



# Anna Sims

Link Letter no. 31 | April 2025



**Location:** Peru



**What I do:** Work alongside the local church to build community and share Jesus in creative ways in urban Lima



**Bringing hope** where people have given up on God and the church

Dearest friends,

“Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails”. Proverbs 19:21

It’s been quite a whirlwind four months since I last wrote from the UK in October. So much has happened and I feel like I have been lurching from one dramatic event to another. So much has not gone to (my) plan. In it all though, I have so much to be thankful for and can see God working. To try and give you a better understanding and help you pray, I thought I’d share a highlight and low point from each month, although please believe me, there are so many other examples of both which I could share.



*CMS pioneer conference participants*

## November

In January 2024, a friend of mine left iCafe very abruptly and angrily. This person has been in a process of healing and restoration since then, and returned to iCafe while I was in the UK. Those of us who were directly affected have been in mediated meetings trying to reach some sort of reconciliation. It’s been emotionally exhausting, particularly operating in Spanish and trying to navigate the cultural differences. It’s also been thought-provoking, causing me to reflect on expectations placed on friends, other Christians and church communities, what radical forgiveness and healthy boundaries in reconciliation look like and just how hard it often is to live alongside others (I’m including myself in the others here).

iCafe and Lima hosted a Latin America pioneering mission gathering, a week jam-packed with creative prayer and worship, sharing ideas, advancing with plans for the pioneering mission hub which CMS is helping to develop, eating, making connections with other Christians in pioneer ministries in Lima and visiting projects. Participants travelled from all over Latin America, the UK and Basque country. A number of people have commented how good it was to connect with others and feel encouraged and be seen in what is quite often isolating situations. I have continued to nurture some of these connections and am excited to see where they might lead.

## December

Pinky wasn’t herself and so I took her to the vets’ where they discovered inoperable tumours and I had to put her down. I was so sad as she’s been my little buddy since 2018 but she was well loved and I am so grateful for her, especially for her company through the pandemic.

I finished full-time prison ministry in December. It was sad saying goodbye to the women inside Santa

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**With Jesus  
With each other  
To the edges**



Monica. My final visit was very stressful to organise but a wonderful testimony to God's sovereignty and favour. As a ministry, we had been asked, for the first time ever, to organise a Christmas event for the prison wing of elderly, ill and vulnerable inmates. We invited a local pastor to share a reflection and musicians from iCafe to play a mini-concert and Christmas songs. The women from our group served the other inmates the traditional Christmas fare of panetón and hot chocolate (despite being in a desert in the height of summer). It was lovely to see the reaction of the women and prison staff listening to the message and music. Mary and the team have renewed their passes for this year and started regular visits again.

### January

I started my first week of full-time work with iCafe by helping at the Arts & Adoration conference with musicians from the US, Spain and Latin America. It was great to see so many young people from churches across Peru travelling to participate in the very interactive conference. Ironically, one of my main roles was tech and multimedia. I was totally out of my depth but God kept unexpectedly putting people in my path to help me with the technical difficulties and, by the last day, I was impressed by how much I'd learned and could resolve myself.

Our pastor announced he was temporarily stepping down from his responsibilities at iCafe. This was unexpected and I now find myself one-fifth responsible for leading a church that I wasn't expecting to ever be leading. I've taken on the bulk of the responsibility for the (drastically reduced) cultural programme; I am dedicating one day a week to the project in Pamplona and am trying to implement some changes to the Sunday meetings by having occasional interactive and creative services with a slightly different format. Again, I have seen God's hand in so much of the timing but am feeling quite overwhelmed, overstretched and daunted. The conclusions I have reached so far are, 1) When it comes to my life, God is most concerned about the state of my heart 2) It is his church 3) I am only responsible for my bit – the difficulty being trying to work out what bit I'm ACTUALLY responsible for.

### February

Unexpected uncertainty over the lease of the premises iCafe uses has meant that we have had to adjust some of our activities to accommodate the change. We are only able to plan activities until August and are unsure what the situation will be after that, so this leaves us in more uncertainty in our already fragile state.

Praise God that I had already booked a break in Arequipa at the start of January. I was able to escape Lima and turn off my phone. I used my days in the mountains and at the beach to sleep, eat, read, reflect and journal.

March has felt a bit more manageable as I am starting to try and build in healthier habits again. I'm having some Spanish classes which are helping to target bad language habits and repeated errors. I have started to pick up some of my other ministry responsibilities and see people socially again.

Thank you so much for your continuing support and upholding me in prayer.

Love, Anna x



*Photos from top to bottom: Christmas prison event; Arts & Adoration conference; sunset, Mejía, Arequipa*



## Bringing hope where people have given up on God and church

**I've been encouraged** to hear stories from others who are part of my wider area of work. In Honduras, Carlos had a change of heart working with a Christian ministry, and in the UK Garry Ion reports on how Carlisle's Community Shed is sharing skills, community and Jesus. Read more at [churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope](https://churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope)