

# Mission UpReach Newsletter

## Can you help us? We need you now more than ever

By Phil Waldron

Giving your charity dollars to Mission UpReach has never been more important than now. We depend on our Year End Campaign to generate about 40 to 50 percent of our overall annual budget for our ministry programs. Right now as I'm writing to you, our 2021 annual giving campaign is well behind our 2020 giving at this same point.

It seems curious to us that this year's giving has dragged behind last year's number since 2020 was such a tough year for so many. In spite of some uncertainties, it appears that the overall economy in the US in 2021 is not suffering greatly. One would think that our giving would have exceeded last year's due to a better economy. Perhaps I haven't done as good a job at explaining our needs and the incredible impact that your gifts and donations are having on hundreds of lives. So, if I have failed you by not explaining well, please forgive me and bear with me in the following paragraphs as I try to communicate how important your donation dollars are and what a

wonderful, life-changing impact they have on others.

By now you should have received one of our 2022 calendars in your mailbox. Each month of the year has a full page of testimony from individuals that God has transformed via one or more of MUR's ministries. Your dollars and your prayers have done that. In John 12:24 Jesus talks about a grain of wheat falling to the ground and dying only to be reborn and produce "many seeds." Your

active ministry that God is using to transform many lives in this generation and perhaps hundreds of lives in the generations to come. Talk about ever increasing returns on your investment! You can't do better than that. And besides, it is an Eternal impact not a temporal one.

In part, because we have a 12-year history of God always providing for our needs, we are confident that He will once again provide through our many giving partners just as He has in so many instances before. The past has proven though that He always exclusively provides through people like you.

Please, if you haven't yet made a pledge or a gift, could you do so now? Making your contribution or pledge right now before the end of this month could make all the difference in the world.

As always, once you decide on how much and when you are going to give, please send me an

email ([phil.w@missionupreach.org](mailto:phil.w@missionupreach.org)) so that I can add your gift or pledge to our overall total for the campaign. God bless you and may you and your family have a blessed time during the Holidays.



sacrifice, via donating to Mission UpReach, is just one example of this truth that Jesus described. Your money leaves your hands and in a sense is "dead to you" only to be reborn again in a dynamic,



# MUR Employee Spotlight

This month we would like to introduce you to our newest Mission UpReach employees, **Digna Mejia** and **Blanca Giron**. These two beautiful women are deaf. They first came to us as students in our deaf school for adults, ESPERO. They both completed the 7th grade this year with honors. Both Digna and Blanca have shown diligence and leadership, making them perfect choices as our staffing needs grow. Digna will be our sign language teacher, principally focused on our hearing staff. We have connected her with a grammar expert in Tegucigalpa who will be working with her weekly so that she

can begin to emphasize and teach LESHO grammar. Blanca, our second deaf staff member, will be the first grade teacher under the direction of Cindy de los Santos, a lead teacher. One of the most important things our first graders learn is sign language. Most of our first graders come to us without an organized language. Who better to teach them a language than a deaf teacher? These are two big steps towards our vision and goal of having all deaf teachers in the future. This

move also gives these two women an opportunity to grow and develop. Please help us in welcoming them to our team!



## 90 years old...still giving generously



The lady standing in the center of the photo with two of her eight siblings, one on either side, is Jean Mangrum. She recently turned ninety, and a small group of her family and friends celebrated this momentous occasion with her.

Mangrum, prior to his passing, who visited Honduras some sixty-five times as a representative of the missions committee at the Hermitage Church of Christ. James was responsible for visiting seven

In lieu of buying “Aunt Jean” presents for her birthday, they all gave money to Mission UpReach to honor her. Aunt Jean’s history with the work in Honduras goes back many years. She was married to James

different Honduran evangelists that the Hermitage church sponsored. The man was fearless in his travels throughout a good portion of Honduras often hitching a ride in the back of pickup to get to his next destination. He was beloved by everyone that knew him here in Honduras and was affectionately known as Santiago (which is the name of the book of James in the Spanish New Testament).

