



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,

I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all the marvellous things you have done. Psalm 9:1 (NLT)

This year, I have had the opportunity to participate in a number of mission pioneer network exchange visits, both as part of the host team and as a visitor. These have been encouraging and enriching, not only to me personally, but to other individuals and ministries as well.

The first visit in April was from Steve Poulson and Chris Barahona from Honduras to Peru. As well as visits to all the ministries in Lima, they were able to accompany a local organisation's visit to a girls' home in the jungle. Steve and Chris also helped with safeguarding training at iCafe church which was a blessing for us as they were able to share their expertise in an accessible way. Their visit coincided with the inauguration of the community centre in Pamplona. Recently, inspired by some of the activities we'd done at iCafe, Chris adapted the materials to his own context and created a prayer room at his church in Talanga.

The second visit to Lima was Carolina from Chile, an artist currently doing a church apprenticeship with the Anglican church in Santiago. When she became a Christian over 10 years ago, she turned her back on her former lifestyle, including creating art, and has since been on a journey seeing God redeem her artistic practice and use it for his glory. Following the connections made at the Santiago gathering last year, she had a piece of artwork featured in an exhibition called Revelations in the Martin Yopez gallery in Lima in December. This year, during her visit and collaborating with Francis from a music institute called Allegro, she performed her piece "4 Poems without God and a New Song" in the new basement gallery, inviting members of the public to participate in the creation of this particular format. While visiting the various ministries in Lima, she was able to encourage and pray for different people and places.

At the invitation of the Creative Collective in Lima, I accompanied the Yopez family to Indaiatuba, Brazil, in May. This visit coincided with a visit from two couples in the network from Chile and Argentina. During our week there, we visited a number of ministries, including a skate park and a youth service held at a tattoo studio. We met with different people across the city, listening to their experiences and stories and sharing



Fourth mission pioneer gathering, Honduras

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



ours. We received amazing hospitality and had so many precious moments as part of the family of God. We participated in the monthly Du Park community event, headed by CMS mission partners Marcio and Noemi. The team from Lima ran an art workshop for children and families; participated in live painting and an open-air exhibition with local artists, and designed a prayer room for the event. One of the common factors during the Brazil visit was how God orchestrated the details, the host families, chance encounters and conversations.

Karol from Lima and I also participated in add-on visits to Honduras, making the most of our flights (and in my case an entry visa) for the mission pioneer gathering at the beginning of August. We arrived early to spend time with Lindsey and

Steve (CMS mission partners) and the team at Proyecto Alas. I was able to lead some creative prayer activities with the Alas team on a day retreat and during staff meetings. I also led creative activities with a group of children and young people at the project centre. Lindsey reflected that the staff and children found the activities helpful for connecting with God in new and creative ways, and that I encouraged people through individual conversations. I really valued the opportunity to visit the project as I have been hearing stories about Steve's work since he joined CMS and also, I particularly loved spending time with the staff. Karol led some workshops with the children and teenagers and designed a mural with local artists which was then completed during a community event as part of the mission pioneer gathering.

One of the benefits of being in the mission pioneer hub has been to connect ministries across Latin America, and the exchange visits have helped foster new relationships and galvanize existing links. One of the common themes in all the feedback I received was how encouraging it was to meet with others in person, seeing the different ministries first-hand and seeing things from a fresh perspective. We all know we can't do things alone and need others. Pioneers are often misunderstood or rejected by local churches and this has been another reminder of belonging to the wider body of Christ and a reason to renew our excitement and accept the invitation to join in with God working at the edges in our own contexts.

Please give thanks for the different people working in pioneer mission across Latin America, pray that God would strengthen and encourage them in their personal faith and the ministries in which they serve.

The countries that are currently represented in the network are Guatemala, Honduras, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Bolivia.

All my love,
Anna x



Photos from top to bottom: Inauguration of the community centre in Pamplona; visiting Indaiatuba, Brazil; workshop with children at Proyecto Alas; with Proyecto Alas staff



Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus

I love to hear from other CMS partners sharing the hope of Jesus with people not yet connected to church. Read Andy Roberts's reflection on his time with the charity ReVive in Brazil and hear his thoughts on how mission needs to keep creatively changing. And be challenged by a thought-provoking piece on the role of migration in mission. Read and learn more about creative mission at churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope

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