

# Mission UpReach Newsletter

## Year-End Giving Campaign commences

This month we are announcing the commencement of our Year-End Giving Campaign. This is an important time for us since more than 50% of our annual budget for programs and ministries is donated in the final months of the year. This year we have chosen “Bridges” for the theme of the campaign. Bridge building is a good representation of what we do here at Mission UpReach.

In order to explain what we mean we have to go back in history nearly five centuries when the Spanish Conquest of Honduras began in 1524 A.D. This was 80 years before Jamestown was founded in what is now the State of Virginia. Did you ever wonder why things turned out so different for those of us who are from the USA in contrast to those who live in Honduras? Simón Bolívar, who is known as the Great Liberator of South America for having helped most of South America gain its independence from Spain in the early 1800's, gave an explanation from his point of view, when he said something to the effect of, “we were settled by the Conquistadors who were looking for El Dorado (the mythical lost city of Gold) whereas the US was founded by men seeking religious freedom.” Bolívar certainly had a good insight as to what possibly could explain the differences in today's US society and economy and today's Honduran society and economy.

Kevin H. Siepel wrote a two-volume series entitled *Conquistador Voices* that uses excerpts from diaries and journals of the Spanish adventurers that conquered the Americas. When you read in their own words the justifying thought and motives behind what those mercenaries perpetrated on the indigenous peoples across the American continent, you might be surprised to learn that they did it in great part in order to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those “barbaric savages.” It is a fascinating read, one that you can hardly put down once you have begun it. These Conquistadors raped, murdered and

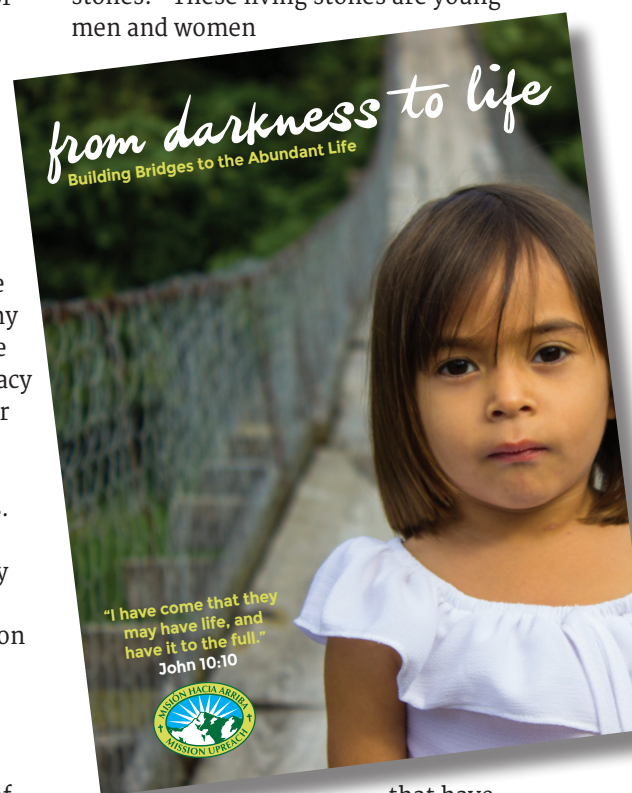
pillaged their way across almost the entire continent.

This was all done in the name of the King of Spain and the Savior Jesus Christ. You and I know that what they brought to the Americas was not the pure Gospel of the Savior of the world “who being God humbled himself, taking the form of a servant and eventually dying on the cross as the propitiation for our sin.” While they introduced a distorted form of the Gospel, it was in name only. As Jesus said of the religious leaders of his day, “this people honors me with their lips but their heart is far from me,” one could also say of the Conquistadors. Why is this important you might ask? Let me explain: it is important because the legacy that these Conquistadors left behind for their descendants is being played out every day in Honduras in ways that are just as devastating as the Conquest was.

The Conquest and the subsequent years of oppression of the poor majority by the wealthy few has led to a difficult life for most people in Honduras. Mission UpReach, in a few words, is helping to build a bridge from today to a better future. We are doing that through leadership development programs that will empower a whole new generation of leaders that have the mindset of Christ. A new generation of leaders that we call the John 1010 Generation who will lead their people and their communities across bridges to places where they will experience the abundant life in Christ Jesus.

The church of Christ is central to God's plan in empowering this generation to change their nation. Mission UpReach is preparing leaders to lead the church in their local communities as Christian men and women that know the true gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel of forgiveness of sins, the gospel of hope for eternity that begins now in this life, and the gospel of service to others in Jesus name. I hope you will be moved to take action as you

read the information that we will share with you as we roll out this year's giving campaign. Honduras needs bridges built to a better future. The bridges built by Mission UpReach are made up of “living stones.” These living stones are young men and women



that have been transformed into the kind of leaders that God can use to build an entirely new nation in Honduras. The raw material is readily available for building bridges and without these bridges the future of Honduras is as bleak and discouraging as it has been for generations.

So when you receive a package of information regarding the opportunity to participate in our 2017 Year-End Giving Campaign please spend some time in prayer about how you can participate. We need your help. You can make a difference by supporting Mission UpReach in building bridges from darkness to life. Make a donation today while these things are fresh on your mind.





## Parading the streets of Santa Rosa

Each year in September, Santa Rosa de Copán hosts a series of parades. In the US, parades are much less common, but in Honduras, parade season lasts two or three weeks. It all starts with a car show of around 40 very nice cars parading down the cobblestoned streets of downtown Santa Rosa.

A few days later, the agricultural parade begins, where horses and their riders flood the streets in celebration of the long history of agriculture in Honduras. Finally, all the local schools parade through the streets. With over 22 schools in Santa Rosa, (not including the schools from the surrounding villages) you can imagine the time it would take for select members of each school to walk from one end of the city, to the other. The schools are split up over four days so that everyone gets a chance to be in the parade.

