

## Link Letter No.6 April 2012

### Dear praying friends,

Stepping back, handing over and getting ready seem to have been common themes over the last few weeks as we prepare for the arrival of our new family member. All is well with Sarah and the 'Busy Baby' as we fondly call him/her as he/she is so active, particularly when there are healthcare professionals to show off for! The midwife stopped in midflow during one of our antenatal classes, distracted by how much Sarah's bump was moving! We are looking forward to an autumn birth here at the British American Hospital (due date 11 May). Sarah has been surprised how content she feels pottering at home, having friends pop by and reading books on her Kindle.

At Misión San Pablo, Lily – co-leader and co-founder of the children's ministry – continues with the children and Paul has taken on the youth group, until later in the year when Sarah hopes to return. Sarah was surprised that the area of her ministry she found most difficult to pass on was the youth group, even though she has always found it extremely challenging! Thanks to a church in the UK, we now have electricity in the mission which has significantly reduced tom foolery in the dark and small fires during youth group! At San Juan Evangelista, our church, Teófila, wife of Pastor Luis and

**The cake from the second baby shower. It reads:  
"Blue or pink – what do you think?"**



**Paul and Sarah Tester**  
CMS mission partners  
**Peru**

Sunday school teacher will be continuing with the Sunday school with tutors from the Compassion project taking turns to teach the 3-6 year olds that Sarah led.

Sarah did manage to fit in leading a workshop for children's leaders, mainly young people themselves, at Misión Jesús Fuente de Vida. There she explained about 'El Arca' project and how to use the toys. She was able to pass on a large number of resources and is pleased with reports of how the group is going.

Baby showers are very popular here in Peru and with Sarah having worked in many different places, lots of different people are keen to celebrate the baby's arrival with us. At the end of February, we were humbled by people's generosity at Misión San Patricio where we enjoyed food, games, many gifts and Paul being dressed in a nappy and bib as a blindfolded Sarah gave him a bottle of lemonade! To receive so many gifts from people with so little was very moving. A very different baby shower at Bishop William and Judith's house was also special as ladies laid hands on Sarah and prayed for her and the baby.

Apart from being dressed as an exceedingly oversized baby, Paul helped lead the older youth camp (17+) which was again on the theme "Youfruit" ("He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit"). It was a very encouraging camp where we believe we saw a group of young leaders being formed and we see the potential in them to lead youth ministry forward in the diocese in the future. Do please pray for them.

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Following the summer camps there was a round of follow up get togethers: one for the teenagers, one for the older young people and one in the south in Ica which Paul and youth coordinator Lizbeth travelled to for. People always return home excited after camp and this is one way to encourage them following their return home, accompanying them in their walk of faith.

Paul's cousin Charlotte finished her placement with us recently. It was great to have her with us and she was a great help, especially at Misión San Pablo, on the summer camps and in the youth ministry at San Juan Evangelista. Do pray for her now she has returned to the UK.

Please don't worry as Paul is aware of the need to slow down a little with the impending arrival and so won't be around for the next youth leader's workshops which the diocesan youth ministry is running in May. Please pray for Lizbeth who will be coordinating those, for those who will be speaking and those who will be attending. He is also working hard on building up leaders at San Juan Evangelista and there is now a small team of leaders who work together to serve the young people who attend. They will get their opportunity to lead on their own in the next couple of months.

**Please thank God for:**

- The joy the baby brings us, even as we wait for him/her to be born.
- A really positive youth camp with the young people 17+.
- Electricity at Misión San Pablo.

**To pray for:**

- The safe arrival of the baby.
- Sarah's parents trip to Peru, 18 May- 9 June.
- For all those taking on Sarah's roles in the different missions (Lily, Teófila, David).
- The young people who attended the summer camp "Youfruit".
- The youth leader's workshops (Lima – 19 May, Arequipa – 26 May).
- Charlotte on her return to the UK.

**What would you do?**

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:



**Top: Young leaders at Misión Jesús Fuente de Vida**

**Bottom: "Youfruit"**

Having a baby as a mission partner in a developing country like Peru involves making a number of decisions that you wouldn't think about in the UK. Should you return to the UK to have the child? Where do you give birth if you stay in the country? What level of healthcare and what standard of living do you aim for, for you and for your child? How much of the baby "clutter" do you acquire? How does all of this affect your relationship with those you live and work with? What and how would you decide?

With love and prayers,

*Paul, Sarah and the busy baby  
XXx*



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