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Latin Link
COMMUNITY WITH A CALLING

What is Latin Link?

Latin Link's vision is to see vibrant, Bible-believing Christian communities in every part of Latin America, impacting their neighbours, their societies and the wider world.

We work in partnership with churches to send and receive individuals, families and teams, to or from Latin American communities, to share the love of God. We do this through three programmes:

STEP is Latin Link's short-term mission and discipleship programme for teams. Step provides hands-on, practical experience of living and working with local church communities in Latin America or Spain. We select and send teams for three to seven weeks during the summer, and for four months each spring. We welcome applications from individuals of all ages, and from groups wanting to create a team from their church or university.

STRIDE is an opportunity for individuals, couples or families to spend six months to two years putting their faith into practice in Latin America, working with a church or Christian-run project. It's a chance to use and develop skills during a gap year, career break, university language year, sabbatical or early retirement.

A two-year Stride is also the pathway into longer-term service with Latin Link.

STAY. We currently have over 100 members of 14 nationalities living and working in Latin America and Europe on a longer-term basis, from three years upwards. Their work varies from training church leaders to caring for children at risk, from supporting university students to generating employment opportunities. Members are based in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Britain, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Ireland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru, Spain, and Switzerland. See latinlink.org.uk for a taste of current opportunities, or contact your nearest Latin Link office.

Latinfile can be viewed online at issuu.com/latin-link/docs/latinfile_autumn_2018



Download the Latin Link App from all the usual stores (Apple, Google, etc) to keep right up-to-date with all things Latin Link.

Home is where the heart is

Welcome to the
Autumn edition
of *Latinfile*



After seven years with Latin Link, I am still impressed by the commitment and courage of this community, as individuals and families leave their homes to follow God's call on their lives. And I'm still touched by the generosity of families and friends at home who let these special people go.

This edition of *Latinfile* explores the concept of 'home' as it relates to mission work. Do you always have to leave home in order to follow God? Is it possible to have two or more genuine homes in different places? And how might we show God's love by providing a refuge for those who need to find their way home?

The first main article looks at the topic from the point of view of those who have gone out, and those who have returned. Is it the case that after a period of homesickness, mission workers end up making their home in a different country and culture? What then happens when they return? (pages 4-7)

We also meet Latin Link members serving among those who need a home, whether that is because they live on the streets of São Paulo (pages 8-9), have lost their home to a volcano in Guatemala (page 10), or are orphans affected by HIV/AIDS in Ecuador (page 13).

Meanwhile, other articles explore the current (and ancient) ways in which God uses migration in mission, working among refugees and others (pages 14-15), and the lessons one Step team learned from experiencing the gift of Latin hospitality (page 11).

Wherever you are, grab a cuppa and make yourself at home!

Sarah Smith.

Sarah Smith
Head of Development and Communications

Where the heart is

The meaning of 'home' in mission



When you live and work cross-culturally, 'home' can be a complex and sometimes problematic concept. For some mission workers, leaving their home country and losing a sense of belonging is a real sacrifice. After a while, making home in a new context can be exciting, but also difficult. Then, having settled, juggling a sense of being at home in more than one place can be a challenge too!

Where is home? What creates a sense of home and how do you achieve it? Can you be at home in more than one place? If you have children, how do you help them cope with transition? And what does it mean to use your own home for mission?

We asked people to share some of the ways in which living cross-culturally has impacted and enriched their sense of home.

More than one?

Sharon Jones writes about home, having served in Peru for ten years:

Where's home to you? Home is my lovely flat in the awesome city of Lima, Peru, when I'm here. But home is also with my parents in Liverpool, England, when I'm there! On my last sending country assignment (I go back to the UK for six months every three years) I recognised that I felt more at home in Peru. I couldn't imagine living in the UK now. Things change so quickly and it's harder to feel part of it when you're away for such long chunks of time. I think the longer I spend here, the more that feeling will grow.

Can you belong in two places? It is very hard to fully engage with two cultures at the same time. When I'm in one place, I feel I can be present there and I don't miss the other place too much! I'm blessed that I can transition quite well between the two worlds.

How have you made your home in Peru? Belonging definitely helps; to know a place and its people and to know that they know you. Feeling secure,

creating a space that reflects my creativity and enjoying where I live builds that sense of home too. Learning more and more about Peruvian culture is a constant theme of living here. After nearly ten years, there is still so much to get my head around!

How could your supporters help you? Ask questions about life in Peru. Be interested. Pray for me to understand Peruvian culture more. Tell me what's changing in the UK and bring me stuff I miss!





‘Now the Lord said to Abram, “Leave your country, your family and your father’s house, and go to the land that I will show you.” Genesis 12:1

Kids on the move

After serving for ten years in Peru, Jenny Brown returned to Eastbourne in 2017 with her husband Roland, their UK-born sons Sam (14) and Ben (12), and their Peruvian-born daughters Annalie (12) and Katy (9). We asked about her own sense of home and the ways she and Roland have tried to help their children transition between cultures:

I have a very strong sense of home in the geographical sense of the word. I grew up in a small Dorset village and, nearly 50 years later, my parents still live in the same house. I only moved

away when I started university and have always had that same home base to return to.

