

Mission UpReach Newsletter

Good news, bad news: We need your help

By: Phil Waldron, CEO
Mission UpReach, Inc.

The bad news first, as the saying goes; we missed our goal of raising \$650,000 in our year end fundraising campaign by a substantial amount. This was to be our biggest campaign ever because we had a unique set of circumstances that just doesn't come along ever year.

Normally, we can reasonably expect to raise \$500,000, when we include a "faith-stretch component" to our year end fundraising campaign goal that is matched by a small group of donors who enjoy giving to challenge others to give. Some of these donors have told us that for them it is a question of Stewardship with their gifts. They know that by giving sacrificially in the form of a challenge they are "leveraging" their own gifts to have a bigger impact than what they might ordinarily achieve.

The matching element of \$1 given producing \$2 in overall donations to Mission UpReach is usually a compelling concept that makes giving

to our year end campaign an exciting proposition for those people who hear about the Challenge.

This past year, as we explained in our 2022 campaign material, we had an unexpected "serendipity" of three donors wanting to give in a way that honored our recently deceased son,

disappointing. However, due to the generosity of our Challenge Fund donors; we have a reprieve from the December 31st deadline and are extending our year end campaign through the end of the day on January 31st of 2023. That means that if you haven't given to the campaign there is

still time to do so. We are not expecting all the money to come in cash donations right away either. We are looking for pledges for these gifts to be given before September 30th of 2023 which is when our new campaign will begin for 2023's Year End.

Can you help us? Your generous donation now (or your pledge of donations to be given before September 30th, 2023) could make all the difference in the

world in our result on the January 31st deadline. Please let me know via email at: phil.w@missionupreach.org how much you are pledging or giving. That way I can tabulate the results and report on our success. Thank you for your prayerful consideration in giving to this worthy cause.



\$650,000!
~~\$500,000~~
Challenge Fund Opportunity

Every \$ Donated before Jan 31st will be matched by one of our generous patrons.

GIVE NOW ⁺²
to multiply the effect of your contribution.

Your dollars can help hundreds of children shine brightly for the Lord, just like Alison.

Harrison, by raising an additional \$300,000 on top of our normal goal for the year, to honor his 30th birthday which he would have celebrated this past October 18th. That's why we were shooting for \$650,000 to be raised by the end of the day on December 31st.

We are short of that goal by a substantial margin, which is



Update on MUR's 2022 and a quick look forward to 2023



For Phil and Donna, and Mission UpReach at large, this past year of 2022 was the most difficult year in their lives. Personally, Phil and Donna suffered the loss of their adult son, Harrison, who died after struggling for 7-years with a traumatic brain injury. Losing their son on top of seven years of heart ache and struggle as they watched him try so hard to get well was a huge blow. At the same time, Mission UpReach went through one of the most difficult financial crises that it has endured since its inception. Phil says, "2022 was more difficult than 2020." This was in great part caused by run-away inflation and the spike in electricity, gas/diesel, chicken feed and fertilizers due to the international logistics crisis that began back during the 2020 Pandemic.

Despite these difficult circumstances, thanks to God's blessings and providence, MUR was able to help establish three new church plants. And their DESEO public school values education program taught Biblical values to 815 children every week for the entire school year in 11 different schools. They also conducted 1-day per week tutoring sessions for 250 of the most at-risk children. Also, during January 2022, DESEO held a three-week Bible camp that had 150 children and teenagers participating. MUR's school for deaf adults, called ESPERO, had 19 students that completed the year. The Moses Project, which is MUR's agriculture training center for youth from the ages of 12 to 18, had only 7 participants.

Goals for 2023 are as follows:

Church Planting: Plant three, additional-new congregations and identify and begin working in 6-new communities with the goal of planting a new church in those communities.

DESEO: Increase the number of schools receiving the DESEO program to 14. Increase the number of students receiving the DESEO values education program from the 2022 level of 815 to a 2023 level of 1,100 students. In the tutoring program, the 2023 goal is to increase the amount of tutoring time that each of the 250 most at-risk students receive to two days per week in lieu of the one-day per week that they received during the 2022 academic year.

Moses Project: Increase the number of participants to 19 total for the 2023 academic year.

ESPERO: The ESPERO school for deaf adults has already enrolled 24 new students in the 2023 academic year that begins in February 2023. This would increase the number of students in the program from a 2022 level of 19 to the new total of 43 for the 2023 academic school year.

We invite you to join us in praying that God agrees with our goals and plans and that we will do our part to accomplish them. Your continued involvement through your support is a vital part of the good we can do. Thank you so much!



Prayers for our Bible Camp

We have a special prayer request for each of you for our 2023 Bible Camp, which will be already in motion when this newsletter gets to you. We ask that you pray for each precious child who participates for safety, open hearts, and that they will feel the love of Jesus during the week.

This year we have faced several challenges as we recruit the children for camp. The biggest challenge has been the unprecedented number of children who have left Honduras headed to the U.S. The second challenge relates to the economy. While camp is free to the children, many of the would-be participants also pick coffee during their school break. This year fewer parents are willing to allow their children the week off from picking coffee due to the family's need for every penny they can bring in.

We truly hate the idea that the precious ones are missing out on enhancing their relationship with Jesus to pick coffee, but we do understand the challenges. But overall, we trust that God has hand selected the children for each week of camp this month, and we pray that we will be the hands and feet of Jesus in their lives.





A note from Donna

Phil and I were happy to host our youngest daughter, Laura, in December for a short visit. Her work and personal obligations (plus the high cost of airfare) did not permit her to be here at home with us over Christmas. Our

oldest daughter, Sarah also had work obligations in NYC. And our Hayley needed to be at home with her family since she spent a couple of weeks with us earlier in November. Phil and I (by choice) spent Christmas Eve and Day alone and quiet.

Celebrating didn't seem like the appropriate thing to do, nor did we desire to celebrate. I don't share these

things so you feel sad for us, but to be open about our ongoing grief. We are learning more about grief than we really wanted to learn, but the overwhelming truth is how blessed we are to KNOW without a doubt that our Harrison is with the Lord, completely whole and waiting for us. I can't imagine getting through these holidays without that knowledge. It makes us more grateful to God daily and more dependent on Him to comfort us in our grief.

And we have also learned the benefit of being still and resting. With all the things we hope and plan for in 2023, we will need all the energy we can muster. This year I am going to be spending the first three weeks of January at our Bible camp. It's rustic. There are bugs, no hot water, horrible beds, and no signal to connect with the outside world. But, there will also be many happy children, free of worry for a week, jumping in the creek, playing games, making crafts, eating well, and growing closer to Jesus.

Please pray for all of us that this year will be safe, fun, and truly life-changing for the children.

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

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 Adam Spencer, Longview, TX
 Donna Waldron, Santa Rosa de Copán
 Phil Waldron, Santa Rosa de Copán

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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