



Mission UpReach Newsletter

Transforming individuals, communities, an entire region through church planting

Commonly, when people discuss “church planting”, there is a difference in understandings as to what the term means. For years, in Latin America, that term has meant that a U.S. congregation will pay a salary to a graduate of a school of preaching to be “their” missionary in a new church plant. Sometimes the new church is in another part of the country where the “missionary” is from. In other instances these school of preaching graduates are paid by the U.S. congregation to be a missionary in another Spanish speaking country.

While much good work for the Kingdom has been done using this model it has fallen far short of meeting the need for new churches. At Mission UpReach we don’t think that there is any one, single way to plant new churches that thrive in the communities in which they are planted. One of our early mentors, Bob Brown (a missionary in Venezuela for 20+ years) used to ask us, “you know the best way to plant and grow churches?” His answer to his own question was, “plant and grow churches”. Bob’s very successful approach to church planting is not too different from Nike’s famous slogan, “Just Do It”.

Church planting is obviously not that simple and Bob wasn’t saying that it was. The reality is that it is a complex, dynamic process and one that we here at Mission UpReach study all of the time in order to become better at it.

In spite of the fact that it is complex, the fundamentals require us to execute on a plan. We shouldn’t overthink the process. In other words, “Just Do It” in the church planting business means “get busy working at it and learn from your mistakes, trusting that you are doing God’s will”.

congregations. Our dream is that in the next twenty years, God will bless our efforts with a grass-roots revival that leads to the establishment of 1010 congregations.

In reality a new congregation is not our only goal. Our dream, and what we are diligently working towards, is



Mission UpReach’s methodology in church planting is designed to take into account the specific demographics, the specific geography as well as the specific culture that exists throughout the western highlands of Honduras. It is also designed to produce self-led, self-sustaining and self-replicating

to plant congregations that are led by empowered, Christian men and women that are from the community in which the church is located. We believe these men and women, who have adequate Biblical training, will be an unstoppable

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Word of the Month

Self-replicating is the MUR understanding that a local congregation must reproduce itself via its inherent nature. In other words the DNA of a self-replicating church is to “self-replicate,” meaning that it is

“self-replicating”

programed to plant new churches wherever there is a need to do so. This word describes another core tenet the John 1010 Generation.



New Children's Choir offers more options

On March 20th two of our volunteers, Dakota Nowell and Brittany White, held the first day of choir practice for the brand new Children's Choir here in Santa Rosa de Copan. Over 75 kids from two different public schools came out for the first week of 'auditions'.

When asked about the decision to hold auditions, Dakota replied that "we decided that since we only have space for 40, we will select our choir based on the individual behavior, attitude, and willingness to learn of the initial participants." He re-affirmed that the auditions were not based on musical talent due to the fact that music is given little to no importance in the Honduran education system. "Judging kids who never grew up learning music on their musical ability just didn't make sense" says Brittany.

Both Dakota and Brittany have studied music on a collegiate level and have participated in numerous choirs throughout their lives.

The purpose of this new ministry is



three-fold. One, we hope that through God's blessing, this opens up new doors as we have already so evidently seen with our Basketball and Tutoring programs. Two, we hope that through our actions, our words, and our daily devotionals these kids will come to know Christ. Three, we hope that

through our efforts, the churches of tomorrow will have better equipped song leaders, praise teams, and more inspiring worship. Please pray that God blesses this new ministry as we continue to actively seek out His will in Western Honduras.

First surgical brigade set for early October

We are happy to announce the launching of an additional outreach effort. As most of you know, we host numerous "brigades," or short-term mission teams each year. Those currently

consists of medical brigade, VBS brigades, and construction brigades.

For several years we have dreamed of adding surgical brigades to our efforts. There is a great need for such teams as

hundreds of patients wait for months to get non-emergency procedures done. Many of them suffer with severely infected tonsils or sick gallbladders with no relief in sight. This month God led us to a relationship with Dr. Kendle Yates and his wife, Carmen from Brentwood, TN.

We were introduced to them by Health Talents, Inc. as they consulted with us and offered some much needed guidance from their over 20 years of conducting surgical brigades in Guatemala.