I also have the slightly unusual characteristic of feeling very at home, in the sense of belonging,

at any athletics ground that I might visit in the world! Whether in Peru, South Korea or Scotland, I can feel quite comfortable jogging round in circles on a 400m track. You can guess where I spent a good deal of my youth!

Since marrying Roland, we've lived in Eastbourne (England), and Cusco and Lima (Peru). Our eight years in Eastbourne were all in the same house, which we owned and have returned to. Cusco was the place we lived longest (nine years), in a variety of rented properties. With cultural and language differences and lack of extended family, Cusco always felt somewhat temporary, however much we tried to make each place a home.

Cusco always felt somewhat temporary

The importance of my childhood stability made me concerned for our children who did not have that. By the time our younger son Ben was six, he had lived in seven different houses, including six months in a converted stable, before we moved to Peru when he was 8 months old. Here, we began with various temporary flats and two years in a colonial mud brick house: part home, part hostel and part café.



Celebrating Peru Independence Day in Lima

Weird and wonderful

This was by the far the most unusual, interesting and stressful place we have ever lived! God gave us an amazing opportunity to partner with American missionary friends and rent this house together in a popular tourist area (Cusco is handy for Machu Picchu). They opened an outreach café downstairs and we used upstairs as our accommodation, with rooms for guests, volunteers and short term mission teams.

We had dreamed of being able to do something like this, but realised it probably wouldn't be a long term option, since the building was courtyard style, making it rather unsuitable for young children. The café was down in the courtyard, while our bedrooms and lounge-diner

came off a balcony overlooking it. I had visions of toy cars landing in people's cups of coffee!

It was also an old building. The almost metre-thick mud walls made it very warm in the cold Cusco dry season, but in the rainy season we never knew where the next leak might appear. Cats on the roof used to move the tiles and we were always running round with buckets!

Off to Lima

After two years, we decided to find a more suitable place for our boys and soon-to-be-adopted girls. Several temporary places followed. Then, on our final Peruvian housing adventure, we moved to Lima for a 'few months', to complete visa paperwork for our girls to come to the UK.

The church there offered us a fully-furnished flat, so we sold or gave away all our Cusco furniture and most of the house contents and packed up clothes, toys and books to be sent to Lima. I think this was harder for the kids than for us. Roland and I knew we had a furnished house to return to in Sussex and we'd always known that most of our Cusco belongings were temporary. However, for our boys, these things were all

they had known and, for our girls, this was the only family home they could remember.

When this 'few months' turned into nearly two years, we ended up feeling very at home in the close-knit church community, aptly named Oikos (household), before finally returning to Eastbourne.

Helping the children adjust

Our youngest son Ben, who experienced the most disruption, likes routine and finds transitions hard. We tried various strategies to help him. As a baby, we decided he would always sleep in a very portable travel cot, to help with all the moving we knew his first year would entail. This worked well; he always slept in the same cot, no matter where we were. Once he moved to a proper bed, he became quite attached to his blue fleece blanket and we found it helped if he took it on holiday with him when he was small. He still has the blanket, eleven years on. The other very important challenge was when Annalie and Katy first came to live with us, aged three and six. We'd already got to know them and

Home NOUN /həʊm

A place where one lives; a residence; an environment offering security and happiness; a valued place, a refuge, or place of origin.

Where you are

Home may be 'where the heart is'. But what if your heart has grown to include more than one place? Verna Langrell (see also page 9) has been in Brazil for 18 years:



Photos: John Seddon

After 18 years in Brazil, when I leave for Ireland, people still say "enjoy your time back home". And when I am returning to Brazil, people in Ireland also increasingly say "enjoy your trip back home"! Do I belong anywhere? Or do I belong in both places?

Over the years, I have realised that you have to make home wherever you are and be settled when you are there. Then when you get to the next location, you need to make home there.

There can be the feeling of not belonging anywhere. But there can also be the privilege of adding new addresses for home in your heart, without taking away any of the love that you have for your other home. It is always a balance between the two. We may have moved, but we don't love you less.

At end of the day I know that none of us are really home yet. One day we will be really home and then we won't have to add any more addresses!

You're welcome

Young couple Matías Rigau and Paula Smyth (with baby Santiago) want their home to be a place where students encounter God:



Here in Salta, Argentina, we have a vision to use our home for outreach. To this end, we're currently praying for a good-sized place to rent, near the

national university, where we hope to get alongside and befriend student neighbours. We feel called to support, encourage and love them during what can be one of their most life-changing and moulding experiences.

By opening up our home to students and welcoming them into our family, we hope to have many opportunities to share Christ, disciple these young people, and help them use their careers for God's glory. With a 57% dropout rate amongst first-year students, we also hope to be a support network for those away from home for the first time, finding life tough and lonely.

