



# 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



**Discovering creative ways** to share the hope of Jesus with people unconnected to church

Hello friends!

We pray that your 2025 so far has been filled with the firm and secure hope of Christ. As Paul writes about in Hebrews 11:19–20, this hope is like an anchor to our souls.

## An Advent story...

While Andrew was still in the UK and Anayah and I had returned to Santa Cruz, I began attending the Friday Bible study in the toilets more regularly. (This is the neighbourhood Bible study group run by our microfinance partners Jenny and Richard.) After the first Sunday of Advent I asked this growing community what they knew about the Advent season (Adviento in Spanish). No one had heard of it. As I was explaining, one person who rarely says a word exclaimed enthusiastically, "It's my name, my name is Adviento!", to which others retorted, "No, you're Alejandro!" So, Adviento proudly took out his ID card and passed it around the table as proof. I'll never forget that day. Hearing his name and its meaning shifted something in Adviento. Up until then, he hadn't shared much about himself. I knew he shines shoes in the local park, never learned to read, and was invited to the Bible study by Richard. Over the last few months, as we shared together who Jesus is through the Gospel of John, Adviento began to open up about his decades of life on the streets, alcohol and abandonment as well as his hope there was more to his life. In our gatherings he heard about a Jesus who won't abandon or give up on him, in whom he can find abundant life, a firm, secure hope, an anchor to his soul. Our part in this has been supporting Jenny and Richard as they faithfully build a kingdom community of love in action through monthly outreach lunches and weekly Bible study. We read about this love in action in Romans 12:10: **Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.**

We're seeing this lived out. Adviento recently spent four weeks in three different hospitals with pneumonia. His community visited, brought food, read, sang, prayed with him and sold meals to raise money to help pay his medical bills. It wasn't easy – it meant sacrificing more than a day's work to visit or cook for him. This is a community of love in action.

Andrew returned from the UK mid-December, welcomed back by Anayah and me, plus Eliana, Laura, and Charly (on guitar) from the Bible study in the toilets. Andrew was surprised to be serenaded back home



Youth Alpha in Cristo Luz del Mundo, Anayah serving as a small group helper

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



to Bolivia with a local happy birthday song played by Charly, and EVERYONE in the busy arrivals area joined in! Andrew's birthday is in May, but Charly wanted to play something that everyone would be able to sing along to – a fun idea which worked! Andrew and I were touched by the heartfelt and energetic welcome. It's another testament to the community God is building.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the community garden initiative. Just before Christmas the front and the side of the church were painted. It looks fresh and clean! What was meant to take a week with five people dedicated to the job took nearly two months. Only one painter showed up faithfully – and his name is Jesús!

Andrew would meet him at the church, then he'd write to me to confirm, "Jesús has shown up." We're thankful for the reminder that Jesus always shows up! Unfortunately we ran into some costly issues that won't allow painting of the back of the church right now. As mentioned previously, rising costs (shortage of dollars) have put a slight spanner in the works. Even the eco-friendly wood for the mobile raised beds has tripled in cost. But we are not giving up, just thinking creatively! Plans for a large trellis with climbing plants for privacy between the pastor's house and church garden, as well as a front garden planted by the congregation, are coming soon! Pray that we continue to trust in God's plan and call on our lives to be and live as Christ in the community.

Andrew, Anayah and I rang in the New Year in Tarija, attending the inaugural Bolivian Anglican diocese conference. All pastors and some leaders from the diocese and their families attended, even Grandma Lila! It was a beautiful time of fellowship and unity in the Body of Christ. We were blessed by having two former bishops of Bolivia (Frank and Raphael) in attendance, with Bishop Walter leading and the pastors/leaders sharing the teaching and devotions. We even had karaoke night – Andrew and I sang a duet, a first in our nearly 20 years of marriage!

Prayers for Bishop Walter are appreciated as he leads the diocese into a new season and for Andrew as he works alongside him to develop new streams of income that secure long-term financial sustainability for the Bolivian Church.

Anayah and Liliana are doing well, missing each other of course. Anayah has been serving in a local ministry called Ámparo for young girls and also in youth Alpha in our church here. Liliana (UK) has been working in a local cafe, while dedicating much time towards uni requirements; she's received offers to study mechanical engineering – a big change from psychology! She's thankful for integrated foundation years. Please pray for wisdom, confidence and peace in the decision-making process.

Thank you for your continued love and support which empowers us to continue investing in people like Adviento and building community in the name of Jesus.

Much love and every blessing,

Andrew, Lisa, Liliana and Anayah x



**Photos from top to bottom:** Anglican Diocese of Bolivia January 2025 retreat in Tarija; friends from the Friday Bible study in the toilets welcome Andrew back to Bolivia; Lisa, Adviento, Andrew and Jenny; Cristo Luz del Mundo church after being painted by Jesús



## Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus

**We've been encouraged to hear stories** from others who are part of our wider area of work. In Honduras, Carlos had a change of heart working with a Christian ministry, and in the UK Garry Ion reports on how Carlisle's Community Shed is sharing skills, community and Jesus. Read more at [churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope](https://churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope)