

Issue No. 50

Latinfile

THE MAGAZINE OF CONTEMPORARY LATIN MISSION



Latin Link
COMMUNITY WITH A CALLING



JOYFUL IN HOPE

50th edition of *Latinfile*

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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.

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A MOMENT TO REFLECT



How long have you been a reader of *Latinfile*? Perhaps this is the first time you've come across the magazine, or maybe you picked up your first copy in the year 2000, when it all began.

No matter when you first found us, in this

copy, we're celebrating a marvellous milestone together: 50 editions of *Latinfile*!

As with any milestone, it offers a moment to reflect on where we've come from, as well as look to where we're going.

'Mission' is an ever-evolving term, and our work aims to serve an ever-evolving culture. Latin America isn't the same as it was 22 years ago, and Latin Link faces the challenge and joy of adapting ministries to meet a new set of needs and opportunities. In his 20+ years of service with Latin Link, Ian Darke has seen plenty of changes in the Latin American church, but the need for Bible resources and other good books is more pressing than ever. In the following pages, we explore new resources hoping to make an impact (p. 4).

Two decades ago, mental health was misunderstood and rarely acknowledged in mission work. Craig and Amanda Cunningham share their personal experience

of burnout whilst in Bolivia, and explain how God showed up and flipped the narrative (p.6).

For Bhoke, the call to Mexico felt slightly beyond reach for years. Read how her patience and prayerfulness has left a lasting impression (p.8).

In the stories shared, members face individual challenges as they endeavour to share God's love and hope through their ministries. But through prayer and perseverance, God's faithfulness never ceases to reveal itself. Take heart in seeing His mighty hand at work.

As always in *Latinfile*, we're excited to share about new and upcoming opportunities to get more involved; to step into God's big story of mission. Whether you're interested in sharing your story or considering a mission placement, there's a way for you to get started – see the final pages (p.15).

From all of us at Latin Link, thank you for being part of *Latinfile*'s 50th edition. We hope you're inspired by it.

Here's to 50 more!

Will Pitchfork
Head of Communications

Be **joyful in hope**, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
Romans 12:12



SOUL FOOD

BOOKS TO NOURISH THE LATIN AMERICAN CHURCH

Over the two thousand years of Christian history, books that help us to understand and apply the Bible have been central to the growth of healthy churches.

The first people to take the gospel to Latin America understood this. In those early days, Christian bookshops were opened in Brazil and Peru, *colporteurs* carried books into the Andean mountains, and a Christian book van travelled the length of Argentina.



Latin America's hunger to study

Today quality Christian books that are relevant to Latin American life are still vitally important... but they can be hard to find.

Latin Link's Ian Darke comments: "all the church leaders I know in the UK have wonderful libraries of books, including commentaries, pastoral guides and materials on ethical challenges.

"It's so different for my pastor friends in Latin America. They have far fewer books and resources, less — if any — training from a Bible college, and yet with these scanty resources they have to deal with all the challenges of leading a growing church in a complex world. To make matters worse, some of the few 'Christian' books available in Latin America are superficial to the point of being useless or clearly unbiblical. For the Latin American church to grow strong and deep in faith, it needs good nourishment.

"That's why I've spent decades working with publishing ministries across the continent — ministries that aim to produce materials that are Biblical, accessible and truly speak to the Latin American church context."

We asked Ian to explain more about the impact of a good book.



WHAT'S THE MOST EXCITING BOOK YOU'VE WORKED ON?

Ian: One of the most significant projects I've been involved with is the Latin American Bible Commentary (*Comentario Bíblico Contemporáneo*).

Back in 2007 a group of senior leaders of the Latin American church came together to share their concern that there were just too few resources to help Latin Americans study the Bible deeply. Yes, there were commentaries in Spanish and Portuguese. But these were translations and from another culture. UK readers may know the feeling of reading a Christian book that feels 'too American,' with examples and illustrations we don't understand. They can be hard to relate to. It's like that with many Christian resources here, which feel 'too foreign'. Latin American church leaders needed something that came from and spoke to their own culture.

