



Lindsey and Steve Poulson

Link Letter no. 17 | December 2023

Contact details:
stevepoulson@hotmail.co.uk
lindsey.kalk@gmail.com



Location: Honduras



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

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe we are nearing the end of the year 2023!

It's the time of year where we tend to think about gifts, and the last few months have been full of unexpected GIFTS that we would like to share with you:

God Returns the Prodigal!

In a miraculous turn of events, the young man who left his university studies to go illegally to the USA has returned to Honduras! After three months working in Mexico and struggling to make ends meet, he decided he was better off in Honduras nearer to people who love and care about him. While he still does not have an interest in returning to study at the moment, we are very pleased he is safe and has found a fairly stable construction job in Honduras. He stays in regular contact with us, which is a gift in itself, as culturally it is very common to cut oneself off from relationship in shame. Please continue to pray for him as he finds his way, particularly that he would encounter the transforming love of Jesus.



Ever with his daughter Violet, on a day off from his police work.

Incredible Transformation

Some of you may remember Ever, a young man Steve has mentored for over six years now, who entered the police academy with a scholarship from Proyecto Alas. As a Christian, he is working to be a light in the midst of the dark corruption of the police force in Honduras. He has worked his way up the ranks to a specialised squad, and had the opportunity to travel to America for special training. He often turns up to our house for a visit in an incredibly nice work car, and Steve likes to joke that Ever now makes more money than he does! Last year, Ever became a father to a baby girl, Violet, and he is committed to be a faithful presence in her life. Recently he took us to see the house he is having built with his savings! We are overwhelmed at the *gift* of seeing the cycle of poverty and street life truly broken in this family – Violet will have a very different childhood to her father!

Finishing the school year

As the Honduran school year comes to a close in November, we do not take for granted the *gift* it is for the youth we work with to complete another school year. Sadly, this year we have seen many drop out from school to return to work or street life, so it feels especially exciting to celebrate those who *have* stuck it out when it would be so much easier to walk away. You may remember Orlin, who is the only one of the original four boys still studying at the boarding school, El Sembrador. Having left school at the age of 12 to work in a welding shop to provide food for his family, we are so pleased that now at age 16 he has completed 8th grade!

Support Lindsey and Steve Poulson:
churchmissionsociety.org/poulson

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



This year we have watched him flourish from a serious, overburdened kid into a relaxed, confident teenager who now has dreams of becoming a lawyer. Please pray for Orlin and the other Proyecto Alas students during the next two months of holidays, as free time at home often comes with distractions luring them away from continuing their studies next year.

Team Growth

The Alas team is growing! In November we welcomed Sergio, who has been sent as a mission worker from Guatemala to serve with us. Sergio grew up on the streets of Guatemala, and was addicted to various substances. He got connected to a Street Kids Direct partner project (SKD Guatemala) and through mentoring, rehab, and lots of prayer, he found Jesus and his life has been completely transformed. For the past two years he has been working as a chef and youth worker in Guatemala, and this year said yes to the Lord's call to serve in Honduras! He will be taking the first few weeks to get acclimated and discern his role on our team, but we are certain that the Lord will use his testimony and his *giftings* in the lives of the Alas young people.

UK December, Listen to Radio Christmas!

This year we have the bonus *gift* of returning to the UK in December for Street Kids Direct's biggest fundraisers of the year: Radio Christmas! Radio Christmas is, as you might guess, a Christmas radio station bringing you a variety of music and shows run entirely by volunteers from the community around Amersham (Bucks) to raise money for Street Kids Direct. This year, Steve will serve as one of the studio managers and Lindsey will help with administration. We want to officially invite you to tune in from 1 December until Christmas Eve at <https://radiochristmas.co.uk/>, or stop by the station at the Amersham Free Church to say hello if you are in the area!

As we look towards the end of 2023, **we want to thank you wholeheartedly** for supporting us— your prayers and gifts are incredibly important in helping us to serve here. However, we need to share that due to increased living costs both for us and our supporters, **we are currently working with a deficit in our personal budget.** We want to ask for your prayers, but also that you consider how you could help. If you are not currently giving, would you be able to start a regular gift? And if you are giving, would you consider increasing your gift? **If everyone reading this letter gave £15 per month, that would make a huge difference.** If you can help us close our personal funding gap, please go to churchmissionsociety.org/poulson, call 01865 787489 or complete the enclosed form if you have received this letter through the post (Supporting churches, please contact churchrelations@churchmissionsociety.org.) We understand this might not be possible for everyone, so regardless thank you for letting us share our challenge with you and **please know that we greatly value your support in any form.**

We wish you "Feliz Navidad" (Merry Christmas!) and a very Happy New Year.

Until 2024,

Lindsey & Steve



Photos from top to bottom: The children at Proyecto Alas learn about the Honduran flag through a craft project; Some of the Proyecto Alas girls perform a cultural dance to celebrate the Honduran Independence Day in September; Proyecto Alas welcomes Sergio, whose life has been transformed by the power of Jesus via the mentoring programme.



Can you help?

Right now Lindsey and Steve are facing a shortfall in funding, which puts their work at risk. Will you support them today?

Go to churchmissionsociety.org/poulson, call 01865 787489 or complete the enclosed form. **Thank you!**



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 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).