



Mission UpReach Newsletter

Challenge fund met & exceeded

By: Phil Waldron

Last month we shared the awesome news that in addition to an original challenge fund of \$40,000 that we announced earlier this Spring, three additional donors stepped up to add another \$30,000 to the challenge for a total of \$70,000 of matching funds.

The original deadline was extended from May 15th to May 29th to allow for more people to participate with the “bigger number” as a goal.

We are pleased to announce that you came through for us. We not only met the goal, but we exceeded it by a small margin. Thank you one and all for praying for this very important effort in funding our ministry operations during this time of uncertainty and difficulty. First and foremost, we are grateful to God for His providence and bounty. And secondly, we are grateful to you, our “fellow companions” as the Apostle Paul might say. We are reminded daily by emails, phone calls and texts

of how many of you are praying for Mission UpReach, for us personally and our teammates, and for Honduras.

Please don't stop praying. The money is critically important because without money there is

WE DID IT!

\$70k Spring Challenge Fund UPDATE

no mission; but “unless God builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.” Donna and I both can give testimony that your prayers, time and again, have moved God to intervene on our behalf. We are deeply grateful for your assistance in this spiritual warfare that we all are waging daily.

We cannot thank you enough for co-laboring with us in this

manner both through prayers and generous giving. Having said that, please let me say it here once again on behalf of me, as CEO, and on behalf of all our North American and Latin American teammates; THANK YOU.

And as is customary in Latin America let me close my report this month by saying; “Que Dios le bendiga” which means, May God Bless You.



MUR Employee Spotlight

Kerlin Ramirez is 24 and has spent most of his life in Santa Rosa de Copán. Being raised by a single mother wasn't always easy for Kerlin and his siblings. During the coffee harvest each year, Kerlin, along with his mother and younger siblings, spent weeks picking coffee to have money for the rest of the year. Kerlin first came to know Mission UpReach and the church as a curious young teen who was more interested in the cute girls in the youth group than he was in finding a relationship with God. Kerlin was a student in one of our first basketball leagues. Our DESEO team leadership (at the time) decided to identify natural leaders among the young teens in our league to help with younger players. Kerlin was selected and invited to serve as an assistant coach. He recalls one coffee season when he was invited to participate in a one-week intensive basketball training that resulted in conflict with his mother, who wasn't in agreement that he would "play" instead of work. He convinced her that his participation might lead to an opportunity. He was correct about that, and soon after he was offered an opportunity to "try out" for the DESEO team.

Kerlin's spiritual journey consisted of attending youth group occasionally, attending youth retreats as often as he could, and attending church less frequently. Once offered a position on the DESEO team, Kerlin began attending church regularly because it was a requirement, but fortunately the discipline led him to a transformation process that continues today.

Kerlin now serves as the team leader for our DESEO program. He is attending college and majoring in Systems Engineering. He is a true leader with a great vision for the future. Kerlin says, "I can't imagine where my life would be if not for the persistent pursuit of the leaders of DESEO. Now I am the team leader of the same program that changed my life and I know that only God could make that possible."



Why I serve on the MUR Board



By Wayne Kellis, Chairman

Approaching his retirement from ministry, a friend of mine, near the point of tears, wondered aloud; have I really made a difference? He wanted to know that his life had been meaningful and his work had produced fruit that will last. I think most people (and all serious people) have this desire. We want our lives to count for something. We want to know that our lives have mattered. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." I agree with this statement but it brings us to another question; what work is truly worth doing?

Since eternity past, God the Father, God the Son, and God

the Holy Spirit have lived in loving relationship with each other. They were complete, lacking nothing. The only possible reason they had for creating mankind was to share this love relationship, and that is why we were made. We were created to live in an intimate relationship with God. All God honoring work is worth doing but the highest and best work is that which brings people back where they belong, in a close and loving relationship with God. This is the work of Mission UpReach.

Our work is worth doing and has eternal significance. All our efforts are directed at restoring people to God. I work with the mission because this is the work God has put in my path. He has given it to me, and I want to be faithful to finish it.

The exciting thing is that Mission UpReach is effective. I've known many missionaries and they have all been good, sincere people. They love God & the lost and want to make a difference. Unfortunately, most have little effect on the communities they worked so hard to serve. What has encouraged me is seeing how much God has done through MUR. He has not made our work easy, but He has made it effective. I am reminded of what Jesus told Ananias about the Apostle Paul; "I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." I am not suggesting we should be compared with the Apostle, but I do find comfort from knowing that in God's Kingdom, hardship and effectiveness often come together. Please pray for the mission.

New challenges for DESEO and ESPERO due to school closures

While COVID cases and deaths are dropping in the U.S., they are on the rise here in Honduras. Our hospitals have been at the point of collapsing. Most of the public schools were not fully in person, but rather they had one grade attend daily so that they could get some limited instruction as well as their homework assignments. The government decided to close schools for a 2-week period and have now extended it for another 60 days. This includes our deaf school for adults. We are in the process of presenting our case before the school board for special permission with the promise of limiting attendance and respecting spacing



and mask wearing. We are praying for approval as online instruction is very challenging and ineffective for deaf individuals. Please be in prayer about that.

Our DESEO team has been visiting schools on the days the students were attending in the mornings and then offering tutoring in limited numbers in the afternoons. In response to this new shutdown, we have responded by choosing to go from house to house to offer one on one tutoring, or in some cases in small groups, outdoors and respecting spacing. We were not certain how parents might react due to everyone being so fearful about the spread of

COVID. To our delight, almost all the families we have visited are overwhelmed with gratitude. One father even offered to build a roof over his porch to make it easier for our team. We see this as an open door for evangelism as we become more personally connected with families in the community by being in their homes and meeting one of their greatest needs by helping to educate their children. Our video program continues, and now we can see clearly that videos are the key to continuing to teach the Bible and important values to as many children as possible that will impact their lives now and in the future.





A note from Donna

Last evening, on our way home from a nearby city, we encountered a parade of vehicles, including 6 freezer trucks, with flashing lights and honking horns. We discovered it was the arrival of vaccines from the President of El Salvador to specific Honduran municipalities.

It is unclear to us why the President of El Salvador is extending such generosity, but it makes us sad that Honduras' own President has done very little to bring vaccines into the country. The government of Honduras is offering to sell vaccines to companies and organizations, turning it into a profit center for the government. And of course, very few people really trust that the vaccines will ever arrive, and if they do, are they real and safe? It is very sad to witness the lack of trust the people of Honduras have for their government, but it is very easy to understand.

Whether you are choosing to get vaccinated or not, it does seem like a viable solution for the on-going shutdowns, collapsing hospitals, and struggling economy for Hondurans. Hondurans don't have the choice of collecting unemployment, nor do they receive

any checks or food from the government. People must work for their daily bread, or they do without. And these ongoing struggles only feed the increase in migration to the U.S., due to the seemingly open borders. It's truly a mess!

Many of you feel like that is true in the U.S. as well, yet I know you can imagine the further impact the pandemic, hurricanes and immigration have had on the already broken system here in Honduras. As Phil has already expressed, we are so thankful to those of you who participated in the matching challenge fund as well as those of you who are ongoing supporters. God is known for showing himself powerful amid the mess, so we ask that you join us in prayer as we attempt to build something lasting in spite of the situation.



Mission UpReach Board

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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.



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