

Mission UpReach Newsletter

Preaching Points

By Phil Waldron, CEO

What is a preaching point? In Mission UpReach's overall efforts to initiate new church plants; a preaching point is a location where a small group of people, not presently attending any church, gather for a Bible study and at the same time have the desire to organize themselves into a new church in their community.

Thankfully, our small team of men who work on our church planting team have identified two new locations where there is currently no church. They are presently holding a Bible study once a week. They also spend time visiting house to house on a different afternoon during the work week. Both of these locations fit the profile of prospective communities for helping raise up a new church of His people. Our job in church planting consists of several steps. First, it is to identify a family of good reputation in the community. Second, we begin meeting with these people weekly by holding a basic Bible study. We often emphasize the principles of back to the Bible for guidance on how to live our life and for what our doctrine should be.

In fact, you could say that in this area, the underlying principle behind our teaching comes from II Peter 1:3-4, which says,

3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him,

the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. 4 And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

One of the things that Peter clearly teaches in this passage is that through God's word we learn how to live in a way that pleases Him and rescues us from the corruption caused by human desires.

Our third step in helping to raise up a new church in a new community is to begin holding intensive seminars for equipping the people to be the Christians and leaders that their communities so desperately need. Intensives, usually consisting of Thursday and Friday evenings plus Saturday afternoon into the evening, seem to be the most effective way to "leapfrog" a group of people from "beginners" to more confident and skilled Christian leaders.



Our process is not perfect. It is often three steps forward and two steps back. In our passion for helping raise up new churches in different communities, we try to be flexible and responsive with our strategies and activities, always with the ultimate goal of bringing people to Christ as their Lord and Savior and then teaching them how to be the light in their communities that God intends His church to be.

We covet your prayers. As I close this brief update on some of our church planting efforts, I am reminded of Zechariah 4:6, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD almighty." We are very aware that unless God unleashes His blessings on what we are doing, our efforts will be in vain. We rely on Him and pray that He gives us wisdom combined with opportunity to make a difference in the lives of these people that we have the privilege of teaching. Please pray regularly for the people of Honduras. Specifically, we ask you to pray that in this generation God will raise up a grass roots movement that turns the people of Honduras to Jesus in an unprecedented way.





Brigades are back!

about sharing their experiences and learning very practical applications of strategies to help their students succeed.

We also had a team from Ft. Worth, TX who served 900 people in another part of our region. This is a new area for us and the reception and appreciation of the people who came to the clinic was equally encouraging. This team was made up of folks from the Southside

thrilled to host the youth group from the Tusculum Church of Christ out of Nashville, TN. A group of 22 teens and parents came to conduct a VBS in 11 of the schools we visit with our DESEO program. They performed a skit about the story of David and Goliath, sang songs, brought an amazing craft for each of the children to complete and loved on a lot of children. In several of the communities they played soccer with the children and visited their

During the months of June and July, we have hosted three short term mission teams (we call them brigades here in Honduras). The first group came from Pine Tree Church of Christ in Longview, TX and brought much needed medical attention along with dental care. This team was able to serve 878 people with medical attention and they pulled 274 teeth. Many of the people that were served walked up to 2 hours to arrive at the site where we had the clinic. Most of those were mothers with 5-8 children. Experiencing the smiles on their faces and hearing their expressions of gratitude are so rewarding for the teams who sacrifice their time and money to serve.

Also with this team came Dr. Quentin Woods who trained our staff and professionals from our community on Learning Strategies for Children with ADHD. Each participant was enthusiastic

Church of Christ in Fort Worth as well as the Legacy Church of Christ in N. Richland Hills. Both churches have been involved with our mission for many years. The Legacy Church has been very supportive of our deaf school and ministry and this time they brought the gift of 4 laptops for our much needed computer lab.

In the month of July, we were



homes. They also taught an English class in 3 schools in the afternoon, which was a wonderful cultural

experience for the children.

We are already filling up our calendar for 2023 with groups. If your church or organization is interested, please email Donna Waldron at donna.w@missionupreach.org for more information or to book your week.



Evangelistic basketball

By Scott Galloway

Since 2011, Mission UpReach has been inviting me to Santa Rosa de Copan to teach basketball. I am a veteran basketball camp director and a veteran of short-term mission trips. I have never seen basketball camps have the impact the camps have had at Mission UpReach.

Evangelistic basketball camps have been conducted all over the world. I have directed camps in multiple states and countries. The effectiveness of these camps is often dependent on the follow up contact that is made in the weeks after the camp. This is where Mission UpReach excels.

The DESEO team that is trained to help with the camps and then run the leagues for weeks after I leave, are some of the most loving people I have ever been around. They love what they do and are equipped to deepen the relationships that are formed during the camps and leagues. Many of the team members were once young campers.

Many students that have participated in the camps and the basketball leagues that follow, have made their way into the Mission UpReach church family. The reason the camps have been so impactful is the diligent work of the entire Mission UpReach team. I give my time to this work because I have seen firsthand how the team uses sports outreach to effectively teach the Gospel and change the lives of students and their families.





A note from Donna

Thank you for the kind responses to our newsletter last month where we honored our son. It is still quite hard to absorb our new reality, but we are truly thankful for Harrison's new

reality. I wanted to share something that happened to Phil and me on the very day we had Harrison's funeral. We were driving from Phil's cousin's house (where we always stay) to pick up Hayley so that the three of us could go back to the cemetery to watch the sunset. The road we always take was barricaded for reasons we still don't understand. So, on our altered route we witnessed a car accident that involved a car flipping several times. It literally happened right next to us, and we were the first on the scene. Phil worked to get a young man from the car that was upside down. As he pulled him out, he discovered he had quite a deep and severe lesion on his arm. I knelt on the ground and held the boy, assuring him he was going to be fine. For me, if he was talking and alive all seemed fine. When the paramedic arrived, I left the boy to them and saw his sister, in shock, pacing. I approached her and asked if I could help her. She hugged me and expressed her sadness over having an accident that injured her little brother. I assured her he was going to be fine. I then asked if I could call someone for her and she said, "yes, could you call our mother?" When she started to give me the number she hesitated and said, "my mother doesn't speak English." I

asked what her mother speaks, and she said Spanish. I assured her I could speak Spanish and she was a bit surprised. As she was telling me the number, a fireman walked up and asked me to please step back away from the scene. I told him I would, but I was getting her mother's number to which he responded, "that's not important right now." Of course, he had no idea that he was speaking to a mother who had buried her son that very morning. Many thoughts ran through my mind before I managed to say to him, "if that were your son, it would be very important." He allowed me to get the number and I was able to call the mother with the news and assure her all was going to be fine. Her son was taken to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital and underwent two surgeries for his injuries but is expected to make a full recovery. And we have some new friends in the area. As Phil and I, covered in blood, got back into the car, we just looked at each other. I said to him, "Well, if that's not a sign from God that He still has work for us to do, I don't know what is." I am not sure how you might take that incident, but for us it was a reminder that the world is full of hurting people. Sometimes they need you to pull them from a car, sometimes they need you to hug them, and sometimes they just need to know that God's people are willing to act on their behalf. We are thankful for meaningful work here in Honduras that involves directing people towards an eternal life with God through Jesus. Thank you for all you do to help us continue as a mission and as a family.

2022 Brigade Season

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

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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:

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:

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