



Andrew and Lisa Peart

Link Letter no. 19 | October 2024

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Location: Bolivia



What we do: Partnering with the local church to engage with the community in pioneering mission through generous, creative hospitality

Dear friends,

Greetings from the UK, where we've been since the end of June – many of you reading this will know as we've either visited your church, caught up with you in your home (or one we stayed in), a pub or a cafe! The last time I wrote, we were preparing for the end of another school year for our girls, Liliana's high school graduation, our UK trip and tying things up before our departure. This meant some bittersweet goodbyes, especially for Liliana, who is staying in the UK for a gap year before uni in the UK. Now, we're preparing for our return to Bolivia without her – Andrew too, who'll be staying one more month in the UK, more goodbyes! Looking at the upside, saying goodbye also gives us hope in meeting again!



Leaving prayer at Cristo Luz del Mundo as we departed for UK home leave

During our time travelling around the UK speaking at churches, we were taken aback by the amount of hellos, goodbyes, new people met and names to remember. Some of you will know that Andrew and I worked in the luxury hotel industry before becoming mission partners with CMS. Welcome and name recognition/usage were highly valued in our company – Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts – and remain so today. In fact, on some church visits, I found myself giving out tips I've learned for name recognition to others, more likely as a reminder for myself! This got me thinking of the importance of welcome and how we greet each other as a witness to Christ in us, whether in our homes, on the mission field, workplaces, even on the street and in our churches.

We are fortunate to have the apostle Paul's writings to churches as an amazing example of how to do this. His beautiful, warm salutations of grace and peace, his expressed longing to see those he wrote to, his promise to hold them in prayer, the affectionate and very personal way he called them by name, encouraging them in their sharing of the gospel by acknowledging their worth, gifts of welcome, hospitality and friendship. I have been particularly drawn to Paul's greetings in Romans 16. At every link church visited this summer, sharing our work with Jesus at the edges, we felt welcomed, encouraged, loved and known – as much with people we were meeting face-to-face for the first time as with friends and family. Many of you generously opened up your homes and hearts, feeding us and letting us flop – we are so thankful for your generosity! I won't write a list of all the names here like Paul did or I'd be writing for days, but I share this **thanksgiving prayer written by him in Philippians 1:3–6** with you, dear friends.

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began

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



a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

In our last link letter I wrote that plans to teach English in 2024 were in the works. Shortly after, we got the green light to run a three-month pilot course in our church and within two weeks had two teachers and 15 students – LOGOS English Community was launched! We studied grammar and God's Word, prayed together, laughed a lot and formed new friendships. It was a successful pilot, perfectly timed to finish just before we left for the UK. We also began collaborating with a US missionary friend offering English teaching workshops and events in our church for local university students studying to become English teachers. It's wonderful to see our church open and welcoming to the wider community – all part of building relationships and community engagement. **Please pray with us** as we work on launching LOGOS as a

year-long programme in February 2025.

Andrew and I are encouraged by the many ways in which our children, Liliana and Anayah have served our church and the wider community in Santa Cruz. Some of you have seen photos of Liliana's mural as shared on church visits, However, I'm sure we've not reached everyone so I'm sharing it again. She doesn't expect thanks or praise, but we give it anyway – though it's not only for her. Her creativity gives glory to our Creator God; a wonderful reflection of his image in her. She painted the mural of local Santa Cruz flora and fauna in our church here in Bolivia, Cristo Luz del Mundo. The first brushstroke over Christmas break, the last on Easter Sunday – work that spanned the celebrations of the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus. It has added life to the main hall of the church. We hope that God continues to work through her in this way!

Liliana is God's handiwork, created in Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for her to do. Ephesians 2:10

Please keep the community centre and garden we're developing, in your prayers. The library is almost finished and it's looking fabulous. Just as we were leaving for the UK, we received a quotation for the outdoor space work to be done in phases – we'd been waiting (and pushing a bit) for this quote for months to start phase 1 prior to our travel, which sadly didn't happen. While here, we received the not-so-good news that costs in Bolivia were on the rise and the quote would increase. **Please pray** that we would trust the Lord is working these challenges for his good purpose!

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in the gospel.

Bendiciones en Cristo,

Andrew, Lisa, Liliana and Anayah x



***Photos from top to bottom:** A very special hello and welcome "home" embrace between Liliana and her 93-year-old grandmother; Liliana's graduation family photo; LOGOS English skills workshop, Lisa explaining about the LOGOS community; the "ribbon cutting" of Liliana's mural in Cristo Luz del Mundo with Pastor Franklin*



Going further with Church Mission Society

Jesus never gives up. Neither should we. We live in a fractured, hurting world.

It can be tempting to give up: on hope, on people, on the idea that things can ever change. Yet, Jesus invites us to follow him on a journey to the edges.

Find out more at churchmissionsociety.org/jesus-never-gives-up

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