So we're going to offer our home as a quiet and safe place to study, offload and be listened to; a place to be fed, have fun and share with others. We also hope to provide English conversation classes to those studying to become English teachers.

Please pray for us as we seek the right place!

We tried various strategies to help him.

the children's home where they lived for three years. So before they arrived, we gradually adapted some of our home routines to be a little more in line with the children's home. Mainly little things, like having a fruit and yogurt snack in the mornings and the children taking their own plates to the kitchen after meals.

Annalie and Katy didn't bring much with them but, like Ben, they had blankets for their beds. Since their home was run by Christians, Bible stories were already part of their evening routine.

Back to the Blue House

Now, having been back in the UK for nearly a year, and back in the 'Blue House' (as most people know it), all our four children happily call this home. It was a relief to be back, though to start with I felt almost weighed down by a house full of stuff that actually belonged to us. There is



a freedom that comes with knowing you can move anytime at a week's notice, although you don't appreciate that when you are craving more stability.

Roland now works with many people who are homeless and his clients, who have been constantly moving, sometimes find it hard to settle in one place.

When I first went on a Step team in 1992 as a new Christian, the famous words of Psalm 139 became a reality to me:

'If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.'

Even more than a Dorset village, or a blue house in Sussex, my true home – my spiritual home – as for all his children, is with our heavenly Father. Those of us who have moved between cultures probably have a greater awareness of the temporary nature of any earthly home, but a sense of security and belonging can be found anywhere he calls us.

Street life

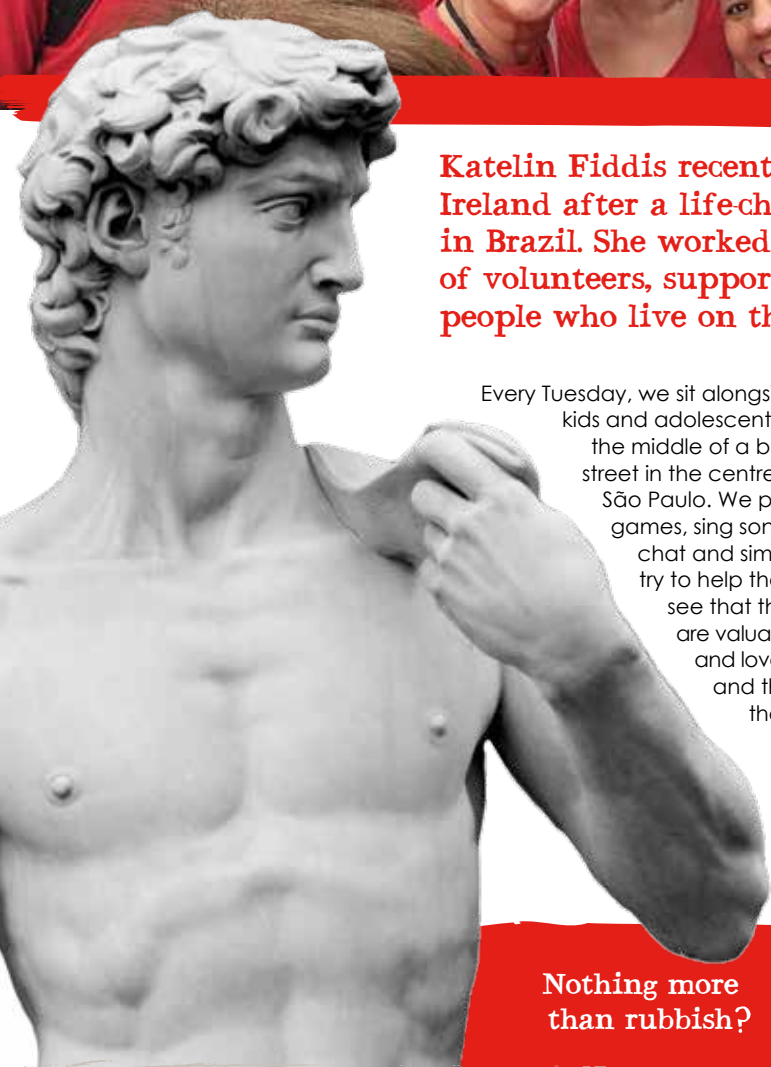
The Michelangelos of São Paulo



Photo: John Seddon

Katelin (left) with some of the street team

Katelin Fiddis recently returned to Northern Ireland after a life-changing Stride placement in Brazil. She worked with a long-term team of volunteers, supporting children and young people who live on the streets of São Paulo.



Every Tuesday, we sit alongside kids and adolescents in the middle of a busy street in the centre of São Paulo. We play games, sing songs, chat and simply try to help them see that they are valuable and loved, and that there

is a better life for them off the streets.

Boy was I wrong

I assumed that the similar work I did on a Step team in Guatemala would have fully prepared me for working with street kids here in Brazil. Boy was I wrong. In Guatemala, I worked mostly with children aged 6-12, whereas here, the kids are generally over 13. There are other differences too.

