

Mission UpReach Newsletter

Hope – An anchor for the soul

By Phil Waldron

Long before Ángel was a Christian he was sitting at a bar one night. Suddenly, he had the sensation that something was touching the back of his head, so he turned... As he did, a man pulled the trigger on a gun. If he had not moved his head at that exact moment, Ángel would have died. As it was, the bullet entered his mouth and buried itself in his jaw knocking a tooth loose in the process. Most of the stories of transformed lives resulting from our programs here at Mission UpReach, Inc. are focused on children and youth, but there are a number of adults that have been transformed over these 11 years as well. Ángel Sánchez is one such story.

Thanks to the many loyal and generous donors supporting our work, God has used Mission UpReach to transform lives of people just like Ángel, while at the same time we have begun building a base of leadership that will help lead a sustainable movement of church planting and discipling in the future.

A little over half the funds that we receive during the year are donated during the last quarter of the calendar year. That's why our Annual Fundraising Campaign is such an important part of our success. This month we are launching this year's campaign entitled, "Hope: An Anchor for the Soul—Firm and Secure." We felt like it is just the right focus for a campaign given the tension and stress that has been generated by the COVID-19 pandemic layered on top of the political unrest and rioting that we see all around us.

In talking about Jesus, Hebrews 6:19a says, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Later in the New Testament the Apostle Peter says that Jesus is our living hope.

In Honduras where we live and work, this is the Good News that we preach, and it is transforming lives. Harrison and Hayley Waldron's story is a real life testimony of someone who discovered this Living Hope. So, in an effort to encourage others in their own struggles as well as to highlight the great need for donations here in Western



Honduras, we have asked Hayley Waldron to be the ambassador for this year's campaign. We produced a video that tells their story in Hayley's own words so that others can be encouraged by listening to it. You can see the video by going to YouTube and searching for Harrison and Hayley Waldron, An Anchor for Your Soul.

In the face of extremely difficult circumstances, Harrison and Hayley have held onto their faith and have found that, indeed, Jesus is, "an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." They have faced so much, and as a result, they are an inspiration to all that know them. I hope you will be encouraged by their story.

I also hope you will consider giving to our year-end campaign so that Mission UpReach can share this living hope with thousands of people in Honduras who so desperately need it.



Planned Giving's mutual benefits



*By Dr. Robert Stephens, Retired
President of the Bernard McDonough
Foundation and Ohio Valley
University*

My wife, Ridglae, and I are long-term supporters of Mission UpReach and continue to be amazed at all that is being accomplished by Phil, Donna and their coworkers in Honduras. We decided a couple years ago to set up a planned gift that would benefit their mission work now and in the future.

Many are not aware of the benefits of planned giving for the donor and for the recipient charity.

Certain planned gifts can provide tax write-offs, the avoidance of capital gain taxes on appreciated assets, and potential income to the donor. In our situation, we avoided capital gains on appreciated stock and received a nice charitable deduction toward our income tax

while at the same time benefitting Mission UpReach. It was a true “win - win”. The following are some of the more popular planned giving instruments that you might consider to partner with Mission UpReach:

BEQUEST – A bequest is a gift made by naming Mission UpReach in your will. You can provide a child’s portion or name a specific amount that would be distributed after your death.

LIFE INSURANCE – Simply purchase a life insurance policy naming Mission UpReach as the beneficiary.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY – This instrument can provide you income for life with the possibility of eliminating capital gains tax when you donate appreciated assets, such as stock. With a charitable gift annuity, you have the potential to take a partial income tax deduction when you fund the annuity. Part of your gift will be used by Mission UpReach immediately and part of the gift is set aside in a reserve account to be invested to support your future income payments.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST – The CRT is similar to the CGA in benefits to the donor with the difference being you receive income for life or a certain period

of time but, at the conclusion, the remainder of the trust would be distributed to Mission UpReach.

DONOR ADVISED FUND – A donor-advised fund is a charitable giving vehicle administered by a public charity (such as a community foundation) created to manage charitable donations on your behalf. To participate in a donor-advised fund, you open an account in the fund and deposit cash, securities, or other financial assets. This is another way to avoid capital gains on appreciated assets and potentially receive a charitable tax deduction. You surrender ownership of anything you put in the fund, but make decisions concerning gifts to your preferred charities, in our situation, Mission UpReach. At your death, the remaining funds could go to a prior, specified charity.

