



Mission UpReach Newsletter

Spring Challenge Fund Grows to \$70k

By: Phil Waldron

This month, due to a time sensitive topic, I am not going to be able to write very much about the ongoing flood of husbands, wives, and children that are leaving Honduras to immigrate illegally to the US. Suffice it to say that it is epidemic in scale. However, I do want to share one anecdote about the current immigration crisis that I think speaks volumes about why it is not a good thing for many.

The story that I have in mind is about a young, married, mother of two. We have known her for years because she worked here in Santa Rosa at Hotel Elvir where all of our visiting groups stay.

She lost her job in a lay-off from the Hotel and decided on her own to leave her two young children with her husband and go to the US. She did so and was able to get across the border. Her husband missed her so much that he quit his job and left their two young children with his parents to head to the US illegally as well. I would ask you to ponder how this is a good thing for any of the people involved? These children will most likely go years before they see their parents again. We know of cases where parents did the same thing twenty years ago, and those children that they left behind are now grown. They have not seen their parents, except through Facetime or Zoom, in all of these 20+ years. These are the stories that need to be shared in the US so that people understand the need for a reasoned and measured approach to immigration. Right now, right or wrong, everyone here believes that the US southern border is open to any and all comers.

So, with that said, let me address an exciting Matching Challenge issued by a small group of our donors. The fund

began when one of our donors challenged anyone and everyone to match his \$40,000 pledge before May 15th. He also suggested that people think about giving all or part of their stimulus check to meet his pledge.

When we sent out our first round of letters asking you and others to give towards this \$40K challenge, other donors were so inspired that they added an additional

\$30,000 to the challenge fund. This gives us the opportunity to raise \$140,000 when we successfully raise a matching amount to their challenge.

Do you think that you can help us? The good works that we do here in the Western Highlands of Honduras literally impact thousands of children and tens of

thousands of people in general. We are facing a tough year here—the Pandemic is resurging, we are recovering from hurricanes, and there is a massive, unprecedented wave of illegal immigration taking place. Homes are boarded up, and mothers of small children are left without their spouses.

Things are bleak. Normally, MUR can help by providing employment and programs that give life and hope to these people. However, we cannot do it without money. As they say, “No money, no mission.”

You, and others like you, have always come through for us with your generous giving.

Can you help us now? With the new amount of the challenge fund being \$70,000, our challenge fund donors have extended the cut-off date by 14 days. If you give before the 29th of May, your money will multiply \$1 x \$2 in its impact because of this \$70,000 challenge. Please help us maximize the benefit of this donor’s generosity.

Thank you again for your faithful support.



MUR Employee Spotlight

For 2021, we have decided to spotlight a different Mission UpReach employee each month. Currently there are 125 employees, so unfortunately you will only get to meet 12 of them this year. Our goal is to give you a look at the various roles individuals play in the day-to-day operations of Mission UpReach.

Carmen Martínez was born and raised in Santa Rosa de Copán. She is mother to 5 children--3 adults and two younger children. In spite of only finishing the 6th grade herself, Carmen has worked and supported her children alone, giving them all the opportunity to graduate from high school.

Carmen has been working for Mission UpReach for the past 5 years. Before the pandemic, Carmen spent her entire day keeping the young boys at the Moses Project supplied in tortillas. She has been making tortillas since she was 8 years old. While working at the Project, Carmen made 500 tortillas daily for a grand total of 15,000 tortillas monthly. The boys all returned home at the beginning of the pandemic for safety reasons and Carmen was reassigned temporarily. She now spends her days keeping our offices spotlessly clean. Carmen has such a servant spirit and delights in serving the staff coffee and making sure our workspace is clean and orderly. Having Carmen on our

team makes us all better at what we do, starting with her beautiful smile and humble spirit.

When asked what she likes about working for the mission, she said, "I love working in the mission because I get to work with Christians and they treat me with kindness and respect, unlike any other job I have ever had in the past." When asked about how she will feel when the boys return and she goes back to making tortillas, Carmen said, "I can't wait till those boys return, I miss them so much. But I will do whatever job is offered me with joy and appreciation."



Why I serve on the MUR Board

By Tim Heath

Many years ago, I read the well-known book entitled *Experiencing God*, by Henry Blackaby. One of the main takeaways from the book is that Christians should look for where God is working and seek to join Him there. Too many times we ask God to help us with our agenda instead of being part of helping Him accomplish His. When we see God at work, we should respond and follow His lead.

When I look at the ministry that is taking place in Honduras, it is easy to see God's hand at work, which is the primary reason I agreed to be part of the Mission UpReach Board of Directors. I have known Phil and Donna for over 30 years, and it is clear they have a passion for lost souls and that they are following God's lead in Western Honduras. I remember the first time we talked about the potential work in Santa Rosa in the early summer of 2009. They had spent



a lot of time in prayer, done quite a bit of research, and believed that is where God was calling them to go. Later that year they moved to Honduras with two of their three children and about \$60,000, which they had raised before they left the United States. They were not sure where they were going to live once they arrived, but they knew God was calling them back into the mission field. They were stepping out in faith, and I believe God has worked through them to plant churches, change lives, and bring many lost Hondurans to the Lord.

