

## Paul, Sarah, Sophia, Emily & Annabelle Tester



June 2017  
Jesus is there too!

## CMS Mission Partners in Lima, Peru



“The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life” - John 4 v 13-14

*Dear Praying Friends,*



Against the background of a home destroyed by the flooding and the rescued TV and cooker left out to dry still this boy has the capacity for joy.

“Being where Jesus is means being in the company Jesus seeks and keeps. Jesus chooses the company of the excluded, the disreputable, the wretched, the self-hating, the poor, the diseased; so that is where you are going to find yourself”. So writes Rowan Williams in his book “Being Disciples” and it’s certainly something that we have experienced in the last couple of months.

The major flooding, accompanied by landslides, that hit Peru during this “El Niño” year left more than 100 dead and hundreds of thousands affected. The whole of Lima where we live, along with around 10 million others, was without its water supply for days. We have been ferrying water to those without, gathering donations of food, blankets, clothes, and helping those who have lost their homes by setting up kitchens, providing blankets, mosquito nets and children’s school supplies as part of the church’s response. Grateful victims of the flooding share generously with us



Shovelling sand with the youth at San Pablo mission!

from the small amount of food and water that they have. Sitting in the dark temporary shelters in the damp Lima winter with those who have lost their homes, Jesus is there too.

At the “San Pablo” mission, perched on the side of a hill in a dusty shanty town, Paul and the young people have recently spent a number of days shovelling the ever encroaching sand from the up side of the mission to stop the building being pushed over. That finished, they then found they had to repair the wall of sand filled tyres on the downside of the mission which partially collapsed in the drizzle from the cloud which covers the

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in action

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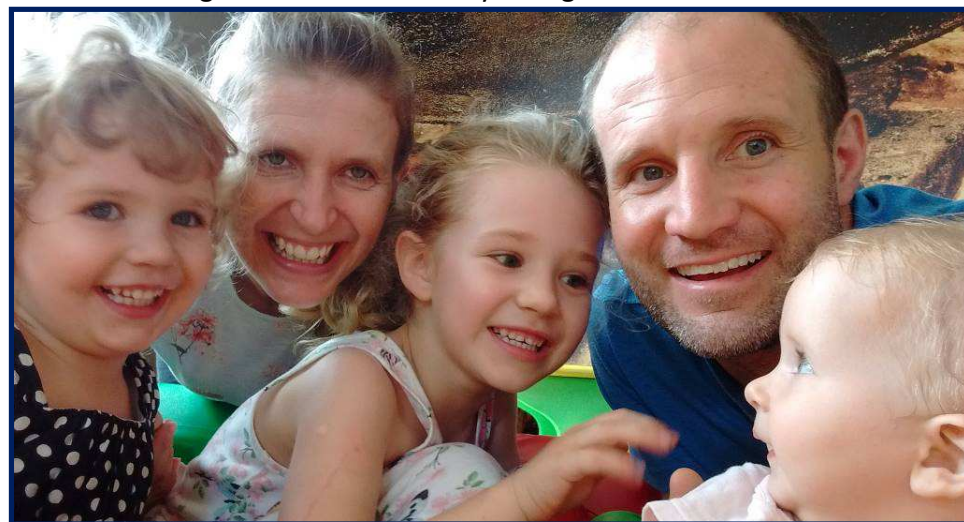
[www.churchmissionsociety.org](http://www.churchmissionsociety.org)

area for much of the winter months. Despite the slow hard work, the dirt and the dank, there is great joy in the young people as they work to keep the mission alive. Be it in the digging through endless sand or the crazy games, word, worship and fellowship at our meetings, Jesus is there too.

There was one recent week when each time the phone buzzed it was the next pastoral crisis in the lives of the young people from “San Juan Evangelista”, our church. In that one week we helped young people deal with parents separating, moving house and introducing their new partners (yes, all in one family in one week); family members being sentenced to prison, depression, relationship breakdowns, illnesses in the family and more. Many of these young people, despite the challenges they face, are serving other young people through the church’s youth ministry, helping others along the way, guiding, counselling, giving, pastoring. As they draw on God’s strength to help others whilst themselves still hurting, Jesus is there too.

The girls have adjusted well to being back in Peru. Sophia loves her new “big girl’s school”, particularly P.E. lessons and library time. Emily enjoys nursery four mornings a week and doesn’t stop talking when we pick her up, having spent the morning with her lips sealed trying to understand Spanish. Annabelle continues to be exceedingly contented, now crawling and able to pull herself up on the furniture! Despite the continual interrupted nights and early mornings God gives Sarah the love and strength to pour into them. At bedtime, Sophia’s persistent simple prayers for the victims of the flooding are beautiful moments. In the sacrifice of being a family a long way from its native home, Jesus is there too.

Returning to the excluded, disreputable, wretched, self-hating, poor and diseased, Jesus says to his disciples



glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-16). May we all be God’s light in this world that needs him so much. Jesus is there too.

*With love and prayers,  
Paul, Sarah  
Sophia, Emily and  
Annabelle*

Please thank God for:

- The help and support already provided to victims of the flooding and landslides (thank you to all who have helped!)
- The girls adapting well to being back in Peru
- Chances to help those in need and the opportunity to help improve discipleship around the diocese.

Please pray for:

- All the victims of the flooding and landslides
- The next phase of discipleship work and planning around the diocese
- Bishop Jorge, the new diocesan council and all those in leadership in the church in Peru
- The young people at both San Pablo mission and San Juan Evangelista church.
- Sarah and Sophia as Sarah looks for snatches of time to do her speech therapy.