

# Mission UpReach Newsletter

## On-going thoughts on immigration

By Phil Waldron

In the United States we just celebrated Labor Day. Here in Honduras, we celebrate Labor Day on May 1st. Regardless of which day in the year that your country celebrates it the idea of honoring the blue collar, agriculture and service industry workers is a good thing. Without these people, how would our economy and society function?

A news source that I read recently reported that the West Coast ports have large container ships “stacked up” in docking schedules due to the shortage of workers to unload the ships and an even greater shortage of truck drivers to connect to the containers and haul them to their destinations. This source also reported that all the trucking companies on the West Coast are searching for more qualified drivers because there just aren’t enough of them to meet the demand. The shortage is increasing costs to all of us consumers as well as creating scarcities. Costco has announced rationing of paper goods due to interruptions in the supply chain. And other stores are soon to do the same.

These shortages of labor are an indication that there really is a need for immigration in our country. Sadly, among our elected leaders, both republican and democrat, there is a “Failure of Nerve” as Doctor Edwin Friedman talks about in his book of the same name. The immigration issue is being so politicized that real,

commonsense solutions are not on the table.

Dr. Friedman says that this failure of nerve on the part of our elected officials has produced a grid-lock that will only be broken when leaders, on both sides, step up and truly work together to find common-sense solutions to our problems.

Perhaps I am too simplistic in my outlook but in my early years as a project manager for a general contractor I know that it would have been almost impossible for us to build anything without the help of migrant workers. There just weren’t enough bodies to get the work done without including them. For almost twenty years now, Donna and I have been living south of the border, among Mexicans and Hondurans. So, for what it’s worth here is my proposal:

Why couldn’t we have a wall that impedes the flow of illegal immigrants? And why couldn’t we have a fenced road that runs from the Gulf of México to the Pacific between Tijuana and San Diego? And why couldn’t this road be patrolled by our immigration, customs, and military if necessary?

But doing all of that will not satisfy the need that the US has for migrant workers to make up for the manpower shortage. In addition, to a tough, no nonsense closed border policy our archaic and obsolete protocols for



providing visas to migrant workers must be overhauled. In more than 30 years of working with Latino immigrants on both sides of the border, I have never yet met one who came to the US illegally that would not have done so legally if only they were able to get a visa to work in the US. My proposal is a solid, impenetrable wall backed up with constant patrols and then a realistic and efficient migrant visa program where the workers are guaranteed re-entry if they comply with the conditions to work for some extended period and then return home.

At Mission UpReach are doing all we can, with a vision to do more, to make Honduras a place where individuals can find work, stay in their family unit, and have the necessary income to provide for their family. It pains us to see our country, the U.S. take little action to sincerely help the millions who are risking their lives just for an opportunity for a better life. Meanwhile, please pray that we can continue to grow opportunities in Honduras while teaching people the good news of the gospel.

# MUR Employee Spotlight

*This month, as we introduce another of our team, we have decided to allow Anny to share her information personally. As you will see, she's leaving Mission UpReach, which will leave a huge hole in our team. We thank God for opportunities to cross paths will His people, even for a brief time.*

My name is **Anny Tabora**. I am 24 years old. I was raised by a single mother in a small community that is 40 minutes from Santa Rosa de Copan. Thanks to my mother's efforts, I was able to study a degree in English with a focus on teaching at the national pedagogical university. Since I was a child, my mother taught me to serve people in my community and share the gospel with them. My most significant childhood memories are of my mother sharing with those most in need, even when our own needs were great. After I graduated from university, God gave me the opportunity to work at Mission UpReach with the DESEO project. Working here has been an answered prayer by God not only for the blessing of providing for my home but also being able to serve others.

I started working here in January 2020, one of the most challenging years, and I am glad that I was able to contribute and serve the children during this time. In December of this year, I am getting married. My fiancé is from Guatemala so I will move to live there. Unfortunately, I must quit my job here and although it is not easy to say goodbye, I am very happy for everything I experienced and learned at Mission UpReach. I will always be grateful to my bosses, Donna and Phil for believing in me and teaching me with love and patience.



