

# Latinfile

THE MAGAZINE OF CONTEMPORARY LATIN MISSION

## Exploring God's *Immeasurably More*



**Latin Link**  
COMMUNITY WITH A CALLING

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## WHAT IS LATIN LINK?

Latin Link works in partnership with churches to send and receive individuals, families and teams, to or from Latin America, to share God's love and hope. We do this through three programmes: Step, Stride, and Stay. You can read all about these programmes and how to get involved at [latinlink.org.uk/go-with-us](http://latinlink.org.uk/go-with-us).

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# THERE'S MUCH TO EXPLORE



**Welcome to *Latinfile*! This edition, Exploring God's Immeasurably More, takes its name from Ephesians 3:20. We contemplate this verse, and what it means for mission, in the first pages of this magazine (p. 4-5). The theme**

**demonstrates our desire as a missional community to trust that God is able and willing to do great things, and to play our part in the work he has already begun.**

This *Latinfile* points towards the exciting, the unexpected, and the simply immeasurable that God is doing in and through our global community.

We begin with the exciting news that, after we had to hit the pause button in April 2020, Latin Link's Step programme is now back up and running. Before leaving for Ecuador, the Spring Step team share some of their hopes for and expectations of what lies ahead (p. 6-7).

Turning from Step teams to Stride placements, we learn about one mission worker's life-altering call to Brazil. Recently returned after two years, Suz recounts a few of the trials and joys she shared with a community in Recife (p. 8-9).

Whilst exploring team trips and individual mission placements, we also recognise the unique challenge of going on mission as a family, particularly with young children. Hannah Flatman shares her experience of balancing 'mum' and 'mission worker' duties, and why she hopes her new children's book can help other families (p. 10-11).

Elsewhere, we take a look at what God is doing a bit closer to home. Maribel gives a valuable Latin American perspective on all things church, mission and community outreach, from her short time in Manchester (p. 12-14)

In the final pages, we also take the opportunity to introduce Latin Link's newly appointed International and Britain and Ireland team leaders (p. 15). And we discover some ways to join with what God is doing, including going on mission, fundraising, praying and attending upcoming events (p. 16-19).

We pray that this edition will raise our expectations of what's possible when we take God's lead, believing he is able to do *immeasurably more* than all we can ask or imagine.

**Will Pitchfork**  
 Head of Communications

# MORE THAN WE *Ask or Imagine*

"NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO **IMMEASURABLY MORE** THAN ALL WE ASK OR IMAGINE, ACCORDING TO HIS POWER THAT IS AT WORK WITHIN US..." EPH. 3:20

## CAN WE MEASURE THE IMMEASURABLE?

We're very used to measuring our successes. It's how we figure out if something is effective and if it's achieved what it set out to do. So when it comes to mission, it can be easy to fall into a numbers game.

"How many churches did you plant last year? How many people did you share the gospel with? How many food parcels did you hand out during the pandemic? How many migrants have you housed?"

Measurable goals are no bad thing. It's important to know if a ministry is meeting a need, or if it's doing no good! However, mission can't always be measured with graphs or figures.

God promises us quite the opposite, in fact. "To him who is able to do *immeasurably more*". *Immeasurable* means too large, too extensive, or too extreme to measure.

So in fact, our measure of success (like counting the number of food parcels) is often

far too small, limited and tame to measure what God is doing in his huge master plan.

## THE STRANDED CIRCUS

At the start of the pandemic, the Hollands family had to choose between flying back the UK, or living through a period of great uncertainty in Colombia, only weeks after their placement with Latin Link began. They felt confident in their calling and decided to stay, but they knew this wouldn't be the trip they signed up for.

A few days later, a circus rode into town and set up just down the street from where Dan and Katharine and their two young children were based. Then Colombia went into a strict lockdown and the circus troupe was left stranded there.

And with that, God had teed up the most unusual setting for a missional encounter – one that the Hollands family had not planned out.

In the weeks and months that followed, their placement church began taking food parcels to the circus community. Dan and Katharine took their children along, who promptly befriended the children there. And before long, faith-fuelled conversations were happening, Bible studies started, and discipleship opportunities formed. God's love was shared between two groups of people who should never have crossed paths.

*"They didn't plan to share Jesus with a circus"*

Dan and Katharine had plans for their time Colombia, but they certainly didn't involve sharing Jesus with a circus. As they stayed open to God's agenda, he did something different; something more.

## THE BLOCKED ROAD

Elsewhere, as Louis and Maribel Woodley set off on an organised mission to evangelise and give practical help in rural communities in Bolivia, their path was blocked by landslides. Their plans were scuppered! What was going on?

