

Andrew and Lisa Peart

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The call in action

Dear Friends,

We pray these first few weeks of 2022 have been full of the hope that a new year brings. Looking back at 2021, it has been a very challenging up-and-down-filled year, and yet, we look ahead with great expectation as to what shape the Lord is moulding us into and how we respond in faith as we come through the suffering of this past year.

"Suffering has been stronger than all other teaching, and has taught me to understand what your heart used to be. I have been bent and broken, but – I hope – into a better shape." Charles Dickens, Great Expectations

Up and down; a reflection

Sometimes we need to take a break from doing, be still and breathe deeply of the truth that yes, the Lord is who he says he is. Hard for a doer, though it's nearly impossible to share who he is and why we need him, and to discern his will for us unless we hit that pause button, rest in him and allow him to minister to our hearts. Jesus was frequently doing this; retreating well away from the noisy crowds to pray to his Father in heaven.

Isla del Sol, Lake Titicaca, Bolivia. Elevation 4100m, very high up!

Think beauty, serenity and simplicity. A place to disconnect from what you think is important and reconnect to all that truly is. **Once you get up there, that is!** Synonymous with adventure, Bolivia's terrain and topography give way to tricky navigation; travel here is not straightforward. Journeying between any two of the four main cities can exceed a full day. Our journey to this island testified to this fact. We travelled by plane, trufi (large minivan), small (scary) rickety barge (to carry our trufi across the water), boat, on foot and by mule. Yes, mule! Well, at least our belongings went by mule as we climbed and clambered up the rock-faced side of the island for a solid hour in the cool lake air and strong sun at 4,000m! Our 9-year-old guide, Miguel, revealed that the actual path was washed away this rainy season. **So this path, the more difficult and scary one, was actually the best one, yet at the time I just couldn't see it.** As we reached our hotel, out of breath, legs wobbling, arms raised rejoicing as if we'd just reached the summit of Everest, our eyes were raised from the ruggedness of the difficult path, to the breathtaking splendour and majesty of our Creator God. Totally, 100% worth it.

Over the next four days, we would trek and climb our way to Incan ruins on ancient paths, seeing donkeys, mules, fellow trekkers and many locals – it was the only way to get around the motor-free island. So much caught our attention and challenged us. The pre-Incan terrace farming, still



Name: Andrew and Lisa Peart

Location: Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Our call: To share the gospel message through serving the local community and wider church in one of the fastest growing cities in South America.

Our role: Partnering with the local church to strengthen its missional outreach to schools, residents and businesses. We are also assisting the diocese in its goal to become financially self-supporting.



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The pathways we followed

used today; the sowing of crops, mainly haba (fava beans), potatoes and quinoa. Rosemary and Andean mint grow wild – the latter for acclimating to altitude. Our fourth generation Aymaran indigenous host family told us COVID has decimated tourism, but has barely touched the health of the three communities on the island (population 3,000). Preventative, natural medicine grown locally keeps them healthy – so amazing! Upon hearing this, we quietly ditched our pharmacy sorochi pills in exchange for the natural coca and muna tea to cope with the altitude!

This is what the Lord says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.” Jeremiah 6:16

Just a few weeks before Christmas, very unexpectedly and out of our control, we were faced with the unsettling prospect of moving house. We ask for your prayers, specifically for a home and neighbourhood where we feel safe, where we can connect with the local community, practice hospitality, and love our neighbour.

We booked this little getaway to the island well before knowing we'd have to move house, our travel hope being to see a new part of the country. However, it ended up being so much more than that. God took us to the crossroads of the ancient and sometimes scary paths of Isla del Sol, far away from city noise, our situation, COVID and everyday demands. There, in the quiet and solitude of his creation, we could reconnect with him, ask where the good way is, walk with him, listen out for his voice, trust his promises, and find rest. We did not leave the island with all the answers, but we did find rest and a renewed confidence that we are in the exact place he has called us to. Join us in praying with thanksgiving for this rich time away!

Join us in thanks and praise...

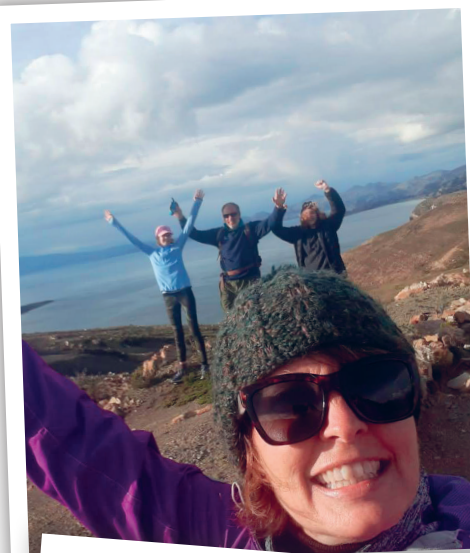
For our time visiting families in Satellite Norte, together with Pastor Belisario and his wife Claire, just before Christmas. A real gift for us as we had not seen any of these families in person since the start of the pandemic. We had a wonderful time breaking bread – a traditional Bolivian cheese bread called cunape – laughing, and praying together. We left filled in every sense of the word!

Andrew passed his exam for his first level of investment management CMT1/CFA – a tool he will put to great use in the development of our microfinance ministry and discipleship programme. Also, literally fresh off the press is the Spanish translation of the F4 (Financial Freedom for Families) course material. Join us in praying with great expectation for a Bolivian couple to partner with us in running the course and watch this space for good news soon!

May 2022 bring you hope and rest for your souls as you walk in the good way of the Lord! We are continually grateful for your prayers and support.

With much love,

Andrew, Lisa, Liliana and Anayah x



Photos from top to bottom: Rejoicing on reaching our hotel; locals on their way to their terrace farm; 18km hike smiles; visiting Satellite Norte families

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