## Deaf school activities

This has been a very busy month for our deaf school, ESPERO. The students receive Bible as a subject with a different church leader teaching monthly. It's a wonderful opportunity for the students to interact with the leaders, and the leaders are equally blessed. Each teacher has a unique approach, and no doubt would share that learning to teach the deaf is challenging and very rewarding. One of our teachers, Hector Pineda, who works as a DESEO team member, chose to challenge the students with creating a skit of the story of Jesus feeding the multitude with a few fish and a few pieces of bread. Our deaf students are incredibly creative and when they do something, they do it very well and dedicate a lot of time and energy to the task. The students handmade their sandals for the skit and put together incredible costumes. They also creatively "multiplied" the fish and bread during their skit. The entire story was acted out, utilizing sign language. It was done so well that any hearing person could capture the story in detail. They did such a fantastic job, the elders at our local church invited them to share the skit with the church. Everyone was captivated and the deaf were so encouraged by the excitement

of the church for their performance.

Another exciting activity for the deaf this month was the presentation of a seminar about natural disasters and how to best respond. Member of the community came to share the information. It was amazing to see how excited the students were to learn of these things and how seriously they absorbed the information. Things that those of us who hear take for granted, is often new and interesting to the deaf. The community members who shared their time and expertise were so thrilled with the participation of the deaf with their questions and comments. They left feeling so honored to have shared the evening with the students. The evening ended with everyone receiving a certificate for completing the course, something extremely important and valuable in Honduran society. Honduran society still holds a lot of false paradigms about how deaf learn and function. Connecting our students with the hearing community provides opportunities for the deaf to integrate as well as opens the eyes of the community to the potential of deaf individuals.





# Día del Niño (Day of the Child)



The International Day of the Child was established in 1924 as November 20th. In 1954, the United Nations declared that each country should establish their own specific day for celebrating the Day of the Child. The motivation behind such a declaration was a focus on the rights of minors, specifically targeting health, education, the right to play, the right to family life, protection against violence, discrimination, and the right to an opinion, and protection against child labor. In 1990, Honduras established September 10th as their country's selected day to celebrate the Day of the Child. When September 10th rolls around each year, there isn't much talk about the rights of the child or the motivation of the establishment of such a day, but there is a lot of celebrating. Since 1990, this day has become the most eagerly anticipated day of the year for children. Parents make huge sacrifices to give their children gifts, throw parties, and honor their children.



As a mission, through our DESEO program, we have joined the celebration each year by celebrating the children in our program. Although schools are still closed, we were able to visit 9 schools to celebrate this day. Over 500 children who have not been in school for almost two years showed up for the occasion. Our team prepared a fun and interactive clown show that had children and adults alike laughing to the point of crying. They also had fun game and activity stations. And of course, the event could not be complete without cake, snacks, drinks, and plenty candy to go around. When we celebrate this day, we include all the schools and children we work with on a regular basis. But we also identify a community or two that has little to no resources to celebrate their children. We go into that community and deliver the same fun party that our other children experience. It is pure joy to watch these children especially enjoy being celebrated. Additionally, many of our sponsored children receive an extra special gift from their sponsoring family. We also include a provision of needed household food and supplies along with the special gift. These items are personally delivered to not create bad feelings in the children who do not have a sponsoring family. It was a huge success this special Día del Niño, especially considering the impact of the pandemic. Thank you for being a part of allowing us to honor and celebrate the precious children of Honduras.





## A note from Donna

This month I had the privilege of teaching a four-week series on insecurity for the church in Corquín. There were over 50 ladies each night eager to learn how to say goodbye to insecurity. I am sure they were surprised and perhaps disappointed to hear that even though I have a master's in psychology, the answer is not found in psychology but rather in a personal and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. In the process of preparing for the series, as well as delivering the series, I experienced an overwhelming sense of joy. I am certain part of that joy was the privilege of teaching women who are so open and eager to learn. But mostly I feel it's because of the privilege I have of teaching the message of hope and salvation almost daily. I realize that not everyone gets to do that due to other life demands.

Phil and I thank God daily that we get to be here in Honduras. It is often hard to be so far from our children

and our aging parents, but we have peace in knowing we are right where God wants us for now. This coming month we will be able to visit the U.S. and spend some special one on one time with Harrison and Hayley, while Hayley's parents get away. We love those days so much. They both inspire us and fill us with great joy.

We will also be able to visit our parents, Laura, and of course we will be able to visit with a few of our supporters. Being able to step away and be with our loved ones every few months is what makes it possible to be here without getting overly discouraged about the distance. We thank you for your prayers for us and our family. And we thank you for your support, which enables us to be here doing what we love.



## 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

Larry Baker, Lexington, SC  
 Scott Bedichek, Ft. Worth, TX  
 Phil Berry, Coral Springs, FL  
 Mike Bridges, Corquín, 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

## 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:

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



facebook.com/missionupreach



twitter.com/missionupreach



instagram.com/missionupreach