

Mission UpReach Newsletter

Cultural transformation comes *one person at a time* by Phil Waldron

Steve Tobak, from CBS MoneyWatch, wrote: "Think about it. When **one** person influences a few others, there are two major effects:

1. A ripple effect that, over time, can actually impact thousands over generations.
2. A broadening effect since one person influences many, like multiplying tree branches."

For those who are Christians and have read the Bible we know that transformation happens one person at a time. God, from Genesis to Revelation, chose one person at a time and recorded their stories so we could understand, among other things, how important one is in the transformation of many. God knows each one of us intimately and He wants us to know that He believes we are "one" that He believes can make a difference in our respective areas of influence.

Abraham is a great example of how God chose one to transform the world. Moses is another example. Moses was the one who God prepared to be the one that would lead His people from slavery. How about Esther? What if she, feeling small and insignificant, had dismissed her ability to make a difference in the lives of thousands of her people by saying, "I am just one, how can I make a difference?"

God chose His one-son to completely change the world. And the Bible tells us that God did it for each and every individual, for each and every "one." Communities are changed in the same way. One individual decides to be different. And that one individual influences another who in turn influences another who influences another. This can be for good or for evil.



Mission UpReach is working toward graduating 5,000 men and women from our training programs in the next 20 years. Each one of these men and women, after being equipped in our Christian Leadership Training, will be individuals who will have the opportunity to be the one that influences for the better their families, their neighborhoods and their country.

Our prayer is that among the 5,000 that graduate from our training there will be a significant percentage that catch the spirit of the first-century church. In the first century the church spread through the Roman empire like a wild fire. Over the following two centuries the ones who were transformed by the Gospel then transformed the entire Roman society.

Please pray for Western Honduras. May the Kingdom of our Lord come here in this region as it is in Heaven. May it permeate every town and village and may every man, woman, boy and girl know Jesus as Lord.





Hard work builds leadership at Moses Project



The 2018 school year has begun with a flurry of activities at the Moses Project. On Jan. 25 we welcomed 16 new members to the Moses Project family. The first few days and weeks have been focused on orienting the new members into the Moses Project way of doing things. We have mixed the new members with the older members in room assignments and work responsibilities. The focus of the project is to develop future leaders and it is difficult to become a leader if you have never had the opportunity to lead. We are in the process of selecting and discipling 11 crew leaders to help ease some of the workload and to develop leadership skills.

We are taking the first few months of the year to focus on the values we want the boys to have in their lives. The first of these values is a work ethic. Our key scripture for this value is Colossians 3:22-24. Legendary basketball coach John Wooden once said: "You can work without being industrious, but you cannot be industrious without work. There is no substitute for hard work."

The workload on a 120-acre farm is no small task and we want the boys to have as much experience as possible. The newest members will work in each of the six main areas of the farm:

coffee, tilapia, laying hens, honey bees, carpentry and horticulture. The boys with longer tenure are allowed to select which areas they will spend their time. The goal is that during their time in the project they begin to specialize in one area, so they develop the ability to implement what they have seen and learned at the Moses Project.

These six main areas are undergoing

a major overhaul as we begin to develop the agri-business side of the Moses Project. The coffee farm has been in a state of recovery for the last two years because it was all but abandoned when we received the property. This year we hope to produce more than 8,000 pounds of coffee to export to the states so you can purchase it for personal consumption. Just imagine, in June of this year, you could be sipping a hot cup of Moses Project coffee while reading about the amazing things God is doing in western Honduras.

The tilapia and broiler chicken operations are under construction and are advancing nicely now that we are past the rainy season. The purpose of the agri-businesses is to get the Moses Project to a point of self-sustainability. The income that these businesses will generate will allow us to insure on-going concerns of the project and the ability to continue discipling young men into vocational ministers, so they are prepared to reclaim western Honduras, their home communities and their families for the Kingdom of God. Please pray for the Moses Project and all those involved.

Meet Lisa and John Irby

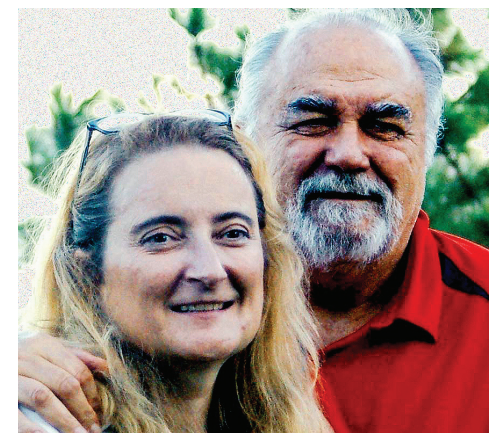
We are happy to welcome Lisa and John Irby, who became a part of the Mission UpReach family on Jan. 1. Lisa is the chief financial officer in the Santa Rosa MUR office and John is a volunteer.

