

# Mission UpReach Newsletter

## “Business As Mission” (BAM) *by Phil Waldron*

The Business as Mission Global Think Tank defines “Business as Mission” in the simplest of terms as:

- Profitable and sustainable businesses;
- Intentional about Kingdom of God purpose and impact on people and nations;
- Focused on holistic transformation and the multiple bottom lines of economic, social, environmental and spiritual outcomes;
- Concerned about the world’s poorest and least evangelized peoples.

We here at Mission UpReach cannot think of a better description for our own sense of stewardship that permeates every aspect of how we go about doing mission. We believe that this “world view” of how and why we do mission is the best of both of the worlds that so long have been divided in Christian thinking. For years, centuries really, there has been an attitude that there is a great divide between what is secular and what is spiritual. It has almost been as if the two are in different, distinct realms. Our change in thinking began with some challenging Bible study that really shook up our worldview that had the “spiritual”, that is Bible study, evangelism, and church planting, as the more noble and more spiritual of our activities. Through our Bible study though what we soon began to see is that the Bible clearly says that Jesus

is Lord of All. And as John Wesley is reported to have said, “Jesus is either Lord of all or He is NOT Lord at all.”

Hugh Whelchel wrote these words on the subject, “There is no word for “spiritual” in the Hebrew Old Testament. Were they not spiritual people? In the Hebrew worldview, everything was spiritual. There was no need to distinguish between *spiritual* and *secular* because no part of their existence was secular. Our response as Christians to our Heavenly Father should be unlimited, all encompassing, and comprehensive. It should not be

selling coffee so that we can educate and disciple the young men in our program and at the same time offer employment at a livable wage for many in the surrounding community. It is also so that the Moses Project can be a financially sustainable ministry. That will leave more donations available, that MUR receives, for the other ministries that don’t have an economic component. In addition, in our conducting the Moses Project businesses in a Christ-like way, our young men are learning how to be Christian businessmen while working alongside of us.

In our church planting efforts, we also approach things in a “Kingdom Business” mentality. We seek to train men and women who will be church leaders and planters in the communities in which they live. This makes the churches that they plant, from the outset, self-directed, self-sustaining and self-replicating. Don’t you think that is what the Lord of All would have us do? Create



limited to church on Sundays and some personal devotions during the week. It should appear in every dimension of our lives.”

We here at Mission UpReach are daily trying to live out a cohesive, integrated, Christ-centered approach to doing mission. That means that with our programs, like the Moses Project, we are seeking to do “business” through growing and selling Tilapia and Chickens, along with growing and

something that is run on sound financial principals that maintains the self-perpetuating aspect of one generation of Christians passing it on to the next generation? We do. And our prayer is that God will fan this flame of revival, that is now being set in our region, into a wildfire of revival that spreads across the entire western region of Honduras and beyond. *One Church in Each Village in this Generation.* The John1010 Generation.

# The Moses Project furthers Kingdom business

by Jon Stacy

We have been super busy this month out at The Moses Project. We harvested honey from the beehives and the boys are now bottling it for sale in the local market, our coffee has been harvested and sealed in humidity control bags and is currently awaiting shipment to the States, and, the last harvest of tilapia was completed and we are in the middle of installing a raceway system to help us produce more tilapia in a shorter amount of time. Each one of these are a great example of the different agri-businesses we have on the 120 acre Moses Project property. While these are all businesses that generate income for the Moses Project, they serve a much greater purpose. They are all a part of our vision of Kingdom business. What is Kingdom business? At Mission UpReach we refer to everything we do as “Kingdom Business” because each ministry contributes in one way or another to the growth of God’s Kingdom. Why a coffee farm? Why a tilapia operation? Why broiler chickens? For us, there is only one answer: to advance the Kingdom. The income produced from these Kingdom businesses will allow us to reach more young boys with the gospel, while forming them into productive, educated, and experienced members

of society. The income produced from these business has the potential to expand our other ministries as well, should God bless them beyond the needs of the Moses Project. They also allow us to come in contact with other members of the society, because of the employment opportunities they generate. These employees represent yet another field that, as Jesus said, is “ripe for the harvest”.

The 45 boys that we have at the project represent over 20 different communities, 15 of which do not have a church of Christ. We see this, not as a problem, but as an opportunity to plant 15 new churches of Christ in those communities. These 45 boys represent the opportunity to change the futures of 45 families, as well as the futures of countless others. In last month’s article Phil talked about how change happens one person at a time. However, it also happens one step at a time. Our Lord and Savior walked this earth for 3 years,



and still his disciples doubted once he left. Why then do we think that one bible study with a person will make them a disciple? Change (real, deep, and lasting change) takes time and takes investment. That is why we are committing to 6 years of discipleship for each young boy that enters the Moses Project. We are committing to 6 years of helping them discover God and become who God wants them to be. We are helping them become the “Moses” of their “Egypt”, and helping them bring their people out of darkness and into the abundant life that only God offers. Both the training of the 45 boys and the businesses on the farm are avenues that allow us to walk faithfully the path which God has placed before us. They allow us to “walk in the light, as he is in the light”.

