



Anna Sims

Link Letter no. 26 | March 2023



Location: Peru



What I do: Supporting female, English-speaking inmates and ex-offenders in Lima through prison ministry Walking in Liberty.

Dear friends,

I've compiled an A-Z summary of my first three months back in Peru.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Philippians 4:6 (NLT)

As you will see, there is so much to both give thanks for and to continue to bring to God in prayer – thank you for joining with me in this,

Love Anna x

Amigos: It's been so lovely to catch up with old **friends** and start getting to know new ones. There has been a lot of movement in the last few years, especially with many friends leaving Peru. Most noticeably, there's been a high turnover of folk at iCafe.

Bochorno: I am struggling with the **muggy** weather and am thankful that I have a flexible timetable and can avoid using public transport during rush hour.

Claxones y construcción: **Horns and construction work**, the soundtrack of Lima.

Departamento: I am loving living on my own (with Pinky) in my new **flat**, it is light and spacious.

Embajada Británica: I am in contact with the **British Embassy** to help support the British inmates during their time in prison.

Frutas tropicales: I am enjoying cheap, fresh **tropical fruits** and returned in time for mango season.

Gaseosa: All I want to drink in this weather is ice cold **fizzy drinks!**

Heladería: There is a delicious **ice cream parlour**

around the corner from my new flat, I'm especially enjoying the tropical fruit sorbets.

iCafé iglesia: **iCafe Church** has moved back into the newly renovated building we were meeting in pre-pandemic.

Jueces: Our group of inmates are all still waiting for paperwork to be approved or signed by one of the **judges**. Often a bribe is expected to speed things up.

Kilogramo: The cost of living has increased and most things are more expensive per **kilo** since I left in July 2021.

Libertad: I was able to meet with one of the women after she had been **released** from prison and prior to her travelling back to her passport country.

Lluvia: The state schools were closed in March due to heavy **rain**.

Manifestaciones: **The protests** have been continuing, albeit peacefully, in recent weeks.



Donated teddy bears from the UK for the babies and toddlers in prison

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

El Niño: The weather phenomenon is currently causing landslides and flooding, displacing many from their homes.

Ñangué: In many ways, this time of readaptation feels like **way back** when I first arrived in 2013, but without the honeymoon period.

Obispo Jorge: I had a positive meeting with Paul, from CMS, and **Bishop Jorge**, who are both supporting me in my re-entry.

Papeada: Many people are commenting on how much weight I've put on in the UK – Papeada literally means **well-fed on potatoes**.

Queso: I'm missing UK **cheese** but managed to find some imported cheddar in a fancy supermarket last week.

Rapero: One creative way people make money is by getting on the buses and rapping bespoke verses about the different passengers. Sometimes they can be quite crude but last week I was the source of a funny one where the **rapper** said I looked like I'd escaped from prison – due to my signature stripy t-shirt – and that I had an excellent smile even though I have a tooth missing (it rhymed in Spanish).

Santa Mónica: Our pastoral agent passes have been issued and we're allowed in to **Saint Monica** prison every Thursday afternoon. This is the first time we've been permitted to visit the women on a regular basis since March 2020.

Trámites: I have spent hours and hours queuing to sort out **formal paperwork** with immigrations, my bank and medical appointments.

Ushuaia: It was an amazing start to my time back in South America being able to attend the CMS Latin America conference in Patagonia, Argentina. There was encouraging teaching and times of fellowship, lots of opportunities to delight in God's creation and I saw penguins!

Vecinos: My new **neighbours** include: my Peruvian/Canadian landlords on the ground floor, a couple from Costa Rica in the flat next door to mine who are here for a year studying on the Wycliffe Bible translation course, and two friends from iCafe who live across the park. I am within 15 minutes' walk of many of my foreign friends.



Walking in Liberty: It's great to be working with Mary and Margo again as part of the team. As well as a weekly prayer meeting, we visit Santa Monica together and support ex-offenders both in and out of Lima. We are speaking at a missions event at a local church in April and are currently redesigning our logo.

Rayos – X: I fell awkwardly while I was in Argentina so spent my first few weeks back in Lima getting examinations, including an **x-ray** of my elbow. Thankfully it was just a sprain and I nearly have full movement again.

Yapa: I'm still shopping in the same markets as I was previously. The stallholders give a **freebie** to their regulars, often in the form of some additional fruit or vegetables or a bag of nuts.

Zapatos: As I hadn't planned to be in the UK for as long as I was, a lot of the things I'd put in storage were mouldy or disintegrated, including my **shoes**. I had a big clear out before I moved flats and am continuing to sort through and donate items that I no longer need.



Love,
Anna x



Photos from top to bottom: Gifting a suitcase and luggage tag to an ex-offender returning to her passport country; iCafe patio; queue outside immigration; with the Testers for the CMS conference in January.



Going further with Church Mission Society

Jesus never gives up. Neither should we. We live in a fractured, hurting world. It can be tempting to give up: on hope, on people, on the idea that things can ever change. Yet, Jesus invites us to follow him on a journey to the edges. Find out more at churchmissionsociety.org/nevergiveup

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