

Mission UpReach Newsletter

Lexington team returns to Corquín

This month the Lexington Church of Christ (Lexington, SC) returned to Corquín where our team members, Kris and Mike Bridges, live and work. This time the group traveled up into the mountains to a community by the name of Potrerillos. This community has become one of the areas that the local church in Corquín has focused its recent outreach. There are 15 people from that community who are traveling to meet with the church in Corquín regularly.

Mission UpReach, has worked in this area with other medical teams in the past several years with great results. The community is so responsive and responsible. The team, made up of 20 North Americans, was able to serve 927 people with basic medical checkups as well as vision checks. The Lexington team was housed in Corquín this year



instead of Santa Rosa to reduce time on the road. Corquín is small but very quaint and hospitable.

The local church was involved hands on in serving Portrerillos and were encouraged by the fellowship they enjoyed with the Lexington team. This newly formed congregation, averaging 55 in

attendance, is full of life and energy with a vision of multiplying into communities such as Portrerillos.

When visiting groups come with the desire to join us in what we are already doing, the combination is dynamic and productive. Thank you, Lexington Church of Christ for coming and serving with us!





Wrapping up our summer groups



Nelson Galarraga returns

For the second year in a row, Nelson Galarraga from the North Atlanta Church of Christ returned to offer a week long training on pastoral counseling. Some 25 individuals participated in Nelson's practical, hands-on training, equipping our team to better meet the needs of those around us. While in town, Nelson also conducted two marriage seminars in the evenings, encouraging and challenging couples to move towards more productive relationships within their families. Dorris Gulley, an MUR board member was also with us the same week, providing encouragement and support. Thank you, Nelson and Dorris, for giving of yourselves and your time.

VCOM brings students from the South Carolina campus

Mission UpReach is privileged to host the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) several times each year as they bring students with a passion for outreach to put into practice the skills they are learning in medical school. Several Preceptors (licensed physicians) work with smaller groups of students as they diagnose and treat the patients who come through the remote clinic. These clinics are set up in small villages where the team is able to see about 100 patients per day. The experience enhances the students' medical knowledge as well as opens their eyes to community outreach. It has been and continues to be an honor to

serve as their host. We sincerely appreciate the valuable contribution they make to our ongoing efforts to meet the needs of the poor and oppressed in western Honduras.



DiscipleTrips works with children in public schools

DiscipleTrips is an excellent organization that brings individuals together to experience short-term missions. The goal of DiscipleTrips is to offer mission trips to individuals who might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate due to the size of their congregation. One of their goals is to make groups intergenerational, allowing older Christians to teach and be an example to younger Christians, while mutually serving others and each other. We are honored that they often select western Honduras as a spot to bring such teams. This year's group was led by Cody Chumbley,

minister at the South Main Church of Christ in Weatherford, TX. This year's group prepared a VBS-like event that they took to several schools in Corquín each day. They also took time to work in the afternoons at our coffee farm at the Moses Project. One afternoon they went to the local elder-care facility and played games with the residents as well as served them homemade soup for dinner. Thank you, DiscipleTrips, for blessing us with dynamic teams of servants who impact lives for the glory of God.



University Church of Christ brings youth group

We are thankful for our ongoing, long-term relationship with the University Church of Christ out of Denver, CO. While the church, as a whole, visits each year with a medical team, the youth group visits every other year



to serve children with a VBS. This year they prepared lessons, skits, crafts and games to share with the children. This team was able to visit 6 different schools that are currently in our DESEO program. The dynamic visit from a group of North American teens was a nice change for the kids who happily receive our team each week. This group also spent their afternoons working at the Moses Project in the coffee field, pruning and cleaning the plants. Thank you, University for entrusting us with your teens and encouraging the children we are blessed to serve.



Southside Church of Christ finishes summer with a medical team

The Southside Church of Christ has been a regular on our short-term mission's team. Scott Bedichek and Kory Cummings, both board members, started coming to Honduras in 2012. Each year the group has grown and as a result are able to serve more and more people. Kory, an optometrist, is able to provide professional vision checks and provides glasses to those in need. Scott, a periodontist, brings his team who spends hours pulling rotten teeth, a task that has no end in western Honduras. Thank you, Southside for your constant and meaningful contribution to what the Lord is doing here in western Honduras. What began as a small group from Southside, is now a large and diverse group with families, nursing students, dental professionals and more. For some members of the group this trip was their 7th, while for others, it was their very first. It was amazing to see the group come together and serve the people of El Porvenir and its surrounding areas. As we finished the week it was a blessing to reflect on the incredible journey the last few years have been. We know that in another 7 years we will look back on this week, and all the groups we've hosted this year, and praise God for how good he is. Thank you,



A note from Donna



This month we wrap up our "summer" season of short-term mission groups. It has been an amazingly successful season, for which we are so thankful. There are many moving parts when we host back to back groups and fortunately, we have an

awesome support team on the ground in Honduras that makes it all come together.

As I finish up this newsletter, I am in the Nashville airport headed back to Honduras. I came to Nashville to support Harrison and Hayley while her parents are away. We had many plans: outings and just time to be together. But, as we have learned, things don't always go as planned. Harrison suffered a series of uncontrollable seizures that required an emergency trip to the hospital and a three-day stay. After many tests,

it appears an infection was the trigger, but that is not 100% conclusive. As a mother, each and every time I watch him struggle my heart breaks. It's just not as it should be, nor as we imagined. We have learned to accept that God is with us, and has been through the entire journey, although in the darkest moments it's easy to doubt. He always shows up in the people who come to serve and encourage and support us.

I am humbly reminded of my lack of control over the lives of my children, and even my own. Harrison is my hero. He never complains and always expresses gratitude. He is brave and courageous, and I know God is using his example to call others to trust in Him. This month Hayley's family suffered another tragedy when her sister Katelyn's boyfriend was killed. We ask that you pray for Katelyn, her son, and the entire Smith family as they face yet another difficult disappointment and life-altering event. Satan attempts to use our weariness to distract us from what God has for us to do. I can truly say that the events of our life have served to remind us that this life is not the most important thing. We long for eternity where all will be made new and there will be no sorrows or pain. We appreciate each of you praying for us and we ask that you continue so that we can continue to share that hope with the precious souls in western Honduras and beyond.

2019 Brigade Season

January 5-12	VCOM	Medical
February 9-16	Surgical	General and ENT
February 16-19	Pine Tree	School sponsorship
February 23-March 2	Tusculum Church of Christ (TN)	Medical
March 9-16	Belton Church of Christ (TX)	Youth-VBS
March 16-23	Lipscomb University (TN)	Medical
May 18-25	Oklahoma State (OK)	Construction
June 1-8	Snellville Church of Christ	VBS
June 8-15	Pine Tree Church of Christ	Medical/VBS/Construction
June 15-22	University Church of Christ	Medical
June 22-29	Burnt Hickory Church of Christ	Medical/VBS/Construction
July 6-13	Lexington Church of Christ	Medical
July 6-15	VCOM	Medical
July 20-27	University CofC Youth	VBS
July 20-27	Disciple Trips	VBS
July 27-August 3	Southside CofC (TX)	Medical
Sept. 28-Oct. 5	Surgical	Orthopedic
Oct. 5-12	VCOM	Medical

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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:

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