The pastor of the church they were with didn't want to waste the opportunity to serve - especially seeing as Louis, Maribel and four others had already travelled here from Potosí - so he began making some calls. The group was soon heading off in the opposite direction with a new plan.

"We soon found out why God had changed our destination," Maribel says. "We stopped by seven small communities and found out that, just the previous day, a river had spilled its banks and destroyed many people's crops – with some people losing their entire yield. In this area of the country, there is only one harvest annually, so they had just lost their main income for the year. We were able to encourage and help them in



a small way with our food and clothing contributions and friendship at that tough time."

While they were there, the mission group provided some Bible teaching and children's activities. The pastor, who is a doctor, also offered simple medical aid to those who needed it.

*"We soon found out why God had changed our destination"*

It was clear to Louis and Maribel that God had known about the grief those communities were going through, and had steered their group to go and join in what he wanted to do there. They only had limited help in their truck, but God did immeasurably more with it.



Bringing the Bible to life in Bolivia

"We saw a good number of adults and children come to faith," Louis says. "One lady that accepted the Lord was Silvia, the niece of one of the local church leaders – she was one of those who had lost all her crops in the flood."

## EXPLORE GOD'S 'IMMEASURABLY MORE'

It's stories like these that get us excited. They remind us that our measures of success and failure don't line up with God's. Being stuck in a lockdown away from your intended project – failure? Blocked road scuppering your mission trip – failure? That's not the way God works. It seems that often, the times when we think we aren't achieving something are opportunities to let God do something even bigger.

You might feel like you don't have much to offer to world mission. Perhaps you feel too old to go and serve, too ill-equipped to make much difference, too insignificant to pray for the world, or too nervous to try something new. But God uses our 'less' to do his immeasurably 'more'. If you just give him your willingness, just as the Hollands family and the Woodleys did, you might be surprised by how he uses you.

Throughout this edition of **Latinfile**, we'll be signposting ways that you can step into God's story through mission; whether it's going on a short-term team, praying with us, or volunteering in the UK.

Let's stay open to him and not limit what he wants to do with us. It's more than we can measure!



Hollands' Colombian circus outreach



# A FIRST ADVENTURE IN LATIN AMERICA

## JOANNA MCCREE INTERVIEWS THE STEP TEAM SETTING OFF FOR ECUADOR

### JOANNA (OUR SHORT TERM COORDINATOR):

Every year we send out Step teams made up of all sorts of wonderful people to live and work with Latin American churches. Given the probability of cold showers and sleeping on the floor, I'm always interested in what motivates them to do this.

In April, Abi, Jessie, Kate, Charlotte, and Lily are heading to Santo Domingo, Ecuador for three months, and I have a few questions for them.

#### Firstly, why did you decide to go? And what are you expecting?

**Jessie:** Step is an incredible opportunity for me to deepen my faith. I'm heading to university next year but don't feel ready as a Christian to go yet. I think Step will give me the skills and confidence I need to share my faith with others, as well as stay connected to God as I move on to the next step.

**Lily:** In 2020, I watched a series based on travel in Latin America, and felt drawn to go! I don't remember there ever being a

moment where I thought, "yes, this is what I am going to do"; I just kept being drawn back to Latin America and I felt my heart changing.



**Abi:** I want to be involved in a project that's not only an exciting adventure, but also allows me to grow my faith and meet new Christian friends!

**Kate:** I want to use my gap year to serve the Lord, meet new people, explore new places and develop my relationship with God.

**We have been amazed by all that God has done through our members this year, and we want to be a culture that keeps asking and expecting more from him. My next question to our lovely**

**Steppers is this: what are you excited for and hoping for from God?**

**Kate:** I hope that God will teach me to trust in him for everything, and that I'll learn to live more fearlessly and faithfully.

**Jessie:** I'm looking forward to spending time with the rest of my amazing Step team and growing in faith and learning with them.

**Abi:** I'm excited to be immersed in the local community and learn about their culture!

**Lily:** I'm excited about meeting the community we will be working with, getting to know the people of the local church, learning from and worshipping Jesus with them.

*I hope that God will teach me to trust in him for everything*

#### So how can we pray for you?

**Abi:** Please pray for peace and spiritual growth for our team.

**Kate:** Please pray for our health and safety out there.

**Lily:** Please pray against homesickness, and that we'll build connections quickly despite the language barrier!

**JOANNA:** As I hear from the Steppers, I wonder what I am expecting from God for them? That their faith will be deepened as they rely on God; that they will see him in new ways - in both the everyday and in big miraculous moments. Above all, I hope that they return from this trip bigger and bolder versions of who God has made them to be, and with a new heart to get stuck into his mission, wherever they go next.