## DESEO gets visit from Pine Tree youth group

DESEO is into full swing since the school year kicked off in February. We have all of our afternoon programs going (basketball, tutoring, and children’s choir). This month we were blessed to have the youth group from the Pine Tree Church of Christ in Longview, Texas join us, adding some exciting things to our usual school visits. When the gringos come to town, the children get even more excited. The visiting groups generally prepare a skit that supports our scheduled themes and bring craft projects for the children to participate in. This is something we aren’t able to do each week. (Imagine the challenge to our budget if we provided crafts for the 2500 students we serve each week!). So, the excitement of having the gringos at the school coupled with the take home crafts as well as the extra hugs makes for a wonderful week for all of us. Congratulations Pine Tree youth group, you did a fantastic job! Our team, and especially the children we serve, look forward to the other teams we will be privileged to host this year.





# Southside Church of Christ medical brigade part of a 'bigger picture'

by Caleb Gossett

The balance between evangelism and humanitarian work has been debated by Christians for years. There are those who believe the Church should be solely focused on evangelizing the lost. On the other hand, there are those who believe our principal focus should be meeting the physical needs of people, and leaving the rest to God.

In scripture, we see countless times Jesus' view of humanitarian work. Jesus states in Matthew 25, *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in ... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"*.

In talking about the final judgement of man, Jesus brings up humanitarian work as a foundational aspect of a Christian's walk. Helping those in need isn't simply about giving them relief from their circumstance, but rather, it is an expression of seeing value in their life. Here at Mission UpReach we care about people, and we are dedicated to meeting

people's needs, both physical and spiritual. Feeding the hungry is temporary, unless they recognize Christ as Lord. One of the core aspects of our work here in Western Honduras is planting churches. We believe that spiritual healing occurs through dedication to Christ and participation in a body of believers, focused on reaching out to the lost. However, we are also concerned with the physical wellbeing of those we encounter. A look at the different works Mission UpReach does makes that evident: Medical Brigades, Surgical Brigades, Spiritual development, Agriculture training, not to mention providing countless jobs to the local community. But what if evangelism and humanitarian work aren't separate, but rather, both part of being a follower of Christ.

In the month of March this integration of humanitarian relief and evangelism was clearly at work. The Southside Church of Christ came down to do a medical brigade, and serve the people of El Porvenir, a community thirty minutes outside of Santa Rosa. Over the course of the week the group offered medical attention, tooth extractions, and eye exams to the



community, and attended to nearly 800 people. The medical attention they rendered is a great accomplishment and noble work on its own.

However, as mentioned above, Mission UpReach holds a deeply holistic view of missions. Consequently, Southside's medical brigade represents a part of a larger work. Before the arrival of Southside, members of our Church Planting team visited the community and passed out tickets for the clinic. Now, after a great week of meeting the physical needs of the people of El Porvenir, the church planting team has an opportunity to find more open doors, ready to hear about the spiritual healing Christ offers.

However, the complete impact of the medical brigade doesn't end there. The clinic occurred each day in the local public school. Southside attended to the physical needs of the community in the very same classrooms where our DESEO team enters each week and provides Bible-based, values education.

We are grateful for the hard work Southside did during their medical brigade, not simply because of the medical healing they provided, but also because of the way their efforts fit into our continued efforts to bring about real transformation in Western Honduras.





## A note from Donna



As we contemplate the Business as Mission model and attempt to implement those concepts into our efforts, it can seem to some that business has no

place in missions. But as we look at our more missional and relational efforts such as DESEO and ESPERO, it makes so much sense. We are investing in the poorest and most marginalized populations in Honduras (children and deaf individuals) by focusing on their human development through basic educational needs as well as a strong emphasis on values.

Our vision is holistic transformation of a generation that will result in better economic stability. Our curriculum is replete with positive future orientation, planting a vision for them as educated, moral, responsible future leaders of

their community. This is a daunting task, one that we feel God placed on our hearts very early in our ministry here in western Honduras.

There is nothing quite as satisfying as sensing God's direction, responding in faith, and watching results that you never dreamed or imagined. We are often overwhelmed with how God works through our efforts and we are even more overwhelmed when we think of all of the individuals He has invited to join us through prayer and financial support. The struggle to keep these ministries going seems endless, but God is faithful and we believe if we are doing



his business He will continue to provide. If you are partnering with us through prayer or financial support, we thank you. We invite you to continue to participate in what God is doing to facilitate holistic transformation in the lives of the future generation.

## 2018 Brigades/Visiting Teams

TBD .....	Tusculum C of C .....	Medical
March 10-17.....	Southside C of C .....	Medical
March 10-17.....	Pine Tree C of C youth.....	VBS/Construction
April 7-14 .....	Surgical Team .....	Surgery
June 9-16.....	Lexington C of C.....	Medical
June 23-30 .....	Pine Tree C of C .....	Medical/VBS/Construction
June 30 - July 7.....	Snellville C of C.....	VBS
July 7-14.....	Burnt Hickory C of C.....	Medical//Construction
July 14-21 .....	University C of C .....	Medical
September 1-8 .....	Surgical Team .....	Surgery

## 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.*