

Paul, Sarah & Sophia Tester



September 2012
Where did the last two months go?!

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,

And we thought that we used to be busy before Sophia was born! The last couple of months have been wonderful but full of learning to live with a precious new priority! Sophia is now 4 months old and is doing very well. She is coping with the attention of being the star attraction wherever she goes (there aren't many gringo babies here!) although her parents are learning when she needs to have time out. She continues to grow and the cot that used to seem far too big now seems only just big enough. She has ventured out to most of the places where we work, has had vaccinations and has joined a group for babies to take their Mums to. She is now the proud dual nationality owner of both her Peruvian national identity card and a British passport - thank you for praying that the passport application process would go well. She enjoyed the visits from her grandparents and an Uncle and Aunty and is looking forward to solid foods and being able to speak properly. She's got very vocal!



Sophia, Sophia, give us a wave!



The current star of the show, wherever she goes!

And so with that introduction we apologise for not having written in the last couple of months. There has been lots going on and we hope that by including some of the highlights you can get a flavour of all that God has blessed us with being involved with. At a diocesan level, the youth ministry continues to go well. Paul has been able to step back a little and allow Lizbeth, the diocesan youth coordinator, and David, our youth ministry intern, to lead a workshop for youth leaders in Arequipa in the south of Peru and to run a Youth Alpha training day with new missions in and around Huancayo in the centre of the country. Both events went well as did the youth leader workshop in Lima which Paul helped lead, looking at discerning vision and achieving objectives in both our personal lives and in our ministry. Paul also joined a group of young leaders from Lima on a mission trip to support the missions established in Ica in working with young people and children. The mission trip was not only of benefit to those in Ica but it was also great to see some of our young leaders use their gifts and serve others in evangelism and discipleship. Two of those leaders were from our church in San Juan Evangelista which was of great encouragement to Paul.

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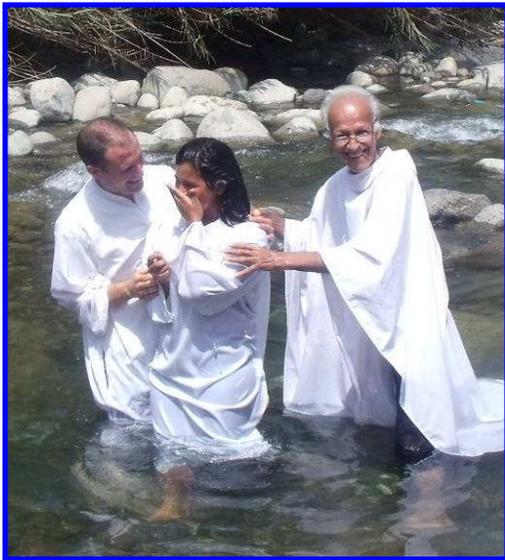
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Roxana, just baptised!

One of those leaders, Roxana, was recently baptised. It was an encouragement to see this fruit of Paul's, and other leader's, work with her. Paul helped organise the trip where Roxana's family plus members from church headed to a river further inland from Lima and she and Luis Augusto, another member of our church took the step of baptism. It was a joyful occasion and we really felt God's presence. We are now helping Pastor Luis with the preparation of a group for confirmation.

We have benefited from visits by people during the northern hemisphere summer holidays. We helped host the visit of a CMS Encounter team to the diocese. The group helped us with a holiday club and trip to the zoo for the children during Peru's independence day holidays and with many other activities around the diocese, including joining forces with a medical mission team that visited San Pablo mission, where we work, for a couple of days. Paul also helped with the visit of a construction team from the US who worked at Sagrada Familia mission. The construction work, which Paul provides engineering

supervision to, has continued over the last couple of months. Youth and children's work continues at San Juan Evangelista, San Pablo and San Patricio. More news next time. Do remember the leaders and members of each group in your prayers.

We are planning to visit the UK again, arriving just before Christmas and staying until March 2013. Paul will be studying the first part of an MA in Youth Ministry and Theology at King's College, London and we hope to visit some friends and supporters during this time. Watch this space for more details soon!

For your prayers:

Please thank God for:

- The baptisms and for Roxana and Luis Augusto's decision to take this important step in their faith.
- The continued growth in young leaders at church and across the diocese. They are on the frontline of mission to young people.
- Sophia, her health and happiness, and for her passport.
- Paul completing another year of life on the 27th August!

Please continue to pray for:

- Upcoming events - The youth organised diocesan family fun day which raises funds for youth ministry (22nd September), the "Happening" outreach event in Juliaca (now postponed until 23rd-25th November) and the diocesan youth leaders retreat 26th-28th October.
- That those who are trained and equipped at the youth ministry events will put what they learn into practice.
- For youth and children's leaders at each place where we work and across the diocese.
- For us as a family as we continue to adjust to being 3 and for Sophia as she grows and develops.

With love and prayers, Paul, Sarah and Sophia XXx

What would you do? - Going deeper No. 26

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:

Sophia's arrival means Sarah is now a full time Mum (she hopes to go back to San Pablo soon) and so there is less of us and our time to go round. We know we need to leave some ministries to give time to others that we believe God wants us to concentrate on.

When things aren't at an ideal stage to handover to others, or there aren't others around ready to take things on, how do you take that leap of faith and leave things in God's hands without knowing what the solution is? How long should you wait and keep going? Should you leave them at what appears an inopportune moment? How do you decide what's right?