

Marcés Mailing

October 2024



The Son of Man came
not to be served
but to serve,
and to give his life
as a ransom for many.
(Mark 10:45)



Please pray for:

Juan Carlos + Penny: appropriate use of time and energy
JC's mother Hilda

Juan Carlos: Responsibilities in San Juan Evangelista
& San Francisco

Penny: Ongoing responsibilities in J el N (lay rector);
Children's ministry & producing materials
Health

Diocese: Bishop Jorge Luis;
discipleship courses (MOCLAM and others);

Jesús El Nazareno: Mums and tots group;
formation of music & youth ministries;

S Juan Evangelista: contacts with families through Compassion
development of children's & music ministries

Cathedral (English): search for a new Rector

Country of Peru: escalating crime, especially extortion
disillusionment with government / congress
environmental challenges

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Letter sent by: Mrs Alison Everness (Penny's sister-in-law),

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Dear friends,

As we continue in Jesús el Nazareno to (attempt to) learn a Bible verse a month, this month we have looked at the fact that Jesus came to serve. A



theme which fits with our own calling to serve, and appropriate because this year the Diocese of Peru is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the formation of the Diocese. Given that the Diocese was founded by Anglican mission partners, Penny has been

asked to talk at the central celebration about how a missionary feels as they leave their home – different in many ways in 2024 to the reality in 1985 when Penny left, and even MORE difficult to imagine how Allen Gardiner (founder of SAMS) felt when he left UK 200 years ago..... Please pray that the whole celebration (on 2 Nov) is both encouraging and at the same time challenging as we look towards the future. On a related theme, Juan Carlos is overseeing the production (NOT the writing!) of a book on the history of the Anglican Church in Peru; originally it was hoped that this would be ready for 2 November, but not all contributors have been punctual with their contributions, so it is sadly NOT ready.

As we continue to work with the Churches where we each serve, there are new joys and new challenges. The biggest joy recently has been the start



of the “Tesoritos del Señor” group for mums and toddlers in Jesús el Nazareno. Originally planned for April 2020, the pandemic, and then the fact that the co-leader’s child got to nursery age so she went back to work, delayed the start just a bit(?!). It is a real blessing for the mum of 9 month-old twins, and for 14 month old Oliver living with his parents and 2 older siblings in one room with no space to run

around at home. We have also started a Family Service once a month, faithfully attended by one family and with others who sometimes go.

However, there are also challenges. Hopes in Jesús el Nazareno that a group for teenagers would begin last year came to very little, and no-one else was prepared to accept leadership. This was the case until a few weeks ago, when the WHOLE music group (5) suddenly decided that teenagers’ group is indeed an urgent need. Wonderful – except that they suddenly abandoned the music. We are currently praying for BOTH ministries.....



San Francisco de la Cruz

In September Teófila, who had been pastoring the San Juan Evangelista Church, announced that she would definitely NOT be returning to Peru for at least 2 years. Thus Juan Carlos is now formally in charge in San Juan Evangelista, and a small mission point in an area called San Francisco de la Cruz. Several years ago, San Juan Evangelista was a thriving Church, but a combination of the then-pastor's death, shortly followed by covid and other factors, have resulted in a very reduced group - who are very faithful. There is

still a group of 17 older teenagers sponsored by Compassion, and Juan Carlos is working with Deyanira and Esteban to encourage these, and hopefully bring more of them into the Church. The Church would also long to see the children's ministry thrive again- give thanks for the children who HAVE started to come again.

Meanwhile, Juan Carlos' involvement in Arequipa (700 miles away), has inevitably been affected by his responsibility in San Juan Evangelista. The first English-speaking service in the city for years was indeed held in June, with the British consul and his predecessor present (plus a bagpipes player), and was well received by those who went, but how this is now to be followed up (eg by a Carol Service) remains to be seen.



All this against a backdrop of increasing instability and disillusionment in Peru. According to the Institute of Peruvian Studies, President Dina Boluarte has a current approval rating of 5%, as does Congress. In Lima bus drivers are holding strikes NOT for higher wages/better conditions but to apply pressure for recent changes to a law on "criminal organisations" to be repealed, since the changes actually make it more difficult to charge people with extortion (or assassination). Most people were in favour of the strike, since victims of extortion include: construction workers, people having eg house extensions done, bus drivers, schools, communal kitchens – anywhere where money is being used. Please pray for Peru!



Finally, at the end of June Penny had an unwelcome reminder that hearts can object to prolonged bad habits – in this case not getting enough sleep. 3 months later, tests so far show that the heart itself is in good form; “just” the unstable blood pressure and some other things to sort out.... One part of the solution has been to cut down on activities – thus giving up any leadership in either AMA or Peru Tres Días. It was great to go to the recent AMA retreat and NOT be in charge!



- JC building up relationships in SJE
- Formalisation of possession in San Francisco de la Cruz
- The start of “Tesoritos del Señor” for mums and tots in JEN



Please pray.....

(See also summary at beginning of letter)

Weekly activities

Please pray for activities in Lima & those leading:

- Sun:** (1st Sundays) 10.00 am Jesús el Nazareno Family Service
6.00pm Jesús el Nazareno service (Penny)
7.00pm San Juan Evangelista service (JC)
- Tues:** 6.30 pm Prayer meeting (Jesús el Nazareno)
- Wed:** 10.00am “Tesoritos del Señor” mums and tots (J. el Nazareno)
7.30 pm Prayer meeting (San Juan Evangelista)
- Sat:** 4.00 pm Children’s activity (J. el Nazareno)

Specific dates:

- 31 Oct-1 Nov** Diocesan Synod
- 2 Nov** Central Diocesan Golden Jubilee service and celebration
- 7-10 Nov** Perú Tres Días women’s weekend (JC)
- 1 Dec** Confirmation Service for Southern cone of Lima

Thank you again to those who have been supporting us (and the communal kitchens and other needs, which are sadly ongoing) in so many ways. You are part of all that happens in Peru! Please keep in contact, by email or WhatsApp at +51-942612987, or even by visiting us.

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

Juan Carlos & Penny