



Lindsey and Steve Poulson

Link Letter no. 25 | May 2026

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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,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

We realise Easter was now several weeks ago, but recently I (Lindsey) have been reminded how essential this truth is for our everyday life, not just one day of the year. It is tempting to get straight into our news and what some might call achievements without acknowledging how dependent we are on Jesus, particularly as we daily confront situations to which we ourselves don't have answers. Human brokenness, loss and grief don't just need tutoring, fun activities or even financial assistance – an actual Saviour with power to bring healing and restoration beyond our human capacity is needed. How grateful we are that the risen Jesus accompanies us, and we pray you also know his presence with you in your individual situations.



Santiago, one of the new additions to the programme this year, gives the best hugs!

The Alas staff planning week in January was a wonderful way to start the year. This annual tradition has not only become an essential time for confirming the list of kids we will be serving for the year and planning our impact objectives, but also for staff bonding and spiritual refreshment as we pray and have fun together. This year Proyecto Alas is serving 61 children and young people, 46 of whom are currently registered in school and 15 who are still highly street-connected. Ten young adults and four mothers are receiving scholarships to complete secondary school, university studies or a trade course. There is also one young man being sponsored in a drug rehab centre.

This year, five new children have been added to the programme, most of whom are younger siblings of current kids although a few are new connections. We met Santiago, who is seven years old, last year when he was still highly street-connected and not yet in school. As with all the Alas kids, he comes from a difficult family situation and was spending the afternoons and evenings on the streets with his older siblings because his mother works until late at night. Santi is now regularly attending school and has been coming out of his shell as the year progresses. Every day when he enters the mentoring centre, he goes around to give a greeting hug to each person in the room! We are excited to see how Santi continues to learn and grow.

The Alas staff team is growing as well. This year we welcomed Rita as a part-time counsellor and teaching assistant. Rita is a teacher at one of the schools that many of the Alas kids attend, and she has been a volunteer with the project since it began almost nine years ago. Rita was once a child of the streets herself, so her incredible testimony and ability to relate to many of the situations the Alas kids and youth are facing

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make her a valuable addition to the team. She leads daily tutoring sessions with a few of the teenagers who are still at primary level, and she coordinates weekly workshops that focus on the month's theme, such as healthy friendships or responsibility.

The growth of the team has allowed for continued distribution of responsibilities, meaning this year Lindsey can focus more on staff care and have regular one-on-one meetings with each staff member. Steve continues as director but will also

be increasingly more involved in the development of the CMS pioneer mission hub, helping to bring together local people in our corner of Latin America who are working to reach various populations that the church is struggling to reach. At the time of writing this, Steve is on a week's trip to Peru visiting and learning from a hub site based around Lima. Please pray for his travels, learning and for the development of the Central American Centre for Pioneering Initiatives when he returns.

We celebrated Elizabeth's first birthday in March with a big party with everyone at the project! It was a fun afternoon for both her and the kids to enjoy some games, a piñata, and of course, CAKE! We are so blessed to have such a healthy, growing girl (now crawling everywhere!) and are excited for what is to come in the next year of her life. Lindsey's parents came to visit over Elizabeth's birthday week, so we enjoyed having them around for various celebrations.

In the midst of many joys, we also hold the tension of unresolved difficulties and questions: personal situations the staff team are facing, children who continue to miss school or not turn up to the centre, young people who are taking unhealthy risks in their personal lives, mothers who are facing difficult medical diagnoses. We appreciate your prayers for wisdom and provision for each need, and for strength and encouragement to continue forward in the meantime.

Thank you for your support and accompaniment – we appreciate each one of you!

Much love, Steve, Lindsey and Elizabeth Poulson



Photos from top to bottom: 2026 Alas team (back row, L to R): Steve, Chris, Sergio, (front row, L to R): Abi, Lindsey, Lorena, Fernanda, Rita; in March, the mentoring centre activities focused on emotional health, particularly how to identify and process emotions like anger, sadness, joy, and fear; Holy Week is a national holiday and there are no classes, so the Poulsons and the Transition to Adulthood young men had some fun going to the river, a local pool, and a nearby national park; happy first birthday, Elizabeth Milagro!



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 Honduras, mission partners are providing mentoring for children who are likely to drop out of school, or not receive any education. They are introducing them to education and to the love of Jesus. Read more and get inspired by other stories of hope at churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope

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