

Mission UpReach Newsletter

“So close, and yet so far”

By Phil Waldron, CEO

As the old saying goes, “we’ve got some good news and some bad news,” which do you want to hear first?

The bad news first, then!! We ended our 2021 Year End Annual Campaign with a good effort but fell short of reaching our goal of \$500,000 raised from donors that would allow us to maximize the matching offer that we have of \$500,000. However, it’s not all bad news due to the generosity of the donors making the matching offer. The good news, mixed in with this “bad news,” is they have extended the matching offer through January 31, 2022.

That means that if you haven’t yet given a donation to MUR’s Year End Campaign of “Redeeming the Time” you have one more opportunity to do so and still receive a \$1 x \$1 increase in your donation. We need to raise another \$100,000 plus dollars in January to meet or exceed our matching offer. Can you help us do this?

One of the difficult things about planning our ministries and programs is that we never know from one year to the next how much money will be donated. Sometimes the variance, from one year to the next, is significant. We make plans based on what we believe we will receive in our year end campaign and also based somewhat on how much money we received in donations the prior year. Sometimes we make job offers to new people, like new DESEO staff, which allow us to reach more people with the teaching and values education that we offer. If we don’t receive at least what we raised in the previous year we have to start the year out making cuts instead of expanding. Please help us avoid the curtailment of any of our 2022 ministry

and program activities. Your donations can make the difference in whether that next person needing to hear about Jesus or the abundant life that he offers is reached.

We take seriously the stewardship of your donations. Our focus is to maximize the impact that every donated dollar can have. We have spent the last six years building the infrastructure at our

Moses Project, with investments in ag-businesses, so that in the not-too-distant future every dollar you donate will be matched with \$2 earned from these ag-businesses. Please give us the opportunity to multiply your charitable donations for the good of the poor and needy here in Western Honduras. You will not regret it.

Year End celebration

We decided to show our appreciation for each of our employees by hosting a year-end lunch out at the Moses Project. We served chicken (from our farm of course) and other delicious sides and invited everyone to come. We also honored several of our employees who have done an outstanding job of demonstrating our core values. Our goal in these events, and the ones we hope to hold quarterly in 2022, strive towards making each team

member realize how important their job is, regardless of whether that’s cleaning the bathrooms, processing chicken, teaching children, or sharing the gospel. Everyone is important and everyone has a job to do. We are hopeful that at the end of 2022, we will be able to celebrate some great victories towards sustainability as well as looking back on great accomplishments in the community all for the glory and honor of Jesus Christ.



ESPERO highlights local telethon

Each year, just before Christmas, a wonderful non-profit organization founded and funded in Honduras has its annual fund-raiser. This organization provides occupational, physical and speech therapy to members of the community. So many people cannot afford such services and this organization provides them for free or for a minimal fee, depending on the economic situation of the individual. It is an organization worthy of support and as members of the community, we encourage our employees to join us in giving a generous donation each year.

Their fundraiser is broadcasted nationwide and includes famous commentators and singers. Each year for the past 4 years, we have been invited to participate. This



year we selected ESPERO, our deaf school to represent the mission. They rehearsed and prepared and performed

a beautiful skit demonstrating the rewards of following Christ. When they performed the first time, the organizers were so impressed they invited them to perform a second time later in the day. They were so well received and subsequently treated like stars. Many people asked for pictures with them and an awareness of the school spread.

As a result, we already have some community leaders asking how they can get involved in helping develop these deaf individuals and help them find a place in the community. Witnessing the many ways God has flourished this ministry is so affirming. Thank you to those of you who have taken a special interest in this outreach through your prayers and support.



Christmas celebration for DESEO

Once again, this year we successfully raised funds for the children of our DESEO Project in order to give them a special Christmas celebration. We gathered the children in the program at their respective schools and had skits, songs, cakes, and even Santa, who delivered a gift to each child. Additionally, each child received a food provision for their families. It was a huge basket consisting of basic household supplies and food staples.

We also had some special donations given for a couple of poor communities that allowed our team to take the party to them as well. Our employees donated used toys and clothes and some financial donations were used to finish out the party with cake, candy, and basic supplies for numerous families.

Thank you to those of you who participated in this campaign and for each of you who faithfully sponsor children in our program. If you are not a sponsor, would you consider participating this year? It sincerely makes a huge difference. You can visit www.deseoproject.org and select a child to sponsor!





A note from Donna

I sincerely hope that each of you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season with those you love. Phil and I stayed in Honduras this year due to concerns about potential protests resulting from the presidential election. We are

happy to report that all has gone remarkably well and there have been no protests. We took advantage of being in town by inviting several groups of people involved in our mission to our home for meals and celebrations. We also were able to spend a few short days with our youngest, Laura here in Honduras.

Now as we crank up a new year, we are excited about all the possibilities that it holds. I was contemplating how we dream and plan and hope for good things and how healthy that is. However, many of us know firsthand that not all our dreams and plans come to fruition. Phil and I have learned this throughout our lives but have had an extra dose of that reality since Harrison's accident in 2015. We have grieved and continue to grieve what has been taken. I am not sure how one can prepare for those eventual trials, but I think for me it includes humbly looking forward,

always hoping, and dreaming, but always aware of how quickly things can change. I am not suggesting we live in fear, but I am suggesting we live soberminded and in full trust that even amid the losses and challenges, God is working for our good. So, you might ask if my hopes and dreams for 2022 are realistic, or if they might include my son being healed. I would say YES, absolutely! I know beyond a doubt that God is greater than my losses and that he can heal Harrison and flourish our ministries in 2022. So, I give them all to Him, fully believing and trusting that He will do what is best for us. I ask that you pray for Mission UpReach, that God will continue to flourish its ministries. That He will protect us from the evil around us. I also ask that you continue to pray for healing for our son. He is having surgery on January 26th to insert a pump that will take medicine to his spine to relieve him of his debilitating spasticity. Would you pray for a successful surgery?

I would love to pray for you too. I know many of you pray for us and you tell us so. And we would love to give back to you by adding you to our prayer list. If you would like me to pray for you and your family, please write me at donna.w@missionupreach.org. May God bless you and keep you and may you enter this new year with hope that He is working all things for our good.

2022 Brigade Season

Feb. 26-March 5 Tusculum Church Medical 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

Scott Bedichek, Ft. Worth, TX	Jeff Simpson, White Oak, TX
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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.

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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