



# Lindsey and Steve Poulson

Link Letter no. 14 | January 2022

Contact details:  
stevepoulson@hotmail.co.uk



**Location:** Honduras



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

Happy 2023 everyone!

We are actually writing from “the end of the world”, having just participated in the first ever CMS Latin America regional conference here in Ushuaia, Argentina. It was such a blessing to spend time with our fellow CMS mission partners, many of whom we met for the first time, and to be **refreshed** (the theme of the conference) in times of worship and prayer, in nature, and through various workshops and sessions. We are grateful for the support of our CMS family: people in mission, staff and of course YOU, from wherever you may be reading!

The beginning of the year is always a time of reflecting on the past 12 months, as well as considering plans and goals for the future. The last few months of 2022 brought many developments for Proyecto Alas:

In July we welcomed our first mission team from Pennsylvania, who came to serve for a week at Alas. They completed various maintenance projects around our mentoring centre and ran activities for the kids, including crafts, drama, and Bible stories.

One of the projects the mission team helped to begin was our new barber shop, which was finished and officially opened in November, which runs out of the former garage of the mentoring building. The barber shop will not only provide employment and training for our young people, but will also provide a small income for Proyecto Alas itself. The barber shop will be run by Owen, one of our Alas young adults. Owen grew up in a children’s home, which is where Steve first met him as a child. When he turned 18 he left the home and, with no family to support him, started to run around with the wrong crowd. In spite of this, he still managed to maintain a job as a barber, a skill he had acquired at the children’s home (and had practiced on Steve for many years!). This past year, at age 24, Owen reached a particularly low point and ended up seeking the Lord, finally giving his life to Jesus at a worship night at our house last June. Since then we have seen an amazing transformation in his life, and he now wants to use his talents to serve the Lord and help others! This January he will begin a university degree in social work, living and studying with our transition programme in Tegucigalpa during the week, and will work and train some of our young people at the Alas barber shop in Talanga on the weekends.

The coffee shop, Cafe Alas, continues to thrive. We have been able to hire a full-time manager, Carlos, so that Lindsey can begin to pass that responsibility over to local hands. Carlos is one of the top baristas in Honduras (having won national awards) and has many years of management experience, so he is a fantastic addition to our team! He and his wife, Carolina, have quickly caught the cafe’s vision of supporting the kids at the



Owen sets up the chair for the barber shop

**Support Lindsey and Steve Poulson:**  
[churchmissionsociety.org/poulson](https://churchmissionsociety.org/poulson)

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



mentoring centre and have brought fresh creativity that is helping the cafe to grow its reputation – as well as its sales!

We have also finally opened the children's library we shared about in our last link letter! The children and young people were very pleased with the cosy space where they can now go to read when they visit the mentoring centre. This year we aim to start a weekly "story hour" to introduce some of the novels and to inspire the children and young people to continue developing their reading skills.

The end of 2022 also brought the end of another academic year and Christmas celebrations. We were pleased that 49 of the 50 Proyecto Alas kids passed the school year! The four university students in our transition programme also ended their year well – Marcelo and Chacho successfully completed their first semester studying physical education, Brayan G. finished his first year of nursing school, and Bryan C. finally finished a semester after several periods of dropping out for various reasons. In 2023 we will add two students to the programme: Owen, studying social work and Cristian, studying mechanics.

We were also able to visit Lindsey's family in the US towards the end of 2022. We really enjoyed celebrating Thanksgiving with them, as well as visiting other friends and supporting churches. The only negatives to the trip were the temperatures, reaching -3 degrees centigrade – which is something we are not used to in Honduras!

The day before we left for our US visit, Steve got a call from the Proyecto Alas coordinator that Jose Daniel, one of the young people we are connected to, had been given permission to leave the gang! To make a long story short, Jose Daniel disappeared in 2020 during the pandemic; when Steve finally managed to make contact again he discovered that Jose Daniel had joined the local gang. After two years of constant prayer and occasional visits with him in the streets encouraging him to consider returning to study, Jose Daniel finally decided he wanted a different life. He was miraculously granted permission to leave the gang on two conditions: he must fully leave behind his gang life and he must never return to Talanga. We were able to transport Jose Daniel to a partner project in another part of Honduras that is supporting his rehabilitation and teaching him welding skills.

#### Prayer points for 2023:

- ▶ Pray for Owen as he begins his university classes and continues to grow in his relationship with Jesus.
- ▶ Pray for the new school year for the 50 Alas kids and the six university students.
- ▶ Pray for Jose Daniel as he builds his new life away from the gang and recovers from drug usage
- ▶ Pray for us as we continue to lead Proyecto Alas/ the businesses, and continue to connect with other projects working with at-risk children and young people

Many blessings as you begin 2023!

Much love, Steve and Lindsey



**Photos from top to bottom:** The finished Alas library, complete with bean bag chairs and cubby holes inside the giant bookcase, perfect for curling up with a good book; some Christmas silliness at our house with the guys in the transition programme; Jose Daniel on a break from work; Honduras celebrates its Independence Day on 15 September. Some of the young people performed a few traditional dances at our Fiesta Catracha (Honduran party), dressed in beautiful traditional attire.



## Going further with Church Mission Society

**Stories from the edges:** Find out how God is meeting people on the edges around the world through CMS people in mission. Go to [churchmissionsociety.org/stories](https://churchmissionsociety.org/stories)

Please note that opinions expressed in link letters are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society.

If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email [supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org](mailto:supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org) or call 01865 787400. Church Mission Society is a mission community acknowledged by the Church of England. Registered Company No. 6985330 and Registered Charity No. 1131655 (England and Wales) and SC047163 (Scotland).