Lisa's previous position was director of conservation operations at Ducks Unlimited headquarters in Memphis, TN. Her career also includes work in the gas and oil industry with Chevron, U.S.A., newspaper management and as a public relations professor and College of Business fundraising strategist at Washington State University.

John is a retired newspaper editor and publisher, university professor, private investigator and media/

education consultant.

They have four sons ranging in age from 19 to 32. Please pray for the Irby's in their adjustment and service.



Programs News and Highlights



DESEO kicks off school year

The school year in Honduras is February through November, so all of our DESEO programs have begun. The energy is high and our team, as well as the children we serve, are excited. We will be visiting 15 schools, serving 2,500 students each week with our Bible-based values education program. Our afternoon programs will serve around 200 children each week and include basketball, tutoring and our children's choir. Our team is made up of seven Hondurans and three North American volunteers.

Please pray for this team as it serves and plants seeds that have the potential to change a nation.

ESPERO grows and expands

When we began our school for deaf adults in February of 2017, we had to "beat the bushes" to find the nine students who made up our first class. This year we are almost overwhelmed with the response, mostly due to the fact that good news spreads fast in the deaf community and our reputation as a school has solidified. Of the nine students from 2017, eight have returned to complete both their second- and third-grade years. We have 12 new students forming our first-grade class for a total of 20 adult deaf students. The majority of new students do not read, write, or know sign language. As you can imagine, this takes tremendous perseverance and patience from our staff of two trained teachers and four interpreters.

Please keep these servants in your prayers, as well as the students, as we begin our 2018 school year.



Building leaders, *one* at a time

Apprenticeships of the past were marked by great submission and diligent observation of a master, with the intent of learning every detail. For instance, an apprentice woodworker would watch every tool stroke knowing one day he would provide for himself and his family with the same time-proven techniques.

During the ministry of Jesus, we can see that his disciples were apprentices, of sorts. They followed him, observed him, listened to him, and learned from him. Their time with Jesus shaped and empowered their future work of growing the Kingdom. In the same way the Gospel

spread in the first century, we believe Central America will be transformed. Everything we do is focused on developing leaders who will develop other leaders. Even as Mission UpReach continues to grow, it is evident that we will always need more staff to accomplish the complete cultural transformation we are striving for.

It can only happen, however, when we begin to develop and empower hundreds of people, **one** at a time, to lead the charge.

Examples are Benancio Gonzales and Dionisio Sanchez, both from El Salvador. They studied and graduated from CREO, our one-week boot-

camp series. They then entered and graduated from our advanced, two-year Saturday program, CRESCO. This month they each launched satellite CRESCO programs in different cities of El Salvador. Benancio has eight students in San Pedro Puxtla and Dionisio has three students in Suchitoto. These 11 new CRESCO students are being developed into leaders, by those who were developed into leaders. Their journey is evidence that transformation of a culture happens when we care about and invest in individuals.

Please pray for them and the CREO and CRESCO programs.



A note from Donna



As our brigade season kicks off, I think about how many times a visiting team makes a difference in just **one** life.

That might

not seem like the best return on investment, until you hear the stories—like the 22-year-old man who thought he had a hernia. He was on a four- to six- month waiting list for help, with little concern for his reality. It turned out he had testicular cancer and is now being successfully treated with a very good chance of survival and a normal life. What if he was forced to wait six months?

And then there's Iris, a special needs 10-year-old,

who would not be alive if her mother hadn't brought her into our medical brigade. She was dying from pneumonia and could not eat regular food. Her family could not afford nourishing milk. We were able to give her the necessary medication to fight the pneumonia, and through the generosity of two young girls (who keep her supplied in milk with their allowance), Iris is thriving.

These are just a couple of examples of the impact a brigade can have on **one** life. While thousands of others served might not be in such desperate situations, they too are impacted as we meet their needs in the name of Jesus.

Please pray for our visiting teams: for their safety, for those they will serve and mostly that our Lord will be glorified.



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

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 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:

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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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