



Mission UpReach Newsletter

Jason Simpson to lead Well-Drilling Ministry

This month Jason and Michelle Simpson arrive in Santa Rosa with their four children. Jason will be heading up our well drilling ministry since all of our equipment is finally here. We are excited about this new beginning. Especially since it has been 8 long years in the making. Phil and Donna Waldron began praying and looking for a way to begin a well drilling ministry even before they moved their family to Santa Rosa to begin Mission UpReach back in June of 2009. Finally, four years ago through the earmarked donations of a few donors, MUR was able to buy the failing 1500 drilling rig that we needed but it sat for nearly four years in Longview needing repairs. We also needed a whole new drill stem as well as other equipment in order to make it capable of drilling wells up to a depth of 1,280 feet.

Jason and Michelle's story, of how they suddenly found themselves responding to what clearly seemed to be a "nudge" from God, is quite inspiring. In November last year Jason was working on rebuilding our drilling rig while it sat in Longview, Texas. It was so old that it needed quite a few repairs. After several weeks of working on the rig Jason received a call from Phil Waldron asking him to consider moving his family to Honduras to head up the well drilling ministry activity. Jason immediately responded by saying that he would like nothing better than to do just that but he was uncertain that his wife, Michelle, and their four children would feel the



same. The phone conversation between Phil and Jason ended on that day with Jason saying that he would present it to Michelle and that they would pray about it. Here in his own words is what happened next,

"In spite of the fact that Michelle was not going to be open to this opportunity, I agreed to talk with her about it. The shock of the first call was dwarfed by the shock of Michelle's response to Phil's request. "If God is calling us to Honduras we need to go".

We here at Mission UpReach have seen God provide the right people at just the right time on a number of occasions. For those of us here at Mission UpReach that have seen this time and again the decision of Jason and his family to come and work with us is just one more giant affirmation that God is doing something great here. Jason is a talented mechanic, equipment operator, welder and all round mechanical genius. We are happy to have him and his family here in Santa Rosa to co-labor with us.

Word of the Month

The dictionary definition of equip is: *to furnish or provide whatever is needed for use or for any undertaking; fit out, as a ship or army.* There are many ways that this word illustrates core values of Mission UpReach's ministry. For instance, our Biblical training programs emphasize Biblical

"equip"

knowledge while stressing applied knowledge in the field of ministry. All of our Biblical training includes a strong emphasis on building core competencies in leadership in the local church and community coupled with the skills of one-on-one evangelism and public teaching.



Providing those who thirst a drink

Water.org, a foundation co-founded by actor Matt Damon and Gary White, reports that the average woman, world wide, spends an average of 6-hrs per day in collecting water. Imagine if you had to do that every day, seven days per week. Having access to sufficient, clean potable water is something every single person in the world needs in order to live. It takes at least 20 to 50 liters of water per day for people to have sufficient water for drinking, cooking, and bathing. If you don't have sufficient water, diseases can easily run rampant in your community. It is not just a convenience, making the lives of women and children who carry water from streams and wells to their houses; it is an indispensable necessity for life to continue to exist.

The kosland-science-museum.org website states, "the United Nations considers universal access to clean water a basic human right, and an essential step towards improving living standards worldwide. Water-poor communities are typically economically poor as well, their residents trapped in an ongoing cycle of poverty. Education suffers when sick children miss school. Economic opportunities are routinely lost to the impacts of rampant illness and the time-consuming processes of acquiring water where it is not readily available. Children and women bear the brunt of these burdens."

Water well drilling as a ministry for Mission UpReach, Inc. is a way to give someone a "cup of water" in the name of Jesus. It is a way of giving a thirsty man a drink that he desperately needs in order to stay alive. Both Matthew 10:42 and Matthew 25:35 are verses in the New Testament where Jesus highlights giving water to someone in need. We want to provide long term water access to communities in the western region of Honduras. In so doing we expect to gain opportunities to preach the Good News in those communities so that they can come to know the Source of the true and living water of Jesus of Nazareth.



Staff Visit to Camp Deer Run

This January we had our third annual kid's camp. In the U.S., Christian summer camps are common and can be such a blessing for the spiritual development of young kids. We recognized the need for a Christian camp and how perfectly it would fit into our current outreach to children, and we decided to do something about it.

For the past three years Camp Deer Run out of Winnsboro, TX sent down some of their staff to help us have a one-week Bible camp. Camp here has been such a success, and each year we learn more and more through the

process. Last month we sent Caleb Gossett and Dakota Nowell to Camp Deer Run to observe a week of camp there, with the hope that they would be able to bring back some ideas to continue to improve our camp. Camp Deer Run is so successful because campers go to a place where they can have a blast, and at the same time be surrounded by good role models they can relate to, who care deeply for them.

The kids at Camp Deer Run dream of being able to one day work on staff as a counselor, doing the same for other kids that their counselors did for them. Our dream is that one day we will have that same camp culture, where the staff are past campers and are able to influence others in the same way they were influenced. We hope to eventually have a camp with multiple sessions, where hundreds of kids come each year and have their lives eternally changed. Currently we are raising funds to construct our own camp ground to help facilitate our vision. We are also continuing to use our relationship with Camp Deer Run to improve year by year the impact and structure of our kid's camp.