This year, our DESEO team, along with ESPERO (the school for the Deaf), were invited to parade on the final day. During parade season, whichever group is in central park at 12:00 sings the national anthem for the Mayor. It just so happened that our DESEO team was



passing exactly at 12:00 and sang the national anthem for hundreds of locals. Parade season in Honduras is full of traditions, culture, and heritage. And this year, our DESEO team and ESPERO

school got to be in the middle of it all.

While many kids involved in either our Basketball, Tutoring, or Choir programs participated in the parade, we are most proud of the Moses Project boys. Ten boys from The Moses Project were chosen by their high school to be in the parade due to their academic excellence.

A day in the life of one of these boys is far from relaxing. Every day they get up at 6:00 am for a 30-minute devotional. Then, after a quick breakfast, they immediately head out to complete their various tasks for the day. Whether it's collecting eggs, planting coffee, or feeding fish, these boys are working all day until they go to school at night. The fact that all of our boys are able to maintain this schedule and still get good grades is impressive. But for the ten to be awarded academic excellence is a huge honor.

We are very proud of these boys and inspired by their determination. We know that they will make great leaders in The John 1010 Generation.





## New bus no longer enough for Corquín

You have probably heard us talk about Corquín. The small town about 45 minutes from Santa Rosa has been a popular topic of discussion for some time now. Corquín has made its way into the forefront of our social media and print communications because of the incredible success and growth that is happening.

It all began with a couple named Tito and Irma who wanted to study the Bible. Phil and some of the Church planting team would travel out to Corquín once a week and have a time of study and fellowship with Tito and Irma. About a year ago, Mike and Kris Bridges, along with their daughter Kaylee, moved to Corquín to help build on the seeds that had been planted there. Each week a small group, including Tito and Irma, loaded up on a Mission UpReach mini-bus and headed to Santa Rosa for Sunday worship. The Corquín group soon faced an amazing problem: there was no longer enough space on the small bus. Mission UpReach then sent a much larger bus to accommodate the new people attending on Sunday's, but the roomy bus only stayed that way for a week; once again, the bus had filled up.

This amazing outpouring of people can be credited first, to God's mighty hand, and second, to a targeted, multi-faceted approach to evangelism in Corquín. The different facets include the Bridges' tireless efforts to evangelize, along with the help of two young AIM volunteers, the DESEO team working in the schools once a week, and the Church Planting team visiting on a regular basis for a mid-week service and evangelism.

To date, 14 people have been baptized from Corquín, including Irma and Tito, and their son, Michael. Another couple from Corquín who were baptized, Toñito and Elena, are the parents of one of the Moses Project boys. They began going to church because it allowed them to see their son each Sunday. Elena had gone to a church many years ago, but Toñito had not and had no interest in learning about the Bible. However, both

Toñito and Elena continued attending church and eventually agreed to study the Bible once a week. As each week progressed their hearts were moved, until they finally obeyed the Gospel.

The work in Corquín continues to grow, and eventually a Church will be established there, not because they will no longer

be welcome in Santa Rosa, but because soon, there won't be enough buses to bring them all.



## Belén church celebrates Third Anniversary

The church at Belén celebrated its third anniversary on Sunday, September 17th. There are many things to celebrate, such as the 25 people who have been baptized in the past two months alone. From its beginning, the Belén church has possessed a family energy. This is

in part due to the emphasis on greeting everyone who comes through the doors, and just the all-around character of the members of the church.

Along with a warm and inviting environment, visitors also experience an emphasis on quality, biblical teaching.

From the sermon to the classes, people can expect to hear an encouraging but often challenging message, soundly based in scripture, and are bound to learn something in the process. Thanks to the new classrooms that were recently finished, adults can now select from a variety of classes. This way, each person can learn at their level and find something they are interested in.

What started as a large and almost empty warehouse, has now turned into a dynamic and rapidly filling space where the Belén church meets each week. With this change, we give thanks to God and his Spirit, which is so evidently at work.





## A note from Donna



As we kick off this year's annual year-end giving campaign, I would like to say thank you for helping us get to where we are. Without

our financial partners, we could not have grown into the multi-faceted mission that we are presently.

We all know that God deserves the honor and glory, but we also know that in His great wisdom, He deemed it necessary that we each participate with the gifts He has given each of us. Some of us have the gift of service to others, some preaching and teaching, and others are

gifted to give. All that we have is His and He makes all the successes we have in this life possible. I hope you can feel the importance of the role you play in bridging people from darkness to life, from despair to hope, and from sin to transformation. None of the bridges that Mission UpReach has built would be possible without your help and bridges that are under construction will not be completed without your on-going help.

As we have grown, some individuals who have given smaller donations in the past have begun to think that because our need for donations has grown, their "small" gift is no longer helpful. That could not be further from the truth. Every dollar that is given is a gift to our Father, who is the master of making beautiful things. Please consider participating in our year-end campaign, no matter the amount. We vow to use every dollar for His glory and honor.

## 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
<b>Sept. 30-Oct. 7th .....</b>	<b>Open Group .....</b>	<b>Surgical Brigade</b>

## Mission UpReach Board Members

Darin Beakley, Longview, TX  
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 Phil Berry, Coral Springs, FL  
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 Matthew Schick, Powder Springs, GA  
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 Adam Spencer, Longview, TX  
 Jon Stacy, Santa Rosa de Copán  
 Ted van den Meiracker, Snellville, GA  
 Donna Waldron, Santa Rosa de Copán  
 Phil Waldron, Santa Rosa de Copán

## 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:*

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