

## Paul, Sarah, Sophia & Emily Tester



March 2016  
El Niño has arrived!

## 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,*

“El niño” means “the child” in Spanish and is the name given to the effects of changes in temperatures in the Pacific Ocean along the coast of South America. It’s called “El niño” because when it happens, at irregular periods of years, it has tended to happen around Christmas when the Christ child was born. Here in Peru it has meant that Lima, where we live, is sweltering hot – we recently had the hottest day in Lima for six years. Sophia and Emily have been enjoying keeping cool in the paddling pool and at the seaside. It was wonderful for the family to accompany Paul to the teenager’s camp (not quite brave enough to try canvas in this heat, we rented a lovely bungalow on site just by the pool!) Sophia’s highlights were wearing her new pink, princess armbands and ‘going in the big pool with the big kids’ (our teenagers) and Emily’s were digging in the sand and high fiving her adoring teenage fans! It was really encouraging for Sarah to see so many teenagers she used to teach when they were children.



Sophia and Emily enjoying playing together



Enjoying the “Follow me” Camp

The heat didn’t spoil the teenagers “Follow me” camp. Led by young leaders, the camp challenged and encouraged the young people and we have heard testimonies of how it has helped young people grow in their relationship with Christ. At the youth group at San Juan Evangelista we are continuing the “Follow me” theme as part of an evangelistic push through March and up until Holy Week.

“El niño” has also brought rain to the coastal desert in the north, normally very dry, and when Paul recently visited Chiclayo, 13 hours on a bus north of Lima, the streets were flooded by the rains. The visit to the churches in the northern part of Peru was part of encouraging and developing youth ministry in the church and also part of the discipleship team’s visits to all of the Anglican churches in Peru. As part of the visit we also travelled 6 hours inland and upwards to Cajamarca, up into the Andes and to a very new mission, where the church meets in the front room of the

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vicar's house. The visits were very positive and reflecting after the final 15 hour journey home our hope is that we will see fruit with the church engaging more with young people and new growth as we have seen in other areas.

It was a pleasure to see how the youth work in the southern region of Peru (around Arequipa and Juliaca) is growing. Five years ago Paul and Lizbeth (diocesan youth coordinator) pretty much organised the camp in Arequipa for around thirty people.

Now the local leaders organise it themselves and this year over sixty attended. It has been encouraging to see these indications of growth. Paul was invited to speak and help as a leader. Nearly thirty came to the camp from Juliaca (5 hours away). Perhaps this will be the next area to become more independent and develop their own youth programmes and ministries? On the way back from camp the heavens opened and on the news a couple of days after we heard the area around where the camp was held had been hit by floods and landslides. The main highway to the central Andes was also recently blocked due to landslides. Paul was due to travel that way to Huancayo this weekend as part of the discipleship ministry but the trip had to be cancelled. Do please pray for all those affected around the country and for the effects of "El niño" to be as limited as possible. In the news there are stories of harvests ruined and homes lost.

As you have read about the different regions around Peru, the vast distances involved and the current "El niño" effects, please pray for the Diocese of Peru as its future is considered, as Bishops for the different regions are chosen and for decisions being taken about its future structure. The youth ministry becoming regionalised is part of these changes to encourage growth and we are seeing some fruits. Pray to the Lord for a plentiful harvest and for each people in each region to know Christ and grow in their relationship with Him.

#### **For your prayers:**

Please thank God for:

- Wonderful visits from grandparents over the last couple of months.
- The summer camps around the country (the student age camp in Lima now 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March).
- Safe travels and positive meetings.

Please pray for:

- All those affected by "El niño" here in Peru.
- Wise decisions to be made regarding the future of the Anglican Church in Peru.
- For continued safe travels for the youth ministry and discipleship team.
- Sophia as she starts speech therapy (two weekly sessions of 45 minutes)
- Sarah's friend Maritza (two daughters in care, one daughter with mental health issues at home). That she would be able to care and provide for her family.
- Wisdom as we consider when to return to the UK to spend time with family and visit our link churches



Flooded streets as we travelled around Chiclayo

*With love and prayers, Paul, Sarah, Sophia and Emily XXxx*