

# Mission UpReach Newsletter

## Welcome to a new group at The Moses Project



Our public school academic year begins in February, and that is also when we welcome the new group of young men to our agricultural training center (The Moses Project). Twenty one boys were added, bringing the total to 42. These are the brightest and best youth from their communities. We provide them training in best-practices for agricultural science while they also receive access to a public high school education – most do not have access to either of these in their villages. These future leaders also study in our Christian boot camps (CREO) and become active members in a local congregation. This is all accomplished through a residential and financially self-sustaining program.

The initial stage of remodeling our dining facility has been finished to accommodate more boys. This construction project was possible through the generous gifts we received during our annual campaign. The new arrivals are shown during their first tilapia processing workshop.

Alex, one of the boys who entered the program in 2016, will be leaving the program because he received news that his mother is diagnosed with cancer and is also pregnant. Alex felt responsible to return home to help. Keep this family in your prayers.

**“I have come that they may have life to the full”. - John 10:10**

## Word of the Month

MUR uses jargon that may not be familiar to those outside our mission. This month, we will begin clarifying a word or phrase each month as well as why that word is used. You hear “self-sustaining” when we refer to congregations or programs. For a congregation, this indicates one that is financially able, without receiving funding from outside the local community, to meet the physical resources (pay ministers if desired, maintain buildings or rent, show

## “self-sustaining” [self-suh-stay-ning]

benevolence to others, etc.) in order to maintain a stable and active congregation. For a project or program, we generate sufficient income from the activity to cover the routine operating costs on an ongoing basis without outside funds.



## Bridges launch activities near Corquín



Mike and Kris Bridges from the Lexington congregation near Columbia, South Carolina arrived in Honduras late last year to serve within the Mission UpReach evangelistic sphere of influence. Their daughter, Kaylee, as well as their niece, Brittany White, have joined them and are key contributors. Brittany will serve on the DESEO team with a key role in our new Children's Chorus. The Bridges reside in the small town of 10,000 citizens

about an hour from Santa Rosa de Copán. The region around the town of Corquín is an area that is targeted for MUR church growth.

The Bridges are organizing Christians and other interested people to travel the one hour bus ride to Santa Rosa de Copán on Sundays and Tuesdays to experience worship with our largest and most active congregation. This enables these new and potential converts to experience a vibrant and God-centered congregation while learning the biblical methodologies of The John 1010

Generation. These same families meet in Corquín on Thursday. As the collaboration with the Bridges begins, activities such as evangelistic campaigns, medical brigades, English classes and similar projects to increase the receptivity of their community to hear God's word will also start.



## Meet Ángel

Ángel is often the first person to meet MUR visitors when they arrive at the airport in Honduras. Ángel is 56 years old and has been a driver for us for six years. He has been driving commercial buses since he was 19 and is highly qualified as an experienced and safe chauffeur for our brigades. Many riders comment that Ángel has expertly learned to dodge every pothole in the pavement during the three hour drive from the airport. Ángel is seen regularly in town, driving one of our lime-green vehicles as a courier of our staff and supplies. When he is not driving, Ángel works as one of our very capable auto-mechanics.

Ángel shared that his family attended a different faith group in Honduras for years, but they always felt the Christianity that was practiced was superficial. His family began studying the bible and realized what a full



Christian life entails (John 10:10). Ángel commented to us that it was a hardship to accept a lower salary working for MUR instead of his former commercial company, but he soon realized that he had been sacrificing time with his family and the church by working extremely long hours. Ángel has grown in his faith and now serves as an elder in a local congregation.





## Well-Drilling weeks offer opportunity to serve

We have two back-to-back weeks of water-well drilling brigades scheduled for either May 6 or May 13. We seek participants for each team, coming from a variety of congregations and regions throughout the USA, who have a desire and passion to learn (or already have skills) to drill “deep bore” wells. If you have a specific set of skills or interest, please contact us and join one of these teams.

We have added several “mixed brigades” in a variety of service areas. These teams provide opportunities for Christians desiring a short-term, international mission experience, but who do not otherwise have access to an organized group. These teams are composed of people from various congregations around the USA. Please review our list of scheduled brigades to see if there is a team, service area, and date that might work for you.



## Keeping Mission UpReach moving forward

Our fleet of vehicles includes a variety of pick-up trucks, military-style transfer vehicles, school buses, a refurbished ambulance,

and most recently a variety of heavy equipment required in our water-well drilling activities. We maintain those vehicles at our ever-expanding auto-mechanics shop. Our operation is the envy of many in this region and we often receive inquiries to do work for others.