In Guatemala, the kids were affected massively by drugs, because they were surrounded by them, but they weren't users themselves. Here, on the other hand, the majority of the teens that we work with are users, and will sniff solvents/chemicals the entire time we are with them on the streets.

Nothing more than rubbish?

One thing both sets of children have in common is that they live on the streets; they have been discarded by society and are viewed as nothing more than rubbish.

Just like David

There is a very famous work of art in Italy known as "Il David" by Michelangelo. It is by far one of the most impressive sculptures in the world, but I think the story behind its creation is far more impressive.

Michelangelo made this sculpture out of a piece of marble that had been worked on, and subsequently rejected, by several artists. Agostino di Duccio abandoned it after doing only a little work. Antonio Rossellino also backed out almost immediately, claiming that the marble was of poor quality.

Every other artist that looked at the marble saw it as completely useless. A piece of stone which stood at four metres tall, with a big hole cut out of the centre, was viewed by them all as impossible to work with.

Then 26-year-old Michelangelo came along and he accepted the challenge to complete the sculpture. He spent the next few years locked away in hiding,

moulding this image. He didn't let a single person see his masterpiece until he had finished.

Ultimately, he created one of his most famous pieces of work from a block of marble that had been rejected by everyone.

Rejected beauty

The kids that I work with here in Brazil have been completely rejected by society. People walk past them and pretend they aren't there, they don't even smile at them. They walk on the opposite side of the street, looking in the opposite direction, because they are scared that they are going to get robbed.

But the truth is, there is beauty in these wonderful young people. They are children who in many cases have escaped from their own families, because they have been so badly abused that they see living on the streets as a better option. Children that take drugs in order to escape and forget about the numerous beatings and endless pain that they have experienced in their short lives.

Another member of my team told me that once they were sitting talking to a child and they

said to them, 'Did you know that you are loved?' The child responded, '*Ninguém me ama porque eu sou lixo.*' (No one loves me because I'm trash.)

The truth is that none of these children are trash in the eyes of God. They are not loved any less than me or you. Jesus died for them, just like he died for me.

Michelangelo saw potential in that block of marble that had been rejected by the world, just like God values each and every single child that I have worked with.

Read more from Katelin's blog here: breathe-dream-go.site123.me

Want to go on a Stride placement like Katelin's? See latinlink.org.uk/Stride or email Stride@latinlink.org.uk

Holding out hope of home

Verna Langrell has worked with young people on the streets of São Paulo for more than 10 years. We asked her what home means to them:

'We are regularly in contact with people who have never had a positive experience of home. What keeps them on the street is often the lack of a loving home to return to, or a sense of belonging where they now are. For on the streets they often meet others who have gone through some of the same hurts, and a sense of belonging grows out of shared experiences.

'The street can become their home. As a team, we go out to the streets to try and create new bonds; working towards helping them reintegrate into a healthy home, and sharing with them the love of the Father, and the invitation to be part of his family.'



Verna listens, cares and holds out hope

After the fire

Guatemalan volcano update

On 4 June 2018, we awoke to the devastating news of the Fuego Volcano eruption – the worst of its kind in Guatemala for over a century. For many in the surrounding areas of Escuintla, Chimaltenango and Sacatepéquez, life changed dramatically, as loved ones went missing and ash destroyed homes.

Food, water and clothing were the immediate needs of those affected. But as the ash settled and the story faded from the press, the longer term impact also started to emerge.

Impact and aftermath

Many schools are completely suspended for the rest of the year, as displaced families need the buildings for temporary accommodation. Some have been allowed to return to evacuated areas to discover what remains of their homes.

No Latin Link members were harmed in the eruption, but many were affected by the huge amounts of ash and disruption that followed. They immediately tried to find out where help might most be needed.

Hope of life

One of the hardest hit areas was Alotenango, on the Sacatepéquez Escuintla border. This is the location of Latin Link partner organisation *Asociacion Esperanza de Vida* (Hope of Life).

Latin Link's Guatemala/Mexico Team leader Kate Moreno explains, 'Many Step teams have visited this project and we have a strong relationship with them. So when supporters started to contact us, wanting to make donations, we got in touch with the leader, Pastor Juan Manuel Hernandez, to see if we could help.'

Incredible response

If you have prayed for Guatemala or donated to the Fuego Appeal in the last few months, thank you. The initial response was amazing, raising £6,647 in the first few weeks and over £10,750 to date. In addition,

nearby project *Educando para la Vida* (led by Latin Link's Rodolfo Rodas) provided a lot of support.

This has helped *Esperanza de Vida* support 23 families whose homes were completely destroyed. In the short term, they were provided with basic cooking equipment, tables and chairs, and bedding. And so far, four temporary homes and one new permanent home have been built.



Next steps

It has been inspiring to watch how hard Guatemalans and local churches have been working to help their neighbours affected by the volcano. But they need more help. Within Latin Link, the whole Guatemala team have been involved, along with support from Latin Link International and the Peru team. In September, a Swiss Step team went out to help and a UK Step team may be going in the Spring.

