

# Marcés Mailing

## June 2022



For I know the plans  
I have for you,  
declares the LORD,  
plans to prosper you  
and not to  
harm you,  
plans to give you  
hope and a future.

### Please pray for:

**Juan Carlos:** Cathedral responsibilities (Dean et al)  
Diocesan responsibilities (Christian formation)  
JC's mother Hilda

**Penny:** Responsibilities in J el N (lay rector) & Cathedral;  
Diocesan responsibilities (Children's Ministry, AMA)

**Juan Carlos + Penny:** working out priorities and use of time;  
supporting each other; adequate rest; plans to visit UK

**Bishop Jorge Luis:** wisdom in leading the Diocese

**Diocese:** writing of safeguarding protocol

**Jesús El Nazareno:** children's work- for helpers; growth in  
Biblical knowledge; Abundant Life course

**El Nazareno area:** communal kitchens, schooling

**Cathedral (English):** Search for a new Rector

**Cathedral (Spanish):** For growth

**Country of Peru:** political, economic and education situations,  
and all those affected by them

Juan Carlos & Penny Marcés **Reynaldo Morón 215,**

**Urb. Vista Alegre, Surco, LIMA 15039, PERU**

Tel.+51-1-448-8264; +51-992612987

Email: psmarcesinlima@gmail.com

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

Dear friends,

As Penny ate her (authentic) Peruvian homemade orange marmalade sandwich, sitting in Lima, it was good to see a Peruvian flavour in the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. Why in LIMA not UK? – plans changed and plan A (UK from April to Aug) changed to plan B and is now plan C. What happened?



Plan A began well, with visits from Becky, Lizi and then Oli (Becky's partner whom we met for the first time). During their stay we enjoyed amongst other things some lovely days in Paracas, where one memorable experience was listening to hundreds of new-born seals on the beaches of the Ballestas Islands.

Penny was also able to hold the literacy classes for a group of children going into 3<sup>rd</sup> grade but in some cases with basically NO reading ability, followed by the Summer Holiday Bible Club. The latter gave us a new experience.



Obedying social distancing meant limiting numbers, so people were warned that latecomers might not get in. Even so, it was a surprise to discover children had started queuing 30 mins before the class; the queuing continued the whole time, even though we never did have to turn anyone away.... Just practising for the rest of their lives when they will

experience LONG queues for banks, making hospital appointments, picking up medicines, getting onto the train station... Sadly, now that there are lots of other things on offer, coming to Church is no longer the big attraction it had been for a long time during the pandemic.

Plan A had assumed that JC would have a prostate op early in the year – a reasonable assumption since he had his pre-op checks in Jan/early Feb. Not the case! – he was given the date 31 May, thus making a trip to UK from April to Aug no-longer-feasible. Change of plan – plan B would be visiting UK Aug to early Dec.

Just as well plan A had been aborted since at the end of Feb the English-speaking congregation of the Good Shepherd was suddenly left without a Rector. Given that JC is Dean of the Cathedral anyway, the need to have an English-speaking member of clergy to officiate at Communion Services (and the dearth of these) led to his becoming responsible for the Communion part of the services, helped by Penny who leads other bits.



Thankfully, a few weeks later, Archbishop emeritus Greg Venables was appointed interim Rector, but with a slight logistics hitch – he lives (and has a ministry) in Paraguay! However, given that we are now all experts in Zoom,

this was no problem for preaching, so most sermons come from Paraguay via Zoom. But clearly he is NOT here to take the communion service so Juan Carlos continues to do this.

Another positive outcome of the change from plan A to plan B was the fact that JC's mother fell in early Feb and broke her femur. Thankfully she is making very good progress, but JC is one of the 2 siblings on hand to coordinate with doctors, carers etc. Please pray for her full recovery.

We thus settled into a rather hectic routine, with Good Shepherd English responsibilities fitting into our responsibilities in Jesús el Nazareno and Good Shepherd Spanish (plus of course the Sunday School coordination and the Christian Education coordination)

We are encouraged by Jesús el Nazareno, where Penny is Rector. You may remember that when we were in UK last time (2019), we shared with some of you the prayer request for 7 men (at the time there were 2, including JC).

How exciting to realise one week that there were 7 men in a normal service!

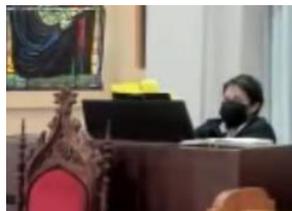


Thank you for your prayers. It is particularly encouraging that a group of young people have decided they WILL commit – to the extent that our new Council excitingly has 2 under 30s and 2 over 60s. Please pray for the Abundant Life course just starting; time constraints for people have meant that the only time some are available is 4.30pm on a Sunday afternoon, immediately before the service. One special moment recently was the service on Maundy

Thursday, where we had foot-washing. There were several children there; most wanted their (VERY dirty!) feet washed but 10 year-old Luana, having had her feet washed then asked a few minutes later “Can I help, Sister?” (“Sister” being the generic term for Christian women). Good to know SOMEONE got the message of “You also should wash one another’s feet”.

One improvement in the services in all 3 congregations over the last few weeks has been the music ministry. There is a beautiful organ in the Good Shepherd which has recently been repaired, and it was played for the first time a few weeks ago – what a wonderful sound! So hymns are no longer

YouTube downloads, but singing with an organ again. The Spanish congregation has always had Penny on the guitar – NOT the most satisfactory solution. However, a few weeks ago a couple appeared at the Church and are now helping out with the music ministry; the arrival of a professional singer has enhanced it even more. And in Jesús el Nazareno, guitar classes have started in a nearby Church so (in faith!) we will have 2 new players soon.



As the weeks went past, various factors made us realise we should be open to changing to plan C - the Good Shepherd English-speaking congregation is still shaky, JC's Mum is still in a changing situation with carers etc, and other things. So Plan C is the current one – remaining in Peru until next year BUT taking a month's holiday in UK for a rest.



- a wonderful time with family in Feb
- JC successful prostate op (end May)
- Jesús el Nazareno – encouragements
- Provision in the ongoing communal kitchens, both in El Nazareno and at Diocesan level
- a return to in-person schooling – still not 100% but getting there.....
- Covid situation – very few cases now

**Please pray.....**



*(See also summary at beginning of letter)*

**Weekly activities**

- Sun:** 10.00 am English speaking service (Good Shepherd)  
11.30 am Spanish speaking service (Good Shepherd)  
4.30 pm Abundant Life (J. el Nazareno)  
6.00pm Jesús el Nazareno service
- Tues:** 8.00 pm Bible study /prayer meeting/music (GS Spanish)
- Thurs:** 7.30 pm Prayer meeting (Jesús el Nazareno)
- Sat:** 4.00 pm Children's activity (J. el Nazareno)

**Coming soon....** (pray for dates, or for planning!)

**June:** Start of (*postponed!*) Course for couples (JEN)

**July: (28)** Pray for Peru's National Day

**15 Aug-13 Sept:** Holiday in UK

Thank you again to those who have been supporting us (and the communal kitchens and other needs) in so many ways. By supporting us and the ministry here, you too are part of what happens here, both in the Anglican Church in Peru, and in Peru. 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*