



# Anna Sims

Link Letter no. 27 | August 2023



**Location:** Peru



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

Dear friends,

As I was shimmying across the roof of a five-storey building on a hill in Pamplona Alta, I was simultaneously hoping that there wouldn't be a tremor while also enjoying the spectacular view across the Southern Cone of Lima towards the sea (I'm a sucker for a cityscape). I was with my friend Wayki, from iCafe, and his brother-in-law, who had come to our rescue offering another pair of hands and expertise in making "engrudo" or wheat paste – he is aptly called Angel. We were in the middle of installing three Stations in the Street exhibitions by the US artist Scott Erickson. It all felt quite last-minute as is usual here, although the seed of the idea had been germinating for several months. Working with Wayki and his wife Sarah, we were able to install three exhibitions for Easter week: one on their building in Pamplona Alta, another one 14 blocks down the hill on the railings of Shalom Anglican church and the last one on the railings of iCafe in Barranco. The images are a contemporary series of 12 stations of the cross, ending with the resurrection. Each station is packed with imagery and has a Bible verse at the bottom of it. It is a while since I have worked as part of a team on a creative project and I really enjoyed it. We're hoping to hold another similar event for Advent.



*With Wayki and Angel on the roof*

The following week I was back in Pamplona Alta with a team from iCafe, but this time in a supporting role as Sarah led a printmaking workshop in a community on the dunes, where the majority of the children had lost one or both parents to COVID. We made monoprints, which is a technique where each image is unique, and Sarah shared with the children how each of them is a unique creation by God. A group of us are going to another community to run the same workshop in August.

I have just finished leading the eight-week Prayer Course by 24-7 Prayer on Sunday afternoons at iCafe. I have felt particularly British throughout, as cultural differences were highlighted in how I led the course and how others participated. I was so encouraged and it has helped me get back into teaching in Spanish. I've got to know some more people at iCafe on a deeper level and it's been an encouragement to my own personal prayer life.

The situation in prison keeps changing as always. There is a new director at Santa Monica who has drastically changed many of the rules and protocols. Two of the women from our Bible study group were

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



released just after Easter, so I have been meeting up with them and trying to help out where possible and to provide a safe space to listen to them share about what they are going through. We mainly visit the remaining women on a weekly basis with a few exceptions for prison activities and public holidays.

During one of our weekly Thursday visits, two women from the same country, who were arrested together, began to talk in their native Chinese language. One of the women, S, was clearly distraught as she confronted the other woman, T, about something. No one in the team understands the language they were speaking, so we just allowed them the space to share while silently praying for them. Apparently the “friend”

of T had gone to one of the prison officials and complained and lied about the behaviour of S. It was a misunderstanding caused by an inmate not in our group, which impacted the day-to-day situation inside for S. After they figured out the cause of the misunderstanding and had shared the conversation with us in Spanglish, it was nearly time to end the visit. So, the remaining time was spent praying and reading Psalm 147 (each woman taking it in turns to read a few verses in her own language). As S read verse 3 in her heart language, “He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds”, she began to cry. It was a sacred moment to see a glimpse of God bringing healing to her. My colleague Mary was able to obtain some more materials in her own language for her which she loves. We are praying that we might find someone appropriate to visit with us, as a one-off, to have a conversation with S in her heart language.

Please do continue to pray for me as I live here. I have noticed a considerable improvement in my emotional and physical health, and have so much to give thanks to God for, especially reflecting on how I felt this time last year, when I was in Lima for two weeks to maintain my visa and get the lie of the land. I am encouraged by the continuing small everyday ways I witness God working in myself and those around me and in the words of the Psalmist, “I remain confident of this: I will [continue to] see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.” 27:13

Love, Anna x



**Photos from top to bottom:** Installing a Stations in the Street exhibition with Francis and Wayki; monoprinting workshop; workshop team, Pamplona Alta; the Prayer Course at iCafe



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