

# Paul and Sarah Tester

Link Letter no. 24 | December 2021

[churchmissionsociety.org/tester](http://churchmissionsociety.org/tester)

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*The call in action*

Dear friends,

**“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens” Ecclesiastes 3:1**

Life as a mission partner inevitably means that there will be plenty of change and transition. It means shifting between places, cultures and languages regularly, and it means there are times and seasons when things look very different to others. Change is part of life for all of us but it seems that it is accentuated by this life to which we have been called.

As the writer of Ecclesiastes continues, there is “a time to plant and a time to uproot”. Having come back to the UK for a few months at the end of July, there has certainly been a strong sense of uprooting from Peru after a very intense period there. Of course, having been planted in the UK for a few months, another time of uprooting will come when we return to Peru on 6 January.

Later the author reflects that there is “a time to weep and a time to laugh”. All of us have had times to weep over the last couple of years and so it has been all the sweeter to have been able to have times with family and friends recently and to laugh together. In all of these seasons and in the midst of change we need to remember that, as the writer notes, “everything God does will endure for ever” and only that. So, we need to be continually seeking to be in the place God has called us to be to do the things God calls us to do, even when that is difficult.

The run up to our travel to the UK was rather frenetic as we travelled as soon as we could after the end of the girls’ term in Peru. Flights were booked and all of the travel forms for three countries completed with COVID-19 tests undertaken at the right times. The biggest challenge was waiting for confirmation of a place in a UK quarantine hotel (a pre-requisite for travel), which we finally received less than 24 hours before travelling.

We left our apartment with a friend living there to care for the rabbits and for security, and set out on our unusual journey. For us coming from Peru, where two masks are compulsory inside public spaces and one anywhere outside, it was quite a shock to go from two masks on the long flight to Madrid, to one mask on the flight to London and then to find ourselves in the UK where masks were barely being worn. We were separated off into the “red list” queue at UK border control and sent off by coach for our 10 day stay in the quarantine hotel.

We were blessed to experience the best of quarantine hotels with two adjoining rooms and views across London’s docklands and, although it was a challenging time, it was as



**Name:** Paul and Sarah Tester

**Location:** Lima, Peru

**Our call:** We want to see mission both in and from Latin America grow and develop.

**Our role:** To lead, enable, inspire and develop mission in and from Latin America. Paul is mission development manager for CMS and Sarah serves in children’s ministry.



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*Enjoying time on the beach in the UK.*

good an experience as we could have hoped for. Of course, it was so much better to be picked up by family and to be free again. That same day we were finally able to be vaccinated and we began the adjustment to life in the UK again.

As schools in Peru are still not back to in-person lessons for the great majority, one of our main reasons for being in the UK was to allow the girls a chance to be at school with other children for a full term. It has been a joy to see them flourishing there. All three head off each morning on the 5-minute walk to school from Grandma's (who has kindly welcomed us into her home), have made friends and are thriving.

Having received our second jab in October, we have begun visiting our link churches and it has been such a joy to meet with many of you, to worship with you and to be able to share more of our news in person. Thank you to everyone who has hosted us, involved us in church services and taken time to spend with us, listen to us and pray for us. We are so grateful. Before our return to Peru we do hope that we will have seen as many of you as possible.

In the meantime, Paul has continued in the "day job" leading CMS's mission work in Latin America. It has been particularly encouraging to continue to meet regularly online with indigenous church leaders in the region as we explore how we might best serve together in mission going forwards. A theme of focusing on the formation of emerging indigenous Christian leaders able to engage in mission in their own cultures, as well as facing the challenges brought by the ever encroaching outside cultures, appears to be central to what God is calling us into together. Do pray for us all as we work towards holding an in-person congress of the indigenous church linked to this theme later in 2022.

As we now prepare to return to Peru, we want to thank you for your continued support. At this time of much change, your constancy is a great encouragement and we hope that all who have heard us share more will have been encouraged by what we have seen God doing over the last few years.

Of course, at this time of year we wish you "Feliz Navidad y muchas bendiciones para el año 2022".

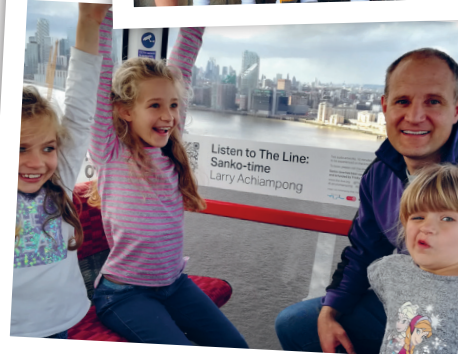
With our love and prayers, Paul, Sarah, Sophia, Emily and Annabelle

#### Praise points:

- Safe, COVID-free travels to the UK
- Time with family and friends
- The girls enjoying in-person school after 18 months online
- Great times with wonderful supporters
- God is at work in the midst of change and difficulty

#### Prayer points:

- Our return travel to Peru in January and a good transition back to life there, particularly for the girls.
- For schools in Peru to open for in-person classes when the new school year begins in March.
- The development of CMS's mission work with indigenous peoples in Latin America and the congress in 2022.



*Photos from top to bottom: Our quarantine hotel view – can you spot grandma on the river path below?; Finally received the first jab in August; First day of in-person classes for 18 months; London by cable car!*

## GOING FURTHER WITH CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

We live in a violent world but CMS partners in Africa and across the globe are bringing change, hope and freedom to lives wrecked by war. You can help bring the peace of Christ to lives torn apart by conflict too. Find out more at [churchmissionsociety.org/christmas2021](https://churchmissionsociety.org/christmas2021)

If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email [supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org](mailto:supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org) or call 01865 787400

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