

# Mission UpReach Newsletter

## Biblically trained men who support their families while leading churches

**By Phil Waldron**

Here at Mission UpReach, in the context of church planting, one of the principals that we have grown to appreciate is that; Biblically trained men still need to learn how to work and support their families without depending on long term financial support from the US.

While not all men who labor for churches in communities in Latin America need to be vocational ministers, there is no way that we can reach the millions of people in Latin America (650 million in total population) using the model that has been used traditionally. This model involves a man or a small team of men who are fully supported by US, outside funds. The solution to planting “one church in each village in this generation” is for the churches, in large part, to be self-led, self-sustaining and self-replicating. Here is a “real-life” example.

It’s the case of Dionisio, a “sideline” Christian who was transformed into an active laborer in the Lord’s kingdom: Dionisio Sánchez and his wife, Sandra Lopez, live in El Salvador with their 5 children. He is a bricklayer and mason, and a full-time preacher of the Gospel.

Dionisio’s formation as a self-supporting, church planter and Director of a CRESCO satellite school began in October of 2015 when he received an invitation to travel to Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras to study in CREO. CREO is MUR’s Boot Camp Leadership Training Program that consists of 6-one-week modules that are taught in an intensive format. It is called

Boot Camp because the concept behind the course is, “basic training.”

By the time that Dionisio attended his first 1-week intensive he had been a Christian for 7 years. And in spite of the fact that he attended his local church faithfully he was not yet involved in any ministry nor had he received any kind of ministerial training. In 2016 he graduated from our CREO program. Upon graduating Dionisio began working in his local



congregation preaching, teaching and restoring members that had fallen away.

In December of 2016, Dionisio’s mother-in-law became gravely ill which obligated the family to move 120 km away. This community, Hacienda Montepeque, Sushitoto, El Salvador, did not have a congregation of the Church of Christ. Thanks to his preparation in CREO, Dionisio knew the Lord was calling him to begin a work in this community. With his family in tow, he began to visit his neighbors, resulting in a new congregation in his mother-in-law’s house.

As busy as Dionisio was at the time, working long hours as a mason and

bricklayer, studying with others and preparing sermons for Sunday; he was hungrier than ever for more knowledge and more preparation in Kingdom business. So, in 2017, he eagerly accepted when he and some others were invited by MUR staff to participate in a condensed, intensive version of CRESCO that would compress the normal two-year curriculum into a 1-year format.

The CRESCO training was difficult

for him. In order to attend the intensives, he had to give up the better part of two weeks’ worth of income each month. Upon graduating, beyond serving as a bi-vocational evangelist, Dionisio took on a new role and opened up a CRESCO satellite school in El Salvador. This self-sustaining Bible school only receives logistical and spiritual support from MUR’s church planting team. At present there are six students in Dionisio’s school.

In Matthew 9:37,38, Jesus says, “the harvest is plentiful therefore ask the Lord of harvest to send out reapers into the harvest”. Are you praying that? According to Jesus, there are lots men and women who are like Cornelius in Acts chapter 10. The problem, according to Jesus, is not that there are no people of peace who are ready to respond to the Gospel but rather that there are not enough of people willing and able to share the Gospel with all of those who will respond once they hear it.

Please pray for Dionisio. And pray that God will bless Mission UpReach’s efforts to produce men and women by the thousands who can be bi-vocational ministers to reap the harvest that the Lord has already prepared.



# Preparing young men for Kingdom work



*By Jon Stacy*

The issue of avoiding poverty by creating self-sufficiency has been debated for quite a long time. The following excerpt is from the Religious Intelligencer in 1826 by 12th century philosopher Maimonides: **“Lastly, the eighth and the most meritorious of all, is to anticipate charity by preventing poverty,** namely, to assist the reduced brother, either by a considerable gift or loan of money, or **by teaching him a trade,** or by putting him in the way of business, so that he may earn an honest livelihood and not be forced to the dreadful alternative of holding up his hand for charity. . .”.

We are not only trying to teach the Moses Project boys how to be community leaders but to also be disciple makers in those communities. We are in a constant balancing act here at the Moses Project. We balance the educational, vocational and spiritual development of these young men during their six years with us.

Some of the boys (16 of the 45) have made the decision to make Jesus their Lord and Savior. While we want them to be spiritual leaders

in their families and communities and to have the same view of their communities as God does (as a community in need of the redeeming blood of Christ), we also want them to be self-sufficient.

