



Lindsey and Steve Poulson

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Location: Honduras



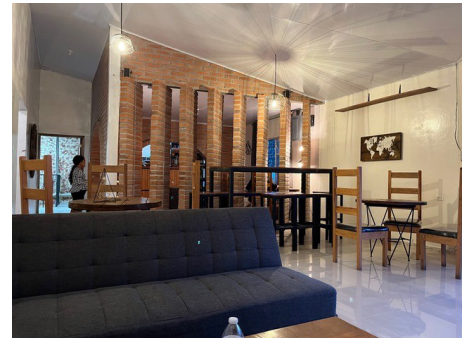
What we do: Mentoring, creating safe spaces for at-risk children and young people to grow and supporting local project development.

Dear friends,

As always, we want to begin by saying thank you for your continual prayers and support. We are very happy to report that the Proyecto Alas roof has officially been finished! It was completed in mid-July (six weeks after the work began) and we were able to move the mentoring and education sessions with the kids back into the ground floor of the building. It was then another eight weeks to completely replace the electrical wiring, put in the new ceiling and floor, paint and redecorate the upper floor. We were very blessed by the building owner, who covered most of the expense. We were able to take advantage of the remodelling process to make a few changes to a few of the rooms of the upper level, which will help us create the next of the desired Alas businesses – a psychology clinic and a hair salon – which we hope can be opened in 2025.

We were finally able to reopen the coffee shop on 14 September, just in time for the Honduran Independence Day holiday on the 15th! The coffee shop staff actually did most of the work of repainting, decorating and organising, and it was amazing to see how they have really made the cafe their own. We are so grateful for their loyalty during these months, and we were thankfully able to keep them employed via pre-orders and delivery services, meaning they could continue paying for their university studies.

Some of you may remember us sharing about Brayan, who has been studying nursing for just under three years. In June he began his work experience and was all set to graduate this November. However, at the end of August we discovered that he had applied for and been given a visa for a three-month job in the USA working at a carnival. We had several conversations with him, trying to understand why he would give up his dream of graduating as an auxiliary nurse for such a seemingly short-term opportunity. However, alongside some intense pressure from his family to go, there is a deeply rooted narrative in the Honduran mindset that the opportunities abroad will always be better than what a degree in Honduras will provide. We are of course very saddened by his decision, as so much of the work we do through Proyecto Alas is to try to combat that narrative and provide access to opportunities for young people to stay as positive, transforming influences in their own country; but we are learning we don't get to determine whether the young people we support will make choices we agree with or that are best for them. The biggest prayer request now is that he returns after the three months are complete



While the renovation process took much longer than expected, we are very pleased with the shiny new coffee shop (and bat-free roof!)

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



and resists the strong temptation to stay illegally in the USA as many young people do.

On a more positive note, we have made a few helpful changes to the programme for the other young adults living and studying in the capital city of Tegucigalpa, with whom we spend the majority of our time. Previously they simply received a weekly stipend for food and transportation, and their housing and education costs were mostly managed by us. After reviewing this system, we determined that it was time to give them more responsibility. They now receive a monthly stipend, from which they personally handle all their

living and educational expenses. September was the first month of this new system, and as you can imagine there have been a few bumps to get through as they navigate budgeting. However, we are excited to see the growth that will come from this new system and the maturity they are already showing – please be in prayer for all of us as we continue to adjust!

Speaking of growth and adjusting... Steve and I are excited to announce that our family is growing! We will be welcoming a baby girl in March 2025. You will be happy to hear that Steve has been feeling fine (he says no one ever asks him!) and that Lindsey had a fairly mild first trimester with few symptoms. We have already had several ultrasounds and Baby is looking very healthy so far. We plan for her to be born here in Honduras in one of the private hospitals and have a very good doctor looking after us. We appreciate your thoughts and prayers as we prepare for this new adventure!

As we look to the end of 2024, we will again be travelling to the USA to visit family and supporting churches and individuals from 29 October–29 November. If you are in the Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, or Iowa areas, we would love to see you! Please reach out so we can include you as we make our rounds. We will spend Thanksgiving with Lindsey's family and then return to Honduras for a December of Radio Christmas broadcasting from Central America. You can listen along to the live shows from 1 December at radiochristmas.co.uk.

You are in our thoughts and prayers as we move through autumn and into the Christmas season!

Much love,

Lindsey and Steve (and Baby Poulson!)



Photos from top to bottom: Many of the Proyecto Alas young people excitedly preparing to march in the Independence Day parade; Honduras celebrates Children's Day on 10 September, and Proyecto Alas celebrated with an afternoon of games, food, and lots of fun!; we are going to be parents!



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Jesus never gives up. Neither should we. We live in a fractured, hurting world. It can be tempting to give up: on hope, on people, on the idea that things can ever change. Yet, Jesus invites us to follow him on a journey to the edges. Find out more at churchmissionsociety.org/jesus-never-gives-up

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