

# Mission UpReach Newsletter

## Beyond Charity to Human Development

By Phil Waldron

Recently I finished reading a book by Larry James of CitySquare in Dallas, TX entitled, *The Wealth of the Poor*. I found it to be both enlightening and encouraging at the same time. While I don't believe in everything that the author advocates for in his book, like a universal minimum wage first proposed by Andrew Young when he was serving as the US Ambassador to the UN, there are many things that resonate with our own mission among the poor and disenfranchised here in Western Honduras.

Mr. James knows of what he speaks. He successfully led the CitySquare ministry in urban Dallas, TX for twenty-eight years. Their work is exemplary and models some of the principles that we have intuitively discovered over the years. One of those principles is perhaps the over-arching principle that guides almost everything that we do here at Mission UpReach. In my own words, what Larry James says and what coincides with our own journey of discovery is that, since God is the Creator and He made us body, mind, soul, and spirit; if we truly want to see individuals and communities transformed, we have to work on "all fronts."

James speaks about the fact that without economic renewal in urban areas there cannot be transformation of the community. In other words, it cannot be done if we only focus on one area across the "entire battle front." Here at MUR, we have seen these principles played out in our own ministries and programs. That's why we host medical brigades that do clinics in remote villages. And that is why we teach our Biblical values curriculum in public elementary schools. And now, Lord willing, when we complete the construction of our new medical clinic building, we will be able to meet some of the medical needs of the poor in our community. At the same time, we have our Moses Project which is equipping young men with a formal education, while at the same time giving them the training to become agricultural entrepreneurs, if they so choose.

James speaks candidly about the 28 year long struggle that he had at the helm of CitySquare in consistently finding enough donations to continue the good work that they were doing. Once again much of what he said resonated with me in our own experience. I have copied a quote from his book



and included it here because it is one of the best, most well-articulated, statements of what a non-profit like ours needs.

***"As I've tried to make clear, our mission here cannot be understood using charity-based assumptions, values and approaches, or techniques. We are moving beyond charity to human and community development. Our mission requires partners of material means, who will surrender control of their dollars and other resources to those facing daunting problems needing a solution. This will always be the highest and best contributions outside groups can offer the inner city. I recognize that it takes real faith to give on these terms, but isn't that what the church folks are best at doing?"***

Here at MUR, we have been blessed with a small but very generous base of donors. We thank God for each and every one of these supporters who are really partners in what God is doing through our efforts. What the "world needs now" is more people like the donors described by Larry James here in this excerpt from his book. "People of faith, with material means, who are moved beyond charity to investing in solutions to root problems that leave people in spiritual darkness and physical poverty." It ain't easy and the solutions aren't arrived at overnight. Please keep us in your prayers without them we will not prevail. And buy a copy of Larry's book. You won't regret it once you have read it.



# Good news for Subida Coffee

Coffee production is evolving day by day. Climate change, financial challenges, and the market have motivated the producers to become more aware of the management given to the farm as well as the yield obtained. The participation of coffee in the market has changed, and now, the consumer can get more information on the beans used for their favorite beverage. Receiving recognition for implementing best practices, being sustainable, and caring about each person involved in the process has become an important factor in the coffee market.

To achieve these goals and share what we do on our farm, we are excited to announce that our coffee is now Rainforest Alliance certified!

Our Certification Coordinator, Anibal Tabora, shares the following: *“Mission UpReach is proud to be one of the RA certified farms. Having this seal is important for us, since we have dedicated our efforts to motivating our collaborators to care about the environment, know their rights, and invest in activities that will help the farm’s yield, infrastructure, and work environment. With this program, new tools to improve the process and systems will be implemented. Also, this will promote the three pillars (economic, environmental, and social) of the certification, to have continuous improvement with our team, the organization, and nature.”*

We want to thank God and our team for making this possible. At the same time, we motivate you to try our coffee. All the profits generated are reinvested into the community.

Learn more at [subidacoffee.com](http://subidacoffee.com).