Looking forward, *Esperanza de Vida* would love to buy land and build homes for 15 families, close enough to stay in their community, but far enough from the volcano to feel secure. However, this will need additional financial support.

If you would like to help fund the remaining houses, you can still give to the appeal: latinlink.org.uk/appeal/Fuego

Home from home

Steppers welcome Latin hospitality

In early March 2018, a Spring Step team of nine headed out for four months to work alongside churches in Chile and Argentina. We asked team member Alice Rushbrook to describe their experience of Latin hospitality.



Building relationships as well as buildings!



Alice helps with homework



A warm welcome in Argentina

We loved our time serving God together on Step! In Chile, we helped build a new church building, while in Argentina we worked to complete the floor of a new Sunday school. In addition, our aim was to build relationships with local people, both on and off the worksite, sharing the message of God's amazing grace and all that he has done in our lives.

Although only three of us were fluent Spanish speakers, virtually everyone we met made an effort to talk to us and showed a genuine interest in who we were and what we had travelled just over 7,000 miles for.

Upon arrival in Chile we were welcomed into our new home by members of the church, who had prepared lots of traditional pastries and cakes for us, which were received extremely well and disappeared very quickly!

Welcome to Chile!

Our new church family had also made posters (in English!) to

decorate our house, saying **'Welcome to Chile'** and **'thank you so much for all your help'**. Almost immediately, the whole team felt at ease and settled, despite being in a completely new environment.

Our reception in Argentina was very similar, with lots of people and even more food! About 50 young people from church joined us that evening for pizza and empanadas and spent the whole night chatting and taking numerous photos!

An incredible difference

Throughout our projects, the hospitality we were shown made an incredible difference to our stay. Both churches provided for us in so many ways; cooking meals, driving us to new places to meet new people, taking time

to teach us about their history and traditions, and being interested in our lives in England, asking us questions about our families and wanting to see pictures of them.

We will never forget

It was obvious from each church we visited that they had thought about how we might be feeling, being away from all that was familiar to us. The love they showed to us made us truly feel a part of God's diverse, worldwide family!

Despite only being there for just over four months, thousands of miles from home, we all feel as though we have made new family in South America. They have taught us so much and we will never forget!

Interested in Step?

Check out latinlink.org.uk/Step or see the back of this magazine!

Growing in the desert

Financial review of 2017-18

With a widespread drought in the economy continuing, the climate for ministries like Latin Link is still tough. However, God is good! Thank you for standing with us; for your faithful prayers and generous gifts. Latin mission is still growing despite the financial challenges and we are so encouraged by your support.

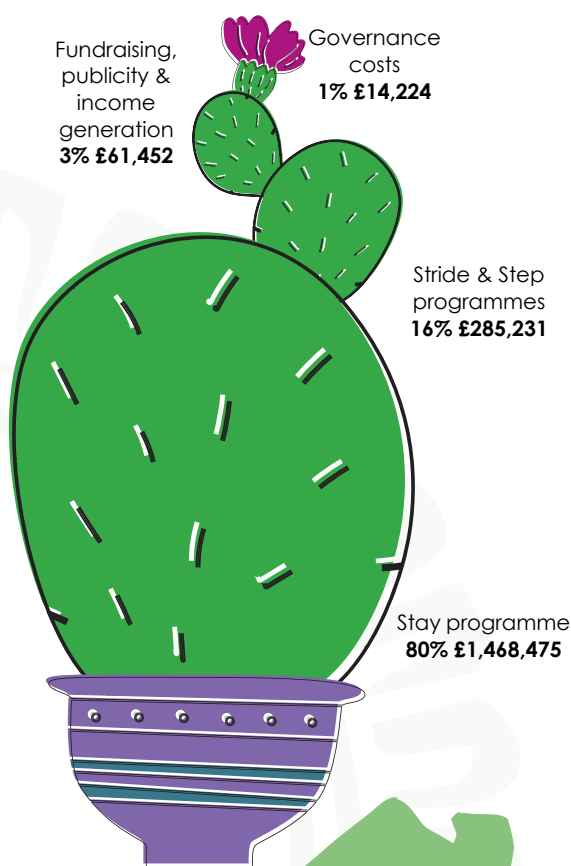
Income

Total £1,806,023



Expenditure

Total £1,829,382



'The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.'
Isaiah 35:12

Your historic
gifts are
building the
future of
Latin Link!
See article on
page 18.

A place to call home:

The story of Orphaids Ecuador



Katy helping with homework

Country Team leader Katy Griggs has been in Ecuador with Latin Link since 2001. As well as working with two other projects, she has served for 12 years alongside the team at Orphaids. Katy provides educational support for the youngsters living there and is also on the local board of trustees.

All children need somewhere to call home, especially if they've had a difficult start in life. Based in Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, Ecuador, Orphaids provides a home for children and teenagers whose parents have died from HIV/AIDS. It is also one of only two institutions in the whole of Ecuador providing a home for children living with HIV.

ORPHAIDS IS...