It was an ambitious project that involved over 100 Latin American theologians. The whole team was passionate about the project, because without a resource like this, strange, unhelpful and inaccurate Bible teaching easily takes root in churches.

After 12 years the Spanish edition was finally published in 2019, so distribution began just before the pandemic. Last year, the Portuguese edition for Brazil was published at long last. Distribution is an ongoing challenge - getting the commentary to church leaders and other Christians in every region across the whole of Latin America. Most need a printed copy, but some can access digital versions, which we are also offering.



WHAT ARE THE NEXT CHALLENGES FOR CHRISTIAN PUBLISHING IN LATIN AMERICA?

Ian: As well as encouraging and supporting writers, we need to inform churches of what is available. This may sound simple, but is a challenge. Publishers need more people with communication and 'marketing' skills.

Then once they know of a good book, they need to get hold of it. With no equivalent to Amazon, distribution is a challenge. When shipping books between the countries of Latin America you soon discover that each country has its own import and customs duty requirements, for example! One of our main concerns now is to foster a love of books and reading within Christian families. Our network of Christian publishers, *Letra Viva*, has found that the value of reading is often underplayed in families and churches. This is sad since good reading habits contribute so much to children's development as well as everyone's spiritual growth.

The publishers of *Letra Viva* have just worked together to produce 'Pass Me Another Book', a simple guide to reading the Bible and good books, for Latin Americans, by Latin Americans. It's full of practical hints for families and churches and we hope it has an impact across the continent.



COULD YOU USE SOME HELP?

Ian: Most of the Christian publishers in *Letra Viva* are still small and need more gifted Latin American writers and editors — I'd love you to pray about that. And if there were an experienced publishing professional who would like to serve in Latin America then I could certainly use a colleague!



For Latin Americans, by Latin Americans

PRAY

For God to raise up more gifted Christian writers, editors and publishers to nourish the Church across Latin America.

That 'Pass me another book' would encourage a love of reading in homes and churches.

HOW GOD USED OUR BURNOUT

By Craig Cunningham, Latin Link Bolivia



"I'M A MISSION WORKER. I LOVE TRAVEL. I LOVE NEW CULTURAL EXPERIENCES. I LOVE MEETING NEW PEOPLE. But I didn't want to go to Guatemala!"



Trinidad Cathedral, Beni

It was January 2018, and nothing made sense any more. My wife, Amanda, didn't want to go to work. In fact, all she wanted to do was stay in bed. We couldn't understand what was happening. And our confusion was nothing compared to our Bolivian neighbours and colleagues; the term 'mental health' meant nothing to them.

All we had to work with was a recent diagnosis from a missionary health organisation who said we had 'compassion fatigue' – a form of burnout. To hear those words was shocking at the time, but with hindsight, it should have come as no surprise.

"The words 'compassion fatigue' were shocking"

As well as being happy travellers, people like us are givers by nature. We are happy serving others, following our servant king. That was certainly the case for Amanda and me working in Trinidad, Bolivia. It was the kind of remote place where you had to 'expect the unexpected' every day. Being young and adventurous, we were often first on the scene to help. Our regular work was dominated by young people on the margins, who also needed a lot of input and emotional support.

None of that is a problem in itself. But Jesus beckons his followers, not only to serve, but to 'come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest' (Mark 6:31) – we just didn't pay much attention to that bit.

Five years in, we adopted our son at eight months old, without dropping a single major element of our work. We should have taken a break, but believed all these ministries depended on us. Without taking time to recharge, we started running on empty, but didn't really realise what was going on.

So two years later, there we were with tickets in hand for the 2018 Latin Link International Assembly in Guatemala. We did not want to go. Confused, demoralised and bitter, it's fair to say that as we boarded the plane, the last place we wanted to be was around a bunch of – and these were our words! – 'happy clappy missionaries'.

"We believed all our ministries depended on us"

But it turned out to be one of the most important weeks of our lives.

