



Andrew and Lisa Peart

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Location: Bolivia



What we do: Partnering with the local church to engage with the community in pioneering mission through generous, creative hospitality

Hello friends!

Exciting news! Daniela, the young woman who lived with us for a transitional year in 2019/20, in between leaving the orphanage where she grew up and entering the big world of independence, recently graduated from high school! An incredible achievement despite many setbacks in her life. Having started school at age 10, being behind in her education wasn't something she considered. She tackled what seemed like insurmountable obstacles to us, but again, seemed normal for her. Not having a birth certificate, according to the "system," she didn't exist, and without it she could not continue her education – a hard challenge that can sow seeds of doubt about who we are – yet God's Word sows seeds of truth and confidence about our identity. I love Paul's words in Romans 8 that the Holy Spirit testifies that we are God's children, and he is our Abba Father. Daniela's life is a testament to his faithfulness and glory – we are so blessed to be part of it.



Celebrating Daniela's graduation

Romans 8:15b-17

By him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

As you know, Santa Cruz suffered a setback before Christmas – the 36-day protest, blocked roads, no trading, schools online for five weeks and civil unrest left everyone exhausted and behind in Christmas plans and work. Andrew's F4 course at the local school was cancelled, our cookie decorating workshop had low turnout, Liliana had dengue fever and was in bed for 10 days, the girls finished school online (for the second time in two months) due to many students and teachers having COVID, and our outdoor Christmas Eve candlelight service was moved indoors at the last minute due to rain! Nothing dire, but we wondered what God might've been saying to us? When I reread our Christmas link letter written before any of the above happened/didn't happen, what I wrote surprised me!

"My hope for this advent is to focus less on our own preparations, and allow the Lord, through his Holy Spirit, to **prepare us – our hearts and minds** for the unshakeable joy and peace the birth of the King of Kings brings to us as we celebrate Advent and share the hope we have in Christ with others."

Even in the disappointment of Christmas being different to what *we planned*, God was re-directing our focus, as I had hoped for! In the stillness, the Lord was preparing our hearts and minds to celebrate and share the joy, peace and hope of Christ's birth. We had a lovely, tranquil Christmas celebrating just that!

Support Andrew and Lisa Peart:
churchmissionsociety.org/peart

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



To end 2022 and begin 2023, we travelled to the most glorious place, known as

“the end of the world”, Ushuaia, Patagonia. Andrew and I formed part of the team planning our inaugural CMS Latin America conference called Refresh, drawing inspiration from Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28–30. Andrew organised a workshop on wellness and healing psychiatry, Lisa led a workshop on soaking worship and set up a 24/7 prayer space, Anayah and Liliana were involved in

leading worship in three languages – English, Spanish and Portuguese. What a joy it was to gather with mission partners, local partners and mission associates to worship, hear what God is doing around Latin America, reflect, and receive his refreshing presence in a place where SAMS missionaries (now CMS) first landed to share the gospel some 170+ years ago! We also hiked a glacier, saw penguins in their natural habitat, visited Tierra del Fuego National Park and learned of the incredible and ongoing impact these missionaries still have on the community and local church. We left humbled, refreshed and thankful.

Bolivian news

The day we travelled to Argentina, our governor was violently abducted, flown from Santa Cruz to La Paz where he was put in prison for his part in the supposed coup d'état in 2019, causing local supporters to storm the tarmac, forcing their way onto aeroplanes, looking to rescue our governor... we were at that airport only hours before. Imagine this happening as we took the obligatory selfies on board!

Andrew has launched the F4 (Financial Freedom for Families) course (finally!). He's in the fourth week of leading the men's ministry through it prior to opening it out to families in our community. He'll also lead it at month's end for families in the local school, postponed from November 2022. Pray that we would trust in God's timing, even when we don't like it; his timing is best!

Lisa is teaching Bible-based English to 15 Bolivian adults interested in mission, having taken the TESOL course online during the pandemic. It's quite a learning curve – remembering, let alone teaching, things like superlatives – however, the challenge is fun!

The community garden initiative Lisa is championing on our church property is going ahead; we are currently forming a team! We hope to create a tranquil, safe space amid the busyness of this rapidly growing barrio, to be present, listen to our local neighbourhood, and offer hospitality as a natural gateway to sharing the transforming love of Jesus. Pray for a committed team.

Liliana and Anayah are nearly at the end of a school year which has been very intense, especially for Liliana who has been having extra online courses to equip her for uni in England! Pray for energy to finish well and joy in doing so. They both love being on the school basketball team – we love cheering for them – sports certainly brings out the loud, cheering American in Lisa!

Bendiciones en Cristo,

Andrew, Lisa, Liliana and Anayah x



Photos from top to bottom: Liliana and Anayah leading worship at CMS's Latin America conference; Pearts at Tierra del Fuego National Park, Argentina; Andrew leading the F4 course with the men's ministry; Lisa's English class



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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