...My house (Leo, 6)

It began with a single decision, about 20 years ago, when Latin Link members, John and Brenda Hart, were asked by a friend with AIDS to care for her child when she died. They then joined with others to set up Orphaids, to support other people infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS in and around Santo Domingo.

...God's love shown to us (Jacobo, 13)

Within five years, nine houses were built, aiming for each to have house parents and to provide a home for up to six children. There was a strong emphasis on creating a loving, caring home environment. It was not, they stressed, an orphanage, but sought to provide children with 'a new home and family to meet their emotional, physical, spiritual, educational and relational needs.'

To support Katy Griggs in her ministry, please visit: latinlink.org.uk/support/Griggs

Over the years, Orphaids has helped many children and it's now part of a network of health organisations involved in caring for children, supporting families, community work, palliative care, HIV/AIDS education, and prevention.

...Peace, calm, love and a lot of happiness (David, 12)

There are now 18 children living at Orphaids. They all come from families affected by HIV/AIDS, with most having lost one or both parents. Eight are HIV positive and receive treatment through a government programme.

...A place to learn and have fun (Daniela, 4)

There's a house mother who looks after the youngest children, while the older ones live in small groups in different houses. But all come together to eat, and the director Luz Celly and her husband Fabio supervise everyone.

What is important for the children is the security Orphaids provides, in terms of a stable daily routine. They receive a good, balanced diet, with food on the table three times a day, and a school routine, alongside help with their homework.

...A family and a home (Carlos, 16)

Orphaids aims to give children a sense of family and consistency – somewhere they can really call home. All in all, it provides a stable basis, for children who come from very unstable backgrounds.



Orphaids Director, Luz 'Mami' Celly Piamba (centre), with some of the children



A world on the move: mission through migration

Suzanne Potter has worked in Guatemala for 10 years. She's on the Latin Link International Leadership Team, with a particular focus on mobilising mission from Latin American churches. Here she explores fascinating global trends of migration and what they might mean for mission.

What image does the word 'British' conjure up for you? The likelihood is that **many** images spring to mind, because of course a rich and wide variety of British cultures co-exist within one country!

That is increasingly repeated in many other nations across the world, as cultures and national identities become more complex and fluid. International migration continues to be a global phenomenon, with a very mobile world population. Meanwhile wars and other hardships are

displacing more refugees than ever and immigration is often the focus of heated political debate.

Historic and contemporary

The Bible tells us that the movement of people is of great interest to God. From the calling of Abram and Sarai, to the journeys of the apostle Paul, and on into the contemporary period, we can see this theme throughout the history of missions.

In his recent book, *Serving God in a Migrant Crisis*, Patrick Johnstone

says 'God has used migration for millennia to achieve his purposes for his people. He is doing so again in our time.'

'God has used migration for millennia to achieve his purposes'

So what do we know about migration today? It happens for various reasons:

- International study or employment

- Family reunification or greater life opportunities
- Fleeing violence or persecution
- Escaping the impact of climate change

Connection and dislocation

Migrants may live outside their homeland, but often retain a sense of connection and identity with it. They can experience a sense of dislocation, the strength of which depends on many factors. For instance, a refugee forced from their country by violence will experience a greater sense of dislocation than a student choosing to study abroad.

Migrating to another country can be very difficult, whatever the reason. It may create isolation and loneliness as well as economic hardship. It can also cause people to question their own cultural identity and make them more open to new ideas.

God's people on the move!

Interestingly, statistics suggest that there is a much higher percentage of Christians among 'people on the move' than in the population as a whole and, when people migrate, evangelism opportunities can emerge in two key ways:

1. Individuals from unreached people groups make their home in new countries with a strong Christian presence. So people who might never have had the chance to hear of Jesus can now hear the gospel and, even better, get to know Christians whose lives testify to God's transforming power.
2. Christians move to work or study in other countries (some of which may be closed or restrictive towards formal Christian mission workers), and carry with them the good news and a passion to share that with whomever they meet on the journey.

God is using both of these opportunities to expand his kingdom and Latin Link is a part

of it! One of our aims as an International Leadership Team for the next four years is to develop our involvement in diaspora missions (missions to and by migrant communities) in all of our country teams.

God is using these opportunities to expand his kingdom

The European perspective

In Europe, we're working to explore how Latin Link might better engage with those Latin American communities already here. What can we learn from Latin American churches in Europe? What support could we offer them as they navigate cross-cultural life? How can we empower and resource those God has called here?

At the same time, how can we reach out to Latin Americans in Europe who do not yet know Christ? How can we share God's generous hospitality and love for them?

This is an exciting time for missions in Europe as so many things change and develop!

Reaching out in Britain and Ireland

Latin Link is all about mission being

multidirectional. We get very excited about sending and receiving people to and from Latin American communities, to share the love of God!

In Britain and Ireland, Latin Americans often relate well with migrants and those of other religions and cultures, as they share many similar values (such as the importance of family) and are enthusiastic and outgoing in meeting new people.

