

Mission UpReach Newsletter

The importance of the camp experience

We just wrapped up our 6th annual kid's camp. It was an incredible two sessions filled with fun, laughter and plenty of Jesus. A total of 160 kids attended the two sessions of camp where the theme was "Jesus, My Hero." Our staff used many superhero activities and examples, to show the kids how much they are loved by Christ. Unlike a superhero who gains power and wields it to attain glory for himself by saving lives, Christ gave up infinite power and glory, humbling himself to save everyone's life. Over the course of the two sessions, campers were able to have a blast, and at the same time, expand their knowledge of Christ's sacrifice.

Our main goals for the kids during camp are simple: keep them safe, give them a fun camp experience, and help them build a deepening and personal relationship with Jesus. Each year and each session of camp we make those three goals a priority. On a larger scale, we have dreams and goals for the camp itself. One is to see camp grow each year, which it has done consistently. Two is to build a culture of camp, where kids come back each year and view camp as a refuge and a supportive Christian community. Finally, we hope to see past campers come back to work as counselors. In that way, they can bring their own camp experiences into



their new role and execute the position of counselor in an effective and powerful way.

Since we have now completed 6 years of camp, we are finally seeing that final goal coming to fruition! This year, two of the counselors on staff were past campers, and next year we are excited to welcome even more! This is one of our main goals because it benefits both the campers and the counselors. A camp counselor balances fun with spirituality in an inspiring way, and campers see them as a role model. When a camper realizes that a counselor was once in their position, the admiration and emulation increase exponentially. On the other hand, a counselor who was once a camper is suddenly placed into a position of authority in the same camp where they attended. This increase in responsibility challenges a counselor in ways that help them mature as an adult and as a Christian. It is Christ's example and teachings on discipleship in action.

Although it's just for one week at a time, camp truly can transform people's lives! The longer a child or adult is involved in camp, the more profound that transformation can be. Countless campers in the older session expressed their hope and dream of being camp counselors. This speaks to the progress we are making in creating a culture of camp; a culture of building each other up and doing so through a shared love of Christ. We dream that in 10 years the majority of staff at camp will be past campers, who will help make camp a more fun and deeply spiritual environment than we can even imagine!



New boys arrive at the Moses Project

The coffee harvest is winding down in the western part of Honduras, which means the start of the new school year is just around the corner. School is programmed to start on February 5th, and the boys of the Moses Project have returned. In October and November of 2019, we spent several days meeting with community leaders and teachers in new communities of western Honduras that have yet to be impacted by Mission UpReach and the Moses Project such as an area called La Campa. We felt called to recruit boys from this municipality and its surrounding areas because of a study that was published about this region. 51.25% of the population is under that age of 18, and of the school age children, only 27.27% are studying.

The Moses Project exists specifically for the purpose of helping young men who live in poverty to reach their full potential.

In effect, they can be a “Moses” to their communities and promote lasting change in their communities. This is easily seen through economical change, but more importantly,

spiritual change by carrying the Good News to their families and fellow citizens of their communities.

This year we are welcoming 15 new young men into the

Moses Project family so that they may have the opportunity to be blessed by the Mission UpReach staff, the Moses Project, and the supporters of those programs. There are 31 young men in the program this year and they represent 15 communities that we can bless. God blessed Abraham so that he would be a blessing to many. God has blessed Mission UpReach abundantly, and we in turn are blessing these young men with the abundant life that is only found in Jesus Christ.

We are planting seeds for future generations to be blessed by the Good News. It has been said that a fool can tell you how many seeds are in an apple, but only a wise man can tell you how many apples are in a

seed. We ask you to join us in prayer for the seeds that we are planting in western Honduras!



Backpack, school supplies, and uniforms!

It's that time of year again here in Honduras. School starts the first week of February, and we have been busy helping our 95 sponsored children prepare. Sponsored children get two sets of custom uniforms, socks, shoes, a backpack, and all the school supplies they will need for the year.

It is always such a joy to see their faces when they receive their backpacks stuffed with supplies! Many of these children are only in school because of the help we are able to offer them through sponsorships which ensure they will get what is necessary for their studies. In addition to physical supplies, our DESEO Program is able to offer weekly Bible lessons and values training. Knowing that someone they don't even know cares enough to send money to meet their needs is truly an encouragement, not only the child, but also the parents. It is our dream to sponsor all 1200 children we serve on a weekly basis. Please go to deseoproject.org today and select a child to sponsor.

For just \$38 per month, you can experience the joy of knowing you are helping a child. Share this opportunity with your family and friends and make a difference in a child's life!





A note from Donna



While our local church (planted 5 years ago by Mission volunteers and employees) is separate from the Mission, we work collaboratively to serve our

community. For example, the majority of our deaf students have been converted to Christ and are active members of that church. Many of the children who participated in our kid's camp are from church families, and those who aren't are now interested in being a part of the local church. All that we do is for the purpose of bringing people into a transformational relationship with Jesus Christ, and we believe that being a part of a church family is vital to

that process.

One of the roles I play in our local church is serving with a committee to plan activities for the women of our church. We have many wonderful things planned, but for the first time we are planning a weekend women's retreat! It will be low budget, but full of fellowship and wonderful growth-promoting classes and activities. Other things we have planned this year include a two month long teaching series, a regional ladies' day, an outing to fellowship with one of our church plants, and a few nights of serving coffee and bread to families who are caring for their sick loved ones at the local hospital. I am personally challenged and encouraged by the enthusiasm of our ladies to grow and change and serve.

Please continue to pray for us as we move forward in faith with our plans for 2020. The challenges are great, but we fully trust God to move mountains and continue to bless our feeble efforts! Thank you for all you do to support us.

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/VBS
June 20-27	Burnt Hickory CofC	Medical
July 4-11	Tusculum CofC Youth	VBS/Service
July 11-18.....	Calhoun CofC Youth	VBS/Service
July 18-25	Monrovia CofC	?
August 1-8	Southside CofC.....	Medical
August 8-15	Ashley Miller	Medical
October 3-10.....	Surgical (General).....	Surgical

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Please contact us:

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