

# Mission UpReach Newsletter

## Food shortages an “ongoing issue”

By Phil Waldron, CEO & Co-founder  
Mission UpReach, Inc.

On March 25, 2022, CNN carried the headline, “Biden says Western leaders discussed food shortages, which he says will be ‘real’.” The reason that President Biden believes this to be true is due to the sanctions that are currently being placed against Russia combined with the fact that Ukraine and Russia represent 30% of the world’s production of wheat. This is on top of a crisis in the supply of petroleum. Now that Ukraine’s planting season has been disrupted, due to the war that Russia is waging against them combined with the oil shortage and the embargos that Russia is facing; it seems inevitable that prices will be going up, and the supply will be less than in normal years.

Food scarcity is something that past generations dealt with on a frequent basis. History is replete with waves of “famine” that wiped out large populations. Today, in the US and other industrialized nations, it is almost unheard of that there would be scarcity of any food products that we consider staples to our diet and lifestyle. However, in developing countries, doing without due to food scarcity is an all too often occurrence. As a result, the topic of Food Security is a theme that is often discussed. The following is the definition of food security, according to concern.net:

*“Food security is the measure of an individual’s ability to access food that is nutritious and sufficient in quantity. Some definitions of food security specify that*



*Moses Project*

*food must also meet an individual’s food preferences and dietary needs for active and healthy lifestyles.”*

Anecdotally, here in Honduras food scarcity is an ongoing issue. As a young boy, I lived in Asia and saw countless groups of people who were extremely poor. In my experience, the scale of poverty in Honduras is not at all like that which I saw in Asia as a boy. However, the majority of the people are poor and suffer in some form or another of food insecurity. That is one of the reasons that we are focused on agriculture at our Moses Project.

At present, we are still working to make our ag-businesses profitable. This year, with God’s blessing, we will see our first, substantial profit from the years of work and investment leading up to this moment. There are so many benefits that we will be deriving from this investment for years to come. Some of those are: 1) We provide a quality product to the market that keeps the supply at a level that helps prevent

scarcity and thus inflationary prices that result from such scarcities, 2) Our young men that are in the Moses Project are learning about agriculture on a commercial scale that we hope will inspire them to be agriculture entrepreneurs in their own communities of origin in the future, and 3) In time, we hope to generate sufficient net income from these operations to fund the startup of small ag-businesses for these young men.

This vision is an integral plan that truly addresses root causes of illegal migration, gang violence, etc. With God’s blessing, we will be producing a whole new generation of community and church leaders that have the values and skills to be employers and income producers in their families and communities. We believe this to be part of God’s kingdom advancing its frontiers by establishing self-supporting, employment generating, Christian leaders in each community from which our Moses Project charges come from.

# Moses Products update (Productos Moisés)

By Erik Estrada  
Director of Productos Moisés

Agriculture is a science where continued improvements and adaptations are vital to efficiency. During the last couple years our team has faced different challenges, such as the effects of the COVID pandemic and the increased price of feed, fuel, and fertilizers, which gives us the opportunity to look for more sustainable and integrated practices. Our mitigation plan will open opportunities to become an even more efficient and eco-friendly farm. At the same time, the implementation of certifications on the coffee farm is being done to keep track of our improvements.

Productos Moisés has successfully established its place as a provider of chicken and tilapia products in different stores, restaurants, supermarkets, and distribution centers in the western part of Honduras. Quality control and standards are our key components to guarantee the excellence of our products. The overall acceptance of our products and feedback from our customers has been positive and an indicator of potential expansion nationwide soon.

Currently, a new branding and marketing strategy is being implemented to educate the community about who we are and what we represent as a provider of products as well as a mission. The income received from the products sold are reinvested in the community helping the Mission move toward its goal of sustainability to support its programs.

The vision of Productos Moisés is to become a leading brand in

the market and serve as a business incubator, where the young men of the Moses Project can open their minds and become entrepreneurs in their communities. They will be capable of serving as leaders, providing a better quality of life for their families and community. With the increased demand of our products, our team is developing a network of small to medium scale chicken growers. We can offer technical assistance and a guaranteed market for their products.