James 4:14 states that life is but a vapor that appears for a little while then vanishes away. The older you get, the more you realize what Blackaby wrote is true--you need to look for where God is working, join Him, and focus on things that have an eternal impact on the lives of people. The journey of Mission UpReach has been far from easy; however, the fruit that is being produced is undeniable. Of all the ministries I have ever been involved in, the work God is doing through Mission UpReach in Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras is some of the most exciting and impactful I have ever seen.

Our plans to assist with medicine

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we are working with several public health clinics to help them with much needed basic medicines. We typically do this by providing village medical clinics (brigades). In this way, we are attending many people and providing the necessary medications in some of the poorest areas. Without visiting medical teams, we are obviously not able to help as we have in the past.

We decided that a portion of the money donated for hurricane relief will be used to provide medicines and supplies to the clinics in the areas we usually work. We have been visiting clinics to assess needs and request a list of needed items. The health clinics are covered up with COVID cases on top of basic needs. They tell us that the government health services are reporting the delivery of medications and supplies that actually never arrive. This is so indicative of the level of corruption that



plagues the country of Honduras. Once we have a completed list of needs, we will utilize the funds we have on hand to relieve this great need. We hope to have photos in our next newsletter of these donations taking place.

Fundraising Party!

There are so many creative ways to use your gifts to fundraise on behalf of Mission UpReach. **Kim Hodgson** from West Jefferson, North Carolina held a Pampered Chef virtual party and instead of taking the credits in products for herself, this mother and grandmother requested that Pampered Chef donate her reward dollars to Mission UpReach.

Kim explains her motivation for raising money in her own words. "In 1988, I met Beth Elledge Gossett (mother of MUR's own Caleb Gossett) in Wilkesboro, NC. We worked together at a developmental day school for children with special needs. She invited me to the Wilkesboro Church of Christ Thursday night devotionals at the Phillips Farm where I met Craig Phillips, missionaries, and many other Christians. That's where my story begins. I was baptized a year later. Though life took Beth and I in different directions, we stayed in contact. I learned that Caleb Gossett, her son, was involved with Mission UpReach. Our eldest daughter's congregation, Blacksburg Church of Christ, participates in Honduran missions also. I am able to give, and selecting these worthy missions throughout the church is my first priority. I want to support Christians on the front lines. I've been struck by the video messages and posts I've seen on

social media of how MUR is impacting lives, and I am always moved in my spirit when I sense the love for Christ displayed. I am thankful to support a mission like Mission UpReach. I also knew the Pampered Chef party was virtual on Facebook and I could bring awareness to MUR to hopefully prompt others to give."

"For anyone who would like to host a Pampered Chef party with Amanda Thompson, my consultant, and donate your party earnings to MUR, reach out to Amanda."

<https://www.facebook.com/amanda.thompson.75436>
aowens3289@embarqmail.com



Need help getting started like Kim? Check out our toolkit at the link below!

<https://missionupreach.org/fundraising-toolkit/>



A note from Donna

COVID seems to be increasing here in Santa Rosa. We have had a few of our employees test positive as well as family members of our deaf school students. We decided to close the school for a 10 day period to be sure the issue isn't spreading among our staff and students, and just as we completed the 10 days, the government mandated a two week school closure. It seems like it will never end here. While other Central American countries, like El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala, are all at least beginning to vaccinate their people, here in Honduras only medical staff and the very wealthy who can afford to fly to the U.S. are getting vaccinated. Companies are being offered vaccines for their employees, but not for free and with the condition that the company will take full responsibility for any adverse reactions.

One health center reported that a recent government (political) vaccination effort was injecting the elderly in the community but only sticking the needle in without inserting the vaccine just so the old folks would think they are vaccinated. It is truly difficult to understand how a government can become so heartless and corrupt. It seems impossible that

we might get past this pandemic, but the Honduran people are resilient and just keep putting one foot in front of the other. Of course we are losing thousands of young people daily to immigration, which will no doubt lead to future issues. But what would you do if you were in their shoes?

I think the correct answer is that we really can't make judgments because as U.S. citizens we have not yet had to succumb to such hopelessness. The promise of a different future is too compelling for many. We will continue to do our part to bring relief and hope. We invite you to pray with us for the country of Honduras and we also invite you to partner with us financially. We believe we are building something lasting that can make a difference today and for future generations.



Mission UpReach Board

Larry Baker, Lexington, SC
 Scott Bedichek, Ft. Worth, TX
 Phil Berry, Coral Springs, FL
 Mike Bridges, Corquin, Copán
 Kory Cummings, Ft. Worth, TX
 Tim Heath, Kennesaw, GA
 Wayne Kellis, Gilbert, SC

Dorris Gulley Shelton, Dunwoody, GA
 Jeff Simpson, White Oak, TX
 Adam Spencer, Longview, TX
 Jon Stacy, Santa Rosa de Copán
 Ted van den Meiracker, Snellville, GA
 Donna Waldron, Santa Rosa de Copán
 Phil Waldron, Santa Rosa de Copán

Please contact us:

Our mailing address is as follows:

Mission UpReach, Inc.
3221 Dundee Road
Longview, TX 75604

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

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.



facebook.com/missionupreach



twitter.com/missionupreach



instagram.com/missionupreach

You can correspond directly with Phil and Donna at:

Phil and Donna Waldron
 Apartado Postal #255
 Santa Rosa de Copán, Copán
 Honduras, Central America
 donna.w@missionupreach.org
 Phone: 706-534-7060