

Paul, Sarah & Sophia Tester



July 2013
Young people serving others

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,

We pray that this letter finds you all well and most of you will be enjoying the northern hemisphere summer! Here in Lima we have entered the grey and damp winter where "it's cold" is considered a reasonable response to why you didn't go to something. Perish the thought of how those from Lima would cope with the much harsher UK winter. Most would probably have to hibernate! We hope you find this letter encouraging as you will hopefully see a thread of young people serving others throughout.

In June we did escape to for a few days holiday inland where we could enjoy the sunshine. We rented a bungalow at a club with a swimming pool and enjoyed being together as a family with day trips out visiting a beautiful mountain village and a farm for children. Sophia especially enjoyed feeding the animals but was most upset when the horse wanted to take her last big sweet corn plant stalk. With the help of Mum she managed to wrench it from his mouth and then enjoyed using it as a stick to bash various (non-living) things. The holiday was a welcome break as Paul had been studying hard whilst in the UK and then went straight back into the thick of youth ministry on our return. He was pleased with the results of his assignments which he passed well. The continuation of his course is from October-December 2013 and so we will be back in the UK for three months at the end of this year for those studies and will complete our visits to link churches. It will of course be wonderful to have the chance to see family again and for them to spend more time with Sophia.



Enjoying our holiday!

As part of the diocesan youth ministry team Paul is responsible for the annual youth ministry mission trip. The aim is to serve others in mission and encourage the young people in the diocese to think missionally. This year a group of ten young people will head to new missions in the high Andean towns of Jauja, Chupaca and Huancayo (6-7 hours from Lima) to encourage ministry with young people there and help the church communities to think about evangelism. Each young person is saving up to be able to take part. We ask for your prayers for what will be a challenging trip for all involved. With the distances in Peru being so large and the diocese thinly spread the youth ministry is seeking to develop strong regional ministries to serve the young people there. This is a very early step in the process in this central mountain region.

At a more local level, San Juan Evangelista recently celebrated its anniversary (29 years of the church and 5 of the project) and the church family came together for a large celebration with young people and children presenting drama and dance. In May there was also a special celebration for mother's day with hampers for one Mum from each class at the project. These are great opportunities to share Christ and his love with the families involved in Church life through the Compassion project. One encouraging aside at the anniversary celebration was how the youth from church had collected donations of clothing (many of the clothes they donated themselves) to

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sell to raise funds for a new work with people with disabilities at the Anglican mission in the high Andean city of Juliaca in the very south of the country. The idea came from the young people themselves and they ran the sale, raising around £40 (a large amount here). Paul is in the midst of leading a Youth Alpha with the young people at the Compassion project and their weekend away is coming up at the beginning of August. And we now have two youth groups at Church! The older young people who have finished secondary education have set up their own group and it is truly encouraging to see their enthusiasm for prayer, worship and teaching as they negotiate studies for university admission exams, studies in colleges and entering employment and as they serve in Church life.



Young people preparing for the charity clothes sale



Young people at San Pablo painting the mission and each other!

tries to balance work, family and ministry commitments. On a recent visit to deliver the paperwork to begin the process of getting land-rights for the mission (praise God), Sophia had lots of fun chasing about with the children at the playground. Very different to the green parks near our flat, the small park is like a giant sandpit (good for breaking falls!) with a slide, swings and a see-saw.

For your prayers:

Please thank God for:

- Young people with a heart to serve others in Christ's name.
- Paul's assignment results.
- A chance for holiday as a family.
- Advances in land rights at San Pablo mission.

Please pray for:

- The youth mission trip (26th-29th July 2013).
- The Alpha weekend (2nd-4th August 2013).
- Lily's ministry at San Pablo.
- Sophia as she grows and develops.

With love and prayers, Paul, Sarah and Sophia XXx

At San Pablo mission the young people have also been serving, giving up part of their weekends to sand and paint the church. The children and teens also enjoyed a visit from Rev. Brian and Tessa Curnew from our link parish of Headcorn and the Suttons who passed on winter woollies kindly knitted by their congregations. The children's group is really well attended (around 40), with regular new comers. Many of the children are in need. Just last week a brother (5) and sister (8) turned up hungry at 3.30pm for the group not having had any lunch (the main meal of the day). Mum usually leaves lunch for them so they can help themselves to after school but that day hadn't. Please pray for co-leader Lily who is struggling to attend as she

What would you do? - Going deeper No. 29

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:

When most young people in Lima finish secondary school they are usually under pressure from family to study to enter a university and to earn an income to help pay for it. Entry into the cheaper state universities is highly competitive and the preparatory studies at academies don't come cheap either. Many of our young people are involved in local youth ministry leadership and also attend church. We want to encourage servant hearted young people who are committed to their local church. That has time implications. These young people have many time pressures.

How do you strike a correct balance between service as part of the Christian life and work / studies? Is it Church and its activities first always? How much can we encourage them to serve when many parents would prefer them to dedicate themselves to studying 100%? How many activities are too many?