



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,

New things!

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." – Isaiah 43:19

This season has been and continues to be a season of new things.

New for CMS in Latin America:

Paul led the organisation of the first ever CMS in Latin America conference called "Refresh" (Matthew 11:28 – Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest). CMS's people in mission from across the region came together for a wonderful time of renewal in Jesus. It was a multilingual event held in Ushuaia, Argentina, at the site of the first established SAMS mission among the indigenous Yaghan people. There were so many special joys, being blessed by the local church through their hospitality, an engagement and being together as a team for the first time ever. The rich mission history in the area, the beautiful surroundings and God's favour made this a wonderful time from which to be sent back out to serve across Latin America.

Straight afterwards Paul was at the other end of the country visiting the ongoing mission work of the indigenous church in the Argentine Chaco. Attending a leaders training conference of around 600 indigenous leaders was an incredible experience. How would we cope with hosting such a number? Food was prepared for everyone, people slept in homes and on floors and it was an incredible time for sharing, learning and continuing with the development of CMS's partnership with the indigenous church in mission.

New this (Peruvian) summer:

On Christmas Eve, just before we travelled to Argentina, Sophia tripped and fractured her arm, leaving her with a cast from the wrist up and over her elbow. Thankfully we were still all able to enjoy Christmas with friends and then on Boxing Day headed to Argentina together. We were able to take a few days as a family on the way to the Refresh conference to enjoy both Buenos Aires and Ushuaia together. On our return the girls have enjoyed summer clubs with Sophia in calligraphy, Emily in basketball and Annabelle in gymnastics. Now Sophia is out of her cast she is back swimming and all three are loving their activities. School restarted in March and they have been delighted to spend more time with friends and get back into their learning there.

Sarah celebrated her birthday in February and has continued with her discipleship and serving with children at church. Recently the key for the church building could not be found so Sunday school became an open air



Everyone enjoying "Refresh"

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churchmissionsociety.org/tester

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



event, although to escape the worst of the heat beating down from the sun our car boot became the classroom! Numbers are growing again as are local leaders, so it is exciting to see.

News from Peru:

All of this has been in the context of a difficult period for Peru. An attempt by the then President Pedro Castillo to dissolve the congress was thwarted and he was impeached. However, protests in support of him and calling for fresh presidential and congressional elections have been both violent and violently suppressed. Well over 50 people have died as a result, roads have been blocked, airports occupied and

buildings burned. While things have calmed recently, no real resolution has been found.

The country's attention has since turned to coping with heavy rain, flooding and landslides brought by Cyclone Yaku. Over 50 people have died due to the rainy season and there is an alert that this year may bring an "El niño" with extended unusual weather patterns.

New for us as a family:

In among all of this we have been praying and reflecting, and have felt that now is also the time for us to begin our return to the UK after 16 years away. We have had an amazing time in God's service here in Peru, but particularly to give the girls better educational opportunities, as well as being closer to wider family, we believe it is the right time to move. It hasn't been an easy decision, but we are excited about the future. We will be leaving Peru at the beginning of July so that the girls will be ready to start the new UK school year in September. Paul will be continuing in his role but will now be based in the UK. Sarah will continue as a mission partner for these last months in Peru and for the few months of transition back into the UK, so we would ask that you continue to support us. We will look forward to visiting you all in the second half of 2023 and would particularly ask for your prayers as we take this big step. We'll send more news soon.

Praise God for:

- ▶ The joy of the Refresh conference and for a chance to visit Argentina together as a family
- ▶ The indigenous church in Latin America and our partnership together in God's mission
- ▶ For summer fun and for the growth in the Sunday school

Please pray for:

- ▶ Peru's political and social problems and all those affected by rains, flooding and landslides
- ▶ A good end to our time here in Peru and for good transitions to the UK
- ▶ Sophia, Emily and Annabelle as they leave the home where they have lived their whole lives
- ▶ Wisdom to know where to live and for the right school places to be available in the UK
- ▶ Jesus to be followed by all across this amazing region.

With our thanks, love and prayers,

Paul, Sarah, Sophia, Emily and Annabelle



Photos from top to bottom: With the amazing women of Barrio Obrero; First day back at school!; Sunday school in our car boot!; Greetings from Lima.



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

Please note that opinions expressed in link letters are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society.

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