



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.

Walking together, with Jesus and with others

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" – Luke 24:32

Walking together with Jesus:

We are coming to the end of a stage of our journey as a family, that of serving with CMS as mission partners, although Paul continues as CMS's manager for Latin America now based near Oxford. When you reach such a milestone it is a really natural time to look back and reflect. The disciples did this after their journey with Jesus on the road to Emmaus – they looked back and saw how Jesus had been with them and how their hearts had burned within them. As we look back over the last sixteen years in Peru we can see how our hearts have burned within us as we have walked with Jesus and seen him "open the Scriptures" to us. Equally, we have felt our hearts burn as we have walked with others along the way and seen Jesus make their hearts burn for him too. There are often difficult times on the journey, but when you reach your intended destination it is a time to celebrate – even if you might also be thinking about the next stage on the journey as well!



One of our last looks out across Lima.

Walking together with children and young people:

Our original calling to Peru was to serve with children and young people. Sarah's "Ark" project in the shanty towns around Lima brought hundreds of children to experience God's love and word in a safe educational play space. Paul discipled young people both locally and with youth leaders across Peru. We learned huge amounts as we grew in our understanding of the culture and lived out our faith in that context. While we know that all those children and young people make their own life choices which can, at times, be painful to watch, we know that we have been a significant part of the journey for some. It is a real joy to see those who are living their lives walking with Jesus and helping others to do the same. We continue to pray that God will bring about the fruit from the seeds of faith we have sought to plant.

Walking together with leaders:

As our family has grown, so our roles have developed. Sarah has taken on much of that most important of roles – walking with our own children as they have been growing up. Paul's role developed into helping the wider Anglican Church in Peru think about how it makes disciples. As he did so he walked with Peruvian leaders to listen to what God was saying and to prayerfully consider how to respond. It has been a joy to see the Church transition to national leadership during this time and also to be part of the stepping back and allowing Peruvians to walk forward in their calling.

Support Paul and Sarah Tester:
churchmissionsociety.org/tester

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



Walking together with people in mission and partner organisations:

Most recently, Paul was called to take on his current role, leading CMS's mission work across Latin America. It continues to be an absolute privilege and joy to join with people from the UK and across Latin America who are walking with Jesus into places and spaces "at the edges", where people need to know the joy of choosing to walk with Jesus, following him and his call on their lives. Paul is leading the development of two missional movements: mission together with indigenous peoples and creative and innovative mission that connects

with people the traditional church struggles to reach. He will continue in this role beyond the completion of our time as mission partners.

Walking together as a family into the future:

When we left for Peru back in 2007 we were still in our twenties and there were just the two of us. We now have three wonderful Peruvian (and British!) daughters, all born in Lima. We praise God that during our time in Peru he has always provided for us and guarded us, giving us all opportunities to live experiences that are well beyond the norm. We are now settling into life in Oxfordshire.

Sophia has started secondary school and is thriving. She has surprised us how quickly she has become independent, getting herself to school and back on a public bus, and is particularly enjoying playing football, textiles and both Science and Eco Club. Emily and Annabelle are enjoying the village primary school and had already made some friends at our wonderful church before the start of term. Emily is enjoying school choir and football and Annabelle is loving her gymnastics club and bouncing on our trampoline (a welcome gift for the girls, Emily: "And because you sold our toys in Peru Mum"!).

Our local village church has been so welcoming. The girls are so keen to get to church, to see their friends and engage with the children's and youth activities. Sarah has been enjoying helping at toddler group, particularly helping mums with English as a second language feel welcome, and will continue to do so until she starts work as a teaching assistant at a primary school in Abingdon. Of course it has been a great joy spending so much more time with our hugely supportive extended family, sharing birthdays and holidays and just being able to regularly get together without the painful goodbyes.

Of course, we miss people and life in Peru greatly and continue to enjoy connecting with friends and adopted family across the ocean. We continue to pray that those we know and love there will walk with Jesus forever. As we come to the end of this stage of our journey that is our prayer for you as well.

At the same time, we are aware that fellow mission partners are continuing their journeys in Latin America and around the world. If you have been supporting us financially and would like to continue to give to CMS's work, please contact churchrelations@churchmissionsociety.org – our colleagues would be greatly blessed by your support.

Thank you so much for walking with us over all of these years. Do please keep in touch and continue to pray for us and know that you are in our prayers. Have a wonderful Christmas time!

Paul, Sarah, Sophia, Emily and Annabelle



Photos from top to bottom: Remembering our church congregation at San Juan Evangelista; The people in mission conference Paul and team organised; With Joel Millanguir and Mirna Paulo working together on mission with Indigenous Peoples; The Tester girls off to their UK schools.



Going further with Church Mission Society

CMS people in mission are following Jesus to the edges in 40+ countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Europe. Mission partners like Paul and Sarah commit to working alongside local people, listening, learning, building relationships and becoming a part of communities. Be part of this unfolding story at churchmissionsociety.org

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

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