Dr. Yates and Carmen recently visited us and the hospital in which we will be conducting these surgical brigades. We have set the first week of October as the launch of our first ever surgical brigade. Our dream is for this to grow into numerous surgical brigades per year. This is another way that Mission UpReach can be the hands of Jesus to the poor and oppressed.

If you would like more information about how you might get involved in future surgical brigades, email us at brigades@missionupreach.org.





This month, our Church Planters have been hard at work equipping, training, and discipling. The CRESCO program has grown immensely this year with 24 new students enrolled here in Santa Rosa.

We have also started two new ‘Satellite Schools’ for those who don’t live close to the city and wouldn’t be able to come on a weekly basis.

The CRESCO satellite school in

Church planters hard at work

Ahuachapan, El Salvador currently has six participants and the other satellite school in Tutule, La Paz, Honduras has three. Each month, we send 2-3 of our Church Planters to each of those locations for a three day intensive series of classes so that they can teach the CRESCO material to the local

participants. satellite schools, we also send out some of our Church Planter staff to La Paz, Honduras to lead mini-boot-camps. One of the exciting stories showing how effective this program is involves a CREO program graduate by the name of Manuel Herrera. Manuel is a Honduran who was living and working in Guatemala at the time that he attended our CREO boot-camp series. Because of his training in the program he was inspired to move from Puerto Barrios, Guatemala to a town called Chiquimula in order to start a new church. They are currently constructing a building and have plans to host an evangelistic campaign in May. Manuel’s story is one that we hope to see repeated 1,000’s of times in the future.

CREO is now at the point where we have started to see the fruit of our efforts. During the past two boot-camps we have had multiple baptisms during the week.

In addition to the CRESCO



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force for transformation in their own communities. We call our vision “The John 1010 Generation”. In the last part of verse 10 Jesus talks about the abundant life that He offers to all of His disciples. We think this verse, more than any other, communicates our vision of new churches led by members of the community which transform their communities.

One of the limiting factors in a “traditional”, missionary church-planting model is that money is always in short supply for paying the salary and expenses of the “missionaries”. In order to overcome this significant hurdle we have designed the Mission UpReach model for church planting to focus on training men and women in a rigorous, two-year-long training program. These men and women don’t leave their jobs to study in our program. The idea is to make every man and woman in the congregation a minister. CRESCO is the name of our Saturday Bible School that

provides this training. In order for us to realize our dream of 1010 churches planted in the next twenty years we need to graduate at least 4,000 men and women from this program.

Four thousand...is a huge number. In order to approach or exceed this goal we have begun opening satellite schools in congregations across the region. While our main campus for CRESCO is located in Santa Rosa de Copán, we presently have a satellite school in Tutule, La Paz, Honduras, and another one in Ahuachapan, El Salvador. Our goal next year is to open at least two additional satellite schools (and even more satellite schools in the years to follow). Local congregations host these schools and the individual students pay for the cost of study for the two-year program, which is minimal. This model works. It both trains and inspires those who study in the program to become church leaders and church planters and at the same



time is affordable for those who want to participate.

One day, twenty-five or thirty years in the future we think people will say, “look at this grass roots revival that has broken out overnight”. Lord willing, there will be 1010 churches that are knitted together into a restoration movement that spills over into every town and village in the region. That “overnight” revival that future generations will see is going to take 20 years of preparation.



As we have said many times, we strive to be Jesus to those around us in an overall effort toward planting self-replicating congregations, with the goal of bringing many into the Kingdom. Everything we do as a mission contributes to that goal. One of the most effective ways we contribute to the establishment of a new congregation (or the growth of an already existing one) is through our medical brigades. We serve approximately 1000 people in three days with general medical consults and necessary medications. We often include dental care, as well as giving eye glasses to those who need them.

The Southside Church of Christ from Fort Worth, Texas blessed us by bringing a group of 28 people to serve one of the villages in which we work. Their trip had the unique challenge of the highway washing out the night before their last clinic day resulting in their inability to get to the village. In spite of that, they were able to serve approximately 700 people. We are very grateful to each of the participants and for the love and care they extended to the people they served.



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	Sunset CofC - Miami.....	VBS
July 15-22	University CofC Youth	VBS
July 29-August 5.....	Belton CofC	Construction
August 12-19th	Open Group	Construction
September 16-24th	Open Group	Construction

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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:

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

You can correspond directly with Phil and Donna at:

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