



Mission UpReach Newsletter

2022 Year End Challenge Fund Campaign

By: Phil Waldron, CEO Mission UpReach, Inc.

Burying a son is the last thing I thought I would be doing in this life. It never even entered my mind that it was a possibility until it happened.

Having to bury our only son this year and having watched him struggle for the previous 7-years with a traumatic brain injury, I am now very much aware of how important it is to live well, honor God, and influence others for the better. Our 2022 campaign is inspired in great part by Harrison's life and death. Harrison was an integral part of establishing Mission UpReach back in 2009 when we came to live here in Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras. When his parents decided to return to the mission field, he was only 16 years old. He had his own car and was an active athlete and gifted actor in high school plays. Yet, he was the first in the family to jump at the idea of giving all of that up to go to the mission field. At 16 he became our full-time song leader and full-time youth minister, and he served in that role for the two years he was here before going off to Harding to study. He was also a founding member of the DESEO public school values education program that today teaches Bible inspired values lessons to 817 children per week in the public school.

This year's campaign is all about celebrating the positive influence that Harrison and Mission UpReach have had on many different lives in our part of the world. Of course, we give God all the credit that He is due for people who have been changed. And now, through the grace of God, these people are now changing the lives of many others.

We need your help. This year, due to the incredible generosity of a small group of donors, our annual challenge fund is \$650,000 instead of the customary \$500,000 that we have grown accustomed to these last few years. This incredible new challenge from this small group is to match, dollar for dollar, your donations up to a maximum amount of \$650,000. We would like to ask that you make a pledge or gift before December 31st of this year in response to this Challenge.

All we need right now, before the December 31st deadline,

is your pledge to give an amount over the next twelve months. Of course, cash is always a welcome benefit since there never seems to ever be enough of it at any one time. So, if you can give your pledge by the end of December this year, so much the better. What we are looking for now though is the pledge and the amount.

Why \$650,000 this year? That is a good question.

Just before going to the printer with this year's calendar [see note below**], three donors approached us with the idea of honoring Harrison on his birthdate (October 18th). Their idea was to add \$150,000 to our normal \$500,000 year-end challenge. As they explained it to me, they want to inspire

others to reach down and dig deep so that this year MUR would raise \$300,000 additional dollars, over and above what we normally raise, before our December 31st deadline.

These three donors

think that raising an additional \$300,000 is a really cool way to honor Harrison's 30th birthday. When we reach our goal, it will mean an additional \$10,000 for each of his thirty years that will be added to our campaign goal.

Your support of this campaign is critical. You and others like you that make the pledges and donations to Year End Campaign make the difference in success and failure. And the success of reaching our campaign goal determines whether we can continue to provide these vital, transformative ministries and programs to the people we serve.

Please prayerfully consider giving to our campaign. These funds, in large part, are what fund our ministry programs including DESEO, ESPERO, the boy's program at the Moses Project and church planting leadership training, among others.

P.S. If you haven't yet received one of our 2023 calendars with testimonies of people who either have been impacted by MUR's ministries or are part of impacting others, please let us know and we will send you one.

P.P.S. Please make a pledge or contribution right away, and let me know when you do by emailing me personally at: phil.w@missionupreach.org. This way I can inform our other donors of our progress and maintain the excitement in the campaign.



Planting a new congregation

We are excited to share that the local congregation of Barrio Belén is planting a new congregation. Our church planting team, through the leadership seminars they conduct, learned of a community in need.

The story starts with a family who has a relative in the U.S. who in past years has sent money for the family to build a church building. They invited a denominational pastor to lead the church, which he did until he abandoned them for another community, and the church building has been unused for a while. In recent months, the family that owns the building had a close relative who was murdered. They were so discouraged and fearful as usually these killings are difficult to stop.

When our team heard about the family in need, they went to pray with and encourage them. This led to the family asking our team if they would be willing to start up worship again in the church building. Of course, the

answer was YES. Our church planting team presented the opportunity to the elders of the Barrio Belén congregation to request that we participate in building up this new church by sending members to conduct worship and Bible studies. The leaders accepted the challenge and now several church members travel one hour, one way to assist with worship.

The opportunities to serve and encourage will increase and the goal is to establish a thriving, growing, independent congregation. The group had their first official worship on October 30th. They had 17 in attendance. Our team has been conducting a Bible study on Thursdays for a few months and generally have 20-25 in attendance. They also visit the community and go from house to house praying with and evangelizing the community. Please pray for the Lord to give the increase.



DESEO year comes to an end

We are once again able to hold our “School for Parents” at the schools in which our DESEO Program serves. This is an important part of our DESEO outreach because success for our students is greatly impacted by their home life. We cover topics such as prevention of abuse and teen pregnancy, good study habits, self-esteem, and effects of school dropout in order to help our students, families, and communities thrive. This class was so full that many parents were crowded around the doors and windows outside so they could also participate. There were mothers with small children, grandmothers, and fathers all in attendance. Our DESEO team and our church planting team are serving in these communities weekly, so they work together to bring this important education to the parents. We look forward to next school year when we can start the cycle in its entirety.

Additionally, as you probably remember, the Honduran school year calendar goes from February to November, which means our DESEO Program has also held various closing activities to wrap up the year. At each

school the team put on a drama that carried a powerful message about how loved they are by God, and they returned their final evaluations of the values they taught throughout the year. Students and teachers together at each school took the time to thank the DESEO team and tell them how much their work this year made a difference in their school and in their individual lives.

The afternoon tutoring program presented diplomas to the participants and special awards to the students who had perfect attendance and demonstrated good behavior. The students were so proud to be able to celebrate their achievements with the team and talk with excitement about the next school year.

The Upward Basketball program



also held closing activities. Each team played a final game as their family members cheered them on from the sidelines. Awards were presented for participation, perfect attendance, and Bible verse memorization, as is part of the Upward program.

The DESEO Program also held a special event to thank and encourage the teachers from each of the schools for their dedication and care given to the students to help them succeed. Data from the students’ evaluations was compiled and given to each school, and awards were given to the top three schools. In addition, a Teacher of the Year award was given to Erecely Ayala Alvarado from the community of El Barrial, Cucuyagua Copán. She has dedicated her life to teaching and was so committed to continuing to bring education to the children of her community throughout the pandemic even when all other schools were closed and had no option for virtual classes. She is a shining example of how impactful teacher’s can be.

These kids have a whole team of people in their corner, and we can’t wait to see what they accomplish next year!





A note from Donna



On October 31st, Phil and I joyfully received a very special visitor. Our Hayley has arrived in Honduras for a few weeks. Feeling the need to take some time away from work and

contemplate her future, she asked if we would host her. You can imagine the joy that brought to us. She is happy to be in a place that meant so much to Harrison and is being received like a “Rock Star” here. So many have prayed for her and Harrison for the past 7 years. They have rightfully admired her dedication and love. She can see the growth that our Harrison didn’t get to see due to his condition. He so longed to be able to

travel here again. We already dread her leaving but will soak up every minute of her presence.

As you may note, we are publishing our 2023 Brigade schedule. We are excited to be hosting so many groups next year, but there’s still room. If you want to organize a team from work, school, church, or community, please contact me and I can give you the step by step details. If you are an individual that would like to join one of these groups, please reach out to me and I will connect you with the group that best meets your needs. I can be reached at donna.w@missionupreach.org.

One last note: As we begin our year end campaign, please consider helping us continue the good works we have been privileged to start. Without your help, we must shrink instead of grow or maintain our current programs. We so appreciate each of you.

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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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:

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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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