

Mission UpReach Newsletter

Good news and bad news

By Phil Waldron, CEO

As you know, earlier this year we received an incredibly generous pledge of \$500,000 toward the construction of the new medical clinic and church building project here in Santa Rosa de Copán. The pledge was issued by a couple who believe strongly in the power of missionary medicine as a very effective form of fulfilling the Great Commission. This couple, in addition to being very generous, are also business owners who know the value of “challenging” others to give as a response to their own generous giving. Knowing something about their lives and character, I could say that they feel an obligation to steward their blessings in a way that increases God’s kingdom. “Leveraging” their giving by challenging others to match their very generous gift is one way they are fulfilling their role as Stewards of all that God has blessed them with in their business.

The attitude of this couple challenging others (all be it anonymously) reminds me of the events that are recorded in the final verses of chapter four and the first eleven verses of chapter five of the book of Acts. Barnabas, and many others, openly and publicly sold parcels of land that they owned and then they “publicly” donated proceeds from the sale to the church. This generosity on their part challenged others in the church to do the same as a “spurring one another on to good works.” Unfortunately, Ananias and Sapphira imitated their generosity, but at the last moment after the sales

was completed and they had the money in their hands, they succumbed to greed and gave part of the proceeds but kept back the rest while lying and claiming that they had given it all.

The lessons that we can learn from their example are best left for another article in the future, but what I want to emphasize here is that through his leadership in generosity, Barnabas encouraged others to give by his example. He is the only person mentioned by name, so it seems logical that he was the first or the most public in his example of giving. However, he was not alone because in 4:34 the Scripture says, “as many as were owners of lands....sold them,” indicating that many people did the same thing....although perhaps they didn’t give “all” of the proceeds as Barnabas did. (It’s possible that they did give all the proceeds, but that is not the point that I am trying to draw from the example here.)

Our benefactor has generously challenged the public to match their giving, just like Barnabas and the others mentioned in Acts 4. As a result, many have responded with their own generous pledge or donation, each according to his or her ability. Unfortunately, as of May 31st we were still short of our goal by a large margin. However, due to the flexibility of our benefactors and due to the request of some others who are

considering large pledges of their own, we have been granted another 30 days to complete the challenge response. That means that we now have until the end of June to raise the remaining number of pledges to maximize the matching response.

So, I would like to ask you, if you have not already pledged or given towards this particular initiative, please consider making a generous



contribution or pledge towards helping us meet this goal.

We are asking for pledges to be given over the remainder of this year and over the 2023 calendar year as well. That means that once you make a pledge, you have 18 months to complete it.

We need your help. Please email me today at: phil.w@missionupreach.org and let me know how much you are willing to pledge towards this cause. To donate, you can go online at missionupreach.org/online-giving and give through the new button we have created for this project. You can also send a check to: Mission UpReach, Inc., 3221 Dundee Road, Longview TX 75604.

Sponsor a child today!

By Kerlin Ramirez

The DESEO Project operates under the direction of Mission UpReach with the purpose of instilling spiritual and moral values that will result in a healthy and God-fearing society. The DESEO Project child sponsorships make it so that good-hearted people who have the desire to help low-income children in

Western Honduras can do so for just \$38 a month.

When a child receives a sponsorship, as the sponsor you are given the opportunity to support them by providing resources for their continued studies at school, basic food baskets for their family, gifts on special dates like birthdays and Christmas, and the opportunity to receive after school

tutoring by the DESEO team. Additionally, they can participate in Kid's Camp, which is a traditional Bible camp that Mission UpReach carries out every

year. A sponsor is able to communicate with their sponsored child by sending letters back and forth through the DESEO Project platform. We take care to translate and print each letter so your child can know the care and support you have for them. Currently the platform has 62 children waiting to find a sponsor.

We have full faith and confidence that God is going to touch many hearts and give many people the opportunity to share the love of Christ in this way. Check out deseoproject.org to learn more about sponsoring a child in our program.

You can also sponsor together as a family, as a Sunday School class, as a youth group, or as a church! You and your loved ones can make a huge difference in the life of a child.



