

Mission UpReach Newsletter

2020 Vision: A look at MUR's future

By Phil Waldron, CEO,
Mission UpReach, Inc.

In referring to James 4:13, one author wrote, "The problem here is not making the plan- James doesn't go on to say that planning is sinful, or foolish. The problem is an attitude of self-reliance. "Tomorrow, I will do this or that." James exhorts us to have an attitude of subjection. It seems that he was referring to the same spiritual principal that Paul talks about in Romans 8:28, where he says that "all things work together for the good of those that love the Lord and are called according to His purpose." Here at MUR we have never been more confident in God's active providence than when we look back over His blessings on our feeble efforts in these past ten years. As we muddled through, He directed our footsteps.

With the departure of 2019, we have just completed 10 years of "boots on the ground." We pray that God will continue to direct our footsteps in the next ten years for His glory. Following are just some of the things that we are dreaming about accomplishing;

- Reaching a solid financial footing with our investment in our Moses Project agriculture so that the income from ag-activities will pay for all of our overhead costs and 100% of donations will go to direct cost of ministries and programs.
- Expanding our discipleship and Christian leadership trainings to help spark a restoration type revival throughout the western part of Honduras that leads to one church in each village in this generation.
- Expanding our school for deaf to include both adults and children.
- Begin running a Christian Bible camp for children and pre-adolescents that runs year-round with a



combination of week-long camping, sessions combined with multiple three-day, weekend retreats for the same children that attend the weeklong sessions.

- Opening a permanent surgery clinic to serve the needs of the poor who do not have access to many basic needed surgeries, that are literally life changing, that are commonly available to us in the US.

These objectives are goals that have been forged through many trials, and some spectacular successes over the last ten years. We believe that with God's blessings and a firmer, financial foundation from our stewardship of the Moses Project ag-businesses; we will see hundreds and even thousands of the poor and needy becoming Christians. At the same time many of them will be learning, practical every-day skills that will help them earn a living and support their families without the need to migrate-illegally to the United States just to be able to survive financially.

None of this would be possible, without you, our donors and supporters. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support over these last ten years. "The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace." Amen.



Saying “Goodbye” to a special family

We are sad to report that Jeremias Santos along with his wife, Karol and their three children, Nixi, Laura and Jeremy are leaving Mission UpReach to take a job in the Dominican Republic. Jeremias, born and raised in the Dominican Republic, is our longest employed team member, having been with us for almost 10 years. He has done a fantastic job of building an acapella culture in the local church as well as serving on our Church Planting team. Karol served in the beginning of our DESEO program as a vital member until she was blessed by motherhood. They have been stable servants in the local church and community and invaluable to the mission.

We are sad to see them go, but trust God has a new opportunity that will result in their growth as well as the growth of the Kingdom. We had a farewell party with the local church, allowing the members to say encouraging

words to bless them as well as enjoying cake and fellowship. Please keep the Santos family in your prayers as they adjust to a new culture and job.



Thank you for a successful year-end fundraiser

By: Phil Waldron

Once again, our donors responded to our year end fundraiser challenge in a generous way. Our deepest thanks to all of you who participated with a donation and/or a pledge towards building a Firm Foundation for the future. Overall it was a successful campaign which resulted in us receiving a combination of donations and pledges that provide the financial underpinning that we need during 2020. Many of the pledges we received were for the next three years.

Our November 9th, first ever gala-fundraising event was a

new and pleasant experience in our fundraising efforts. The feedback and comments received from those who attended as well as from many who donated at the event was that it was a fun and enjoyable evening and helped many new people understand the mission and purpose of MUR. The final count for the net amount of money raised after expenses was \$97,000 dollars. This went a long way towards helping us meet our objectives with the year-end campaign. We are already planning our next year's event which is to be held in Fort Worth, Texas on the 22nd of August 2020.



Thank you again for your prayers and donations. Without your support it would be impossible for us to continue to provide the training and equipping of children, teens and adults through our various ministries and programs. These programs are what will produce a new generation of leaders for this country. And it is your support that is building a better future for this generation of Honduras. Once again, seeing the generosity of so many, produced in us a sense of deep gratitude. We feel honored to be entrusted with the stewardship of your donations.

Christmastime with DESEO Project

We are excited to announce that we were able to collect \$5000 this year towards a Christmas campaign for our sponsored children in our DESEO Project. We currently have 85 children who are sponsored, with a hope of increasing that number to eventually cover the 1200+ children in our program. These sponsorships allow us to give the children much needed uniforms, shoes, backpacks and school supplies in addition to the spiritual training and development provided by our DESEO program. In addition to the financial help, a sponsorship provides

emotional support by letting a child know that someone has their best interests in mind. Knowing their “family” is praying for them and the opportunity to communicate with that family builds security in the children we sponsor.

This year we were able to do something extraordinary through our Christmas campaign. We had a school-wide Christmas party in the four schools where the currently sponsored children attend. This party was for all the children in the school, even those not sponsored. It included a Christmas skit, games



with prizes, piñatas, cake, and a special visit from Santa who gave each child a gift. In addition to the parties, we were able to purchase a special Christmas gift for each child whose sponsor donated towards the campaign. These gifts included a Bible for each child plus a special toy. We also prepared a basket of essentials for each family that included beans, rice, flour, sugar, coffee, oil, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toilet paper. Our DESEO team had the privilege of visiting each child personally in their homes to deliver the gifts. We would like to express our extreme gratitude to all who participated in the campaign. We feel honored to have been a part of your generosity!



A note from Donna



In early December I had the privilege of teaching a seminar on the “Holiday Blues.” The need to help people endure the holidays, especially if they have lost loved ones, is applicable here in Honduras as well as the U.S. For some of us, the holidays are stressful and create dread. While everyone else seems happy, we are often reminded of our

losses and what we had dreamed our Christmases might be like. Per usual, my preparation and delivery of that theme has served to remind me of reality as I dealt with my own sadness during the holiday season.

The passage that has gotten me through the holidays this year is Romans 15:13, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” I have learned that “trusting in him” is the key to hope, joy, and peace. Focusing on what we have rather than what we have lost is challenging, but by the “power of the Holy Spirit” we can do it. I pray that as 2020 kicks off, you will overflow with hope so that your life is blessed, and you are a blessing to others.

Thank you for being a part of the work God is doing in western Honduras. We feel so honored to be here and we recognize the sacrifice many make to make that possible.

2020 Brigade Season

Feb. 22-29	Tusculum C of C	Medical
March 28-April 4	VCOM	Medical
May 23-30	Dwayne & Holly Johnson	Medical
May 30-June 6	Snellville CofC	Medical/VBS
June 6-13	Lexington CofC	Medical
June 13-20	Pine Tree CofC	Medical
June 20-27	Burnt Hickory CofC	Medical
July 4-11	Tusculum CofC Youth	VBS/Service
July 11-18	Calhoun CofC Youth	VBS/Service
August 1-8	Southside CofC	Medical
August 8-15	Ashley Miller	Medical
October 3-10	Surgical (General)	Surgical

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:

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Please send all checks, donations and correspondence to this address.

You can correspond directly with Phil and Donna at:

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