



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,

Happy New Year, family and friends!

The last few months of 2025 were very full indeed. We ended our UK time with a christening for Elizabeth at St Mary's in Amersham at the end of October. It was a very special day, shared with many family members and friends who we know will continue to support her from afar in her own personal faith journey. In total we were blessed to share in seven different churches during our time in the UK, as well as attending the wedding of Steve's sister.

We continued our travels in November by heading to the US to visit churches and supporters in Pennsylvania, Indiana and Iowa. Elizabeth has continued to be a good traveller. We have enjoyed watching a fairly social personality come out in her the last few months; she loves to wave and make friends with people everywhere we go. (PS Thank you for your prayers for our sleep, we are in a much better rhythm these days!) We of course enjoyed some time with Lindsey's family, including celebrating Thanksgiving and some early Christmas activities. Elizabeth also got to experience her first snow! While it is a necessity of our work in mission, we do not take for granted the privilege and blessing it is to be able to travel and share the stories of how young people's lives are being impacted through the work of Proyecto Alas. We are also humbled and grateful for the many churches and individuals who give financially every year to make it possible for that impact to continue.

We were, however, very glad to finally make it back home to Honduras in December! The Proyecto Alas kids and young people had all finished their school year at the beginning of November, so the staff organised daily Holiday Club sessions to provide positive alternative activities while students were not in classes in November and December. We always see a slight decline in attendance during these months, as many young people go to work during their time off from school. While it is a difficult reality that so many families depend on their minors to help bring in income, we are glad that for most of the year they are able to continue their education.

Everyone does take time to participate in the annual traditions of the Alas Christmas party with the kids and then a separate one with the staff. These parties always include fun games, presents, and of course delicious Christmas food! We have also started the tradition of doing our family Christmas meal on the 24th with the young men in the transition to adulthood programme; the turkey cooked much more quickly this year thanks to a better oven (last year it took over eight hours because the old oven never quite heated up to the cooking



Trying to stay warm in
Indiana in December

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



temperature)! Elizabeth had her first experience of the Honduran tradition of setting off fireworks at midnight of both the 24th and 31st of December – she did not approve of being woken up, but thankfully was able to go back to sleep afterwards.

In the midst of all this, we somehow also managed to participate in the Street Kids Direct annual Radio Christmas fundraiser, hosting 40 hours of interviews and Christmas music during the month of December. Radio Christmas again met their goal of raising over £20,000, 100 per cent of which will go to projects in Guatemala and Honduras (including Proyecto Alas!) for the work to continue in 2026.

After the last crumb is swept up from the last Christmas party and everything is properly stored, we close the project for three weeks until mid-January in order to give our staff a well-deserved rest. As a family, we spend that time with the guys in the transition programme while they are also on break from classes and work, and we have also started a tradition of hosting Orlin for a few days between Christmas and New Year. You may remember that Orlin is the young man who is studying at a boarding school four hours away from his home in Talanga. Orlin, who is 18, has absolutely thrived the last three years at the El Sembrador school, getting a second chance at education after his family sent him to work as a welder instead of to school at age eight. We have watched him come out of his shell academically and socially, earning recognition for both his grades and leadership in his class. He is now contemplating his post-secondary plans, as he will graduate at the end of 2026! ***Please pray for Orlin this year and for his next steps.***

We have our annual planning week with the Proyecto Alas staff from 12–16 January. This has become an important yearly tradition for us to get away together to pray, plan, and set the direction for the year to come. ***We appreciate your prayers for wisdom and provision for those plans!*** As usual, we will have some shifts in the staff team and their responsibilities this year, so ***please pray for that adjustment during these first few months.*** We welcome kids and young people back to the mentoring centre at the end of January, and they will all start classes again at the beginning of February. ***Please pray for the start of classes, that the kids and young people will be motivated to start strong and return to a more structured schedule.***

We wish you all a happy and healthy start to 2026, and as always, we thank you for accompanying us on this journey in mission.

Until next time,

Steve, Lindsey and Elizabeth Poulson



Photos from top to bottom: Mary and Joseph in the Alas Christmas celebration; Elmer and Jose Luis are excited to open their Christmas presents; Orlin accompanies us to the supermarket



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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