

Mission UpReach Newsletter

Help us reach our goal

By: Phil Waldron, CEO

We need your help. Thus far, donations and pledges toward our year end goal have been coming in at a steady pace; however, we are still far from our goal of the \$650,000 which is needed to maximize the matching challenge funds that are available to us.

In the past thirteen years that we have been in Honduras, judging how successful our year end campaign was going to be while still in the midst of the campaign has always been a challenge. This year has proven to be no different. Looking back at previous years donations they have always accelerated once we got past the Thanksgiving holiday. This month as I write these words we are definitely past the holiday and closing in on the end of the year even though it seems almost surreal to think about how fast this year has passed. We are prayerfully confident that those of you who haven't yet given or pledged towards this campaign will do so between now and the 31st of December.

I say all of this to communicate this: we need your help. We only have the rest of this month before 2022 is history. If you haven't yet made a contribution or a pledge towards this year's campaign, please do so now. Whether you write a check and mail it to our Longview, TX office or whether

you would rather make a pledge that will be given over the next twelve months, please write me an email and let me know how much you will be giving. You can contact me at: phil.w@missionupreach.org

Your dollars will be matched dollar

walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them."

Now if only you were able to come and visit with us here in Santa Rosa and you were to ask, "what all is God doing in and through Mission

UpReach to justify the huge investment that you are making every year?" I think I would respond similarly to Jesus as he spoke to John's disciples.

I would say, "many, many people are being healed through medical interventions. The deaf are being given language and taught to read and write. And children, youth and adults are being taught the Way that leads to Eternal Life. And always, day and night, the Gospel is being preached to the poor."

It is the Holy Spirit that "convicts the world of sin." We know that it is not our doing that brings about transformation in people's lives. We are very conscious of the fact that we get to be part of what God's Spirit is doing here. And we are grateful for you and so many others that give sacrificially and generously to make it possible for us and our MUR team to be here working full time to help usher in God's kingdom in this place. Please help us now. We cannot do this without your donations and your prayers. Thank you for being a part of our team and thank you for giving us the opportunity to be the tip of the spear in this good work.



for dollar up to a maximum amount of \$650,000. These funds are what give us the ability to continue our ministries and programs that have had so much influence on people whose lives have been transformed. I'm reminded here, of the passage of scripture in Luke 7:20-22;

"20 And when the men had come to him, they said, 'John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'"

21 In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. 22 And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame

Closing ceremonies for ESPERO



Can you believe we just completed our 6th year of our deaf school for adults? Every year we have a closing ceremony honoring all students with a special emphasis on the graduating 6th graders. This year's 6th grade class consisted of two. We have three students who have completed the 8th grade now and will be our first to graduate next year in what Honduras considers to be the first "real" graduation in the process of education.

This coming year we will continue with the 19 students from this year with the possibility of 24 new students. Our space is running out, a wonderful but challenging issue. We have some ideas for how to continue to grow while taking full advantage of our space challenges. We are also thrilled to announce that the Legacy Church in Texas has donated funds to assist in purchasing a small bus specifically for our school. We are also excited to share that this coming year we will have three deaf staff members, something that seemed impossible when we first began.

This ministry is thriving and growing because we dared to dream and proceeded in faith. This population is so worthy of our investment, and we hope you will continue to help us keep the school open and growing.



Celebrating life's benchmarks



In this case, creating a “counter-culture” wave of vocally and visibly honoring legal-marriage as God’s best design for the family and the community, has taken 13 years of non-stop promotions.

You would have been just as excited as we were to see this beautiful ceremony take place. The church building was decorated, a full meal was served, and a beautiful wedding cake was shared at the end. Being

More Weddings

We were so happy to witness the marriage of two of our young couples this past month. Many of you know that Mission UpReach, over the course of the last 13+ years, has assisted more than 100 couples legalize their relationships. Free union relationships (which are couples living together in what our culture would describe as a common law marriage) are so much a part of the culture and are “normal” for so many families.

The legal process is complicated and costly, providing a large obstacle for many couples with limited income. We have reached a huge milestone this year in that our local congregation paid for the costs related to the legal fees as well as the church wedding. This is a great example of how the work of Mission UpReach is becoming sustainable.