It was our first time meeting many of the other Latin Link members. As we started to talk with them, it became clear that they were not a 'happy clappy' bunch with perfect lives. Most of them really understood the need to look after your own mental health and wellbeing when you work in such a demanding context every day.

Latin Link members knew the danger of burnout, and supported one another to avoid it. Moreover, the organisation as a whole seemed to have a keen awareness of the importance of 'member care' in averting such crises. Once I opened up, I was greatly blessed at the Assembly, and we spent a beautiful afternoon with the Bolivia Team, simply being prayed for.

"Once I opened up, I was greatly blessed"

Latin Link and LAM Canada (our other sending organisation) took our situation very seriously. They pulled us out of our ministries in Trinidad for six months to spend time on counselling and recovering our strength. To 'givers' like us, doing less took some getting used to, but it was exactly the right advice, and we slowly recovered.

Around this time, I was made aware of a long-vacant pastoral position at an international church in Santa Cruz, Bolivia's largest and fastest-growing city. We prayerfully decided to submit an application, and within a few months of our return to Bolivia we were packing up our belongings for a new start.



The Latin Link Bolivia team

Sometimes when you're recovering from burnout, a big change isn't the best idea. But in our case, it proved to be just what we needed. Now we were in a place with more infrastructure, where the people were more independent. And crucially, we were part of a sizeable community of international Christian workers; people who understood what it was like to be in cross-cultural ministry.

I was able to continue my work supporting pastors with the Langham Preaching programme, and Amanda began to serve as Bolivia's Stride Coordinator.

Settled in Santa Cruz, it took me a few months to appreciate what had just happened, and what God had really done. I was now pastoring a congregation which included a large number of cross-cultural workers like us, who faced all the same challenges and potential pitfalls we'd just been through.

"God equipped us through this experience"

In other words, God, as usual, had used a really difficult experience for something good. He had equipped us to minister to others, give them good guidance, and – who knows? – perhaps save them from their own 'Guatemala moments'!

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Romans 11:33

VIDEO REFLECTION

Maybe Craig and Amanda's experience of burnout is familiar to you. Whether you're in or considering cross-cultural mission work, serving in Christian ministry at home, or simply caught up in the business of life, the need to pause, to follow Jesus 'to a quiet place and rest', is a crucial part of our self-care.



Craig unpacks the importance of Mark 6:31 in a short video devotional (6-min). Click the play button or visit latinlink.org.uk/get-some-rest to watch and reflect.

A BUMPY RIDE TO MEXICO



Photo - Shadyakov Studio

Bhoke Magotti had been trying to get to Mexico for a 6-month Stride placement since 2017. First, there was a long challenge to fundraise all the support she needed. Then there was a pandemic. After that, lengthy issues to do with her Tanzanian passport. It was not plain sailing.

And when she finally flew out to Mexico this year, having overcome all those obstacles – there was yet another hurdle waiting for her at border control.

What does it mean when the path you thought God told you to take turns out to be so bumpy? Bhoke reflects on what she learned.



Volunteers at Casa del Sol

THE FINAL HURDLE

After five years, I've finally arrived in Mexico. It's late at night, I've got off the plane at Mexico City airport and can't believe I've made it! All I have to do now is walk through immigration.

Then the guy says, you can't stay here for six months, no, I can only give you 30 days.

What?! I definitely had permission, but there was no convincing them. 30 days was stamped in my passport and that was that.

Yet another obstacle to being in Mexico. Of course, I battled with thoughts that I'd done the wrong thing or I was on the wrong path. Why was everything so difficult? But I'd had four years of persevering with this and I'd become very used to uncertainty. I decided to just do my best for however long I had, and set off for my placement.

JOYFUL IN HOPE

My Stride placement was at Casa del Sol, a children's home in Puebla, home to around 70 babies, children and young people.

When I arrived, fresh from my immigration disaster, I suddenly felt amazing. I couldn't believe I was seeing this place in real life. I used to look at pictures on the website and try to imagine it. The first day, I kept realising, "wow, I'm actually in Mexico, and I'm speaking Spanish to people!"

