

Mission UpReach Newsletter

The church of our Lord is the best catalyst for societal & cultural change that leads to a more peaceful & prosperous society *By Phil Waldron*

The title of our front page article this month clearly states a value that we here at Mission UpReach have come to believe with all of our hearts. Everything we do, in terms of programs or initiatives, reflects this world-view. Our own life experience confirms this to be true, but we are also reading and learning from others who have discovered the same thing.

For instance, Solomon Akanbi and Jaco Beyers, said this as they reflected on their experience in Nigeria, "... in a community where there is a considerable influence of Christianity, there should be less of social vices because Christian teachings and doctrines are aimed at transforming individual lives, re-branding the society, such that there will be political stability, economic prosperity, social and moral sanity, a reduced rate of corruption and mutual cooperation among individuals and groups, including religions. In addition, it is also assumed that if Christian principles and teachings are faithfully adopted and properly inculcated into the people, the societal value system will be fine-tuned such that the people's attitude to life will be positive and well informed towards an effective

social transformation of a socially bankrupt society like Nigeria."

Akanbi and Beyers wrote these words as the preface to a dissertation for a PhD program. Their conclusion after thorough research was, "Despite the shortcomings of some of the churches, especially in their emphasis on health and wealth gospel, their

we have seen that it really does transform lives and societies. Some of these concepts that form our core values are; that "faith without works is dead and the wise are those who don't just hear but they put what they hear into practice." And Jesus said that knowing Him would lead to "abundant life." While Paul tells us (Eph. 3:10 as

paraphrased in The Message) "Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!"

We could share more facets of how different Biblical truths have come alive in practical application in our work here in Western Honduras but time and space will not

allow much more than what we have already written. Let us conclude then with the most important value of all. This value really has to permeate, to the core, each and every initiative that we have. This value is based on Jesus saying, "what does it profit a man..?" Our application is: "what does it profit anyone if they obtain an education or improve their economic situation if they lose their soul because they never come to know Jesus of Nazareth as Savior and Lord?"



contribution to nation building cannot be overlooked as their contribution is significantly remarkable, bridging the gap where the government of the day is lacking behind, especially in the area of qualitative education. In this way religion....., does influence society."

Here at Mission UpReach we believe that combining Kingdom concepts, revealed in the Bible, forms a practical theology that serves to guide us in our stewardship of the many resources that God places in our hands. In addition,



Church Planters making a difference

By Caleb Gossett

Revolutions begin when people can no longer sit by and accept their circumstances. These people band together with a common vision and goal, using their passion and numbers to instigate change. These big shifts that have occurred in history did not occur overnight, but rather represent a long-term culmination of emotions and beliefs. However, they all had a beginning; they all had a catalyst that drove the reaction. Here at Mission UpReach we wish to see a revolution. Rather than a political revolution, we wish to see a spiritual revolution take place in Honduras.

We believe it is time for the Honduran people to shed the bonds of sin and live a life to which God has called them. Like any revolution, it will take time, and it will have to have a catalyst. We see our Church Planting team as a small part of this revolution; a small, but highly effective part. Our church planting team focuses on



How DESEO is impacting social & cultural change

By Donna Waldron

Based on the premise that the Lord's church is the best catalyst for cultural and societal change, our DESEO public school outreach serves as a great tool to enhance the impact of the church on society. As we teach weekly stories from the Bible in dynamic and attention getting ways, followed by a Biblically based values lesson, our program instills a God focused mentality that we believe will impact a child's life into adulthood and beyond. Perhaps it isn't realistic to think that we will impact every one of

the 2500 children we touch each week, but we do believe we are having and will have an impact on the majority. So many of the results are not immediately visible, but what we have seen in the past 8 years since we began DESEO is numerous families coming into a life-changing relationship with Jesus through the church. As the children become comfortable with our team as well as our brightly colored vehicles, they begin jumping on the church bus and soon feel a part of the church family. The children then bring their parents to church and the transformation process begins to

take root. Once in the church, the Lord, through His spirit and His word is able to powerfully impact families, which in turn impacts communities. We consider our opportunities through DESEO to be a great honor and privilege, one that we must take seriously and respond to faithfully. Pray for us as we improve and grow and continue to serve children in the hope of making a long term difference in Western Honduras.

establishing congregations of believers all across Western Honduras. In this way, they are helping establish catalysts of change.

When a strong body of believers exists in a community, cultural change is likely, and a spiritual revolution is inevitable. In discussing a political revolution, author Charles Kurzman writes, "they talk politics with everybody. With their butcher. With folks standing at the bus stop. People they never really talked to, ever". If this tendency of unquenchable political discussion is true, how much more important is it to see an unrestrained need to share the gospel. The revolution we hope to witness is one of peace, kindness and love. It is a revolution that encourages treating others the way we would like to be treated.

It is a revolution where God is recognized as the leader and the one in control. And, it is a revolution that inspires people to share the good news of Jesus Christ with everyone they encounter.

Please pray for our Church planting team as they work tirelessly on the front lines. Pray they have the knowledge and the wisdom to help start new and thriving churches, which will serve as catalysts for change.



Moses Project works toward cultural & societal change

By Dakota Nowell

People often feel overwhelmed when hearing about The Moses Project for the first time. Those of you who have physically been out to the site, know that the scope of the land is a good representation of the many projects that are taking place there. On the 120-acre farm, we have over 7 different project sites that include everything from tilapia hatcheries, to coffee fields, to four giant broiler chicken growing houses.

The 47 boys out at The Moses Project have the opportunity to learn about these different areas through hands-on experience each day. The boys are also given the chance to finish their schooling while enrolled in our program; a luxury most of these boy's families would not be able to afford were it not for The Moses Project.

Although we pride ourselves in the agricultural education provided as well as the opportunity to continue their own academic education, perhaps our greatest focus is on the Spiritual Training of these young men. Each day begins with a devotional led by our on-site Chaplain, Juan Carlos de Los Santos. Juan Carlos is a graduate of the Baxter Institute and worked with our Church Planting team for three years before moving out to The Moses Project full-time. He continues to teach classes during CREO (our one-week intensive Bible trainings) and CRESCO (our two-year Bible program), both of which are offered to each one of the boys at The Moses Project.

Here at Mission UpReach we have the vision that our participants return to their communities as men of God fully-equipped to not only provide for their families, but also to be the beacon of light to their villages. We pray that our efforts create the godly leaders

that this country so desperately needs; planting churches in their communities

and opening doors that we couldn't dream of reaching alone.





A note from Donna



The months of June and July are filled with visiting short term mission teams. In addition to our usual busy schedules, our team often works overtime to insure a positive mission

experience for our visitors in addition to making sure

their time, energy and resources are put to work to further the Kingdom work we do at Mission UpReach.

As we have stated many times in the past, we have our short term teams focus only on projects that support the good works we are already doing or enhance them by bringing resources that we can't otherwise provide.

All of our teams provide 100% of the funding for their personal in-country expenses as well as the funds needed to accomplish the specific projects they are completing. In other words, none of the funds we raise for Mission UpReach are used to supplement visiting teams. These teams, in conjunction with our ongoing efforts, are a part of the ultimate goal of growing the Lord's church in number as well as impacting the culture we are in. Please pray for our summer teams, for their safety as well as success.

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 Brigade	Surgery
June 9-16.....	Lexington C of C.....	Medical
June 16-23	North Atlanta C of C	Pastoral Counseling/ Marriage Mentoring
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
Sept. 29 - Oct. 6	Surgical Brigade	Surgery

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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.



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