



Paul and Sarah Tester

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Location: Peru



What we do: Paul is working to establish a truly Latin American mission movement for Latin America and Sarah serves in children's ministry.

Dear friends,

Journeying together

"Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls" Jeremiah 6:16

"A little glimpse of heaven" was one of the ways Paul described the opening service at the Indigenous Peoples Mission Congress in Argentina. Indigenous peoples from across the region came on long journeys to be together, to worship Jesus in many different languages and to reflect on where God is calling them to in mission in this current generation. It was a privilege to have been part of bringing people together, seeing God at work and being part of this significant time.



Indigenous Peoples Congress participants.

We have been led back to this verse from Jeremiah throughout our discussions as CMS with indigenous peoples about how they want to engage in mission. There has been the sense of looking back at God's faithfulness in what has gone before while also recognising that God is also doing new things. As we met together, indigenous peoples themselves told us how they want to move forward together in mission. At the end of the Congress the indigenous peoples made a declaration that set out where they see mission moving in the coming years – the good way that they want to walk in. Paul is now part of the group journeying with representatives from a number of indigenous peoples as we seek to walk in that path.

Travel restrictions in the region have slowly been lifted, which has meant that Paul's travel that had been postponed and was becoming urgent is now possible. As part of the development of CMS's mission work together with indigenous peoples, Paul was in the Paraguayan Chaco in August. He visited Énket and Angaité communities, listening and learning how best to respond to the missional challenges they face, which helped shape the Congress in October. In between times, Paul was also able to take part in a mission conference in the USA promoting the cause of indigenous peoples and connecting with partners from across the world. Then just more recently he travelled to Honduras and Guatemala to meet with CMS mission partners and to explore missional opportunities there. (It is worth noting here that funding for these trips comes separately through CMS – your support for us as mission partners isn't paying for all these flights!).

Next time we travel it will be all of us! Sarah has been working so hard holding the fort at home while also teaching three hours each morning at the girl's school and discipling a lady whose life God is turning around by an amazing healing. But the next trip is to attend the gathering of CMS's people in mission in Latin America, which Paul is organising with a team, so Sarah and the girls will be there too. "Refresh", as this gathering is now

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With each other
To the edges**



known, will be the first time we have all been together in one place and will be important for us all after what has been a particularly challenging couple of years. It will help us all to be refreshed spiritually, physically, mentally and emotionally as well as being a time for a refreshing of our vision as CMS in Latin America as we seek to follow God's call.

Travelling is important, as well as being both interesting and exhausting. There is something so significant and powerful about being present in one place together. We need to be wise stewards and think about both the financial costs and impact on God's creation, but also see the benefits of gathering in one place, of building community, of improved

communication and of the encouragement of making the effort to visit those who are isolated or excluded.

It has been wonderful for Sophia, Emily and Annabelle to finally be able to attend their school in person! By late August mask restrictions were also relaxed, so they now no longer need their masks (unless they have a runny nose). Sophia still loves swimming and has also enjoyed taking part in an inter-school athletics competition. Her sewing hobby is coming on leaps and bounds now she has her own sewing machine. Encouraged by a myriad of Netflix baking shows, Emily is happiest in the kitchen and recently made Annabelle's penguin birthday cake and a cake for our neighbour. She particularly loves time spent with her French friend and anything French. Annabelle has discovered gymnastics! Floor routines perfectly combine her sporty nature and Latina dancing flair. She was the youngest competitor in an inter-school gymnastics festival and is planning on asking Santa for a set of parallel bars and a beam. There may need to be a discussion about the size of our flat!

As we write in the run up to Christmas, we remember how the shepherds and Magi journeyed to see the new born saviour of the world. What a joy to be able to be there with Jesus. Thank you for journeying with us as we serve here in Peru. May God bless you on your journey with him and wherever you find yourself this Christmas and beyond!

Paul, Sarah, Sophia, Emily and Annabelle

Praise Points:

- For the wonderful Indigenous Peoples Mission Congress in October
- For safe travels over many months
- For Paul's paperwork that came through to make travel possible
- For Sarah's teaching role at the girl's school, supporting reading in English
- For God's amazing healing that the lady Sarah is discipling is experiencing

Prayer points:

- Pray for the "Refresh" Latin America people in mission conference (2-6 January) and for safe journeys
- Pray for the ongoing development of CMS mission work with indigenous peoples
- Pray for the girl's 2 ½ month school summer break (mid December-end of Feb), for us to use the time well and have the right activities to keep us energised.

Paul and Sarah



Photos from top to bottom: Listening to indigenous peoples in the Paraguayan Chaco; Visiting mission partners in Central America; A chance to spend time away as a family; Frida Kahlo, a chef and a gymnast on dress up for school day.



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