



Mission UpReach Newsletter

A note from Phil Waldron

Dear Friends,

Robin Young and Serena McMahon wrote an article that reported that Honduras has only 12 respirators. Honduras is a relatively small country but it still has eight million citizens. Twelve respirators will not be adequate for what is coming. These same authors also reported on the systemic corruption that pervades every sector of Honduran society. They say, that it is often elected government officials that plunder the coffers at the expense of the poor. They offered up a recent example to underscore their point.

According to Young/McMahon the government sent the presidential plane to the US to purchase respirators. They reported that they purchased 140 of them but once the machines were brought back and examined by Honduran Doctors it was discovered that they were BiPAP machines instead of the needed respirators.

Our daughter lives in Brooklyn, NY in the very epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have grave concerns for her, her roommates and their fellow New Yorkers. We are praying for America and those suffering from the pandemic. Both Donna and I believe that being US citizens living year-round in Honduras gives us an arm's length perspective on both countries and both cultures. I can tell you, from our perspective, that as bad as it could be for people in the US things in Honduras could be exponentially worse. Take for instance the "shelter in place" and "social distancing" mandates in force in most of the US; in Honduras there is almost complete lock down. It reminds me of the times my family as a boy experienced Martial Law in Karachi, Pakistan during the 1960's. This will go a long way to "flatten the curve" of the spread of the virus but it will have a devastating effect on an already hurting economy.

The US Government rushed a \$2 Trillion-dollar stimulus package through that, Lord willing, will go a long way towards helping individuals, families and businesses. In Honduras however no such help is available.

Honduras needs you to continue to help Mission UpReach. In this time of anxiety and concern about what is going to happen in the US please do not forget about Honduras. We have already seen a decline in donations that will have a huge impact on our year once we come through the current crisis. Our calculations show that between employees, family members and suppliers and their families that more than 1,000 people depend on MUR for their sustenance in a large way.

We need your help. We are asking you to give and to give generously so that we can continue the good works that God has been doing through our ministries here.

May God bless you and keep you in these uncertain times and may He bless these beautiful United States of America.

Phil Waldron
CEO
Mission UpReach, Inc.





A note from Donna



As I type this note, Phil and I are in the US after traveling to care for our son while his in-laws went out of town. While here, the Honduran borders closed without notice. It has been

a bonus for us to be able to spend more time with Harrison, especially in light of the current events. With our daughter-in-law working as a surgical nurse at a hospital, the risks factors for exposure are greater than normal for her and for Harrison. Our oldest daughter, Sarah, is in New York, the epicenter for the virus as of this writing. Our youngest, Laura, is in Searcy staying in her rented house finishing up her Senior year at Harding University online. As is true with all Seniors, she is missing out on her last semester at a place she loves, and her graduation ceremony has been postponed until August. That is very disappointing for her, but in light of the seriousness of this problem and taking into consideration that many are losing their lives and their loved ones, it's a small price to pay for the greater good.

As I think about the "greater good" I am perplexed at what God might be calling us to as a family and as a mission. In Honduras, the government has forbidden any organization or company from laying off employees. We are

obligated to pay salaries and benefits for the unforeseeable future, as Phil mentioned in his letter. This is a blessing to our employees, as there are no government benefits to fall back on. As this situation develops and the economic impact is fully felt, we will be faced with some really hard decisions in order to keep our doors opened. Your continued support is so appreciated. We also recognize that some of you have lost your jobs, your retirement and possibly loved ones, so we ask humbly and in full recognition that we are not the only ones struggling.

I just listened to a song that was recorded in our church in Honduras back in December. It's the Spanish version of "I Stand in Awe of You." I pray that none of us will take for granted the privilege and freedom of corporate worship when this is over. May the church be stronger and more faithful to our God, who is worthy of all praise. It is my prayer that the very real possibility of losing one's life, which actually exists every day, will cause many around the world to reflect on eternity and just where they might spend it. For those of us who are a part of God's Kingdom, we can confidently face death, knowing that through grace we are saved. May our passion grow so that we are proclaiming louder and more frequently the gospel to a lost and dying (literally) world.

We ask that you pray for us, our family, especially our vulnerable son, and for the mission in the days ahead. We are committed to praying for you and trust the Lord has a plan for each of us as we navigate the days to come.

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Other Giving

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

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