"prayer gave me a reason to persevere and a reason to hope"

As I had experience with children's work, I thought I might have to lead activities. But what Casa del Sol

really needed was a willing volunteer who could be there every day to support the team in any way. Honestly, in a new culture, that was a relief! It was good for me to step back and just learn from people.

I particularly enjoyed the calm routine with the babies and imagining who might find and adopt them. But for 30 days I still didn't know how long I would be there. In the uncertainty, prayer became so important.

FAITHFUL IN PRAYER

I quickly learned that prayer was a big part of Latin Link. I would see my name on ePrayer and was positively surprised that so many people were praying for me through all the dramas. When my story was in the last *Latinfile*, a stranger emailed me saying, "can I join your prayer letter?"

Every day, I was learning to persevere in prayer. When we pray, sometimes we think, "okay, things are going to ease up now," but that didn't always happen. But prayer gave me a reason to persevere and hope.

At times I thought, "I was called to this, shouldn't things be easier?" But living abroad isn't easy. For one, there's a new language to grapple with. And the weather – it was the dry season and I spent a lot of time outside with the children in the heat. I loved them, but their behaviour wasn't always perfect either!

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." (Romans 12:12)

So I just leaned into prayer. There's one verse that says about being patient in affliction, faithful in prayer, so I knew this wasn't out of the ordinary. It's not a bad sign if things aren't going perfectly.

I learned that God is so good and that he leads us. He won't lead us astray into a path that is full of trouble and hopelessness. His grace is enough, in every situation.

COSTLY LOVE

It wasn't me having a perfect time that spoke to the people around me in Mexico, either. It was the sacrifice and perseverance involved in me being there.

Other volunteers came to the home for two hours or so each day. And I was there nine to five, Monday to Friday, with money I fundraised. Most of the international volunteers had received funding from government programmes. So it was quite interesting for them and the children to hear my story.

"You're here all day? You raised the money too?!"

It touched people, that I'd come so far and invested so much to help. From what I could understand, it really made them feel loved, and showed them how much God valued them.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT

My 30 days were nearly up and there was only one option – travel to neighbouring Belize and go through immigration again in the hope of getting more time. Ever since I applied for Stride, I've learned to hold things lightly. So I was ready to go back to the UK if need be, even though it would have been really sad.

I had no idea what to expect as I passed back through immigration. I didn't say anything different to the first time. But... they gave me 100 more days in Mexico. Amazing!

"It was like the impossible happening"

I was so happy to have more time to really get stuck in at Casa del Sol. And now my doubts were calmed. Were these obstacles signs that I should quit? No, they just showed me what God could overcome.

BUMPY RIDE, INSPIRING STORY

I always tell people my time in Mexico was a dream come true. I will look back on that time forever. And it deepened my faith. It stopped me looking at my weaknesses and thinking I can't do this and that. That I even got there – it was like the impossible happening.

And it's inspired my church in Reading as well. I was the first person to travel abroad for mission, and they've been with me on this bumpy journey for five years, seeing how God can work and provide when you persevere with following his call.



MONEY MATTERS 2021/22

2021/22 INCOME

Where the money came from: **Total £1,674,011**

STAY PROGRAMME

support raised for our long-term members:

£1,144,652

STEP AND STRIDE PROGRAMMES*

support raised for those on short-term mission placements:

£80,868

GENERAL DONATIONS

one-off gifts, regular giving and legacies left by people like you:

£351,170

OTHER INCOME

inc. funding from charitable trusts, rent from our building:

£97,321

2021/22 EXPENDITURE

Where we spent it: **Total £1,702,514**

STAY PROGRAMME

supporting our long-term members with daily living costs, insurance, visas and travel, in-country care, and extra funding for some of their ministries where needed:

£1,409,855

STEP AND STRIDE PROGRAMMES

orientation and debrief, daily living costs, insurance, flights, visas and in-country support for our short-term members, plus funding towards project costs:

£138,821

PUBLICITY, FUNDRAISING AND INCOME GENERATION

the things we need to do in the UK and Ireland to raise funds and mobilise more people into mission – from events to *Latinfile*:

£122,264

GOVERNANCE COSTS

professional fees, electricity, auditing – the boring but vital stuff that allows Latin Link to function:

£31,574

*The difference in income and expenditure was caused by costs incurred whilst not being able to send Steppers and Striders during the pandemic, and increased costs towards the end of financial year as we prepared to send individuals and teams again, now that we are able to do so.

Latin Link Britain and Ireland spends **91%** of its income on our members and their ministries in Latin America.

Only **9%** is spent on staff, fundraising etc. This is small for a charity fundraising in the UK (20%+ is more usual.)

And we don't hold back a huge reserve of funds; we spend our supporters' donations where they're needed.

This 9% is just enough to keep this wonderful global ministry going, but UK inflation is about to hit our costs, just like yours.

READ ONE, FUND ONE!

This is our 50th edition of *Latinfile*.



It costs about £8,000 to produce each edition of *Latinfile*, when you take writing, design, printing and postage into account.

We think it's well worth it.

WHY?

We like to send out immediate prayer requests and news items by email and

social media because they're, well, immediate! But there needs to be a way to share longer, deeper stories with you – about a profound thing God taught somebody through their time in Latin America, or a closer look at the needs of the Latin American Church.

We need a space to give a fuller flavour of what it's like to go on a short-term mission trip with Latin Link or move your life across continents.

To delve into all that, you need a publication you can sit down with, cup of tea in hand, and take your time over. That's what *Latinfile* is for.

LET'S KEEP IT GOING

If you've enjoyed this *Latinfile*, or a previous edition, would you help us keep it going by chipping in £5, £10 or £20? Or if you already give to Latin Link via standing order, would you consider increasing your monthly giving by just a few pounds? No amount is insignificant. Your generosity really goes a long way.

Give online at latinlink.org.uk/donate-latinfile

Or use the response form that came with this magazine.

(If you're eligible to claim Gift Aid, your £10 donation is boosted to £12.50, at no extra cost to you.)

EVERY PENNY COUNTS

We're already doing our best to keep our costs down, to ensure your giving goes further.

One great option has been for us to develop *Latinfile*'s digital presence – making it more widely accessible and easy for people to read, without the need for printing. Hopefully you're enjoying the changes we've made already!

Another way is by reducing the number of pages in each edition – you might have noticed this magazine feels a bit thinner than previous ones; an environmentally conscious step which has the benefit of reducing costs.

We're committed to making sure your generous donations are being used most effectively. We'll use them where they'll make the greatest impact, be it funding the next *Latinfile* or an emergency need that crops up in Latin America.

The last 49 *Latinfile* magazines have inspired many people to take a step of faith and follow God's call to Latin America. They have prompted countless prayers that have powered our work. They have helped raise valuable funds for our members. And they have kept the Church in Britain and Ireland informed about what God is doing in Latin America – a place we don't hear much about on the news. Thank you for being part of it.

NEXT STEPS



JOANNA MCCREE, LATIN LINK'S ASSISTANT HEAD OF PROGRAMMES, TAKES A MOMENT TO REFLECT ON THE VERY FIRST STEP TEAM SHE SENT TO LATIN AMERICA. WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

In July we welcomed a new member of the Programmes Team. Will Catchpole, Programmes Administrator, will be supporting the team with the mountain of admin that is required to keep things running smoothly. The eagle-eyed among you, may recognise Will as a member of our Spring Step team in 2019!

"it's always exciting to hear the impact Step has had on people"

Over the years we have seen hundreds of people -young and old- experience short-term mission in Latin America as part of a Step team. As a naturally (and unashamedly!) nosy person, one of my favourite parts of this job is bumping into past Steppers and hearing

where God has taken them since their time on Step. Running into people at festivals, serendipitously meeting parents or grandparents of previous Steppers, or even having the children of Steppers apply for the programmes; it's always exciting to hear what people are up to and the impact Step has had on them.