## WHAT'S THEIR MISSION?



The Santo Domingo team getting ready to welcome Steppers

This team will work alongside La Primera Iglesia Bautista de Santo Domingo (First Baptist Church of Santo Domingo).

In 2018 a family from the church donated a plot of land to create a campamento (camp) in memory of their eldest son who died in a motorcycle accident.

The vision is for the campamento to be a place for church groups to take retreats in the countryside – opportunities to get away from everyday life, focus on God and strengthen friendships.

*The Step team's mission is to help push it forward*

Due to the pandemic and other urgent priorities the project hasn't got very far yet. The Step team's mission is to help push it forward, helping local builders and church members to construct the cabins and clearing ground for a sports pitch and footpaths.

They may also visit the village primary school and help with English and other classes - developing relationships with this community that the church can pick up.

At the weekends, the team will get involved with the church's young people's groups.

Throughout their stay, Short Term Coordinator Abby Murphy will be looking out for them. She's excited for all that God's got planned.

"Step teams are a great way of partnering alongside longer-term involvement to bring fresh ideas, perspectives and energy to encourage the church and local projects. It's so lovely to see members of the church here excited about meeting the team and touched that a group of people want to come all the way over to Ecuador to help. I can't wait for the team to experience the warmth of the Ecuadorean people and culture. It's a reminder that God invites us all to play our different parts in his mission!"



## Track the Step team's progress

The Step team will be regularly updating their blog while they're in Ecuador at [latinlink.org.uk/step-reports](http://latinlink.org.uk/step-reports). Check in on them to find out what happens next! Or to learn more about joining a Step team of your own, flick to the back cover or this magazine.



# Two years in Brazil

**SUZ ROTHWELL**, A QUALIFIED TEACHER FROM THE UK, SHARES SOME REFLECTIONS ON HER TWO-YEAR STRIDE PLACEMENT IN RECIFE, BRAZIL.

## HOW I DISCOVERED STRIDE



From a young age, I have had a heart for helping vulnerable people, particularly those from countries and communities less privileged than my own.

Years ago, I joined a group from my church on a six-week Step team to Peru.

Our time there was amazing. I felt I was doing exactly what I had always wanted to do.

Returning home, life went on as normal. But when my circumstances changed, I began to rethink what I was doing, and started reaching out to mission organisations. I hadn't realised that you could serve long-term with Latin Link on social action projects but, when they shared all the opportunities available, I just knew Stride was the right thing. I was excited again about what I could be doing with my life.

## GOD DID IMMEASURABLY MORE

On my Stride placement in Brazil, I worked for a children's project called *Vale do Senhor*, specifically with about 32 teenage girls from a disadvantaged neighbourhood. We had Bible studies, science experiments, swimming lessons and art. You might remember from the last *Latinfile* that we started up literacy classes for these teenagers and it expanded to include some of their parents who learned to read for the first time! That was one way I saw God do immeasurably more than I'd planned.

I also saw God meeting needs when we prayed. We received food donations just when we needed them. One time we were given enough blankets for every single child and teenager to keep warm in the rainy season. And when the well broke – which provided the project and neighbouring homes with water – somebody gave us exactly the right amount of money to fix it.

I experienced God doing more in people's lives than they'd imagined. Adrieli is one girl I really saw

flourish over the course of a year. I don't know how she found out about our club, but she went from being a shy, quiet girl to being a role model and leader. Now she's 17, the project has employed her to teach the younger children. She may even take up an apprenticeship with a legal firm from the city who visited and saw her potential. It was amazing to be part of her journey.

## BIGGER THAN YOURSELF

I would absolutely recommend Stride! It's an incredible opportunity to give to something bigger than yourself. It's brilliant to learn about another culture, another way of life and to challenge yourself. I really grew in self-awareness during my time in Brazil, which has been a big positive for me.

But you have to be prepared for the reality of life in the sort of communities you may work in. Some things can be frustrating, difficult and hard to witness. Also, expect the unexpected! When I arrived, I had such great plans, and then the world went into a lockdown. Even though it was tough and frustrating, I found out that God had planned different things for me to do.

## DISCOVER YOUR CALLING

Like Suz, have you noticed God nudging you to explore mission? Find out whether our Stride programme is the right thing for you.

Stride is designed for committed Christians who feel drawn to put their faith into practice in a Latin American culture. You'll work alongside a church or Christian-run project, responding to local needs and getting involved in the local community.