The truth is that everything that Mission UpReach does, through our programs and ministries, is focused on building up the Church and helping her become the transforming force that God intends it to be in the local community.

able to participate in helping these young couples do what pleases the Lord is an incredible blessing for our local church. And it is always a wonderful experience seeing the women glow as they experience the fulfillment of their dream of being a bride. Both grooms are graduates from our Moses Project and are now active members of our local church. May God be praised!

Another Birthday

Through our DESEO Project sponsorships we can bring joy and celebration to sponsored children whose sponsors chose to send additional funds for their birthday. This month we were able to celebrate with Jareth for his 12th birthday. Jareth has just graduated 6th

grade last month and has therefore graduated from the DESEO Project. Due to the high drop-out rate in young students, the DESEO Project aims to support families with school supplies, uniforms and free after school programs in order to help keep kids in school for their basic education and set them on a path for success.

Guadalupe Ruelas, who is the Director of Casa Alianza, an NGO in Honduras, says, “We often talk about underdevelopment and marginalized people as if they’re a minority, but in Honduras, the marginalized are a large majority.” According to UNICEF, 77% of Honduran children belong to poor families. “There are more children than adults living in poverty,” she says. “Honduras lags far behind international standards because approximately four million (49%) school-aged children don’t go to school.”

Due to the continued support of Jareth’s sponsor through the years, Jareth was able to stay in school and complete his elementary education. He is now literate and focused on creating a successful future for himself. Happy birthday, Jareth! We are proud of you!





A note from Donna

Often, I am overwhelmed with fear. That seems to happen often as we pray and hope with anticipation for the needed funding to continue our work. I know it's God who provides, at least I know

that's the correct response. But can I be human for a moment?

For reasons we may never understand, God has chosen to use the generosity of humans to carry out His works on the earth. I wish most days that it wasn't that way. Fortunately for Mission UpReach, Phil is tireless in asking and seeking. If it were up to me, we would be in starvation mode. Phil's attitude is that when he asks someone to give to Mission UpReach, he's giving them an opportunity to be blessed. I think he sees it that way because he sincerely sees service and giving as a blessing in his personal life.

Back to my fear and concerns. This time of year, our resources that we were able to raise earlier in the year begin to run out. I look around at the lives that have been changed and are being changed and I almost feel panic about the possibilities of not raising what is needed to continue our

programs. Just this week I was doing our annual planning with our DESEO team. The team is made up of young men and women, ages 18-25. These young individuals are the ones who teach hundreds of children about the love of Jesus. It is this program that has brought countless families to the Lord, but it's bigger than that. Being employed by Mission UpReach allows them to pay their way through the University, something they would not be able to do otherwise. This helps to launch them into the world as professionals once their time with DESEO ends. Some of them find a role in the mission, and some find jobs in the community. So, our efforts here are multi-layered and the impact is challenging to measure.

And did I mention that these young men and women develop leadership and teaching skills that benefit the local church? It truly is overwhelming to think of what God has done and is doing here in western Honduras. Thank you for allowing me to be vulnerable and honest. I suppose this is my personal way of inviting you to help us. Allow God to use you and join us in impacting the lives of so many. And please ask our Sovereign Lord to continue to provide what we need, even when our faith is weak.

2023 Brigade Season

Surgical Team	February 11-18	Orthopedic
Brad Russell Group	February 25-March 4	Medical
Belton Church of Christ	March 11-18	VBS
Country View Family Farms/	March 25-April 1st	TBD
Clemens Food Group		
Disciple Trips team	June 24-July 1st	Medical
Snellville Church of Christ	July 1-8th	Mixed
Burnt Hickory Church of Christ	July 8-15th	Medical
Pine Tree Church of Christ	July 22-29th	Medical

Mission UpReach Board

Scott Bedichek, Ft. Worth, TX	Jeff Simpson, White Oak, TX
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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:

Phil and Donna Waldron
 Apartado Postal #255
 Santa Rosa de Copán, Copán
 Honduras, Central America
 donna.w@missionupreach.org
 Phone: 706-534-7060



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