

Mission UpReach Newsletter

Floors and ceilings and such

By: Phil Waldron, CEO

In last part of 2007, a Canadian, Christian, businessman named Phil Davidson, along with a small group of interested supporters and collaborators, received the first young men that were incorporated into the Moses Project. Phil Davidson and his collaborators and supporters grew the project in succeeding years to include enough capacity to house up to fifty young men at a time.

Growth over the years from 2007 up to 2015 whilst under the direction of Phil Davidson included purchasing 55 to 60 acres and building a dormitory, kitchen and eating area that could house fifty boys at full capacity.

Mission UpReach took the reins of the project in July of 2015. Since then, the land mass of the farm has doubled. The Moses Project Farm now has a total of about 120 acres. Almost all of the land included on the Moses Project's farm is in production of either coffee, tilapia, or broiler chickens.

The dormitory facility that Phil and his Board constructed is a first-rate facility; however, the finishing touches were never completed. For instance, there is no ceiling in the bedrooms or hallways leaving the rafters and the underside of the roof decking exposed. There also were plans to lay down ceramic tile throughout the building, but there has never been enough money available to do so. In addition, the facility needs repairs and maintenance.

All of this to say that during these next two months, April 3rd through June 3rd, we are asking our donors and supporters to contribute to the funds needed for finishing the construction and completing the repair and maintenance. Just to give you an idea of the size of project we are describing here I offer this statistic. There is 10,032 square feet of floor that is bare concrete and needs to be tiled with ceramic tile. And there is almost that



much square footage as well that requires some type of finished ceiling.

Our goal is to raise \$100,000 in the next sixty days to apply to this project. This campaign will go a long way toward putting this facility in "tip top shape." Can you help us?

This time of year has traditionally been a time when our donors and supporters like to give towards specific needs that we have in our ministry. Often, we have received letters or notes accompanying a donation that says something like, "I got back an extra-large

tax refund and I wanted to give toward your project."

If you are one of those people who like to give to charity or to missions in the Spring of the year, please consider giving to this project. The improvements and repairs that we will make with your donation will serve an entire generation of young men going through our program.

We appreciate your support. We pray God's blessings on you and yours.





MUR Employee Spotlight

Meet Francis Vasquez

Young graduate of the Moses Project, Francis Vasquez, is just 18 years old and now working to shepherd the current young men of the Project while he pursues a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. He first joined the program at 12 years old after learning about it through his school. When he got home that day, he immediately went to his father and said, "Look, there is an opportunity to study in Santa Rosa, and we have to go to the interview." Francis told his father about the interview, the test, and the opportunity to live in Santa Rosa and have access to school and training courses that can help him further his dreams for his future.

Francis, together with his father, attended the interview and after learning more, he knew he wanted to be there.

Over the course of the 6 years that he was a student at the Moses Project, he said he developed values such as integrity, respect, discipline, honesty, and responsibility. "They were things that shaped me; things that made a change in my life. Today, when I return to my community, my parents, brothers, and neighbors all tell me how much I have



changed. All of this is thanks to God first and thanks to the Moses Project program for giving me the opportunity to learn many things and to collaborate and give me a job opportunity."

Belton Church of Christ Youth Group

The youth from Belton, TX came with lots of energy and creativity and served 1000 children with a VBS. They also spent their afternoons visiting children in their homes and teaching English to our afternoon tutoring groups. The team got to know our DESEO team and bonded with them, bringing mutual encouragement to both groups. This team was led by Bruce Beaver, a veteran group leader for a total of 6 different teams over the years. We are thankful for leaders like Bruce who continue to support our efforts by bringing teens who bring joy to the children we serve.



Medical Brigade in Villami

Villami is the location of our latest church plant. We have learned over the years that doing a medical brigade in a community raises the esteem of the church in the eyes of that community. We decided to direct our first medical team of 2023 to this community, and it was very successful. We were able to attend to 965 individuals with basic medical attention, needed medications, as well as other bonus items



like sunglasses, toothbrushes, handmade bracelets for the girls and women, and reading glasses for those who needed them.

As the main group was working in Villami, a smaller team of four joined our DESEO team to provide medical

checkups for 383 children in our program. Each child was treated for parasites, given vitamins, and any other medications they needed.

This group consisted of 30 individuals from 12 different congregations: The Hillsboro Church of Christ (Nashville, TN), The Nolen Hills Church of Christ (Nolensville, TN), The Tusculum Church of Christ (Nashville, TN), The Hendersonville Church of Christ, The Bear Valley Church of Christ (Denver, CO), The Central Church of Christ (Moore, OK), The Cardinal Drive Church of Christ (Chicago, IL), The Otter Creek Church of Christ (Nashville, TN), The North Boulevard Church of Christ (Murfreesboro, TN), The Crittenden Drive Church of Christ (Russellville, KY), The Main Street Church of Christ (Milan, TN), and the North Jackson Church of Christ (Jackson, TN). This group of servants were led by Dr. Brad Russell who has led 7 medical teams over the past 9 years. It was truly a “dream team” and only God can bring this many people from so many different churches and locations together.





A note from Donna

It is exciting to be back into the swing of hosting visiting teams. This year, Lord willing, we will host 13 groups. We have a variety of different teams including VBS in our school program, construction projects,

medical teams, and surgical teams. Of course, we will continue to report on each team so that you can enjoy hearing about all the good they do. If you are interested in bringing a team or joining one, please let me know.

Recently I had the privilege of assuming the direction of the Project Moses boys' program. We made a complete

staff change and are excited about the days to come. Irma Santos, current administrator of DESEO, has agreed to assume the administration of the boys. She, along with her two children, are now residing at the project, bringing stability and a "mother" figure to the boys. We also have a new Spiritual Development director for the boys, Alex Monterroso, a Baxter graduate who is well prepared for the task. Additionally, we hired Francis Vasquez, a recent graduate of the Moses Project program to serve as an assistant to Irma (see his story above), allowing him the opportunity to continue his education in a local university. Change always brings challenges, but I have also learned in life that change is good and refreshing. We are excited to see what all the Lord has in mind for these young boys and men He has brought to us.

2023 Brigade Season

Brad Russell Group	February 25-March 4	Medical
Belton Church of Christ	March 11-18	VBS
Country View Family Farms/	March 25-April 1	Construction
Clemens Food Group		
Robison Family	May 27-June 3	Construction
Blacksburg Church	June 3-10	Construction
Southside Church, KY	June 10-17	Medical
Southside Church, TX	June 17-24	Medical
Disciple Trips team	June 24-July 1	Medical
Snellville Church of Christ	July 1-8	VBS
VCOM	July 8-15	Medical
Pine Tree Church of Christ	July 22-29	Medical/VBS

Mission UpReach Board

Scott Bedichek, Ft. Worth, TX
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 Kory Cummings, Ft. Worth, TX
 Wayne Kellis, Gilbert, SC
 Dorris Gulley Shelton, Dunwoody, GA

Jeff Simpson, White Oak, TX
 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:
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 Please send all checks, donations and correspondence to this address.

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