

## Mission UpReach Newsletter

# Consecrating the church for what God has in mind to do

By Phil Waldron

In Joshua 3:5 we read these words, “Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.”

Due to a long series of events over the last two years, the local church that we helped plant in Barrio Belen Santa Rosa has struggled to thrive. Beginning in December of 2019 we lost our lease on the space that we had been renting for the previous 5 years. Even though we had just signed a new three-year lease, in August of that year the Landlord asked for the building to be vacated. We were fortunate to be able to rent a warehouse of equal size just a short distance away.

It was both interesting and concerning to us how the move affected the people regularly attending our worship. Although we were able to rent a space almost identical to the one, we lost as a persistent sense of concern permeated these members. Then the Pandemic hit, and the church was literally shuttered for months.

I am happy to report that we feel that we can see new life and energy in our little church now. We still are under mask and social distancing mandates, but despite that, we are seeing new baptisms regularly and our attendance has been climbing. During the month of August, we had one Sunday where the attendance reached 239.



The four elders of this church, two of them newly appointed in 2021, have been making a concentrated effort to help each person in attendance consecrate themselves to the Lord so that He can do “wonders” in their lives and the lives of our neighbors in the community. Those who have been visiting regularly but have never been baptized are being urged via personal visits to do so now. In addition, there are many couples attending that are living in free-unions and are not legally married. The elders commissioned a series of lessons on marriage and began a promotion of helping all couples in attendance that were living in free unions to get their documents so that

we could hold one large wedding for all of them. In the past Mission UpReach has done this, and to date more than 80 couples have consecrated their marriage this way.

Another area where the new elders have been leading is in teaching on stewardship and giving. The weekly offering has increased significantly as a result.

The motivation in doing these things is to consecrate this body of people to the service of the Lord so that He can use our church to be a light among this region. Please pray for God to use the Iglesia de Cristo Barrio Belen as a missionary church like the church at Antioch of Syria that we read about in Acts.



## MUR Employee Spotlight



**Luis Emanuel Hernández Flores** is from Tegucigalpa, Honduras. He graduated from the Pan-American Agricultural University Zamorano in Honduras in 2018. His degree is in Agricultural Science and Production. He has worked in several different areas of agriculture,

including ornamental flower production and tilapia growing. Shortly after graduating, he had the opportunity to participate in a continuing education program in agricultural ecology. Currently Luis works for Mission UpReach in our Moses Products department as the leader for the poultry production team. Their responsibilities include growing healthy chickens to the proper size for harvest. This important effort plays a huge role in Mission UpReach's vision towards sustainability and the expansion of our community outreach. Luis says, "I feel good working for the mission because I fully support their community outreach programs. I know that what I am doing is much more than just contributing to the bottom line of a business. It's motivating and an honor to work with an organization that is always working towards the betterment of my country and the good of others."

## We are now processing chickens!

*Update by Erik Estrada*

The chicken processing plant located at The Moses Project started its trials on August 16th, 2021. During the trials, the team was able to identify critical points along the process as well as things that could be modified to improve the efficiency.

We started by harvesting 2000 birds from the chicken production unit. The next steps included: calibration of the machinery, learning-by-doing process of the collaborators, and quality control and process improvements. The team was able to process around 9,400 lbs of chicken. The execution was outstanding, and we are hoping to start the processing plant at its fullest on the next harvest in October.

We are going to continue the improvement of our presentations, sensory analysis, and acceptance of the product so we can become one of the leading brands in Western Honduras. This is all due to God who led the journey with His perfect timing.



# DESEO's sponsorship program

Do you know we have an active child sponsorship program? For just \$38 per month, you can select a child from our program to sponsor.

The sponsorship not only includes many benefits for the child but also many benefits for you as well. We encourage sponsors to write to their children and we encourage the children to write back. Knowing that a person or family in the U.S. is praying for them and supporting them as they stay in school is invaluable.

With schools closed for the second year in a row here in Honduras, many children have dropped out of school completely or migrated illegally to the U.S. Since our usual DESEO outreach can't continue as before, we have changed our approach. Our team goes house to house 4 days per week to work with children one-on-one or in

small groups to help them stay on top of their schoolwork or, in some cases, giving them schoolwork as many teachers have just completely given up on staying in contact with the children.

Most of these children come from homes where the parent or parents are illiterate or have received very little education. And they certainly don't have access to the internet. The families are so appreciative of our help.

We can only manage about 120 children per week in our program, so the sponsored children have become our priority as we decide which



children to tutor. We are hopeful that school will be back in session in February of 2022 so that we can start up all our many programs that meet the needs of hundreds of children.

Please consider sponsoring a child if you don't already. And if you do, please consider sharing the need with others. Based on the impact of the pandemic and hurricanes on the Honduran economy, we know the needs are greater than ever. Just think about the impact your sponsorship can have in the life of a child.

## Now booking short-term groups for 2022

As of the writing of this article, we have 9 short term mission groups scheduled to come to Honduras from the U.S. in 2022. We will have completed 2 full years without visiting groups, and the absence of the help the groups bring to our region is obvious. We know that there are potential shutdowns and changes that could impact the groups coming, but we appreciate these groups for moving forward in faith. We, as well as the leaders of the groups, will be assessing risks and doing all we can to ensure that the groups are able to come safely and complete the good works they set out to do. If you are interested in join-

ing one of these groups, or you would like to lead a group from your church or organization, please contact Donna Waldron at [waldrondonna@me.com](mailto:waldrondonna@me.com).



### MUR team members are fully vaccinated

We are happy to announce that our Honduran team is fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Due to a donation we were able to make, thanks to the generosity of our donors, the clinic opened the opportunity for our employees to be vaccinated. Each person was given the option to vaccinate or not, but all our employees decided to be vaccinated. We are grateful that this opportunity was made available to all.



## A note from Donna

Phil and I are blessed that we get to spend the beginning of each day drinking coffee (Subida!) together in the predawn hours of every morning and talking about how God is working in our lives and around us.

We have discussed the topic of faith a lot lately. Every forward movement of Mission UpReach has been an act of faith. Without exception, every new ministry or program has begun without being able to see the provision. The greatest challenge to our faith is knowing how fallible we are, and because of that, we can misread what we might perceive as a “green light” from God.

But we have also learned that God is at work in spite of our mistakes. He’s not afraid of our failures because He can redeem them. Since 2015, when we were gifted the Moses Project, we have had so many moments of doubt. Should we have taken it on? Do we have the wrong vision? Is it worth the risk? Where will the money for the infrastructure come from? And since 2015, we have made mistakes. Each time, God gently dusts us off and puts back on track.

We still aren’t 100% confident that we are on track. But we are sure of this: Being “confident” in our own wisdom is very dangerous.

Perhaps that’s the purpose of the struggle. We are fully dependent on the Lord to take our vision of sustainability and make it a reality. God has sustained us thus far, which has formed into the “monuments” of reminders of His provision. He has sent us a team of incredibly talented young men and women to lead both the Moses Project and other ministry programs.

We have some challenges ahead, but as we see things coming together, we fully trust God to finish what He started. Please join us in prayer.



## 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

## 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](https://facebook.com/missionupreach)



[twitter.com/missionupreach](https://twitter.com/missionupreach)



[instagram.com/missionupreach](https://instagram.com/missionupreach)

## 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](mailto:donna.w@missionupreach.org)  
 Phone: 706-534-7060