



Will you go to the edges with Andrew and Lisa Peart?

Dear friends,

Many people in Santa Cruz are trapped in poverty, both spiritual and physical, and facing a number of challenges.

Santa Cruz is one of the fastest growing cities in South America and is Bolivia's financial centre – but rapid change in recent years has led to a lack of educational opportunities, healthcare shortages, social instability and corruption.

We are passionate about building community and encouraging people to re-engage and reconnect with each other and God after three years of total disruption due to the pandemic.

We are working with a few local churches and are part of Cristo Luz del Mundo ("Christ the Light of the World"), a church located in the heart of the financial and residential centre. Hundreds of new flats have been built in the area recently, giving the church the opportunity to reach out to a growing community of professionals, businesses and families.

We are preparing to develop a community garden on the church property: a tranquil, safe space amid the busyness of this rapidly growing barrio. This will be a place to be present, listen to our local neighbourhood and offer hospitality as a natural gateway to sharing the transforming love of Jesus. Through the garden, we will also model and promote sustainability and care for the environment.

One core aspect of our work is coming alongside people and giving them tools to improve their finances and build a sustainable income. We offer basic financial education through and for our church, for parents in local schools and our microfinance partners using Financial Freedom for Families (F4), a training programme which teaches biblical stewardship of money and resources.

Through our micro-enterprise programme, we offer further financial education and interest-free start-up capital, as well as mentoring and discipling families as their businesses grow. To encourage saving, we partner with Five Talents through their subsidiary here, helping to develop their community savings groups in Bolivia.

Over time, we see people developing healthy attitudes towards money and starting on the path to sustainable income and financial independence.

As well as empowering individuals to steward their finances well, we are empowering the Anglican Church in Bolivia to become financially self-sustainable. We are encouraging church leaders to make the most of the church's resources, using the church's buildings and land to help meet the needs of the community as well as developing streams of income for the church through leasing office space or providing rooms or green spaces for community events.

Lisa grew up in the US, Andrew in the UK and we met in London while working in hotel management. We consider it a privilege to serve the Bolivian and wider church community as we respond to and trust in God's calling on our lives.

Andrew and Lisa



Location: Santa Cruz, Bolivia



What we do: Grow community engagement with local churches by responding to practical needs through generous hospitality and economic empowerment

Support Andrew and Lisa Peart:
churchmissionsociety.org/peart

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



Why support Andrew and Lisa?



At Church Mission Society, we are thrilled to support Andrew and Lisa in their call to come alongside the local church in its outreach and practical care for the local community.

With their passion for building community and background in business and hospitality, we believe God has placed them and is using them in Bolivia for his purposes. We are excited to see how God continues to work through them in the community of Santa Cruz through:

- ▶ building up the church to reach out to those around them, building relationships with people

through initiatives like the church community garden

- ▶ giving people tools to improve their finances, through financial education, micro-enterprise and community savings groups
- ▶ coming alongside the Bolivian church as they develop streams of income to secure long-term financial sustainability

We are so excited to be supporting them as they go to the edges and warmly invite you to join us.



With Jesus. With each other. To the edges.

One of Church Mission Society's greatest strengths is our people. People like Andrew and Lisa, who are called to follow Jesus to the edges and to join in with what God is doing in these places and spaces. Everything we do is through God's people working together.

Since our founding in 1799, we have partnered with more than 10,000 men and women from all walks of life who have felt called to join Jesus in extraordinary disciple-making ventures. We've seen God work through them to bring about transformation in individual lives, communities and creation. It's not because these people – mission partners as we call them – are heroes. As many will tell you, they are simply the latest generation in a long line of Jesus-followers who

long for people at the edges to encounter Jesus, to discover the new life he brings and to share it with others.

Today, CMS people in mission work in a variety of ways in 40+ countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Europe. All our mission partners commit to working alongside local people, listening, learning, building relationships and becoming a genuine part of the communities where they are living. We believe investing in faithful people is a proven, effective way to join in God's mission and bring about change in our world. That's why we are asking you to journey with Andrew and Lisa through prayer and giving – so we can follow Jesus to the edges together.

Come with us to the edges:
churchmissionsociety.org

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