British. We are about to begin the process for her British passport which perversely would appear to be more complicated for her than the Peruvian paperwork! An added complication of living and giving birth overseas. Paul took two weeks paternity leave to help look after Sophia and has slowly begun to get back into his ministry whilst Sarah is now getting adjusted to being a full time Mum. It has been wonderful to experience being a larger family!

In life outside of things with Sophia, if that were possible things have continued with those who have taken on roles that we used to have and with generally very positive results. The youth leaders from the churches across Lima attended a leader's workshop run by the diocesan youth ministry. Those who attended enjoyed a day that

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Youth Leader's working in groups at the workshop

began with practicing spiritual disciplines, looked at the topics of "Young people and service" and "Getting organised in your ministry" and after lunch enjoyed a Café Forum where they could ask questions to a panel of experts over cupcakes. Paul continues to pray for and work towards seeing youth leaders across the diocese being equipped and resourced in their service of young people.

In San Patricio, Paul received the disappointing news that Pedro Pablo who had been working with the young people would no longer be involved at the church there. In Peru there is a real difficulty in finding or building up people with the necessary abilities and perseverance to minister to young people and this has typified the problems. Paul is meeting with David, the deacon at the mission,

and the young people to see how things can now go forward. Do please pray that they might find the right way to minister to the young people there. Paul has also been covering for Sarah with the youth at San Pablo mission and last week turned up to find that for an unknown reason there was no electricity at the mission. Crack open the candles and batteries and all was well if not a little chaotic! The youth ministry continues well at San Juan Evangelista although many of the young leaders are now students preparing for university admissions and so are pressured for time as education is seen as the be all and end all by most parents and a lot of the young people. Do please pray that they would be able to set aside and prioritise time for God in all of their other activities.

David in San Patricio and Lily in San Pablo continue the children's work and all seems to be going well there but do please keep praying for them. At San Juan Evangelista, as Sarah has stepped down, the need for more help with the Sunday school has become very apparent. Do please pray for that to be resolved.

For your prayers:

Please thank God for:

- The safe arrival of Sophia Lucy and for all the joy she brings.
- All of the support we have received from people near and far.
- For the success of the youth leader's workshop and for all who attended.

Please continue to pray for:

- Us to learn and grow as a family and for God's blessing upon all of us.
- Paul's parents (16th June-16th July) and Sister and brother-in-law (13th June-24th June) as they come to visit and meet their new granddaughter / niece.
- The process to get Sophia's British passport.
- The youth leaders to put into practice what they learnt at the workshop and for the forthcoming workshop in Arequipa for those in the south of the country, now on the 9th June.
- The youth ministry at San Patricio and for God to guide us clearly as to the best way forward.
- All those leading ministries that Sarah has been involved with and for more help with Sunday school at church.

What would you do? - Going deeper No. 25

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:

Peruvians are a very warm people and everyone is very keen to meet Sophia. Everyone wants to pop round or invite us all out to everything that is happening. At the same time we need to think about Sophia's health (there are plenty of germs and viruses out there!) and have time together as a family, including time to rest.

How do you give people the chance to meet Sophia and yet limit that, without appearing rude, so that she remains healthy and we can rest? How do you decide what to go to and when?

With love and prayers, Paul, Sarah and Sophia XXx