



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.



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

Hello to all our family and friends!

We can hardly believe it's already June, and there is much to report on the ministry side of things, but we will start this letter with the most exciting news of all: we are officially a family of three! Elizabeth Milagro Poulson arrived on 14 March via natural birth with no complications, and she has continued to amaze us ever since. She is already three months old, smiling and beginning to try out her voice with coos and babbles – as well more strongly letting us know when she is upset! She is generally very social and happy to be passed around to the many people who love her; the Proyecto Alas staff members are usually fighting over whose turn it is to hold her, and the university guys have already become her protective big brothers. Elizabeth means “oath/promise of God” and Milagro means “miracle” in Spanish, the official language of Honduras. She truly is a miracle that we believe the Lord has designated for a unique purpose, and she will officially have three passports and citizenships (Honduran by birth, American and British by descent).

We were blessed to welcome Lindsey's parents and Steve's mum to Honduras to meet their new granddaughter and really enjoyed our time with them and the help they provided in the first few months. We have been finding new rhythms for life and ministry, particularly as Steve returned to work after Easter while Lindsey continues her maternity leave until the end of June – this is a new dynamic for us! We travel to the USA on 1 June to take Elizabeth to meet the rest of Lindsey's family. The girls will stay the whole month while Steve returns to Honduras after 10 days to begin “team season”; Proyecto Alas will receive three mission groups from churches in the US this summer to serve for one week each, completing necessary maintenance projects and planning activities with the Alas staff, kids and young people. The current plan is for Lindsey to return to work in July, assisting the second and third of these teams – thankfully it will be easy for Elizabeth to come along as well! *Please continue to pray for us as we determine how much administrative work Lindsey takes back on in this season and for both of us as we balance ministry and taking care of Elizabeth. Pray for the groups that come to serve this summer and for stamina for our staff as these weeks are quite full-on!*

Proyecto Alas of course has continued with its operations while we have been on leave, attending kids and young people after school and reaching out to their families. Lorena, the subdirector and family coordinator,



Proud new dad!

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With each other
To the edges**



has been making weekly devotional packets and delivering them to the mothers of the kids, spending time encouraging and praying with them. She has also been working with a few mothers in some technical skill development, from baking and cooking to jewellery making. Lorena also partners with Fernanda, the psychologist, to put on monthly workshops for the mums, covering topics like mental health, self-esteem, and parenting. This practical and spiritual work with the parents of the Alas children is crucial for helping to improve life for the kids themselves. One of the mothers, Joselyn, has started to sell some treats out of her home, and has also returned to education to finish secondary school; her four children have become some of the most consistent and motivated in the Alas programme, thanks in part to the growing commitment and health of their mother.

Please pray for Joselyn and the other mothers, and for Lorena as she works with them in their individual situations.

Steve has been busy since returning from paternity leave; in addition to all the regular tasks of directing Alas and mentoring the university young men, he has been spending lots of time in government buildings and various meetings to help move forward the process of registering Proyecto Alas as a recognised charity here in Honduras and organising the board of trustees. He is also almost finished with his master's course, currently working on his dissertation to present in July, defining a methodology for carrying out a head count of street-living children in Central America. *Please pray for him as he researches and for wisdom as he organises his time to do so amid all his other responsibilities.*

You may remember Jorge from our last link letter, who graduated from secondary school last year and began working at the coffee shop. After some time researching options and talking with his mentor, he has decided to begin university classes! Proyecto Alas is excited to provide scholarships for both him and his older brother Alonzo (who also graduated from secondary school via the Alas programme), and both of them will be studying "system engineering" (computer systems/technology). *Please pray for Jorge and Alonzo as they begin this new challenge and take the next step towards a more stable future.*

Thank you, as always, for your prayers and support. For those of you in the UK, we hope to see you soon, as we will be arriving this autumn (September–October) to share in churches and visit as many people as we can!

Much love,

Lindsey, Steve and Elizabeth



Photos from top to bottom: Elizabeth has grown quite a lot from that first photo taken at the hospital; International Day of the Street Child, on 11 April, was observed with a parade with the local schools and a special programme in the park to continue to raise awareness of street children and children's rights in general; Joselyn, Lorena, and another mother have a baking lesson in the newly created Alas kitchen; Jorge and mentor Christian stand outside Jorge's new university after registering for his first classes, which began in May



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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

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