Placements are bespoke, tailored to your gifts, skills and sense of God's calling. So we'll place you in a project or ministry where you can best serve.

### There are several options to choose from

#### Stride placement: 6-24 months

- For individuals, couples and families
- Serve in a cross-cultural Latin American mission setting

#### Student: Medical elective: 6-8 weeks

- For individuals studying medicine at university
- You'll get to serve in a Latin American hospital setting or medical institution



## WHAT'S NEXT AFTER STRIDE?

I arrived back in the UK with a heart full of Brazil and the community I'd been in, and I began praying about what was next for me. I believed that if I was to return to Brazil I needed to be committed to the longer term or not go back at all. I got involved in some brilliant social action projects here with my church, but I still feel that I am being called to go back to Recife.

I have been having lots of conversations and praying with people about the idea. I've decided to 'push the door' and apply to Latin Link for their long-term programme 'Stay' – if it all comes together I'll know God is in it.

### Student: Language Year: 6-12 months

- For individuals studying Spanish or Portuguese at university
- Work alongside a Christian-run project; become fully immersed in the local culture; improve and use your language skills

### Student: Bible college: 6-8 weeks

- For Bible college students
- Spend your cross-cultural placement seeing God at work in Latin America

### Sabbatical placements: 6-8 weeks

- Individuals looking to spend their sabbatical in a mission setting
- Partner in God's global mission in Latin America



## Take the leap!

If you're ready to apply for Stride, or just curious, please get in touch. You can chat with our Short-Term Coordinator Joanna McCree at a time that suits you, with all your ideas, questions or concerns. Email: [stride@latinlink.org.uk](mailto:stride@latinlink.org.uk) Phone: 0118 957 7112 To apply now, download the application form from [latinlink.org.uk/stride](http://latinlink.org.uk/stride).

# Growing Up Between Cultures

It's often said that Third Culture Kids can fit in anywhere, but belong nowhere. Many children of cross-cultural mission workers do not feel fully at home in either their parent's native culture or the host culture where they're growing up.

Latin Link's Hannah and Tim Flatman think about this a lot. Their two young children have crossed cultures several times. Now Hannah has written a book to help Third Culture Kids flourish through the challenge of transitioning to a new place. **Hannah explains...**

My kids won't have the childhood I had. My experience of growing up in a small village in the English countryside, celebrating birthdays together with the same family and friends each year, isn't theirs. They transitioned between continents several times in their early years, said difficult goodbyes and went through culture shock and reverse culture shock, again and again. I had a wonderful childhood... and so do they! But also a challenging one. They are Missionary Kids.



## A WONDERFUL BUT CHALLENGING CHILDHOOD

Like other Third Culture Kids (TCKs), many Missionary Kids live a part of their childhood between two or more worlds. They may not know or feel they belong to the country of their parents or their passport. A significant chunk of their formative years has been lived outside of it.

My kids' experiences as TCKs have made them more emotionally mature, independent, big-hearted, concerned about global issues and politics (aged 4!), and they will soon be fully bilingual. Our girl made visits from our home in North-East Brazil to Guatemala, South Sudan, Kenya and the UK before she was two. Our boy was born in rural Brazil and calls me *mamãe* rather than mum.

*"Our girl lives in Brazil and visited Guatemala, South Sudan, Kenya and the UK before she was two."*

However, alongside the incredible and exciting experiences there are challenges. One of the biggest is transition. Saying goodbye without knowing when they will see friends and family again; grieving 'what could have been' each time they leave somewhere.

An increasing number of young adult TCKs are now realising the impact, both positive and negative, that those years continue to have on them. They may get restless after being in the same place for more than a few years, have difficulty maintaining deep, long-lasting relationships, or are only later processing traumas and losses from those early years.

I have been reading Lauren Wells' *Raising up a Generation of Healthy Third Culture Kids* together with other Latin Link parents. It's been helpful to share our experiences and also think about preventative care together. We know that the way we as parents and caregivers help guide our children is carried forward into their adult lives.



## WHY I WROTE A FISH OUT OF WATER

A couple of years ago I wrote our little girl a short story to help prepare her for a visit to the UK. It would be another significant cross-cultural move to a new place - the UK is not her home.

*A Fish out of Water* is about a little fish called Bia, who struggles to make a new place feel like home. With the help of a new friend she talks about culture shock and moving and understands that her home is ultimately with our Creator God.

*"One of their biggest challenges is transition."*

Having been thinking and talking about the experiences of TCKs, we decided we wanted to share the story with others. After some work, it's happening! *A Fish out of Water* is now available to buy on Amazon - so caregivers all over the world can use it as a conversation starter with young children going through these cross-cultural transitions.