The element of self-sufficiency is what drives us to continually look for ways to train these young men in trades that will allow them to reach that goal. The element of spiritual leadership is what drives us to continue to pour into their lives and teach them all that Jesus has commanded us to. Since 1826 or earlier, we have debated the issue of self-sufficiency. The excitement of seeing a new church be born and grow can cause us to short circuit its development by placing people on foreign support. We wouldn't dream

of taking our kids' exams for them in high school just because we are ready for them to graduate and don't want to see them struggle through the process of learning and retaining the knowledge presented in the class.

That idea sounds and is absurd, yet we do the same with churches when we short circuit the growth cycle by placing the preacher on foreign support thus making him dependent on charity. If we will take the time to really invest in these brothers who have a desire to work in the Kingdom and teach them how to provide for themselves, they will grow to levels that we can't even imagine because we will have given them the satisfaction and pride that comes from knowing that they can earn their own way.







# Coffee that changes lives

*By Caleb Gossett*

What if we told you that you could enjoy your morning cup of coffee, and know that each sip represents lives being changed? It sounds too good to be true, but that is the reality of Subida Coffee. At the start of August, we launched Subida Coffee Company as an exciting new way for people to support the work at the Moses Project. With each bag of coffee and box of k-cups sold, we are able to continue the incredible work at the Moses Project. Everyone who hears about and comes into contact with the Project in some way leaves impressed; impressed with its vision and goals and impressed with the progress it has enjoyed.

The model being used at the Moses Project is both biblical and effective. The young men who are a part of the program are being given the training they need to help provide for their families. At the same time, they are being exposed to a better way of life. A way of life that Jesus describes in John 10:10 as “abundant”. This way of life is one that is centered on Christ and preoccupied with the salvation and well-being of others. The boys are seeing this way of life through working alongside the Christian staff at the Project and through the influence of Juan Carlos, the full-time Moses Project minister.

Paul was an incredible champion of Christ. He travelled thousands of miles, spreading the good news of Jesus. At one point in Paul’s travels he worked as a tentmaker. Acts 18 tells us that “because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks” (NIV). Based on our



experience, we know the value of an integrated member of a community acting as an influence for change. Our vision for the boys at the Moses Project is that they leave with the skills needed to be successful farmers, business owners and community leaders, who encourage and move others into a relationship with Christ.

This vision is directly supported by the sales of Subida Coffee. You get a chance to partake in a fruit of the Moses Project Farm, while at the same time investing in the future fruits of the program: the transformed lives of

those influenced by the Moses Project boys. We invite you to purchase your coffee from Subida Coffee Company, so you can enjoy a fantastic cup of coffee; coffee, that changes lives!

## Subida Coffee Company

**Great Cause. Great Coffee.**

[subidacoffee.com](http://subidacoffee.com)



## A note from Donna



August 14th is a difficult day for our family as it represents the day our lives changed forever. That was the day that our son, Harrison was involved in an accident that resulted in a Traumatic Brain Injury. None of us are the same, nor will we ever be able to return to who we were on

August 13th. I know many of you know the trauma and grief of such occasions and can relate to my words. At the same time, many of you also know that God is our Redeemer and He causes all things to work for our good. How can such tragedy and heartache result in anything good?

It would take pages for me to list the many ways that God has and continues to redeem our pain as a family but let me share a few. First, we have all obtained a new level of faith that would not be possible without this experience. Second, He has

used our experience to make us more effective in our efforts to bring hope and peace to others. Third, we are a more united and connected family than ever before. Our daughter in law, Hayley had just come into our lives when the accident occurred, and we had not had much time to bond and relate. The past three years have forged a closeness and unity that we might not otherwise have. I could go on, but hopefully you can get a glimpse of what I mean when I talk about redemption.

I am happy to report that Harrison is stable, and we see small strides weekly. He is still 100% dependent on his caregivers, is non-verbal, and receives his nourishment through a feeding tube. With his eyes and his expressions, he is so present with us and when he gets the opportunity to communicate with his iPad, his primary focus is to bring words of encouragement to those of us around him, assuring us that God is in control. His faith is remarkable and the peace that resides in him is unexplainable without the power of God's Holy Spirit. How could he possibly make us prouder as his parents? We thank each of you who pray daily for him and our family. We feel the power and impact and we ask that you specifically plead with God to give him his voice. We know he has so much to say that can impact even more people than he has already impacted. May that be the sole purpose of all of our lives, to bring glory and honor to our Redeemer!

## 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
Oct. 6-13 .....	VCOM Medical Team.....	Medical

## 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.

## 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:*

Phil and Donna Waldron  
 Apartado Postal #255  
 Santa Rosa de Copán, Copán  
 Honduras, Central America  
 donna.w@missionupreach.org  
 Phone: 706-534-7060



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