

Mission UpReach Newsletter

Clinic construction in Santa Rosa

By Phil Waldron, CEO
Mission UpReach, Inc.

Health care in Honduras is free!

However, like so many other socialist programs in the history of socialism, there are enormous flaws with the system and the result is that the poor do not have easy access to quality health care. I don't know the statistics; however, I can tell you from anecdotal experience that when a person with no money presents with a problem, if they can get in to see the doctor, they will get a free consult and not much else. In addition, there is almost never any medicine available and the "machines" to do the required tests are often

unavailable or broken. Like I said, it's anecdotal evidence illustrated by true stories that are true almost without exception that someone might easily dismiss as an aberration. But when you know the people and their problems, and you hear some version of the same story over and over again, your heart will ache to help mitigate the problem.

Last year we were blessed to receive a donation that was earmarked to build a medical clinic here in Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras. In reality, it was more than a donation for simply a clinic

because the donor allowed us to use part of the funds as a down payment for the purchase of the warehouse and surrounding property that we have been using as; a church meeting place, a basketball court for our DESEO UPWARD program, classrooms for our children's afternoon tutoring activities, and much more. The property is 1.25 acres and has an 8,000 square foot warehouse with a 22'-0" high ceiling. The rest of the funds

of the building. Our Architect, Gloria Pineda, is a member of our local Barrio Belen Iglesia de Cristo and has done excellent work with our master plan for the property. The priority right now is to raise enough money to complete the construction and startup of the clinic which, when finished, will attend to the needs of the very poor in our community. Our responsibility at MUR is to construct the physical space and furnish it, and

then not too far in the future, we will be operating the clinic via a joint agreement with a US medical school.

The entrance to the clinic will be from the main street level via a handicap ramp and/or steps. One will ascend to the new floor we are



were used to build a second floor inside the existing warehouse in the front half of the building. This second floor increased our overall square footage from 8,000 S.F. to 11,000 S.F. of useable floor space.

Our first priority in construction was to divide the space in the existing warehouse and create two distinct spaces. The plans call for shared bathrooms between the clinic and our church and DESEO's UPWARD basketball program. The bottom floor of the Clinic is accessed either by an internal stairwell or via a handicap ramp that wraps around the inside

constructing (which is presently about 4'-0" above the street level) which is the main floor of the Clinic. Our church building space will be accessed from the side of the building via a new street that a developer is currently installing. Be sure and look at the newsletters over the next few months because we will be sharing more and more information about the Clinic Project as it develops. We thank God for how he uses the generosity of His people to provide for these types of projects that bring honor and glory to His name and alleviate the suffering of the poor.



First medical team in two years!

We are so excited to announce our first medical team since the beginning of 2020. It has been a long two years and we have missed the collaborative work our visiting teams do in helping us meet the needs of the people we serve. The Tusculum Church of Christ from Nashville, TN was the last team we hosted in 2020 and now the first in 2022. We so appreciate their willingness to step out in faith to face the challenges of COVID. Receiving them was like a breath of fresh air. They had 23 participants and were able to serve almost 700 people with medical consults and vision checks. The team showed awesome flexibility when the international highway was taken by protesters resulting in having to cancel one of the three clinic days. This meant a very, very busy third day as we honored the patients scheduled for the lost day. The people of Lucerna, where we conducted the clinic, were very appreciative for their presence and the kindness and love extended despite the language barriers.

2020 was to be our busiest year of visiting teams with 15 separate teams scheduled. In 2022, we have only 6 groups currently scheduled. Many of our former visiting teams are planning to travel in 2023. If you or your church or organization are looking for a place to visit where you can be blessed by serving people in need, please contact Donna Waldron at donna.w@missionupreach.org for more information.



Church planters retreat

Our newly developed church planter's team had a planning retreat this month. They slipped away to a remote location to fully focus spiritually as they planned their activities for the coming year. Our team is made up of five men. Two of the men are recent graduates of the Baxter Institute in Tegucigalpa and both former employees of the mission. Two of

the men live in La Paz, about 3 hours from Santa Rosa, to focus on our efforts in that region. As the men planned and prayed about what they hoped to accomplish, they did so in faith knowing it is the Lord who gives the increase. Their goals are grand and full of faith. Please be praying as they do their part to carry out the work of the Lord in Honduras.

ESPERO school year begins

We kicked off our new school year for our deaf adults mid-February. We currently have 20 students ranging from 1st to 8th grade. We have already mentioned that we have two of our 8th grade students working in teaching capacities. We are also excited about other collaborators this year that include a deaf man from Tegucigalpa, who is a leader in the deaf association and will be teaching sign language grammar via Zoom to our students. As most of you probably know, there are different languages for the deaf. While the U.S. uses American Sign Language (ASL), Honduras uses LESHO, an acronym for Honduran sign language. Since our students come to us without a developed

language, they have picked up some ASL, some Mexican sign language and some LESHO. Having a deaf man who is affiliated with the governing body of sign language in Honduras as our teacher will hopefully help our students leave behind their former ways of communicating and move towards a cohesive language that empowers them to communicate throughout the country. We are also blessed to welcome Christy Owens, also from Tegucigalpa, as our English teacher via Zoom this year. Christy has been in Honduras for over 20



years with an intense focus on sign language development throughout the country. The development of our deaf school is a process that continues to evolve into what we hope will one day be exemplary and replicable in other parts of the country.

DESEO back in schools



Our DESEO team, made up of 10 people, are back in the schools this year! Even though many public schools have been closed since 2020, and many still closed, we are working in the schools that are open to bring our values and Bible classes to children. We have also begun our afternoon tutoring program again. We will wait until a little later in the school year to begin our basketball leagues, but that is certainly in our plans. We have some pilot programs we are developing this year, including an afternoon version of DESEO in our local church and working with a local orphanage to bring DESEO and tutoring to their children. We know you enjoy the photos of these beautiful children, so we promise to fill our newsletter with plenty of photos of DESEO in action.



A note from Donna

I had almost forgotten how wonderful it feels to take medical attention and medications to people in need. The smiles, and sometimes the tears of gratitude, are

so inspiring. And I love to see the joy on the faces of those who come to serve. I am grateful to Brad Russell for his great leadership bringing our first team in 2 years!

Our church family experienced a very tragic and deep loss in late February. One of our deacons drowned saving his family from a riptide. Roberto left behind 6 children and a wife of 20 years. He was one of my personal favorite communion reflection speakers and had a passion for doing things well for the Lord. He and his wife Andrea are featured in our Year End calendar for the month of

September of this year. His passing is a reminder we seem to need frequently that life is very short and unpredictable. But the good news is our eternal destination is certain because of the blood of Jesus. Please pray for Roberto's wife Andrea and his children as they navigate this life without him.

On a less important note, Honduras is finishing up the wave of COVID that first hit the U.S. and made its way here. Phil and I both had COVID in February, having escaped it for two years despite all our travels. We both suffered little and commented that had it not been COVID we would have been working outside of our home per usual because it wasn't bad enough to stay in. Fortunately, we are both vaccinated and boosted, which seems to be helpful. Many have been infected, but very few have suffered more than the common cold. We pray you and your family continue to experience the blessing of good health, always focused on what awaits us because of Jesus.

2022 Brigade Season

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

Mission UpReach Board

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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:

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

You can correspond directly with Phil and Donna at:

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