A friend recently shared with me the delight of some Ecuadorian missionary children in Scotland as they read *A Fish out of Water* again and again.

In many ways those kids have more in common with my children than with the peers around them. They share the 'third culture' of a culture-crossing childhood. Indeed, Third Culture Kids often find it easiest to relate to one another, wherever in the world they've grown up.

## ANCHORS AND SAILS

As parents, we want our little ones to value connection and learn how to anchor themselves to a place through deep relationships, traditions, and a sense of belonging. We teach them this even though we know that the more rooted they feel, the harder the goodbyes are - because it's better to have genuine, healthy relationships than to harden your heart and distance yourself from others to avoid painful partings.

At the same time, we increasingly give them sails: opportunities to grow in independence, and the confidence to go out into the world and try new things. Anchors and sails; roots and wings. Transitions are neither positive or negative in themselves. It is what we make of them, and how we navigate our children through them, that helps them grow strong and resilient.

*"We give them anchors and sails to grow strong and resilient."*

I hope that *A Fish out of Water* will do just that: be a useful tool to help families with young children going through cross-cultural transitions to have conversations together, growing anchors and sails. I hope it will be a blessing to the missions community. And I hope it will be read snuggled up together after a long day unpacking or language learning; a moment of refuge in the midst of the stresses of moving.



To buy a copy of *A Fish out of Water*, search for Hannah Flatman on Amazon.



# Maribel

## TURNS THE LIGHTS ON IN MANCHESTER

MARIBEL BEYUMA CHAO HAS BEEN ON A MISSION HER WHOLE LIFE, BUT NOW SHE HAS FOLLOWED JESUS ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE WORLD.

The Christmas tree at St Hilda's Church in Manchester only needed five meters of Christmas lights to cover it. So when 50 meters turned up, there was a bit of confusion. By the time the pastor realised his mistake, members of the church were already getting creative with the abundance of unexpected lights!

Maribel, the church's Incoming Mission member from Bolivia, was delighted. God had delivered

much more than they had asked or imagined! They joyfully decorated the entire church building with festive lights until it looked like the most Christmassy place in Manchester.

Laughing, the church agreed that Maribel could try out the Christmas programme she had proposed for the community after all. Perhaps God would do more there as well, despite the pandemic. And he did...



God had delivered much more than they had asked or imagined!

### I'M GOING TO BE A NUN WHEN I GROW UP!

It wasn't easy for Maribel to leave Santa Cruz for a placement in Manchester. She had a successful catering business, a counselling ministry, a flourishing church community, a supportive family, and three beautiful dogs! But God's been leading her on a journey of mission her whole life.

"I grew up in a Catholic school, taught by the sisters - they were some of the best teachers a student could ask for," she says. "As part of our education, we were taught about caring for others. The nuns took us into the community to learn about the needs around us."

Talking with a child on the street, the young Maribel was shocked to hear that their parents had left them alone for the day while they went off to find work. This was worlds away from Maribel's upbringing.

"I knew I wanted to help, so I told my parents I was going to become a nun!" she smiles. "But my parents persuaded me to go to university instead."

In her last year of studying, Maribel met a missionary couple from the USA, who helped her truly get to know Jesus and start to follow him. They also connected Maribel with another missionary working in Bolivia who needed somebody to be a translator as she travelled the country sharing the gospel. Maribel gladly went along; it was an experience that would stick with her.

*"I just couldn't shake off a voice saying, 'don't forget England!'"*

Years later, Maribel got to know a couple of Latin Link members in Bolivia, who asked her to consider a mission placement in the UK. By then, Maribel was very involved in her local church and declined a couple of times. But she just couldn't shake off a voice saying, "don't forget England!"

So one day, Maribel applied to Latin Link. But just as she was due to go to Manchester, the pandemic stopped her getting there. Stuck in Santa Cruz, Maribel set her alarm for 4:30am every Sunday morning so that she could attend St Hilda's Sunday morning service online. She managed to get to know people well from afar and felt a natural connection with this community across the world. She couldn't wait to get there at the end of 2021.

### THIS CHURCH IS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Maribel's home church in Bolivia is always active, with members involved in over 25 ministries around the city. When they see a local need, they get involved; the church is well-known as a lynchpin in the community.

It was a surprise for Maribel to discover a different situation in Manchester. Although full of passionate, long-serving members, St Hilda's didn't have the support or resources to reach the community in the same way.

The first time she visited a local primary school with others from St Hilda's, the headteacher told them that the church wasn't that important to people anymore. They had been going into that school every week for years to share Bible stories - but there wasn't a connection beyond that.

