



Andrew and Lisa Peart

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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,

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they'll run and not grow weary, they'll walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

How wonderful to have started the new year with fresh **hope in the Lord** who renews our strength, after what always seems to be a chaotic, intense, yet joyful and peaceful end to another year. Although we live and serve in this tension most of the year, it seems to escalate at Christmas! Grateful for time to reflect on Isaiah 40 and thank our amazing God – who does not grow weary or tired as we do – for his promise that as we put our hope in him, he'll not only renew our strength, but he'll give us the resilience to walk, run and even sprint, which sometimes is necessary!

We had many Christmas highlights, one of which was our outdoor service, Culto de Luces candlelit service, held on Christmas Eve in the local park. So much work goes into it (we literally move our church contents to the park) but it is so worth it. Singing hymns and carols in the open air, celebrating the birth of our Saviour and the beautiful drama and dance, felt like a sneak peek into heaven, drawing people out of their apartments onto their balconies and to the park. Anayah helped choreograph a dance and danced with the flag worship team, Andrew played the drums, Liliana was the Angel Gabriel and played piano, Lisa videoed and organised the Christmas-themed buffet. This was shared with the neighbourhood, prepared and served by our church. A beautiful team effort!

Another Christmas highlight was worshipping in the church we partner with in microfinance ministry, Fuente de Vida. Our family got to spend time with Eliana (we told some of her story in our last link letter) and her family, which was very special. She's so appreciative of the loving and prayerful support that she receives from you. Seeing her grow in confidence and trust in Jesus, despite her very difficult circumstances, points us to Jesus.

In our last link letter, we shared that we had a significant gap in our funding, potentially putting our work here at risk. Thanks to the Lord and the support of many of you, our funding is moving in a positive direction and we are hopeful it will continue. However, there still remains a shortfall, so we humbly ask for your continued support as we trust in our generous Lord's provision. Thank you again for letting us share our challenge with you as we journey in mission together.

The English class Lisa and a fellow missionary had been teaching the past academic year ended with a



Pearts lighting the 5th Advent candle at the Christmas Eve outdoor service.

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



wonderful celebration – a “US Thanksgiving” style meal cooked by our Bolivian students! Words of encouragement with prayers of thankfulness were shared, it was truly special. Plans to teach English in 2024 are under way, but this time as a pilot project in our church. We are super excited at the prospect of opening our church to the wider community, embracing new opportunities to share Jesus.

Andrew passed the CMT level two course – he’s a certified Level 2 Chartered Market Technician. It took him 18 months (and patience), not to pass it, but to be able to take it – internet instability being the culprit! Finally, he took the exam in the test centre in La Paz, giving him the opportunity to worship and serve in our church in La Paz, Cristo Salvador. Pray the Lord will give Andrew wisdom to manage investment and steward finances well in mission, for his glory.

Andrew and Raúl started leading another F4 course (Financial freedom for families) with worshippers from La Trinidad Anglican Church in Cochabamba (Western Bolivia) on Zoom. Please pray for commitment to stay the course (literally) and for grace, humility and patience for both instructors and participants. Financial matters and stewardship can be sensitive subjects to work through!

Thank you for praying for the community centre and garden we’re developing. The new material we’re studying in our house groups is equipping our church with the biblical tools to free us of our inward-looking mindset and look out to the growing community around our church, to know and work **with** them. We aim to involve the surrounding neighbourhoods in this project, to bring the church in from the edges and back into the heart of the community as active and present; Jesus in the community!

Microfinance partners Richard and Jenny (public toilet business and providers of monthly outreach lunches for people living on the streets), together with Andrew, have started a new community studying God’s word and breaking bread together. Pray those attending would hear God speak clearly and powerfully through his word and that Jesus would be made real to them! Pray especially for Javier who has spent most of his life drinking and living on the streets. He was faithfully attending this group, crying out to God in repentance, desperate to change. Andrew found him a place in Novo Communities, a Christian rehab centre, but sadly he left after a few weeks and has returned to the community he knows. Pray that Javier would return to this new community and into the embrace of Jesus.

Please pray for:

- ▶ Our journey to the UK this summer: the details of travel, church visits, place(s) to stay, rest, time with family and friends.
- ▶ Our daughter Liliana who graduates from high school in June: for her to settle well in the UK as she takes a gap year before university.

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: English students displaying their certificates; Friday Bible study at our microfinance partners Richard and Jenny’s home and public toilet rental business; Andrew and Javier at the weekly Bible study; the Peart girls with Eliana at Christmas.



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