You can imagine my delight then, when Will informed me that he and the team are still very close and all getting involved in exciting things around the world. This team is extra special to me as they were my first Step team when I started this role!

Will was part of a team of eight who spent four months in Guatemala: two months in San Juan la Laguna and two months in Alotenango. Here's what some of them are doing three years on...



Darcie Goodey,

Primary School teacher in South Croydon

Favourite memories of Step: Late night worship sessions and being made to feel like part of the family with everyone we met... or Sarah falling through the stage.



Niall Parker,

TUI hotel rep in Malaga, Spain

Favourite memory: Scaring Rhiannon by putting a giant piñata in the bathroom...



Sarah Rogers,

Event Field Speaker Coordinator for Open Doors

Favourite memory: Time spent with the church youth groups.



Beth Bilson,

final year studying Education with Psychology at Bath University

Favourite memory: Climbing the Indian Nose (a hike in San Juan la Laguna) to watch the sunrise with the team.



Rhiannon Stanford,

second year student at Moorlands Bible College

Favourite memory: when Darcie walked into a room of pastors with a towel on her head, and we had no idea that culturally this means you're ill!



Holly Youlton

working in weddings in Yorkshire, but about to head off travelling!

Favourite memories: hiking up the mountains on Easter Saturday with some people from the community to watch the sunrise.



Will Catchpole,

Programmes Administrator at Latin Link

Favourite memories: Being woken up at 6am by a prayer meeting we didn't know about in the church we stayed in - this sums up our experience of Latin American life pretty well! And seeing the impact that something so simple as building friendships can have on the community.



PRAYING FOR PAST TEAMS

We often invite the Latin Link community to pray for Step teams as they prepare to go and for their time in Latin America, but it's so important that we keep praying, even long after they've returned.

Join us as we pray for the 2019 Guatemala team, as well as anyone who has been on a Step team since the programme was born in 1991. How can you pray for a team that's already been? Here are some ideas:

- **Pray** that they would stick close to God - wherever they are in the world right now
- **Pray** that the things they experienced on Step would still impact and encourage them, even many years later
- **Pray** for boldness to continue to step out into whatever God has called them to

- **Pray** for the Latin American community they lived alongside – that they would also be impacting those around them and stepping into their calling

REFLECTING ON YOUR OWN STEP TEAM EXPERIENCE?

If you ever fancy re-living some of your memories, or finding out how you can stay involved today, please do get in touch. We'd love you to share your story with us. And maybe we'll even be able to share your team's story in a future edition of *Latinfile*!

Give our Programmes team a call on 0118 957 7112 or email step@latinlink.org.uk with the subject line 'Stories from my Step team'. We're always here for a chat!

ECUADOREAN AREPAS

(Makes around 20 arepas, depending on size)

- 1/2 bag pre-cooked white maize flour.
- We use the brand PAN.
- 1/2 tbsp salt
- 2 1/2 cups water, lukewarm is best
- 1 large scoop of margarine

You can use pretty much anything for fillings, some of our favourites were: scrambled eggs, shredded chicken, guacamole, fried vegetables, garlic mayonnaise, or grated cheese.

The how to:

- Add the maize flour and salt into one large bowl.
- Add 2 1/2 cups of water and mix with your hands. Add the margarine and keep mixing. The mixture should end up being soft, moist, and malleable. Add as much water as needed to get to this consistency.
- Form the dough into 2-inch diameter balls. When you flatten each ball into a thick arepa patty, it should be no bigger than your palm and about 3/4 inch thick.
- Heat some oil in a large skillet or frying pan. Fry the arepas on both sides until golden brown. About 4-5 mins on each side.
- Place on paper towel lined plate until all are complete. You could place them on tray in oven at 75 degrees to keep warm if needed.
- Slice horizontally and fill with all your favourite fillings!
- Enjoy! You can either eat it as two halves, or like a sandwich with the two halves together... we couldn't decide which way was best!

