



Lindsey and Steve Poulson

Link Letter no. 16 | September 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,

Greetings from a rainy Honduras! We hope this link letter finds you well as you welcome the autumn season that brings the start of a new academic year for many and cooler temperatures for all. While we certainly miss the colourful displays of changing leaves in our birth countries, we are glad to be welcoming the rainy season here in Honduras after the sweltering summer months!

In June, a small group of six from a church in the USA came to serve at Proyecto Alas for a week. They painted, installed several ceiling fans, helped us with a bat infestation problem and planned activities and Bible lessons with the kids. On Sunday they led a time of worship for the kids and families who don't attend their own church, and in the afternoon blessed our staff, volunteers, and older youth with a trip to a local outdoor pool. One of the team members shared his testimony with a few different groups, which was especially impactful for the university-age guys as his history is very similar to theirs.



A few students play a game with one of the mission team members during their June visit to Proyecto Alas

We can't fully express what a joy it was to see so many of you during our six weeks in England in June and July. It was such a blessing to see everyone face to face, sharing stories over delicious meals and many cups of tea! We were especially excited to see how our link churches are thriving; even though some have smaller congregations, they are all, as Steve says, "REAL Christians doing the stuff", reaching out into their communities. Seeing how God is at work through each of you in England fuels our passion to continue the work in Honduras.

We did manage some time for rest and fun during our time in England as well, including a day at Wimbledon with friends and a tour of the Tower of London. We also got to meet our two nieces and one new nephew who have been born since we were last in England, and we attended the wedding of Steve's brother.

Activities at Proyecto Alas continued while we were away thanks to Lorena (coordinator), Christian (administrator/youth worker) and our amazing team of volunteers. We are pleased to share that more students are arriving consistently at the mentoring centre – thank you to those who have been praying! The students had a week of holiday in July, so extra activities were planned for them at the mentoring centre, including an art lesson and competition, vegetable seed planting and a sports activities day.

As we have shared before, progress with the young people we work with is not always linear; for as many stories of success that we can share, there are always situations which feel like failures in the moment. It is in

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



these situations that we continue to trust that God has not given up on these individuals and that he will continue to pursue their hearts and show us how to support them. We share a few of these situations with you now to ask for your continued prayers:

While the one young man mentioned in our last letter has greatly improved in the area of his mental health (again, thank you for praying!), a different young man in the university programme decided to leave Honduras to go to the USA illegally while we were away in England. This is a very difficult, dangerous journey that unfortunately many in Central America are attempting, as there is a prevailing narrative that better opportunities await in the US. His

departure has felt like a particularly personal blow, as the entire point of our work is to try to provide better opportunities here in Honduras via education and employment. He has thankfully made contact with us, so we know he has safely arrived as far as Mexico and has a temporary job in construction, with hopes of making money to continue further north later this year. Please pray for his safety, but also for us here as we are feeling his absence after having him in the programme for almost one year.

We are also sad to inform you that three of the four young people who started at the boarding school, El Sembrador, this year have now dropped out. Although both we and the school have been working hard to encourage and support Carlitos (mentioned in the last link letter), he was the first to decide to leave school. Two others soon followed him and all are now working odd jobs around the town Talanga – though thankfully nothing to do with that gang, as far as we know. I am reminded of the story Jesus tells of the prodigal son (in Luke 15), who walks away to pursue what he thought was best for his life, and the pain his father must have experienced seeing him go. Please be in prayer for these adolescents, that they would desire to return to their studies in the future, and that we at Proyecto Alas would extend the unconditional love of Jesus to them during this time. Just as the prodigal son was welcomed home by his father, we believe in the possibility of transformation and second chances! Please also be in prayer for the one student, Orlin, who remains studying at El Sembrador.

To end on a more positive note, Steve will be doing some studying himself very soon; in September he begins a three-year, distance learning master's degree programme in transformational development through All Nations College. Please be in prayer for him as he begins this endeavour – particularly as his online classes will be in the very early hours of the morning, due to the time difference between Honduras and England!

Blessings to you all,

Lindsey & Steve



Photos from top to bottom: We had gorgeous weather for some London sightseeing during July; the Proyecto Alas children and Lorena show off bracelets they made to share the story of the gospel with their family and friends; please pray for Orlin, age 15, as he continues his year 8 studies at El Sembrador



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Adelante: Saturday 23 September 2023. 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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