Mother's Day celebrations

In order to honor mothers on their day last month, our programs held multiple special events. As our ESPERO School for the Deaf is for adults, many of our students as well as teachers are mothers. They were able to share a special meal together where each mother also received a mug with chocolates and a rose. Together they learned how to make fingerknitted scarves as an activity, and they chose one special mother as the "Mother of the Year" who won a basket full of goodies to which each student had contributed something.

The DESEO Program also celebrated mothers by putting on a Mother's

Day drama for the kids and giving a winning student a basket of treats for their mother. The Mission also treated our employees who are moms with a

special gift of a family picture keychain, a rose, and a cupcake. Such thoughtful celebrations to honor our wonderful mothers!



Moises Products points of sale

By Erik Estrada

Our Moses Products division just acquired seven storefronts! In order to improve our distribution strategy and offer an easier way of restocking of our products, we have developed seven Points of Sale for our products where the costumers can go to purchase at the same price as the sales truck. This allows the owners of small stores to restock even faster, and at the same time, we can adapt to the different volumes the client might want. The stores are located in Santa Rosa de Copán, Gracias, Ocotepeque and Cucuyagua, which are key market sectors in the western region of Honduras.

We are working on the developing the branding of the stores so they may be easily recognizable and linked to our “Productos Moisés” brand. We are excited to have more contact with the people in our community and generate more jobs and opportunities!



ESPERO elections held

In April, our ESPERO School for Deaf Adults held elections to fill positions within their student government, but this election also had larger implications. These elected students will also make up the new Santa Rosa de Copán chapter of the Deaf Association of Honduras (ASH). Santa Rosa’s chapter is the newest of 8 total chapters in the country. “The Deaf Association of

Honduras has large goals,” said Cindy Medina, subdirector of the ESPERO Program. “They support the formation of these regional chapters to reach more deaf people and provide trainings, funds, didactic materials, and education in their rights and language.”

Before the election took place, there was substantial teaching given on rights and obligations related to being deaf and

participating in the electoral process. Our students learned of each position’s roles, and they feel passionate about their responsibility to protect the deaf in their community. Part of the election process involved small group discussion about what Santa Rosa needs in terms of services, education, and support. Many deaf people live sheltered, hidden lives, so understanding that there is a national connection for their deaf community that can support them and provide them with trainings and services assuages the feelings of isolation and is very empowering.

We want to congratulate the following students on the position they won in the election and offer them encouragement as they seek to raise up others in their community:
Flavia–President; **Darwin**–Vice President; **Digna**–Secretary; **Blanca**–Treasurer; **Carmen** – Observer; **Mavis and Josselin**–Board members





A note from Donna

I mentioned two big events in last month's newsletter: Laura's graduation and our 40th Anniversary trip. Both were a huge blessing to us. Now we are back in Honduras and catching up

on the things that were waiting for us when we returned. It is truly a good feeling to desire to be back doing what we do.

This week I had the privilege of hosting a celebration of a precious little girl named Milagro (Miracle). She turned 9 years old and had never had a birthday celebration. In fact, she didn't even know her birthday or her age. This little girl comes with her mother to my home every Tuesday night when I host a women's Bible study group. She ALWAYS brings me flowers that she picks on her way to my house. We decorated the house with flowers and I bought her a cute dress with flowers on it. Every few minutes throughout our study she would pull the dress out of the gift bag to look at it again and then gently fold it up and place it back in the bag. I wish you could have seen her face when we placed a candle on the cake and sang to her. I share this

story because for me it reminds me of how blessed I am to be able to do something so insignificant to me that means so much to a small child. How many times have you met a child who has never had a birthday cake or celebration? I know there are many others like Milagro in the world. In fact, we have 62 children from similar circumstances on our deseoproject.org site waiting to be sponsored. You could actually provide a similar experience for a child you sponsor. I invite you to prayerfully consider this challenge.



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

Scott Bedichek, Ft. Worth, TX	Jeff Simpson, White Oak, TX
Phil Berry, Coral Springs, FL	Adam Spencer, Longview, TX
Kory Cummings, Ft. Worth, TX	Donna Waldron, Santa Rosa de Copán
Wayne Kellis, Gilbert, SC	Phil Waldron, Santa Rosa de Copán
Dorris Gulley Shelton, Dunwoody, GA	

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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 Santa Rosa de Copán, Copán
 Honduras, Central America
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 Phone: 706-534-7060



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