

Anna Sims

Link Letter no. 20 | January 2020

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The call in action

Dear friends,

The Bible is full of exhortations to share what God has done, reminding the next generation of his mighty acts and his character because God knows we are forgetful and easily distracted. How quickly we can forget what we've seen God do in our lives and the lives of others. Building on an exercise we did at iCafe recently, I wrote this, inspired by Psalm 136 and based on my experiences during 2019.

As we begin 2020, maybe you'd like to set some time apart to read through Psalm 136, reflect on your own experiences of God's steadfast love during the past year and give him thanks.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

to him who commands the sun to rise each morning and paints a new sunset each evening, *for his steadfast love endures for ever;*

and designed the beating wings of the smallest hummingbird and the soaring Andean Condor, *for his steadfast love endures for ever;*

to him who created delicate neon jellyfish and the vast Pacific Ocean, windswept islands populated by noisy seabirds and basking seals, *for his steadfast love endures for ever;*

who brought into existence vast arid deserts and lush verdant jungle, *for his steadfast love endures for ever;*

and built up bustling cities full of people and gave them the capacity for language, *for his steadfast love endures for ever;*

for two cultures so different from each other but both made up of people all created equal in his image, *for his steadfast love endures for ever;*

for crunchy granadillas, tart maracuya and tangy pisco-flavoured ice cream; for squeaky halloumi, full English breakfasts and melt-in-your-mouth Mr Whippy 99s, *for his steadfast love endures for ever;*

for ukuleles, choirs, plant-filled balconies, sand animations, patchwork and baking, *for his steadfast love endures for ever;*

to him who has created us not to live isolated lives, but to be immersed in the joys and pains of community, *for his steadfast love endures for ever;*

to him who orchestrates "chance encounters", timely phone calls and messages of encouragement, *for his steadfast love endures for ever;*



Name: Anna Sims

Location: Lima, Peru

My call: I am passionate about God, Latin America, people and the arts.

My role: I am part of Walking in Liberty, a prison ministry supporting English-speaking female foreign inmates and ex-offenders in Lima.



The Sims family in Northumberland during my home assignment last year

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to him who makes his presence and ways known to us, who is more interested in the state of my heart than external appearances, *for his steadfast love endures for ever*;

to him who invites me to be his hands and feet to prisoners here and their families in faraway countries, *for his steadfast love endures for ever*;

who brings reconciliation and healing in the most hopeless situations and relationships, *for his steadfast love endures for ever*;

because he is a just God, sovereign over unjust judicial systems, a good, powerful and loving God ruling over desperate political situations, *for his steadfast love endures for ever*;

who shares in our laughter and tears and who cares, more than I ever could, for the ill and suffering people, whom I love, *for his steadfast love endures for ever*;

who comforts the grieving and broken-hearted and invites us to draw closer to him in our loneliness, *for his steadfast love endures for ever*;

and keeps his promises by placing the foreigner and the childless in families, *for his steadfast love endures for ever*;

who uses his church to care for, encourage, challenge and bless one another, *for his steadfast love endures for ever*;

who loves us too much to leave us as we are, and so much that he sent his only Son for us, *for his steadfast love endures for ever*;

who has not let death have the final say, giving us an eternal hope for the next life and new beginnings in this one, *for his steadfast love endures for ever*;

to him whose mercies are new each morning, *for his steadfast love endures for ever*;

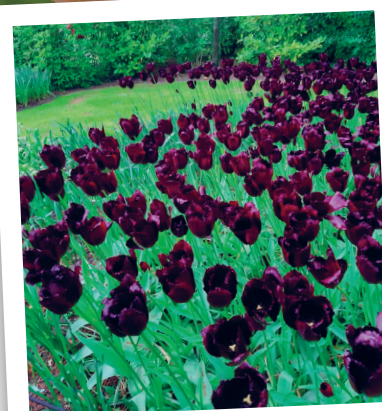
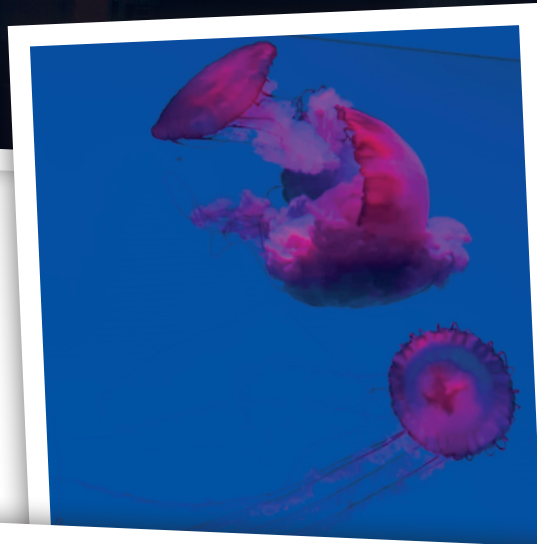
to him whose love is limitless and whose holiness is unfathomable, *for his steadfast love endures for ever*;

Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

May 2020 be filled with tangible expressions of God's infinite and steadfast love for you.

Anna x

Photos from top to bottom: Sunset from my roof; jellyfish in Toronto aquarium; tulips; Dutch tulips



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