

Marcés Mailing

April 2023



*The steadfast love of the LORD
never ceases;
his mercies
never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*
(Lamentations 3:22-23)

Please pray for:

Juan Carlos + Penny: Church visits: coordination of travel etc; that visits will be of encouragement to all.

Meeting up with family & friends; adequate rest

Juan Carlos: Diocesan responsibilities (Christian formation)
JC's mother Hilda

Penny: Ongoing responsibilities in J el N (lay rector) & Cathedral;
Diocesan responsibilities (Children's Ministry)

Bishop Jorge Luis: wisdom in leading the Diocese

Diocese: Churches in Arequipa and S of Peru

Jesús El Nazareno: NEW teenagers' group led by Luis & Edward;
children's work- for helpers; those leading/preaching until July

El Nazareno area: communal kitchens,

Cathedral (English): Those leading/preaching until July;
search for a new Rector

Country of Peru: political, economic and education situations, and
all those affected by them; environmental challenges

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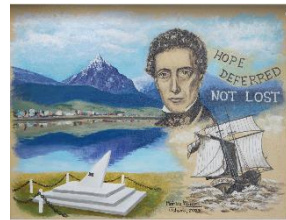
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Letter sent by: Mrs Alison Everness (Penny's sister-in-law),
23 Glebe Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3DS (01306-882817)

Dear friends,

To those of you who were wondering – yes, we are now in England, enjoying the English spring with blossom and buds, and signs of new life. But the new year began for Penny with a trip to Ushuaia in Tierra del Fuego, an Argentinian town founded (according to official records) by Anglican Missionaries. The reason?- the first ever CMS Regional conference- an opportunity to meet mission partners/Latin partners from Latin America. It was wonderful to meet people who had just been names, worship and learn together, and to share together in special experiences such as seeing whales! However, one of the most memorable experiences was to be invited to a special service in a Church in Ushuaia – not Anglican (there is no longer an Anglican presence) but VERY aware of the Christian heritage left by the first Christian missionaries who laboured there; they presented CMS with a painting entitled “Hope deferred, not lost” – a reference to Allen Gardiner, who died of starvation along with his companions.



Being reminded of this part of our history makes us grateful for the people we have worked with over these years. One is Antonio – when he lived in Villa el Salvador he kept falling into drugs (which at one point led him to steal the Sunday School materials to sell for money for drugs....), but who left Lima to escape the influence of his “friends” and who is now leading a Church in Arequipa along with his wife Lucía who was faithfully praying for him the whole time.



Rubén is someone else whom we have known since he was a young man in Jesús el Salvador. He is now Pastor there (having also ministered in Ica & Juliaca in other parts of Peru), and is one of those helping out in Jesús el Nazareno in our absence. As we look at the new growth around us in UK at this time of year, we reflect that the Church in JEN includes some “natural” growth with one couple’s very young baby having the name Camila, but we also rejoice in the fact that the “7 men” we asked prayer for in 2019 has been well answered. During Lent we held a one-day retreat during which we thought and prayed about specific aims and how to reach them; one of those aims is to start a group for teenagers and we are delighted that Edward, a young volunteer from UK, will be with us all this year helping with this (along with helping in small local Anglican nursery/primary school some days). However, it is early days yet – the group is still being set up, and Edward’s Spanish is advancing rapidly but not yet fluent....





Sadly, there is still a need for material help for many. The political problems and other factors have led to inflation which has meant greater need for communal kitchens etc, and we thank God for those who have continued to help. It was a wonderful surprise when someone in Peru suddenly asked if people in El Nazareno needed help with school supplies – we were able to help over 30 of the neediest children.

Thinking of new life not only in the spring but also at the Resurrection, in the English-speaking congregation of the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd we thank God for the ways He has shown that He has not abandoned us, despite still being without a Rector. For those of us who wondered a few months after reopening the Church doors for anybody to enter, becoming “visible” again after 2 years, if there would EVER be growth, it has been a real encouragement to see how, little by little, new people have come and become involved.

The choir, formed for the Christmas Carol Service, also sang at Easter, and a small group now leads singing on Sundays. A request for a pre-service Bible study has now resulted in this starting after Easter. It is thrilling to see people not only coming in, but also wanting to become involved. We are also blessed in having support from people in other places - in prayer, advice, and physical help. We praise God and pray that He will protect all.



However, (as we know well!) not everything goes the way one intends. In December, we wrote that Juan Carlos was about to begin a new ministry which we had thought would be based in Arequipa, working with Anglican Churches in the south of Peru. Between January and early April he spent 2 periods of time in Arequipa, as a time of discernment. This resulted in the realisation that the “Arequipa-based” plan was not the way forward. After further discussions with the Bishop he will now be based in Lima supporting clergy in Peru in a variety of ways. This WILL include helping in Arequipa & S Peru but will also include providing a mature masculine support in Churches which have a woman as Rector (including Jesús el Nazareno), supporting recently ordained clergy, and continuing with his involvement in discipleship in general. We shall see how this all works out when put into practice....

As for the family, Becky returned to Peru before Christmas and is searching for a job – maybe in London. Lizi spent a few weeks in Peru and is now back working in London. Joni is still living with us but is now preparing to spend a year doing a Master’s degree at LSE in London; his girlfriend (also a lawyer) has been accepted there too which is a relief to all. We know God has plans for each of them.



Our 3 with cousins



- Continued growth in Cathedral English congregation
- Arrival of Edward to help in J el Nazareno
- Improved political stability (still room to improve!)

Please pray....



(See also summary at beginning of letter)

Weekly activities

Please pray for activities in Lima & those leading:

- Sun:** 10.00 am English speaking service (Good Shepherd)
6.00pm Jesús el Nazareno service
- Thurs:** 6.00 pm Prayer meeting (Jesús el Nazareno)
- Sat:** 4.00 pm Children's activity (J. el Nazareno)

Specific dates for Church visits et al:

- 16 April:** St Paul's Dorking
- 30 April:** Trentside. Burton-on-Trent
- 1-9 May:** Bolton (Penny's sister)
- 14 May:** St John's, Harborne, Birmingham
- 21 May:** St John-in-Bedwardine, Worcester
- 28 May:** St Peter's, Ipsley
- 4 June:** All Saints', New Eltham, London
- 8-12 June:** St Mary's, Maidenhead
- 18 June:** Holy Trinity, Springfield
- 19-23 June:** Switzerland (JC's sister Gilda)
- 25 June;** St Germain's, Edgbaston, Birmingham
- 2 July;** St Peter's, Littleover, Derby
- 9 July:** St Ann with Emmanuel, Nottingham
- 16 July:** St Barnabas', Danesmoor, Chesterfield
- 25 July:** Return to Lima
- Aug:** JC tutoring MOCLAM Ephesians course

Thank you again to those who have been supporting us (and the communal kitchens and other needs) in so many ways. You are part of all that happens in Peru! We would love to see as many of you as possible – the above gives you an idea as to where in the country we will be at any time. Please keep in contact, by email or WhatsApp at +51-942612987.

God bless you and keep you secure in Him, now and always,

Juan Carlos & Penny