

# Lindsey and Steve Poulson

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*The call in action*

Dear friends,

As I flip through my photos from the last five weeks, I notice a theme: TABLES. Random, I know, but actually quite an accurate image of what life has looked like back in Honduras....

First, there is our giant dining room table, which on any given night is surrounded by various young people consuming whatever meal is spread across it. The huge table is one of the many blessings of our **new house**, which we acquired much more quickly than we ever imagined! We are settling in and making it “home”, and – like around our table – you can usually find one or more of the guys from the transition programme hanging out (who, by the way, were very happy to have us back after so many months away!). As you may remember from our last link letter, we are walking alongside these young adults as they continue their education or technical training while navigating the various joys and challenges of becoming responsible adults.

There’s another giant table where the Proyecto Alas kids gather to work on their homework in the **new project location**. This table, which used to fill over half the room at the old building, is now dwarfed by the ambient room that has multiple areas for working and (afterwards) playing. We could not be more proud of the Alas staff and volunteer team, who successfully found this rented space and completely “moved house” while we were still in England! It was quite surreal to walk into the new space that they have completely made their own – from the Reading Corner complete with cushions, to the kitchen area kitted out with everything needed for preparing the daily snacks.

Then there is the table at KFC filled with plates of fried chicken on the day we took Bryan, one of the guys in the transition program, to **nursing school**. Bryan has been waiting for this opportunity for a while now, so you can imagine his excitement when a spot at one of the best nursing programmes in Honduras opened up! The school is located in the town of Choluteca, which is about three hours away from us, so he will be living on campus during term times. It has been quite an adjustment for him, as well as for the other guys he’s left behind at the transition house (everyone was choking back tears as we drove away from the school), but we are really proud of him for taking this courageous step!

The next table is really only half of a table... it’s a photo of the table top we are getting a



**Name:** Lindsey and Steve Poulson

**Location:** Honduras

**Our call:** To work with street-connected and vulnerable children and young people, and empower local people to engage in God’s call on their lives.

**Our role:** Mentoring, creating safe spaces for at-risk children and young people to grow, supporting local project development and helping those projects start small businesses to create sustainability.



*Sofia and Xorangie complete the day’s homework at the big Proyecto Alas table.*

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stand made for to put in the **coffee shop**, which we are currently working to reopen on the second floor of the new Alas location. This table, along with several others, will soon hold cups of latte or hot chocolate and Uno game cards as young lives are impacted through quality time as part of the mentoring programme.

The last table is a new table, which is surrounded by the mayor of Talanga, the head of child protection services and other community leaders. They are intently listening to Lorena and Christian (Proyecto Alas coordinator and administrator, respectively), who have been invited to participate in this new “**town security council**”, as they explain about child safeguarding procedures used in Proyecto Alas. In the months to come, Proyecto Alas will continue working with these local authorities to help develop better processes for child protection, which will not only positively impact the 50 kids in our programme, but all children in the town of Talanga.

As you can see, so much of life happens around tables! We share meals, celebrate milestones and even communicate the mundane details of our day. We exchange silly banter over a card game, pass bowls of ice cream and sneakily check our phones until someone reminds us to be present in the moment. Sometimes hard conversations take place at the table. Clearly, the table represents **fellowship** – “doing life together” – which is something each one of us longs to participate in, and something that underlines every aspect of the work we do. This simple place, the table, is where some of the greatest transformation can happen, one moment at a time – not only here in Honduras, but wherever we may find ourselves today.

#### Some prayer requests:

- Please continue praying for us as we transition back to Honduras as a married couple, that we would continue to be filled with wisdom, strength, and vision for our calling here.
- Please pray for Brayan at nursing school as he adjusts to his classes and new environment.
- Pray for the other Bryan in the transition programme, who is walking through a particularly challenging season.
- Lastly, please join us in prayer for provision and more local partners for Proyecto Alas, as the programme continues to grow to reach more children and young people.

Many blessings to you,

Lindsey and Steve Poulson



**Photos from top to bottom:** A smiling Brayan G is packed and ready to head to nursing school!; The coffee shop team take note as they train to use the new espresso machine at Cafe Alas; Lorena (white jacket) and Christian (black polo shirt) share about their passion for child safeguarding at the Talanga town security council; Another table! The whole Proyecto Alas team share a meal to celebrate our return to Honduras.

## GOING FURTHER WITH CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

**Are you pondering a call to cross-cultural mission?** We'd love to connect and help you discern what God might be saying. Find out more about how we can help you to step into God's mission at [churchmissionsociety.org/explore](https://churchmissionsociety.org/explore)

If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email [supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org](mailto:supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org) or call 01865 787400

You can give to Lindsey and Steve at: [churchmissionsociety.org/poulson](https://churchmissionsociety.org/poulson)

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