With her experience from Santa Cruz, Maribel knew that the church could be so much more to these children and their families - they just needed to build relationships.



Maribel's Bolivian sending church

That's when Maribel had her Christmas idea. "I love Christmas!" she says. "I wanted to develop a programme of festive activities for the community, bringing church to them." But with the pandemic still rumbling on, the church weren't so sure. They thought that a lot of people still wouldn't want to come to events.

It took the abundant Christmas lights to give them a new sense of optimism and agree to give it a try. And God did much more than St Hilda's had dared to hope. The parents did come; they brought their kids along, chatted, had a lot of festive fun, and seemed pleasantly surprised to find out about the church and what was going on there. People from inside and outside of the church started to connect.

### BUT WHO WILL GO?

"Our pastor at St Hilda's has a lot of dreams to grow and to reach more people. But who will do the work?" Maribel asks. "We need to train people and prepare the church for what God clearly wants to do."

She believes the key to the strength of her church in Santa Cruz is good discipleship; helping each Christian to truly understand their identity in God and put their spiritual gifts to use for his kingdom.

*"We need to prepare the church for what God clearly wants to do."*

Missionaries took the time to invest in Maribel in this way when she was a new Christian at university. Now on mission herself, she felt called to pay it forward. With the church's support, she set up three new discipleship groups at St Hilda's. She hopes some of the fruit of this will be a renewed connection with the local community and its needs.

## THROUGH DIFFERENT EYES

One of the reasons St Hilda's church has hosted several Latin American mission workers is that it has a growing community of Spanish speakers. But some of them don't feel confident making friends with the English speakers across the language and culture barrier.



Maribel is just the right person to help. "I know that part of God's call is for me to connect people of different cultures," she says. "Back when I travelled around Bolivia translating for that mission worker, I was connecting her with the communities we visited. In Manchester, I can do the same thing connecting these two cultures within the church. They're all parts of one body. I've put English and Spanish speakers into one of my discipleship groups together because that's a great place for them to form deep friendships."

She's also seeing the wider community through different eyes than the rest of the church. For instance, Maribel heard about Fatima from Ecuador who can't go to church right now because she has a baby, and some of the church's creche facilities are still closed due to the pandemic. She's often found herself isolated and had prayed that she could get to know more about God and meet more English people.

Maribel stepped in and invited her and her baby to join the discipleship group. It's had a really positive impact on her life.

As a Latin American living in the UK, Fatima is often checked in on by a secular organisation that supports Latin families through transition. When they asked how she was coping recently, Fatima was excited to tell them about her new church family, the discipleship group, and the new English-

speaking friends she's made. The organisation were surprised and are now keen to learn how the church could support other Latin migrants in Manchester. It's another new door that St Hilda's hadn't expected God to open.

## WHY THE UK CHURCH NEEDS MORE MARIBELS

Our churches have much to gain from the experience and passion of the Latin American Church.

For some time, Latin Link has had a vision to enable more Latin Americans to serve here; to expand our multidirectional mission and send God's people 'from everywhere to everywhere'.

For Maribel, these last few months in Manchester have made her want to encourage her Bolivian friends to look beyond their own culture too. They love God, they serve him, they engage with mission throughout their city, country, and continent. But Maribel now sees the need for Latin Americans to go even further - 'to the ends of the earth.'

*"The church in Bolivia is alive right now. We have the right tools."*

"We have the right tools, we have the love of the Lord, the passion, the fire," she says. "The church in Bolivia is alive right now. Only a few years ago, we came together across denominations and held mass prayer gatherings on the streets every day when the president tried to ignore the election results - and many people became Christians. I'd love to help more people bring that energy over to the UK."



*Is your church ready for a Latin perspective?*

Start a conversation with our Incoming Mission team today about hosting a mission worker like Maribel from Latin America. [info@latinlink.org.uk](mailto:info@latinlink.org.uk) 0118 957 7100

# Leading The Way Forward

INTRODUCING LATIN LINK'S NEW LEADERS!

This February we welcomed...

New International Team Leader: **Suzanne Potter**

New Team Leader for Latin Link Britain and Ireland: **Terry Lockyer**



Suzanne Potter

## ABOUT SUZANNE:

Suzanne has worked with Latin Link in Guatemala for nearly 15 years in a variety of roles, including serving on Latin Link's International Core Team.

She felt called to mission as a teenager in Devon. She's gained a BA in Latin American Studies,

a Diploma in Christian Youth Ministry and an MA in Contemporary Missiology. Suzanne loves creativity and open water swimming - whatever the weather!