These are just some of the more popular planned giving options that can be used to benefit you and Mission UpReach. For your specific situation, seek advice from a qualified attorney or your financial advisor. There are so many ways that you can, and have, supported Mission UpReach in its life altering work among the most vulnerable in Honduras. We know that God will bless all our efforts as we partner together to make a difference one life at a time. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Mt. 6:21 NIV

Seasons of service

By Anny Tabora

Seasons. Life is that—seasons. Some are full of pain, and others are unexpected. The truth is that we do not know what the next season of our lives will entail, but we can be sure of three things. First, each one can teach us an important lesson. Second, Jesus is present in each one of them. And third, we can serve others in the midst of difficult seasons.

One of my favorite stories from the Bible is that of Joseph. At a young age, he experienced such dramatic changes like going from being a spoiled son to being a slave and being in jail to arriving at the palace. Genesis 40:4(KJV) says, “And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them; and they continued a season under guard.” This reminds me that no matter what season we are in, there is no excuse but to serve others as this gives meaning and purpose to our lives.

During this time of pandemic, the needs in my country have grown dramatically. The pandemic has not necessarily brought more problems, but it has deepened those that have already existed. I think God is prompting us to constantly ask ourselves, “How deep is our love for others? How willing are we to share our resources with those most in

need? How limited is our service?” These and many questions have been on my mind lately. We usually limit everything according to our perspective, and we think that we can serve and love only in a certain way (the most convenient for us), but it’s not like that. God wants to teach us many new ways to love and serve during this season.

Through Mission UpReach, I have been able to see God teaching us to serve and care for others. Even when circumstances are different and complicated, he has opened doors.



Since I was a child, I have known a God who changes circumstances overnight and can multiply and provide from nothing. That was just what I saw with our recent Children’s Day campaign. Our opening goal was to provide food for 100 families, and from one day to the next, God provided for 305 families. On that same day, He also provided food for 400 more families. That’s the God I believe in. He never ignores or abandons the needy. Instead, when we serve and take care of the needs of others, God personally takes care of ours.

I want to motivate you to continue sowing into the kingdom of God through Mission UpReach. Perhaps making a donation does not seem like an act of service for you because you were used to serving in a different



way, but do not limit yourself to what God wants to teach you in this season. As Joseph did when he was in prison, we also can serve others. When we are constantly thinking about what we need, the situation becomes more overwhelming; but, when we think about others, we discover that ours is not so difficult.

I want to leave you with a little story. As a child, my mother made us take some of our clothes to give to others. She always divided my snack so that I could share it with someone at school, and on Sundays she cooked the most delicious food of the week and we always had to share it with someone else. This made me very angry. It took time for me to understand why my mother shared the little that we had, but over time I could understand why. She was very grateful for everything that God provided for us, and that gratitude produced generosity. Generosity is born in a grateful heart; it is not because we have much to give, but because we are grateful and know that what we receive comes from God.



A note from Donna



As a family, especially over the past 5 years, we have learned just how important hope is to sustaining us. In the first days, weeks, and months after our son's tragic accident, we hoped against all odds for his survival and full recovery. I

often tell people that if in the beginning God had given me a picture of where life would be for Harrison in 5 years, it would have crushed me. Yet today, while still very difficult, it is bearable because my hope is fully resting in the power of Jesus to save and redeem. We no longer talk about "when Harrison is able to talk again," although we still ask God to perform that miracle daily. Instead, we focus on "when all will be made perfect and new," because our hope is not here on this earth. Often when Hayley and I talk, we discuss Heaven and how eager we are

to get there and begin the eternal, perfected life that we are promised. I am so thankful to be in a place in my walk where my hope in things that cannot deliver has been transferred to that Living Hope of which the Bible speaks.

In a time when so many are fearful, even many Christians we have encountered, the message of hope that is found in a relationship with Jesus is so important. The wonderful news about sharing a message of hope is that it really costs us nothing. As we continue our time here in the U.S., I find that simple kindness and patience gives hope to the weary we encounter. I also have enjoyed hearing many of our supporters share what a privilege they feel in being able to participate in bringing hope to those we serve in Honduras. Phil and I feel so honored that we get to work and serve and steward your generosity. We are thankful for you, and we ask that you prayerfully consider a generous donation towards our year-end campaign, which plays a very significant role in our operations. We pray for each of you as we watch the events of this life unfold in some strange and uncertain ways. Let's keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

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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.



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

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