



Anna Sims

Link Letter no. 33 | April 2026



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,

We are now on our third different president since you received my last link letter. We have the planned presidential elections on 12 April, which is likely to go to a second round in June ready for the inauguration in July. The high rates of corruption and extortion leading to killings continue and with over 30 presidential candidates to choose from, there is a sense of despair and discontent at the lack of a viable option and many are talking about spoiling their votes (voting is compulsory here).

We are in a period of transition at iCafe as well; Francis officially resigned as pastor at the beginning of February and continues to attend another church in Lima which he and Gabriela, his wife, attended last year during his year off pastoral duties at iCafe. The ministry team, of which I am part, continue to lead the church through this time, supported by the City to City network as we seek God's guidance for a new pastor or a different model of governance.

With so much uncertainty both at home and abroad, I am so thankful that Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever.

Remembering that Lima is the second-largest desert city in the world, I am fortunate to live in one of the greenest districts of Lima, Surco, where I have lived during my whole time in Peru. My neighbourhood is set out on a grid system and has over 300 "pocket parks" which normally are a block or two in size with roads and houses surrounding them. The layout could include trees, bushes, flowerbeds, a gated area for dogs to run around in, a children's climbing frame, exercise machines, a bust of someone famous, a topiary animal and the compulsory shrine to the Virgin Mary.

I try to walk as much as possible around my neighbourhood and all my routes are designed to cut through as many of these parks as possible, which, despite being similar at face value, all have their different quirks.

A five-minute walk from my house is a park on a small hill called Loma Amarilla (Yellow Hill). I have always used the park, it was part of my running route for a time, a favourite with the Tester girls while they were living here, a good vantage point for summer sunsets, and for the majority of my years here, I've gone up there for sunrise on Easter Sunday. Over the past year, I have made it a habit to walk up there a few times a week, mainly early in the morning, to have a walk with God. I am finding this regular routine grounding in a chaotic time and an invaluable start to my day. Going up there early makes the most of the cool of the day in the summer and I love the freshness of the morning drizzle in the winter months; there is normally a variety of dog-walkers and people exercising but I love sitting on the top of the hill enjoying the relative quiet for Lima, listening to the birds and the distant hum of traffic.



Easter sunrise 2024

Support Anna Sims:
churchmissionsociety.org/sims

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



A Lenten practice I have adopted this year is “A bird from the Lord” (As suggested by Author Courtney Ellis), spending 10 minutes a day being intentional in noticing the birds, spending time watching them and listening to them and seeing if the Lord has anything to share with me. Years ago, I read a comment in a book (possibly by John Ortberg, but I can’t find the reference) relating to Matthew 6 and how every time we see a bird feeding, we are witnessing an act of love from the creator. It’s always stayed with me as an encouraging reminder about the daily provision we are promised.

The variety of birds in Peru is vast and even just in the parks in my area of Lima there are many to notice, from large gliding vultures and mewing hawks to three small varieties of hummingbirds and a whole range of medium-sized birds to spot. It is a joy watching the primary colour palette of saffron finches scattering into the air when disturbed while feeding in the grass of the park, vermilion flycatchers nipping swiftly from their perch to take an insect mid-air and blue-grey tanagers who noisily fly about in pairs. A common experience during many of my morning walks to the Loma Amarilla has been flocks of squawking green parakeets waking up and leaving their roost for the day.

Please pray for me, as I remember that in all the uncertainty and change, I belong to a God who is faithful and unchanging.

Please join me in praying for the following:

Inti Ayllu (Pamplona Alta)

- ▶ Sarah and Wayki with their children Mariapaz and Kunaq
- ▶ Inti Wok Restaurant
- ▶ Monthly paediatric clinic
- ▶ Monthly games night starting in April

iCafe (Barranco)

- ▶ The leadership team; Ely and Horacio, Gaby and Kique, Cesar and Yerlly and myself
- ▶ iCafe Church Community post-Francis
- ▶ iCafe cultural movement
- ▶ The next chapter for Francis and Gabriela

Prisons (across Lima)

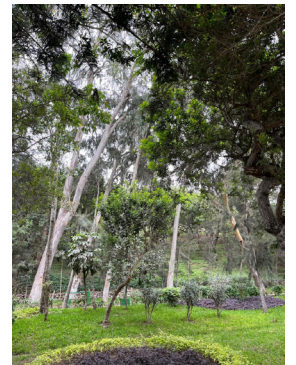
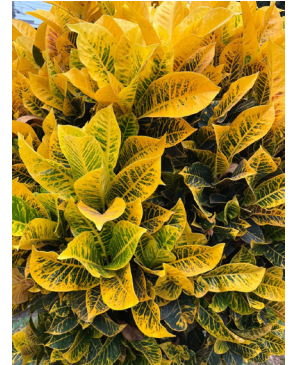
- ▶ The British male inmates
- ▶ N in maximum security
- ▶ Mary and the Walking in Liberty team and the women to whom they minister

CMS (international)

- ▶ Andy Roberts (CEO) with Rose and family
- ▶ Paul Tester (mission director) with Sarah and family
- ▶ Alonso Silva, who was recently appointed as CMS’s new manager in Latin America

Thank you as always,

Anna x



Photos from top to bottom: A winter morning; local foliage; eucalyptus trees; hummingbirds in Lima (illustration from *Birds of Peru*, Helm Field Guide)



Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus

It’s so encouraging to hear news from other CMS partners sharing the hope of Jesus with people not yet connected to churches. In Honduras, mission partners are providing mentoring for children who are likely to drop out of school, or not receive any education. They are introducing them to education and to the love of Jesus. Read more and get inspired by other stories of hope at churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope

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