Multicultural mission

For years now, through our Incoming Mission ministry, Latin American mission workers have been serving in UK churches, including reaching out to international migrant communities. There's huge scope for this to grow, as the UK church increasingly recognises the opportunity to do cross-cultural mission on their doorsteps.

This can include support services for refugees and migrants, English classes, general community support, and outreach to migrant communities. It's about helping migrants to make a home here in the UK, but also accompanying them in their search for a spiritual home as they explore the gospel.



Latin Link's Angela Docto, from Peru, is serving with a multicultural Anglican church in the South of England, where she is involved in ministry to refugees and other immigrants:

'It is a great honour and privilege to serve the Lord among these people. I thank him for allowing me to be part of their lives. Most of the people I work with are very strict in their own religion, so they are not open to hearing the gospel yet. But I just keep praying and sharing and showing God's love for them. I am doing my part and I know that God will continue working in their hearts and lives; one day they will acknowledge Jesus as Lord.'

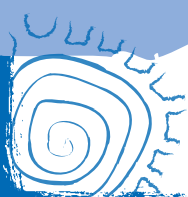
Could a Latin American help your church engage in cross-cultural mission? Contact 0118 9577100 or info@latinlink.org.uk

Spreading their wings

Some of the Striders flying out this autumn



Misha Battle



Sending church: Ivy Academy, Manchester.

Occupation: Secondary English teacher.

Stride assignment: I'm leaving in September for Guatemala, to work with a local education project called *Educando para la Vida* (Education for Life) for 10 months. This project exists to support children who are vulnerable or at risk of dropping out of education. My main role will be to support the team in their provision of literacy, numeracy, music, drama, arts and sport, alongside supporting the local church in their youth work.

How do you feel? Excited and terrified! God has been so faithful in providing the funds and support. I am really excited to see what God is doing already in Guatemala.

How can we pray? For a strong community around me in Guatemala and a smooth transition. I will miss family and friends so a support network will be important. Pray for safety and health. And as this project has already been such an encouragement to me, I would love to be able to serve and encourage them too, as I get involved in the awesome work they're doing.

Sending church: Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian, Belfast.

Occupation: Physiotherapist, currently working in paediatrics.

Stride assignment: From early November, I will be going to Arequipa in Peru. I hope to use my training to work as a physiotherapist with children and young adults with disabilities.

How do you feel? Mixed emotions really! Excited, apprehensive, restless to go...

How can we pray? That I would keep trusting God and that he will provide all I need for going!



Karen Harte



Anisa Marsh

Sending church: Forefront Community Church, Chard, Somerset.

Occupation: Recovering from A Levels and enjoying the sun!

Stride assignment: Soacha in Colombia for 9 months (or more if God calls!). Volunteering in a *comedor* (providing meals) for children and families, and hopefully also helping wherever there is a need.

How do you feel? I feel amazed at our global God and the Christians already doing a great work in Colombia that I get to join!

How can we pray? Please pray that I 'leave well'; spiritually, relationally, practically and financially. Prayer is so valuable and important. Thank you!



Home Team

It's a new season for the staff 'home team' in the Britain and Ireland office. Here are two new players who kick off this autumn!



Terry Lockyer
Head of Programmes

Where is home for you?

Difficult question! Over 20 years, I've had 14 addresses on two continents! Perhaps for me home is wherever God has called me to serve him. Right now, that's Birmingham, where I live with my wife Simone (who also works for Latin Link) and our daughter Sarah.

What does your new role with Latin Link involve?

I'll have overall responsibility for the Step, Stride and Stay programmes, but will spend most of my time focusing on Stay (longer term mission) and Incoming Mission (Latin Americans serving in Britain and Ireland).

What did you do before?

For the last five years I've been a Baptist minister. Before that I was with Latin Link in Brazil for 12 years, mostly teaching in Bible colleges but also with a heart for the poor and marginalised. I was Brazil Team leader during this time too. And in the very distant past, I was an electro-mechanical engineer!

What are your hopes?

That I can serve God and be a real blessing to Latin Link and those I work with. I hope that the skills and gifts God has given me will allow me to play my part in helping Latin Link to continually develop and move forward.

How can we pray for you now?

I'd really value your prayers as I settle into my new role. Please also pray for the church that I'm leaving, as they consider the process of finding a new minister.



Esther Stansfield
Head of Mobilisation

Where is home for you?

A village in Devon, with my husband Ben (who went on Step to Argentina in 1991) and sons Josh (10) and Zach (8). Also Northern Ireland where I grew up and still have strong connections. Over the years we've also called Guatemala and Honduras home, so I'm very excited to join the Latin Link family!

What does your new role with Latin Link involve?

Working with Ireland, Scotland and England team members to mobilise churches, families, individuals and partner ministries to engage in mission. It is a new role, forging fresh partnerships and prayerfully exploring innovative ways to extend Latin Link's reach and mobilise more people.

What did you do before?

Various roles for Tearfund (ten years), eventually heading up the UK and Ireland Youth and Student team, helping young people understand God's heart for justice and equipping them to make a difference locally and globally.

