



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.

Dear friends,

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support over these last months. As usual, there has been a lot going on and it is hard to choose what to share!

Steve went for his master's classes at All Nations Christian College and found them to be very interesting. The class was specifically focused on community development and extremely applicable to his work here in Honduras. He also enjoyed meeting his classmates in person and seeing family while he was in the country.



Some of the pioneers and CMS people in mission who gathered to talk about pioneering mission in a Latin American context enjoy an outing to a mission site in Indaiatuba, Brazil

He returned to Honduras via Brazil, where CMS held its first gathering to talk about pioneering mission in a Latin American context. Approximately 15 pioneers and CMS people in mission gathered for a week to discuss how they are doing mission with people the local church is struggling to reach. They shared principles of practice as applied to their individual contexts and a plan was made to connect with others doing similar work. This pioneering mission-focused group is just one of many that CMS has been working to form in each of its different regions worldwide. Each of these groups seeks to create partnerships with local people to allow the direction of mission to be led by those who are the experts on their own contexts.

Lindsey survived the time without Steve, getting on with things in her new role this year as administrator of Proyecto Alas. She has also finally mastered driving our manual car, as she had lots of practice while Steve was away!

It is officially the rainy season in Honduras, which we would generally be thankful for after several months of heat and extremely high levels of air contamination (schools were closed for two weeks in May and most people encouraged to work from home). However, we are less welcoming of the rain at the moment, because the Proyecto Alas building hasn't had a roof! While we were very glad the building owner agreed to replace the roof after we endured a year-long bat infestation, the work did not officially begin until the week that the heavens decided to open. We managed to pack away the coffee shop and store all equipment before the first rain, but delays in the work have meant the entire top floor has flooded every few days for the last three and a half weeks. There has been considerable damage to the flooring, walls and toilets, and a great deal of work will need to be done once the roof is finished to be able to get everything up and running again.

Support Lindsey and Steve Poulson:
churchmissionsociety.org/poulson

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



We obviously had to close the coffee shop for the time being and have offered some delivery-only services out of one employee's home, but sales have been significantly affected. We were able to move the daily project activities to the home of our sub-director, Lorena, so we are thankful to still be able to serve the kids and young people through homework help, tutoring, mentoring, and psychology services. We are also praising God that the owner of the building has been very understanding, agreeing to help with much of the damage caused by the rain. At the time of writing, we have been told the roof will be completed today, though we have learned to hold deadlines here lightly

(as we were originally told the replacement would only take one week!). It has been an exercise of letting go of things outside of our control, and we are trusting that the Lord will protect and provide for the future of Proyecto Alas.

Please pray for the quick completion of the roof and for the road ahead, of further repairs to reopen the coffee shop and project as soon as possible.

In some more positive news, Proyecto Alas turned SEVEN this year! It's hard to believe how far things have come from Steve's first weeks in Honduras gathering with friends in the central park of Talanga to play with 15 kids. In June we held a lovely celebration with over 100 people now associated with Proyecto Alas, including four young adults who have grown up in the programme and now officially graduated from their chosen vocational training.

One of those four young adults is Scarlet, who is 24 years old, and just a few years ago had only completed Year 9 of education. Scarlet had a difficult childhood; her mother was an alcoholic who ended up leaving Scarlet and her two siblings with their father, who struggled to make ends meet. At 16 years old, Scarlet left home to get married because she felt it was the only option to make her life better. She left school as well, working odd jobs along with her husband in order to sustain themselves (and the baby that came soon after). This is usually all a young woman expects from her life in this culture, but Scarlet dreamed of becoming a nurse. In 2022, she received a scholarship from Proyecto Alas for a programme that would allow her to finish her A levels (high school) while earning a nursing degree at the same time. Scarlet worked extremely hard to balance her studies with work and caring for her child. She recently graduated and is now working at a local clinic!

Scarlet is just one of three young women who graduated from this nursing school through support from Proyecto Alas. All three are now serving as mentors, and they are incredible examples for the younger generations of Proyecto Alas who now see it is possible to achieve more for themselves and for their future families through education and obtaining a dignified job.

As always, we thank you for your support and prayers, which make it possible for us to continue to walk alongside young people like Scarlet.

Lindsey and Steve



Photos from top to bottom: The open-air coffee shop! (not as nice as it sounds...); my, how the Alas family has grown from the 15 original kids! (seventh anniversary group picture); Scarlet (left) enjoying the Alas anniversary celebration with the two other nursing graduates; Steve and Lindsey also celebrated their third wedding anniversary in June!



Going further with Church Mission Society

Adelante: 6–7 September 2024. A hybrid event – in-person and online – to celebrate, learn about and pray for mission in and from Latin America. Book at churchmissionsociety.org/Adelante

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