## Her vision:

Suzanne has a strong vision to adapt and restructure Latin Link for the realities of mission in a post-colonial, post-Covid world. A part of this is helping Latin Link become more Latin American - increasing the number of mission workers we send from Latin America, and championing diversity at each level of the organisation.

She also has a heart to partner with and serve Latin American migrants more, wherever they are - particularly across Europe.

## She says:

"I'm pleased to be working with a great new International Core Team: Ruth Turner, Thomas Weber, Mike Fernandez, Vicky Valladares and Tim Flatman. We are in the middle of a time of great change in the world and in missions, and want to be attentive to what God is doing and how he is leading us. I'm aware that change can be uncomfortable and even scary, so we'll spend a lot of time supporting our teams as we adapt for the future."



Terry Lockyer

## ABOUT TERRY:

After a Step team experience in 1997, Terry returned to Brazil and worked with his wife Simone there for 12 years, including as Brazil Team Leader. Terry has been Head of Programmes at Latin Link Britain and Ireland for the last four

years and has been our interim Team Leader for several months.

Originally from Bristol, Terry left his work in engineering after feeling called to mission. He gained a BA and MTh in Applied Theology and a Post Graduate in Development Management, and is an accredited Baptist minister. When Terry's not leading the team, he's often immersed in a DIY project, taking his motorbike for a spin, or dreaming of skiing!

## He says:

"Over the previous two years, we've faced many obstacles, changes, and heaps of uncertainty. We have all had to

learn new ways of working. I'm excited for the opportunity to lead the Britain and Ireland team in this next season, knowing that God is guiding us into a new and previously unimagined world of mission."



*Pray*

for Suzanne and Terry as they settle into their new roles. Pray they will both hear from God as they lead Latin Link onwards.

# MAKE A *Flying Start* TO FUNDRAISING



From extreme sports challenges, to hosting quiz nights - fundraising is a fantastic way of getting involved in the life and ministry of Latin Link. The stories told throughout *Latinfile* are possible because of the generous donations received, so fundraising really does impact the future of mission.

And anyone can do it! You don't have to be involved in other ways to become a fundraiser. If you're passionate about getting active for God's mission, here's how you can get started...

## JOIN IN WITH **COMMUNITY CHALLENGES!**

This year, the North to South: Community Challenge has become a focus for many keen Latin Link fundraisers. It has provided a way for people to raise support alongside others from the Latin Link community - at the same time and for the same cause.

As part of the challenge, participants have been collectively covering the length of Latin America by walking, running, swimming, cycling, and even skiing! That's an impressive 15,000km, equivalent to the distance between Mexico to Chile. At the time of writing, with around 30 people involved, over 70% of the distance has been covered and £16,000 raised together.



Since the event began in November 2021, Abel has clocked up a staggering 1,200km alone through daily walking.

"I loved taking part in Latin Link's fundraiser. It gave me a reason to believe I could make a difference. When I felt like quitting, I was motivated by knowing that others were facing the same challenges, and that we were all pushing ourselves for a much greater purpose!"

"I loved taking part in Latin Link's fundraiser. It gave me a reason to believe I could make a difference."



Visit [latinlink.org.uk/north-to-south](https://latinlink.org.uk/north-to-south) to see how the challenge is progressing. We might still need your help to cover some kilometres and get us over the finish line.

## MAKE YOUR OWN CHALLENGE

Are you one for testing your limits and taking on crazy challenges? How about setting up an individual fundraising challenge in aid of Latin Link's work. Ideas include long-distance events like marathons and triathlons, or team challenges like climbing Snowdon or bungee jumps.

In the past, we've even seen a few brave individuals raise money through skydives and sponsored leg waxes! So get creative and find a challenge that fits your sense of adventure.

## HOST A FUNDRAISING EVENT

If excessive exercise or adrenaline-fuelled activities aren't your thing, hosting an event can provide an effective way to raise money and share your heart for Latin America.

While raising money for her Step team placement, Ali has decided to host a 'Latin Night' in her church.

With piñatas, salsa dancing and a selection of fun Latin American cuisines, it's set to be a hit with her friends and family! As well as raising money, Ali hopes the event will provide an insight into the work she'll be doing in Argentina, and get others passionate about Latin American mission.

Whether you want to create a quiz night, a coffee morning, a charity football match or an old-school lemonade stand, our website is full of resources to inspire and equip you as you think about hosting a fundraising event.

