

Marcés Mailing

March 2020



“Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the LORD your God will be with you
wherever you go.”
(Joshua 1:9)



Please pray for:

Juan Carlos & Penny: leading Jesús el Nazareno
Juan Carlos: Responsibilities in J el Nazareno and Diocese
Penny: Responsibilities in J el N and Children´s Ministry
Bishop Jorge Luis: wisdom in leading the Diocese
Jesús El Nazareno: for a desire to grow in the Lord
Country of Peru: economic stability in the current crisis;
temporary Congress (Mar 2020 – July 2021)

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Dear friends

This verse from Joshua was the theme verse for our **children's Bible Holiday activity** last month, (although the stories were from Daniel); we pray that at this time the children who learnt to sing it so gustily will remember how wonderful it is to know that God does not desert us. Here in Peru, where **Coronavirus** still has a low incidence, the policy has been to declare a state of emergency and put us all in "obligatory social isolation" which means that apart from buying food or medicines or going to a Bank we are to "stay at home". Police and army are authorised to stop and question anyone, and yesterday (the second day of the 14 day isolation) they arrested several people not obeying the decree. Today measures have become stricter and there will now be a curfew 8pm to 5am. "Staying at home" means in practice that some of us can tackle sorting out accumulated "stuff", etc, but for those who live on a day-to-day basis it is a real challenge. The government has announced handouts of a small but helpful amount of money to 3 million families identified as the neediest; the government calculates this covers 9 million people, (about 30% of the population); almost all being considered are in urban rather than rural areas. Lists of those to receive the handout will be published in the next 2 days; payments will be made about next Monday. The lists will be online, so it may be a challenge for some people to discover whether or not they are included.



One example of a family greatly affected is that of Jenny, whose house was totally destroyed by fire last year; they have, with a loan, rebuilt (in fact, built a better house than they had - photo) BUT the loan needs to be repaid and S/.380 is designed to cover basic costs not pay off debts....



Returning to the happier moments of the summer holiday club, it was a good time with a significant number of new children. The closing session took the form of **Messy Church**; with over 50 children and over 20 adults the upstairs room where we did the activities and the Church service downstairs afterwards were both full. Favourite activity was painting stones; one mum had no less than 4 stones and when asked "Why?" she explained that she had helped her 2 little boys (fair enough), and done TWO for herself.... She told me a few days later that she loves the stones – she



uses one to grind the garlic for cooking. Maybe I should reinterpret "salt of the world".... (I imagine she uses the side that is NOT painted!).



Some of the new children began to attend Sunday School, but then the health situation intervened and has affected not only Sunday School but also our intention to start the **mums and babies** group. However, we are ready to start whenever we can, with lots of lovely clean toys.... We

will register 15 people in advance (otherwise we will be overwhelmed) so please pray that the right people are selected. Two of those who will definitely be invited are Santiago and Emilia (photo), born to Idu (and Santiago) and Diana (and Leo) respectively.

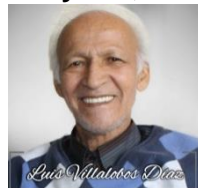


The **Diocesan Children's ministry** has been blessed with a gift to be used specifically for the purchase of Bibles for use with the children in the churches. It will be great to be able to use Bibles with the children rather than simply telling them the stories.



The Diocese of Peru held **training weeks** in Lima and Arequipa a few weeks ago, with the aim of helping in an understanding of what it means to be Anglican, with a definite emphasis on biblical roots. After the week in Arequipa Juan Carlos stayed on in the region in order to oversee

some of the changes taking place there; please pray for people as they adjust. Further discussions may have taken place during the **Synod**, due last weekend – but this has been postponed, probably until September. In Lima we missed the smile of Pastor Luis Villalobos, who died hours before the New Year started, to the sound of fireworks; the Bishop commented that he wanted to make sure his entry to heaven was well celebrated, and his funeral was certainly a testimony to the certainty of his hope in eternal life.



As for the **family**, we were VERY grateful that Jonny's return ticket from Indonesia (where he had been participating in a competition in



International Humanitarian Law; his Uni team got to the semi-final) enabled him to be back 24 hours before flights from Europe to Peru were stopped, and equally grateful that Lizi had moved from Barcelona to Leeds. Unsurprisingly, we are amongst the many now using WhatsApp etc to keep in touch – both with the family and indeed

with the Church although not everyone has a phone let alone WhatsApp.



- children's holiday Bible activity
- Messy Church (both December and Feb)
- safe arrival of babies Santiago & Emilia
- Growing relationships with parents of children in the area

Please pray.....



**Weekly activities in
Jesús el Nazareno**

Sun: 4.30pm Sunday School
6.30 pm service

Tues: 7.30pm Bible Study

Thurs: 7.30pm prayer meeting

Specific dates (tbc)

10 April: Messy Church

April: second MOCLAM
course

May: extended visit by

General prayer requests

- Coronavirus emergency: health, and economic stability especially for those who work for daily wages and for those whose income will be reduced because others no longer have the means to buy
- Mums' and tots' group; Penny & Sarah (leaders), Diana (helper)
- Sunday School: Palmira & Penny; for more helpers
- Bible Study: Ephesians
- Plans at some point to start something for women (not necessarily from Church)
- Lunches for Senior Citizens(70+) in El Nazareno
- Changes in the Anglican Church in the south of Peru
- Becky (Leeds), Jonny (Lima), Lizi (Leeds)

Thank you for your fellowship with us; you too are part of what happens in Jesús el Nazareno, in the Anglican Church in Peru, and in Peru, . Please keep in contact, by email or WhatsApp at +51-942612987

God bless you, now and always

Juan Carlos & Penny