

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



September / October 2010
"Once more unto the breach"



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

Dear Praying Friends,

We're safely back in Peru and have been enjoying settling back in here, catching up with friends and particularly seeing the young people and children again. Paul is off his crutches after his operation and now back up to full speed. It's great to be here and a real privilege to be able to serve the children and young people of Peru.



Sarah and Humberto (the monkey) who's a big hit with the children (thanks to Claire Holmes for the inspiration)

Sarah writes: The best part for me arriving back has been to see the children again! I have been pleased with how others have kept up the various ministries and particularly how Lily and daughter Lynn have become more responsible for 'El Arca' in San Pablo. This has given me more time to invest in training some of the teenagers to be helpers. We meet for an hour before the children arrive to do a mini Bible study, pray, look at a different topic on how to work with children and then they have free time to decorate their folders where they keep their notes. We recently did a jumble sale and raised enough money to mend the broken locks on the Mission doors so that we can securely put some more tables and chairs in.

Saturdays in Ventanilla are becoming madder by the week! Last week I was expecting 70 children but 100 arrived and about 20 mums! There was a mad dash to cobble together enough craft material and juice but everyone left happy after hearing the story of Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish. The children enjoyed joining in the story, rowing, throwing out the net and heaving it in again. The mums are really helpful but we need to divide the children into two groups for the story. Please pray for wisdom in how to best do this. I have been very aware, with such a large group, of the need to spend more time one-to-one with some of the children. I have therefore started regular home visits to have the chance to talk with children and their families and to help with homework. Yesterday, as it was too dark inside the windowless reed mat home, I sat outside on a plank of wood with a little girl who used a sawn in half, upturned, water dispenser bottle as a stool. The six-year-old wrote in beautiful hand-writing in her pristine exercise book as we sat facing the most amazing sunny panorama of farmland, beach and the Pacific Ocean. I felt God's presence. 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth' Matthew 5:5.



The amazing view from the mission in Ventanilla

Note that you no longer need the city code "1" to call our mobiles (see numbers below)

Paul and Sarah's Contact Details:

Post: Artesanos 150 #151, Apartado Postal #116, Surco,
Lima 33, PERU
Tel: +51 1 273 2721
Mob (Paul):+51 990919306; Mob (Sarah):+51 990919307
E-mail: paulandsarahinlima@hotmail.com
Skype: paulandsarahtester
Facebook (See Photos): PaulandSarah Tester



Registered Charity No. 1131655

CMS
Watlington Road
OXFORD
OX4 6BZ
Tel: 0845 620 1799
Web: www.cms-uk.org



Paul enjoying the Youth Ministry's Festival

Paul writes: It has been great to see the young people again. The years of transition from childhood to adulthood are challenging at the best of times so young people really need the church to be a reliable, consistent and loving support for them. It is wonderful to be play a part in that but at the same time it is difficult to understand why many do not catch that vision. I have to confess to having found some things disappointing on our return. The church youth group in Ventanilla had not met since I'd left in March and the group at our church had continued but had struggled. A number of other youth groups in the diocese have also been going through difficult times for a variety of reasons.

It was doubly encouraging then to see that Lizbeth, the diocesan youth coordinator, has been working so well in encouraging our youth leaders and young people and helping equip them for the challenges that lie ahead. As I settle back into ministry here, I am continually reflecting on how we can inspire and equip more people to serve in what I believe is a vital ministry with people at a critical stage in their lives. A third of Peru's population is between 12 and 25 and so there are no shortage of young people to work with. However, there does seem to be a shortage of people willing to commit to the difficult and yet rewarding ministry of loving and serving young people, seeking to bring them the good news of Jesus. 'Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."' (Matthew 9:37-38).

Bite size Highlights:

- ⇒ The Diocesan Youth Ministry held its big annual "Festival" which is an opportunity for churches across Lima to get together for a day of fellowship through sports, fete games, food and much more. It is also the youth ministry's big fundraiser. Praise God that it was successful on both fronts.
- ⇒ Chris, a volunteer from the US is spending part of his time in Peru working with the youth ministry and with young people. Do pray for him and his ministry here.
- ⇒ Jane Edwards from Hardwicke Church (one of our link churches) stayed with us for a few days on her way to work with the church in Iquitos. It was lovely to see her and to welcome her to Peru.

For your prayers:

Please thank God for:

- Good goodbyes and ease in settling back in to life in Peru.
- Good recoveries from operations
- For people like Lily and daughter Lynn, David, Teófila, Nilda, Lizbeth, Carmen and Jo who have continued to work with children and young people whilst we've been away.

Please continue to pray for:

- Guidance and wisdom for the future.
- That God would challenge, inspire and equip the Church to minister to children and young people across the diocese.
- Good relationships with church leaders as we seek to develop healthy and sustainable ministries that will continue when we're not there.
- For the teenagers at San Pablo who are training to help Sarah with 'El Arca'

What would you do? - Going deeper No. 16
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:

We are a "free" resource for the church leaders where we work. We are able, to a certain degree, to cope on our own without much pastoral support. Most of those helping in youth and children's leadership here need much more support. When we are not there, church leaders need to be there for those serving in this way, encouraging, teaching and resourcing. Often we find they are not aware of this need or seem unable to provide for it. How can we best show this need to church leaders and help equip them for it? How forceful can we be in insisting on this, bearing in mind that we submit to the authority of church leaders (Rom 13:1-5, Heb 13:17, 1 Pet 2:13-17)? In this culture where it is important for leaders to be seen to be in charge and for us not to "shame" those who are, how and when (if ever) is it right to challenge the attitudes and thinking of those in authority?

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