



## **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

Dear friends,

Hello from England, where autumn has officially arrived, with cooler temperatures and the trees changing colours (something we don't see in Honduras). I'm writing from the car as Steve drives us past the gorgeous Cornwall countryside to our next stop on our touring visits, taking advantage of Elizabeth being asleep in the backseat to send you this next link letter.

In June and July we were privileged to receive three mission groups from churches in the USA, who came to serve at Proyecto Alas for a week each. It was such a blessing to have them help us with some projects around the building, including installing a sink in the Alas kitchen, improving the water pipe system and various updates in the barber shop (now rebranded as a "studio" that offers hair washing, face masks and other services that Owen. the barber, wanted to add). The mission group members also



We have enjoyed all our UK visits, including a week in Cornwall at a new link church where former CMS mission partners Mark and Rosalie Balfour are now located

encouraged our staff, building relationships that cross language barriers and the kids had fun participating in the special activities planned for them. It is always a joy to welcome people who have never visited Honduras before - and some who had never travelled outside of the USA before! - who see things with fresh eyes and remind us of our original excitement and wonder that can sometimes get lost in the day-to-day challenges

As mentioned, we are currently traveling around the UK visiting link churches, supporters and family, and we will head to the USA on 28 October for five weeks to do the same thing there. We have been so encouraged not only by the warm receptions and interest as we have shared about the work in Honduras, but also to see how God is moving in and through these churches and communities. It is an honour to know we are all working together as the Body of Christ in our different contexts!

We can't believe that Elizabeth is now seven months old! Some highlights for her have been beginning to try solid foods (assisted by her first tooth), mastering rolling, and lots of babbling, smiles and giggles. She has adapted to this new season of travelling and changing time zones surprisingly well, and she is certainly the main attraction everywhere we go. We would appreciate your prayers for our sleep, as we continue to have ups and downs in that department.

The work at Proyecto Alas continues on even while we are away; we are so grateful for our incredibly capable staff who keep everything going. The children and young people will be finishing their academic year in November, and we are so pleased with the improvements in their learning we have seen this



year, especially thanks to the tutoring that Abi, our new education coordinator, and Christian (youth leader) have been able to provide them. We are excited to have five young people graduating from secondary school this year, all of whom have been part of Proyecto Alas since its beginning eight years ago.

Two of these young people are Jonatan and Zoeymi, twin brother and sister, who have been featured in past link letters. You may remember Zoeymi's emergency appendectomy gone wrong that almost led to her death back in 2023, or the three boys who dropped out of the El Sembrador boarding school in the same year (one of whom was Jonatan). Despite these and other incredible challenges, Proyecto

Alas has continued to support Zoeymi and Jonatan with prayer, second (... third... fourth...) chances and the resources they needed to reach this huge milestone. Most importantly, they have come to encounter a Jesus who doesn't give up on them! At the Alas eighth anniversary celebration this summer, Zoeymi spontaneously stood up in front of over 100 people to thank each of the staff members individually for specific ways they had impacted her life over the years. Both Zoeymi and Jonatan would like to enter the police academy in January to pursue a career in that field, and we could not be more proud of them. Please continue to keep them and the other graduating young people in your prayers as they continue to discern their next steps.

We also ask you to pray for the future of the coffee shops, which are temporarily closed. The original shop is currently on pause due to inadequate staffing after several of the university student workers relocated to Tegucigalpa for their classes. Additionally, after a year and a half of obstacles and setbacks at the newest shop in Siguatepeque, the decision was taken with Carlos to end what was becoming a financial blackhole. Carlos, who is in high demand as an excellent barista, has a management job at a different cafe in town, and we remain in contact with him and his growing family (a daughter, Elena, joined them in April). We have dreams of using the equipment for another future venture, perhaps in the capital city, so watch this space!

We pray you have a wonderful end to 2025, and we look forward to writing again at the first of the new year. Thank you as always for your support, love and prayers.

Until next time,

Steve, Lindsey and Elizabeth





**Photos from top to bottom:** A group of the Alas kids enjoy an outdoor activity requiring good teamwork; Jonatan and Zoeymi pose at their graduation gown fitting; the Proyecto Alas family at the eighth anniversary celebration in July



## Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus

It's so encouraging to hear news from other CMS partners sharing the hope of Jesus with people not yet connected to churches. In the UK, CMS's Pioneer Mission Training programme is equipping people to respond creatively to the Holy Spirit beyond the boundaries of traditional church. Read more and get inspired by other stories of hope at churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope

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