The expansion of our providers network is a source of income for the community as well as business opportunities because we offer a safe and stable market.

*Day by day we ask for God's guidance and wisdom to make the best decisions so that we can continue providing for and helping our community. Get to know more about Productos Moisés by visiting [productosmoises.com](http://productosmoises.com) and on social media as Productos Moisés.*



## The boys are back!

It's with great joy we share that the boys are back at the Moses Project. It's been a long and challenging 2 years with them away. We worked to maintain contact and keep them studying by providing internet, devices, and tutoring. Sadly, numerous boys that were in the project before have migrated illegally to the US, and others decided to drop out of school completely and work to provide for their families. The decision was made to not add any new boys at

this time. We have a new focus and vision for how to best develop these young men, specifically spiritually and morally. With the 7 remaining boys, we have seen great and noble character and a sincere desire to better their lives and that of their families. Ramiro Lainez is the director of the Moses Project, which is the program that focuses on the boys. Ramiro also directs our church planting team which will be focused this year in the communities from which the boys come.



## Sight to see

As told by Herschel Knowles, a short-term mission's team member, in an email to Phil Waldron

*I believe it was the 2019 clinic in Lucerna. Some one had donated a pair of reading glasses that were very strong - coke bottle lenses. We thought we probably wouldn't be giving them away. But a very old lady came in who was essentially blind at least for her near vision. After the exam she was given the coke bottle lenses and she could read the chart. She was very excited and said "I can sew again!" She left an extremely happy lady.*

*As I mentioned to you, occurrences like this and MUR's work with the deaf remind me of what Jesus told John's disciples to report back to John. "...the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed..." So we really can be the hands and feet of Jesus in a very real way.*

*Thanks so much for what you, Donna and all involved with MUR do. And thanks for providing opportunities for us to participate in a small way with that work.*

## Budding Artists!

With the increased awareness of our deaf school and the community's sincere desire to join us in helping this underserved population, more opportunities arise.

This photo is our ESPERO students receiving a course on painting. This expands their experiences, and no doubt will inspire some to continue to develop their God-given gift of art.



## New DESEO Team

Our DESEO team has grown to 10 members! After two years of no schooling and limited opportunities to teach the children, we are back and running. We are happy to announce that through faith we have added new team members, many of them former recipients of DESEO when they were in elementary school. They are young, energetic, and thrilled to share what they received, believing fully that the same positive impact they experienced can continue to be shared.



## A note from Donna

Phil and I were able to travel to the U.S. this month to help with Harrison’s care. While there with him, our two daughters joined us, and for the first time in over 2 years, we had all our

children in one place. We were able to see their three living grandparents, which was such a blessing to them as well as their grandparents.

It seems that making things like this happen are harder and harder as our children develop their own lives and families and work obligations, but this time, the Lord blessed us with those special moments. Many have asked about Harrison’s progress after his surgical procedure to give him some much needed medication. His quality of life has certainly improved. As with most things, the positive is outweighing the negative so far, but there are some side effects that are concerning. One such side effect is an increased risk of

seizures, and he had one the night before our return. The past several seizures have been successfully stopped at home with medication, but this one required large doses of medications that landed him in the hospital for observation for a couple of days. He is now at home and recovering.

Because we are human, Phil and I often struggle with God’s plan for Harrison. One thing we observe is that Harrison truly has the peace that passes all understanding. He is full of faith and endures his suffering without complaining. He truly blesses all who know him. Harrison says he spends most of his time talking to God because He’s the only one that can hear him. Could this be his secret to peace in the face of struggle? I asked Phil today, “what if when we get to heaven, we learn that Harrison was blessed among men because he was ‘forced’ to commune with God while the rest of us got so caught up in the busyness and stress of this life?”

We so appreciate your continued prayers for Harrison and for his incredible wife, Hayley. She is such a blessing to Harrison as well as to us. Her life is not easy, even though she communicates with great joy.

## 2022 Brigade Season

- Feb. 26–March 5.....Tusculum Church Medical Team
- June 11–18.....Pine Tree Church Medical Team
- July 2–9 .....Southside Church Medical Team
- July 23–30.....Tusculum Church VBS Team
- September 3–10 .....Surgical 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.*

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