## Upcoming events to pray about

The month of September is a very busy one here in Honduras. The celebration of Independence Day includes multiple days of parades.

Our DESEO team as well our Deaf School (ESPERO) will be participating by invitation in the parades. Before Independence Day, one of the most important days for the children of Honduras is “The Day of the Child.” On this day, children receive gifts, candy, cake, and are entertained for the purpose of celebrating childhood. It’s safe to say that the children of Honduras anticipate this day even more than Christmas. Our DESEO team has been rehearsing skits and songs and purchasing candy and toys to join in the celebration with the children in our program. You will be able to see the photos in next month’s newsletter.



We will also be hosting a surgical team this month and would ask that you pray for the success of each surgery and the safety of all involved. We sincerely count on your prayers for all that we have going on so that God may be glorified in all things.

## Deaf students receive computation classes

In an effort to provide many different learning experiences for our students to prepare them for employment and success outside of school, ESPERO has started offering a computer course! This course is provided through Fundacion Yo Quiero Ser (I Want to Be Foundation) and will last for the next 3 months. For most of our Deaf students, it is the first time in their lives that they have interacted with a computer. Simply typing their name and seeing it appear on the screen filled them with excitement and wonder. They will be learning the most basic things like simply turning on the computer to creating diplomas and trifold.

Courses like this one had been requested by our students themselves during their election process a few months ago to express the areas in which they wanted to receive instruction to better prepare them for their futures. Computer, art, and cosmetology were some of the training areas they hoped to explore.



## Another birthday celebrated!



As we have shared in previous newsletters, we would like to share that we were able to create another birthday celebration this month, this time for Jefri, age 10 from the Crucitas school. Our team took cake, candy, new clothes, and a toy to celebrate. On their way to his house, they invited some of his neighbor friends to join the party, creating a very special celebration for Jefri.

Jefri is one of 94 children currently being sponsored through our DESEO Project sponsorship program. For \$39 per month, you can select a child from our platform ([deseoproject.org](http://deseoproject.org)). Your monthly support provides many monetary benefits for the child and allows us to continue to offer the child values training, Biblical training, tutoring, and basketball. Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, you will have an opportunity to communicate with your child through our platform to encourage them and let them know that you are praying for them. This type of support has been proven to contribute significantly to keeping a child in school, which is quite a challenge here in Honduras. **Would you please consider sponsoring a child?**



## A note from Donna

Today, as I read my Bible, I read this verse with a different perspective: “Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.” Psalm 116:15. It brought me great comfort as I thought of how

our great loss and sorrow brings great joy to the Lord as He receives our loved ones who have faithfully served Him. As our grief continues, and it will until we are at home with the Lord, we find comfort each day imagining our son with the Lord. We thank you for your continued prayers and words of encouragement.

One day this week, Phil and I were walking out of a hardware store when a young man greeted us very enthusiastically. People in Santa Rosa are very cordial, and it’s not unusual for people to greet us. But this young man went beyond greeting and said, “Do you remember me?” When I looked closely, I saw the face of a young boy from years back in the form of a young man. This

is one of 3 boys that I invited to church 13 years ago when we first moved to Santa Rosa. They all lived on the same street where the church building was located (at that time). They were boys who had no supervision, no limitations, and no real love or care from anyone. But they accepted my invitation and commenced to create all kinds of havoc in our little Sunday School ministry. It makes me chuckle to think about all the crazy things they did and how many times someone would drag them to me to handle. Time passed, and two of the three boys were taken by child services from their families and placed in orphanages. I lost track of the third boy, who is the one I ran into this week. He hugged us tightly and said, “Thank you for loving me and accepting me and helping me at a very difficult time in my life. I had never met anyone who loved me like that.” Of course, we urged him to come back to church and he says he will, but time will tell. This reminded me that we really can’t measure the results of doing what God calls us to do in any given moment. It also reminded me that I should do the next thing God places in my path to do. It truly is a wonderful gift to work for the God of the Universe who sees all and is at work in all things. I hope you and I both will faithfully respond to whomever God places in our paths.

## 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:*

**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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