If you're feeling bold enough to share your freshly made arepas with the world, tag us on social media! **Facebook** @latinlinkpage | **Instagram** @latinlink

A TASTE OF LATIN AMERICA

JOANNA: A lockdown favourite in my household was a Friday night cuisine theme - we picked a country and tried our hands at some of their food favourites. We ambitiously invested in a pasta machine for Italian night, lost our minds trying to use chopsticks in Japan, feasted on veggie dogs and fries on an imaginary road trip through the USA, and even had a trip to Middle Earth with a spread of mushrooms and honey cakes.

Feeling inspired to take a culinary trip from your kitchen? What better place to start than with a Latin American favourite: *arepas*.

Arepas are a staple across much of South America and vary by country, region, and even household. Our lovely Spring Step team spent three months in Ecuador this year (check out their reports at latinlink.org.uk/step-reports), and arepas were often on the menu! Lily, one of the team, was kind enough to write down the recipe so we can all get in on the action.



Freshly made by Lily

A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

STEP INTO THE STORY WITH LATIN LINK

YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

Spring Step teams 2023

Have you been inspired by a story in *Latinfile*? Do you want to serve God in Latin America? Step teams are the perfect place to start.



Argentina Step 2022

Join a team full of people like you, and serve with a Christian community in Latin America. Deepen your faith, build life-long friendships, and share God's love.

But don't just take it from us! Here's what some of this year's Steppers had to say:

"We've all grown so close and were really lucky to have a team that got along so well together. We've been able to see each other grow in faith and it's been really special."

"The local men and women were very friendly - incredible people. I loved learning and watching how devoted they were to serving God and others."

In April 2023, we're sending a team to Bolivia and Argentina. Apply to join and find out more. [w. latinlink.org.uk/step-teams](http://w.latinlink.org.uk/step-teams) | e. step@latinlink.org.uk

HOPING TO VOLUNTEER?

Join the team as a **Story-sharer** or **Mobiliser**



Anna and Jenny sharing their stories

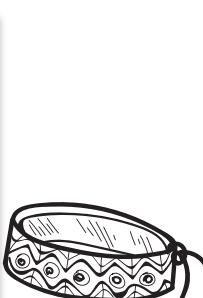
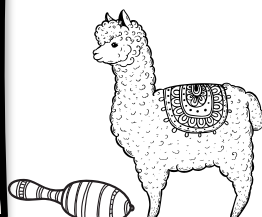
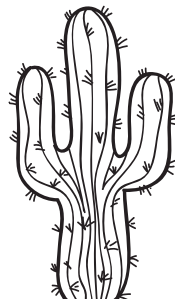
Do you have a story to tell? If you've been on a Step team or completed a Stride placement, we'd love to help you share your experience of mission, to encourage the next generation. As a **Story-sharer**, we'll support you as you represent Latin Link at churches, CUs, online events (or write an article for our magazine!), telling your story to inspire people about mission.

These commitments are flexible and determined by you. We gather online to train the Mobilisers and Story-sharers team once a term. Why not join us and be inspired by the testimonies of mission workers, learn new skills, and hear about helpful resources? We're always delighted to welcome new people to the team!

To learn more about these and other volunteering opportunities, visit our website at latinlink.org.uk/volunteer, or email us on info@latinlink.org.uk.



Are you passionate about seeing mission grow? Our **Mobilisers** seek out opportunities to develop Latin Link's network and partnerships, to inspire churches and individuals to get involved in the work we're doing. It includes story-sharing, but can involve speaking, fundraising, starting a prayer group or organising events. We'll support you in using your gifts and skills as you mobilise people for mission.



Help us shape the future of Latinfile...

What do you think of this magazine? We want to continue improving **Latinfile**, to make sure it's serving our Latin Link community in the best possible way. Be a part of the progress by sharing what you have to say. We'd love to hear it!