



## **Andrew and Lisa Peart**

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## Contact details:

lisajweedman@hotmail.com andrewpeart@protonmail.com





**Location:** Bolivia

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

## Hello friends!

Praying that this update finds you well.

Recently, I have found myself thinking about seasons. I am a lover of season changes. However, seasons here in Bolivia don't change much; one flows into the next with a drastic drop in temp from 38C to 8C for a few weeks just to remind us to be thankful that it doesn't last!

Seasons in life can be connected to the seasons we have in nature. Our family began the year in the season of spring; spiritual renewal and refreshment with our inaugural Latin American retreat called Refresh in Argentina. Waking up from what seemed to be a long winter season of hibernation (not necessarily restful) to the gentle and dependable



Youth session at Cristo Luz del Mundo's Do it retreat in February

refreshment of dew and early morning sun which ushered in God's love anew, bringing with it hope and fresh ways of thinking about HIS mission for the year ahead as we go with Jesus to the edges. We were reminded that God's mission has seasons as well, rooted in his perfect will and timing, not ours.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us, There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

Spring renewal led us into the planning and execution of our own church's retreat during the carnival holiday at the end of February, called Hazlo, meaning Doit. We took some things we learned at our CMS retreat and applied them in our own church context – in particular, the theme of facing our fears. Our retreat was a wonderful time of fellowship, a challenging time of facing our fears and looking ahead to a renewed and fearless commitment to serve the church, each other and our local community as a faithful Body of Christ.

Lisa continues teaching English with a biblical perspective, two nights a week until the end of November at a local school of missions called AYLA. Forming a community from this amazing group of people has been a wonderful gift and seeing their enthusiasm and commitment to learning English is inspiring. Please pray the fervour continues for both students and teachers.

Andrew and Lisa introduced the Alpha Course to our church in March. Having led several courses over our years here, in Satelite Norte, online for youth during the pandemic, and last year helping another local church, it was Cristo Luz del Mundo's turn! Our first night we had 40 people (35 every week after) with a great number of invited guests. We have formed a team of Alpha leaders who we are training to eventually lead the course, not so that we don't have to, but so they can lead for many years to come. The course has been amazing; new friendships, people walking closer with Jesus and each other, others coming to know Christ as Lord and



Saviour! God is good. We are planning another Alpha Course later this year. Pray that we, as a church, are committed to discipling new believers well.

Andrew's leadership of the F4 (Financial Freedom for Families) course is going well. He launched it to parents at a local school where we connect monthly with their "school of parents." He is currently leading six people through the course, once a month, with homework guidance and discipleship taking place in between the monthly sessions. Please pray for humility and openness for the participants and grace for Andrew as he walks people through biblical stewardship. Teaching money and resources belonging to God is challenging in any culture, yet it is key to the transition from financial stronghold to financial freedom.

Our community garden project continues in its developmental stage. We have received some pricey quotes that didn't really capture the vision we think God has for our project, causing us to rethink our approach slightly - not a bad thing! Looking at how best to steward this project, we are placing more focus on mobilising our current resources - combining biblical teaching to stimulate practical response to the real needs of the community, through listening and engagement. As a church, we see the need and the good in getting our own hands dirty - literally, in the garden! We are also looking to form a small focus group with church members and key people from the community. In the meantime, we continue to get quotes as there is a need for some physical changes to the outdoor area of the church. We ask you to pray that the vision for this project remains rooted in the Lord, that as we model good stewardship and trust in him, he will make a way in what seems to be a bit of wilderness.

Our girls are doing well. They won their school league basketball tournament – quite an exciting time for them and us! Anayah is taking commercial dance and has been involved in the flag worship at church, and Liliana has started playing tennis again and is on the sound team at our church. They are also involved in local charities: Operation Smile and Alas de Aguilas (Wings of Eagles) – both of which support children. Please continue to cover them in prayer – the adolescent years are beautiful and challenging at the same time.

It's been a very busy season for us, but we managed to get away for a few days to Tarija just before Easter to meet with our new bishop, Walter (a CMS local partner), his wife Adela and their family and to spend some time out of the big city. Tarija is known for its slow-paced life and wine – we had a wonderful time and look forward to another visit soon.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in the gospel.

Bendiciones en Cristo, Andrew, Lisa, Liliana and Anayah x







Photos from top to bottom: A beautiful outdoor Alpha dinner in the church grounds – the site for our future community garden; Andrew introducing the F4 course to the local "school of parents"; Peart girls' team are high school basketball league champs!; Peart family in Tarija



## **Going further with Church Mission Society**

**Pioneer Mission Leadership Training** at CMS, designed by pioneers for pioneers, equips students for transformational mission on the edges in a dynamic and supportive learning community. Find out more at **pioneer.churchmissionsociety.org** 

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