Jean’s support of Mission UpReach means a great deal to us. And we think that her decision to use her birthday as an occasion for a Mission UpReach fundraiser is brilliant. We were excited to receive the donations in her honor, but also not surprised, knowing her and James the way that we do. Thank you, Jean. We love and appreciate you more than our words can express.



# MUR programs flourishing



## ESPERO Deaf School Celebrates Year End and Graduation

This month we celebrated the 6th grade graduation of 5 of our deaf adults. Here in Honduras, graduating from the 6th grade is a huge milestone. The graduation celebration also served as the closing ceremony of the school, giving out diplomas and awards to all the students from 2nd to 7th grade. In preparation for this big event, the students, under the direction of their teachers, performed and recorded three separate dramas that were shared during the graduation. They concluded the evening with one drama performed live by the entire student body and staff. What may seem like a simple accomplishment

for us is actually a very significant one for them. We had over 150 people in attendance and even had community leaders present who participated by bringing gifts and awards for the students. We completed the school year with 19 students. We are busy recruiting for our new 1st grade class and predict around 25 students for the 2022 school year.

## DESEO Graduation

As the school year came to an end, our DESEO team was able to have a graduation celebration for the students who persevered and



received our in-home tutoring. The 115 children were honored with completion certificates and other treats. While this new approach was challenging for our team this past school year, they would all agree that it was truly a blessing to be able to visit the children in their homes weekly. The team would often have to climb mountains and cross creeks all while carrying their own equipment, such as tables and chairs. It proved to us that we can



adapt and carry on in our efforts to educate children, as well as deepening our relationships with the children. We are excited to announce that we have added five new team members to our DESEO team for 2022. All five are young, and almost all of them are former DESEO students. We look forward to an exciting new year.

## Kids' Camp is Back!

We are proceeding with our plans to have Bible camp again this year after having to take a year off due to the pandemic. We would appreciate your prayers for safety and good health for all participants. It was a very sad year for the children who have grown accustomed to and looked forward to camp. With God's help, we will be able to be back in action this coming January. And an exciting note is that we are expanding camp from 2 weeks to 3 weeks. That means 3 separate groups of campers ranging from 8 to 18 years old. Your generosity makes it possible for us to conduct this life-changing camp each year. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of these precious children.





## A note from Donna

I write this note the morning after the Honduran presidential elections. Unless something dramatic happens, it appears we will have our first ever female president here in Honduras.

Most Hondurans are hopeful that she and her administration will move the country towards economic growth and a reduction in corruption. Time will be the real test. So far things have been peaceful, unlike our experience in 2017. We were all prepared for the worst with supplies in-house for a month of protests. We are thankful for peace up till now

as this country has been ravaged by the pandemic and the back-to-back hurricanes of 2020. Please pray for a peaceful transition of power in January and that God will reign and rule.

We hope that each of you enjoyed a great Thanksgiving, and as Christmas approaches, we would urge you to consider generously giving to Mission UpReach. This year our family made the decision to give to MUR in lieu of giving each other gifts. We reasoned that none of us need anything whatsoever, especially considering the millions in the world who have little to nothing. It is such a joy to know that we are making Christmas a little brighter for those in need instead of accumulating more things for ourselves. And I will add that it takes away a tremendous amount of stress. We hope and pray that your Christmas will be joyful!

## 2022 Brigade Season

January 1-8 ..... VCOM Medical Team  
 Feb. 26-March 5 ..... Tusculum Church Medical Team  
 March 12-19 ..... Belton Church VBS Team  
 April 2-9 ..... VCOM Medical Team  
 June 11-18 ..... Pine Tree Church Medical Team  
 June 25-July 2 ..... Southside Church/Woodland Park Church Medical Team  
 July 9-16 ..... Burnt Hickory Church Medical Team  
 July 16-23 ..... Disciple Trips VBS Team  
 July 23-30 ..... Tusculum Church VBS Team  
 September 3-10 ..... Surgical Team

## Mission UpReach Board

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 Donna Waldron, Santa Rosa de Copán  
 Phil Waldron, Santa Rosa de Copán

## 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:*

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

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

## You can correspond directly with Phil and Donna at:

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