Recently, Church and Community Development coordinator for Scripture Union and a board member for *Paz y Esperanza* (Peace and Hope). Ben and I also learnt Spanish in Guatemala for three months and volunteered with an organisation in Honduras for two years.

What are your hopes?

That the UK church might get a fresh sense that the call to discipleship is the call to mission. I hope more churches will see global mission as mainstream, not a sideshow for the select few. I pray for a fresh awareness that our call to love to our neighbour as ourselves involves a global, not just a local, response.

How can we pray for you now?

That God would open up opportunities for Latin Link to forge fresh partnerships with churches, families, students and individuals, who will be passionate about being and bringing God's good news wherever God calls them!

What can I do?

Building for the future

If you have supported Latin Link for a while now, you'll know that some years ago, it was decided to move the Latin Link Britain and Ireland office from London to Reading. So we needed a new home! Wonderfully, thanks to the Lord and your generous support, it was possible to buy a building, large enough to house the Latin Link offices and with space to rent out to a church for extra income.



One of the new flats over the Latin Link offices in Reading

This has worked really well for over a decade. But last year, the church was moving on and, with a leaner staff team and a need for more sustainable income, our trustees prayerfully decided to embark on a faith project to develop this building further, for the future benefit of Latin Link.

Now, one year on, it is finished! Thanks to having this great asset of a building, we have been able to move the Latin Link office into a lovely space on the ground floor of the building (we were previously upstairs). And the remainder of the ground floor, plus the two upper floors, have

been redeveloped into beautiful rental flats.

This makes the very most of the asset that the Lord has entrusted to us and we are so thankful to God and to all those donors that enabled this to happen in the first place. We are delighted that all the flats have been rented out, due to high demand for this type of accommodation in our part of Reading, and we continue to settle in to our renewed home as an office team. Do come and visit us if you would like to!

Our address remains the same.

Easy fundraising!

Are you planning a sponsored walk or a challenge event to raise funds for Latin mission? Were you automatically thinking of using Just Giving or Virgin Money Giving? **Then stop!!**

There's no need to pay the fees charged by these websites now. If you're raising money for Latin Link, its members, or their projects, then you can do it right on the Latin Link website! Just go to www.latinlink.org.uk/Pages/Fundraisers

It's quick and easy to set up your own personalised page. The money comes directly to Latin Link with all your details. And you can share the link to your Fundraiser's page with your friends and family, making it simple for them to donate.

Lots of people have been using this facility already, some to raise funds for their Step team or Stride placement, and others for Latin Link ministries. It's simple and effective, so why not have a go?! Any questions, just contact info@latinlink.org.uk



Please Stay Connected!

Oh the pain of compliance with new data protection laws! We've been working hard to ensure that Latin Link continues to be careful with how we store your personal details, and how we use them to stay in touch with you. But we know the changes in legislation have confused many people!

By post it is pretty clear. You probably received our letter in May, explaining that unless you ask us to stop, we'll keep sending you the post you want, so that you can continue to be connected with news about Latin mission by mail.

You have all the power!

By email, it is more tricky. You have all the power and this may feel unfamiliar!

For bulk emails, we need your consent. So if you once had emails from Latin Link (such as ePrayer or eOremos!), you should have received an email from us, asking you to specify what you do or don't want

to receive (Prayer Resources, News and Opportunities, or Fundraising Appeals). **We can't send you these things any more, without your specific consent.**

We know the law is confusing and we've done our best to keep you informed. So we just wanted to say, if in doubt, please get in touch! If you want to know more, take a look at latinlink.org.uk/gdpr

You can change your preferences at any time by calling **0118 957 7100** or emailing info@latinlink.org.uk

We really want to stay in touch with you and we hope you feel the same!

Email consent has to be confirmed every time you are given the choice!

Say, for example, you make a one-off donation to Latin Link online. You are happily receiving prayer emails from us already and you want that to continue. When you make your online gift, there is a question about whether or not we can stay in touch with you by email. If you don't tick that box, we legally have to assume that you have withdrawn your consent and we must stop sending you prayer emails! (Technically, we can't email you to check if you are sure, either!).



Another reason to smile

Did you know your online shopping can support Latin Link, when you shop at Amazon Smile? It is the same Amazon you know (same products, prices and service) but with a difference. When you shop, 0.5% of the price of your purchases is donated to the charity of your choice. Please sign up now at www.smile.amazon.co.uk and choose Latin Link, so we can benefit every time you shop at Amazon.



Step ^{Go} Deeper!

Join a short-term mission team next year



Dig deep and watch
your faith flourish!

Live and work with Christians in Latin America
on practical, community-based projects.

Make a difference to others and be changed
yourself.

Choose from:

Spring (4 months from March-July 2019)

Summer (3 weeks in July-August 2019)



Apply now to serve God with your mind, body and soul!

W latinlink.org.uk/step E Step@latinlink.org.uk T +44 (0)118 957 7112



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