First Children’s Choir concert held in June

On June 29th, a rainy Thursday night, we realized an important step in a dream more than 5 years in the making. For years, the team here at Mission UpReach has been dreaming of a way to teach the future generations of churches how to sing in order to enhance our worship.

In March two of our volunteers, Dakota Nowell and Brittany White, started a children’s choir with two of the schools from our DESEO program.

For the past three months, they have been teaching the kids the basics of music theory, spending two afternoons out of the week with each school.

“These kids have come so far,” says Dakota, “most of them haven’t grown up singing and listening to music so we’ve been really trying to get them to listen to and explore their own voices”. For the past few weeks, the 30 person Children’s Choir has been hard at work

in preparation for their first concert.

Dakota also works one day a week with a select group of boys out at The Moses Project. An all men’s chorus, “Los Bajos Altos” worked on preparing two different songs for the same concert. One of the songs was “I’ll Make a Man Out of You” from the 1998 Disney movie, Mulan. An adult group from the local church also performed three a Capella songs at the concert. So on that rainy Thursday night, with butterflies in their stomachs, all three choirs performed stupendously. The concert concluded with all three choirs singing “Shout Hallelujah” in Spanish with all the kids singing in sign language as well.

That night, we experienced the fruition of a full day’s worth of setting up, months’ worth of preparation, and years’ worth of dreams. Our goal with these choirs is to “take back” a Capella music and even host nation-wide a Capella Music Festivals here in Santa Rosa. This premiere concert was the first step in the construction of a strong church culture of quality music.



Brigades Update

Pine Tree Church of Christ Brings 52 to serve and work

Mission UpReach has a long relationship with the Pine Tree Church of Christ in Longview, Texas. Each year, Pine Tree makes multiple trips to work and serve with us. This year their summer group consisted of 52, including children as



young as 6. This group conducted a medical brigade serving just under 1000 people with medical consults, medication, eye glasses, and dental

work. A portion of the group worked in one of our DESEO schools teaching children about Jesus, conducted a seminar on bullying for our DESEO team as well as the staff of one of our DESEO schools, and helped build a wall around the same school. It was an impactful week for all involved. Thank you, Pine Tree, for your sacrifice and support!

Burnt Hickory and Legacy Churches of Christ serve together

This year the Burnt Hickory Church from Kennesaw, Georgia joined with the Legacy Church from N. Richland Hills, Texas to serve the needs of many via a medical brigade as well as a construction team. The medical brigade was able to serve 982 individuals with medical attention, medication, and eye glasses. The construction team continued the



ongoing work of constructing cabins on our Moses Project property for future group housing. We have a wonderful history of working with each of these congregations both in brigades as well as ongoing support of our ministries. Thank you, Burnt Hickory and Legacy, for your service!



A note from Donna



I have had numerous people ask about our son Harrison and his wife Hayley. We appreciate your concern and we especially appreciate the ongoing prayers.

It has been a long journey and it continues. Harrison is making progress, praise be to God. Progress is a relative term and in Harrison's case it seems so very slow to us. We have learned a lot over the past almost two years about recovery from traumatic brain injuries. One of the things we have learned is that often patients cease to progress after two years. Interestingly, that lack of progress is rarely due to the brain's inability to continue to heal but rather the family's as well as the patient's loss of hope and lack of endurance. In our case, Harrison's determination and

strong faith, coupled with Hayley's enduring love and hard work continue to provide hope in Harrison's on-going improvement.

Harrison is making improvements in his core strength and endurance. He is able to hold his head up, sit on the side of the bed, lift his own hips, continue to communicate using an iPad, and utters an "umm hum" to indicate a "yes." When he communicates, he generally encourages us to continue to hope and believe in God's providential care and that God has a plan for his life. It encourages us to hear people share how they have been impacted by Harrison and Hayley's example of faith and fidelity. While we doubt we will ever be thankful for this trial and trauma, we see God using it in the lives of others and that makes us thankful. It certainly keeps us focused on what we know lies ahead for all of us, an eternal home without pain, heartache, or loss. It also emboldens us to share the good news of Jesus with the lost around us so that they too can have the hope and peace that only God provides. Please continue to pray for all of us!

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
May 27-June 3.....	North Atlanta CofC.....	Marriage Seminar/ Preacher Training
June 17-24	Pinetree CofC.....	Medical/VBS/Construction
June 24-July 1.....	Burnt Hickory CofC.....	Medical/Construction
July 1-8	Lexington CofC	Medical
July 8-15	Disciple Trips.....	VBS/Construction
July 15-22	University CofC Youth	VBS
July 22-29.....	University CofC Youth	Medical
July 29-August 5.....	Belton CofC	Construction
Sept. 30-Oct. 7th	Open Group	Surgical Brigade

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
 donna.w@missionupreach.org
 Phone: 706-534-7060

 facebook.com/missionupreach

 twitter.com/missionupreach

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