



Anna Sims

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Location: Peru



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



Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus with people unconnected to church

Dear friends,

Count it all joy, my brothers & sisters, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. (James 1:2-5)

Since I last wrote, the situation here has continued to be challenging. The majority of days it feels like I just have to get up and show up, faithfully, obediently, willingly. Other translations of James use the words perseverance, patience and endurance instead of steadfastness. Nietzsche's description of the Christian journey as "a long obedience in the same direction" particularly resonates at the moment.

I see so many ongoing challenging situations at iCafe, the Inti Ayllu ministry and my personal circumstances. It feels like there are many things I don't understand and difficult decisions about how to move forward each day. Thankfully I serve a God who listens and answers when we ask for wisdom. I am praying that he will enlarge my ability to hear him and I am paying attention to the areas of frustration and discontent to see what God has for me there.

Within my group of close friends here, we have experienced illness, death, accidents and situations that have felt like one spiritual attack after another. It has moved us to intentionally meet to pray together regularly as well as being creative and attentive in how to support each other practically.

I am feeling a call to spend more time in personal prayer and private worship as God invites me to a deeper dependency on him. I have been setting aside time to enjoy him more and allow God to stretch me using different expressions of prayer and worship. I'm also seeing an urgent need for more corporate prayer within the life of iCafe church. I am heartened that this is something I naturally try to encourage, but again, am feeling challenged in different ways to be purposeful about creating spaces for this to happen, both within the leadership team and wider church life. It is being received, like any change, with a mixed response and some resistance.

A life-giving activity for me this year has been proposing, and as part of a team, organising, a number of events for Easter and a Sunday service for each teaching series since April. These have all been interactive and



Good Friday

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



dynamic, trying to encourage wider participation than what the normal format invites and also offering different ways to engage with Scripture, pray creatively with and for one another, employing the different senses and changing the physical space to allow different interactions. It is also impacting others, as people have the permission and inspiration to try doing things differently as they lead their own sections of the weekly Sunday service.

Earlier this year, while I was praying for the situation at iCafe, God gave me a picture. That the tears of sorrow would transform into a refreshing rain that would quench thirst, drench the dry soil and bring forth new life.

Knowing that we pray to a God who can do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine for his glory, I would ask you to join with me praying specifically and boldly for some of the following people, places and situations.

Please ask God to continue working in each circumstance; to protect, restore and strengthen marriages, intervene in situations of danger, bring a new thirst and desire to his people where there is complacency and despondency, repentance where there is sin, healing where there is sickness and brokenness, liberation where there is addiction, justice where there is corruption and dishonesty, revival where there is drought, and direction and wisdom in the decision-making.

Inti Ayllu (Pamplona Alta):

- ▶ Wayki and Sarah with their children Mariapaz and Kunaq
- ▶ Inti Wok restaurant
- ▶ Mother and baby event: 23 September in partnership with Jesus el Nazareno Anglican church

iCafe (Barranco):

- ▶ The leadership team; Horacio and Ely, Kique and Gaby, Cesar and Yerlly and myself
- ▶ iCafe church community
- ▶ iCafe cultural movement
- ▶ Day of prayer: 7 September

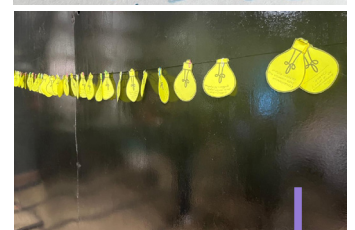
- ▶ Francis (on sabbatical from iCafe until January) and Gabriela with their children Kathy and Mateo

Prisons (across Lima)

- ▶ The British male inmates
- ▶ N in maximum security
- ▶ Mary and the Walking in Liberty team and the women to whom they minister

CMS (international)

- ▶ Andy Roberts (recently appointed CEO) with Rose and family
- ▶ Paul Tester (manager in Latin America) with Sarah and family
- ▶ Pioneer conference, Chile: 3–9 November



Please pray for me, that God, the source of hope, will fill me completely with joy and peace because I trust in him. Then I will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you as always,

Anna x

Photos from top to bottom: Easter sunrise; James interactive service; praying in colour for iCafe; praying for light in dark situations



Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus

It's so encouraging to hear stories from other CMS partners sharing the hope of Jesus with people not yet connected to churches. In England, Fiona is pioneering creative ways of connecting with people who aren't in church. And Andy's story about prisoners in Brazil finding Jesus is incredible. Read more and get inspired by more stories of hope at churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope

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