## WE'RE READY WHEN YOU ARE!

If you're ready with your fundraising idea, it's time to set up your all-in-one fundraising page! You can create a personalised page on our website for free. It's a great hub which lets you keep track of donations and regularly update your support base with photos, videos and newsfeed posts. It works in the same way as a JustGiving page, but it's set up through the Latin Link website, which means less admin costs and more money raised for mission.



## Next step

Create your fundraising page today by scanning the QR code, or heading straight to [latinlink.org.uk/fundraise](https://latinlink.org.uk/fundraise).



# Step into the Story

Want to get more involved with Latin Link? Here are some of the ways to connect with and serve as part of our community. Whether you're in Latin America, the UK or beyond, we want to help you step into the story of God's mission, and explore the 'immeasurably more' that he can do through you.

## This year's events

2022 sees the return of in-person events for Latin Link, as well as exciting online gatherings, to help connect the Latin Link community near and far. Here's what's coming up!

### INSPIRE SCOTLAND

**7 May 2022**

Gather with the Latin Link family in Perth for worship, testimony, and fellowship. Get to know mission workers sent from, and working in, Scotland and be re-inspired to step into God's immeasurably more.

### INSPIRE IRELAND

**28 May 2022**

Take a trip to Bangor for the Ireland Inspire event! Hear from mission

workers sent from Ireland, all about their ministry and the ways they've stepped into God's story in Latin America. A special time of community, prayer, and inspiration awaits.

### INSPIRE ONLINE – BRITAIN AND IRELAND

**30 June 2022**

June's Inspire Online event is set to be a captivating evening of stories, worship, prayer and a biblical reflection. This is an event for everyone, everywhere, offering the chance to explore the immeasurably more that God is doing through Latin mission.

### LATIN WORSHIP NIGHT: CHRISTMAS

**12 December 2022**

Mark your calendars early, our Latin American Worship Night is back on YouTube and Facebook this Christmas! It's an opportunity to celebrate Jesus together, with popular carols and worship songs in Spanish, Portuguese and English. Discover all that God is doing in and through the Latin Link community.

Find everything you need to know at [latinlink.org.uk/events](https://latinlink.org.uk/events)

## A growing team of volunteers

Latin Link has a vision to create a national team of volunteers across Britain and Ireland, to help inspire others to engage with mission and create opportunities for people to step into God's story - by praying, giving and going. We would love you to join in!

You can be a part of this growing team of mission-minded people, by becoming a Mobiliser or Story-sharer.

*"Being a Latin Link mobiliser has been a great opportunity to share my heart for Latin America, to impassion my church, and to continuously reflect on and learn from my own experience of mission"*  
- Amelia, Mobiliser since 2019.

### WHAT'S INVOLVED?

**Mobilisers and Story-sharers play a unique role in raising awareness of Latin Link's work.** The team connects together once a term to hear what's going on in Latin America, discover new opportunities for sharing about Latin Link's ministry, and receive useful training and inspiration from Latin Link mission workers.

**Mobilisers** are people with a passion for global mission. You might have been away with Latin Link on a Step team or Stride placement, and are looking for a way to inspire others. Maybe you support a mission worker or are considering going on mission in the future. By becoming a mobiliser, you'll be able to use your natural enthusiasm to encourage others. We'll help you to utilise your gifts, whether it's your creativity, musical flair, ability to

organise events, speak in public, or pull together a brilliant fundraiser. We will find you opportunities to represent Latin Link at various events or gatherings - anything from local church or CU events, to national festivals like Big Church Day Out.



**Story-sharers** are people who want to tell their own story of mission. If you've been on a Step team or Stride placement, sharing your testimony is an amazing way to inspire the next generation. We'll help you find opportunities to share where you feel comfortable. That could be as simple as sharing stories on social media, writing something for our website or *Latinfile*, or it could be speaking at your local church, missions event, or creating a video for us. Many people come back from mission with powerful stories to tell, so by becoming a Story-sharer you'll be able to continue using your experiences to empower others.

### HOW CAN YOU BECOME PART OF THE TEAM?

Chat with us! If you've got questions, or just want to hear more, please use the details below to get in touch.



**Esther Stansfield**

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**Mike Fernandez**

Scotland Coordinator  
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# EXPLORE MORE *this Summer*



Make the most of your summer by joining a Latin Link Step team. Go and serve alongside incredible Christian-run projects in Latin America, helping them as they share God's love and hope in their communities.

- > **Go as a team**
- > **Go on a new adventure**
- > **Go and make lifelong friendships**
- > **Go and be a part of what God is doing in Latin America**



**Apply today >>**

[Latinlink.org.uk/summer-step-teams](https://Latinlink.org.uk/summer-step-teams)

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