

Christmas 2009

Feliz Navidad!



From the Marcés family and

Jesús El Salvador /San Andrés churches

But when the right time finally came, God sent his own Son
(Galatians 4:4)

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Dear Friends

Advent – remembering the coming of Jesus and trying to **prepare** for everything.... We have come to the conclusion that, happily for us, God was rather better organised than we are when it comes to preparing the way – the prophets, census, star etc were all right on cue whereas unfortunately the same does NOT seem to be true here:

- When the Wise Men saw the star, I wonder how long it took them to get the **presents** organized. The Christmas present fund from Compassion came through last week and individual presents have to be bought for 135 children in the next 2 weeks; each child has a



right to choose what he/she wants so we can't just buy footballs for all 8 year old boys this time. Presents may be toys, games, clothing or craft items but not food. One 9 year old boy, who works a few hours some days putting wicks in candles to earn a bit of

money, wants (some) school uniform... One church member, Abraham, has a toy stall in the centre of Lima and we can coordinate certain things with him. Presents for Sunday School children, both in Jesús El Salvador and in Oasis, also have to be bought but these are of much less value and children do not have a chance to choose! (Children in both Sunday School and the Student Centre actually get smaller presents from Sunday School to make the funds stretch more)

- As many of you know, we will be visiting UK at Christmas: JC, P & Jonny for 2+ months, and the girls for 5 weeks (in order not to miss too much summer holiday and beach!) At the time of writing only Penny and Lizi actually have valid travel **documents** (passports, tickets & visas) for Peru-UK and back. Becky has to renew her Peruvian (Andean Community) passport (done in a couple of hours), Jonny will have to renew his UK (European Union) passport before leaving UK, and JC is waiting for his UK visa to be returned from the issuing office in New York in order to get a US visa for transit. (Had Mary had to do so much paperwork as spouse of the person entitled to go to Bethlehem, Jesus may well have been born elsewhere!)

- Leaving people **responsible** for different activities in the Church is still not completed. “The Lord’s Treasures” continues under the capable leadership of Martha, who is flourishing in this role and a lovely witness to God’s enabling – but please keep praying! Angie (treasurer) and Rosa (secretary) form a good office team, but pray for more tutors. Leading services and preaching will be under Marco, with the help of other clergy; the music ministry continues



to be strong. David & Lisbeth are still encouraged by the work amongst teenagers. But so many are involved in The Lord’s Treasures, music ministry or teenagers that Penny has still been in charge of Sunday School and holiday Rainbow Club, and also

the children’s work in Oasis – please pray for others to respond to God’s call to help. This summer the Rainbow Club will take into account the fact that the student centre continues to operate for most of the holidays, so we will combine the two (“just” the logistics to work out – 100+ children who will stay for lunch plus 30 who won’t, etc). The theme will be “Plants in the Bible”. Oasis is also a challenge; Marco, helped by María from Oasis, will be in charge.

- Reorganising our **house** after the extension is proving a s.l.o.w process. It will certainly not be finished by the time we leave – we are now on Plan D which basically means stuff not sorted is out of sight (Plan A was to have it all perfect...)



- We know Bethlehem was crowded when Mary & Joseph arrived; were the roads busy too? Lima suffers from an ever-increasing traffic load. Efforts to improve the situation include underpasses (which of course cause terrible hold-ups whilst being built); and Alan Garcia’s government says that the electric train public transport, begun in his first term of office (1985-1990) & abandoned when he left, is to be re-started – we’ll wait and see. Maybe donkeys would be more reliable; on the other hand some local buses now have closed circuit TV to help make the hold-ups less traumatic.

Praise

- happy Light Parties on 31 Oct in Jesús El Salvador & San Andrés
- most children settling into the routine in the Student Centre
- new children attending Sun school

Please Pray...

UK itinerary:

27 Dec: St Paul’s Dorking
 January
 10: Holy Trinity Springfield (Essex)
 11-14: SAMS staff conference
 14: St Mary’s Maidenhead
 17: All Saints, New Eltham, London
 24: St Peter’s, Ipsley Redditch
 25: St John in Bedwardine, Worcester
 28: St Judes, Wolverhampton
 28: Becky & Lizi return to Peru
 31: St Ann w Emmanuel, Nottingham
 February
 5: United Benefice Belbroughton/
 Clent/Fairfield (Bromsgrove)
 7: St Germain’s, Edgbaston
 14: St Peter’s, Littleover, Derby
 21: All Saints, Burton on Trent
 27: return to Peru

General requests

- **Lord’s Treasures:** children to attend Sun school, and parents to attend services
- **AMA** (women), in Jesús El Salvador & at Diocesan level
- **youth work.**, for the 13-18 group led by David & summer camp
- **San Andrés de Oasis** (Marco)
- Diocesan **leadership;** wisdom for Bishop Godfrey esp financial decisions
- volunteers to help with **values course** (April)

Special dates

18 Dec. Christmas celebration for Student Centre children
20 Dec. Christmas celebration
19 Jan–25 Feb (Tues & Thurs) Rainbow Holiday Club
31 Jan – Church and student centre beach trip

May our loving God who got all the details for our salvation well-organised at the right time, bless you this Christmas. Please contact us when we are in UK – we’d love to see you if possible....

*With our love and thanks, Juan Carlos, Penny,
 Rebeca, Lizi & Jonatan*