We have plans to add a paint and body shop to the mechanical area because there is a demand for refurbished vehicles in this region. In addition, this would be an

excellent job training opportunity. Unfortunately, we did not receive adequate funds during the 2016 annual campaign to expand the shop at this time. In the interim, we will include a six-month rotation of boys who are hand selected as mechanic apprentices. The training for these young men will be supplemented by formal training workshops offered by visiting professionals. We will expand the program when sufficient funds are raised.



## Platinum Rating Awarded

Guide Star is one of the predominant nonprofit oversight groups in the USA. The organization awards organizations based on the nonprofit's governance and leadership methodologies as well as transparency in reporting. We are honored to have recently received Guide Star's highest award—a Platinum rating. Visit their website for a wealth of information about Mission UpReach as well as other nonprofit organizations of interest to you.



## A note from Donna

This is a busy time of year for Mission UpReach. Our brigade season has begun with the Tusculum Church of Christ out of Nashville, TN with a medical team. Our new deaf school for adults began February 13th and is off to a great start. We have incorporated the new boys at The Moses Project for a total of 42 boys in the program. We are constructing new classrooms next to the building of our Barrio Belén Church that will serve the deaf school,

the youth ministry, our counseling support ministry, and allow us to expand the adult training in the local church. In addition to all of that, our DESEO public school outreach kicks off its 7th year reaching 15 different schools, including 4 in Corquín where the Bridges family has begun their work.

People often ask, "How does MUR accomplish so much?" The answer is complex, but simply put: God provides the energy, vision, and the co-laborers needed to do His work. He also provides the financial support it takes to continue to respond to the needs He places in our path. Most of the time, the resources are provided only after we begin a response to some need. In other words, we make faith decisions and trust God to provide. We invite you to continue to step out on faith with us and partner with us as we respond to these needs. We thank you for your prayers and encouragement.

## 2017 Brigades/Visiting Teams

|                                |                              |  |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| February 11-18 .....           | Tusculum CofC .....          | Medical and Construction                   |
| February 25-March 4 .....      | LA Tech Student Ministry ... | Construction                               |
| March 11-18 .....              | Southside CofC .....         | Medical/VBS/Construction                   |
| April 8-15 .....               | VCOM .....                   | Medical                                    |
| <b>May 6-13th .....</b>        | <b>Open Group .....</b>      | <b>Well Drilling Boot Camp</b>             |
| <b>May 13-20th .....</b>       | <b>Open Group .....</b>      | <b>Well Drilling Boot Camp</b>             |
| May 27-June 3 .....            | North Atlanta CofC .....     | VBS/Marriage Seminar/<br>Preacher Training |
| June 17-24 .....               | Pinetree CofC .....          | Medical/VBS/Construction                   |
| June 17-24 .....               | Park Plaza CofC .....        | VBS  |
| June 24-July 1 .....           | Burnt Hickory CofC .....     | Medical/Construction                       |
| June 24-July 1 .....           | Sunset CofC - Miami          |  |
| July 1-8 .....                 | Snellville CofC .....        | VBS/Construction                           |
| July 1-8 .....                 | Lexington CofC .....         | Medical                                    |
| July 8-15 .....                | Disciple Trips .....         | VBS/Construction                           |
| July 15-22 .....               | University CofC Youth .....  | VBS  |
| July 29-August 5 .....         | Belton CofC .....            | Construction                               |
| <b>August 12-19th .....</b>    | <b>Open Group .....</b>      | <b>Construction</b>                        |
| <b>September 16-24th .....</b> | <b>Open Group .....</b>      | <b>Construction</b>                        |

## Mission UpReach Board Members

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## Other Giving

*Mission UpReach is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. We can assist you to designate MUR in a corporations' matching gifts program, or giving through a United Way campaign, or as you prepare wills for your estate.*

## Please contact us:

*Our mailing address is as follows:*

**Mission UpReach, Inc.**  
 3221 Dundee Road  
 Longview, TX 75604

*Please send all checks, donations and correspondence to this address.*

*You can correspond directly with Phil and Donna at:*

Phil and Donna Waldron  
 Apartado Postal #255  
 Santa Rosa de Copán, Copán  
 Honduras, Central America  
 waldronfam@me.com  
 Phone: 706-534-7060



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