

Mission UpReach Newsletter

“Don’t just survive the day, maintain communion with God”

By: *Phil Waldron, CEO*

Recently, during one particularly trying week for me, one of the members of our Board, Dr. Scott Bedichek, was visiting with a brigade group. While at dinner I overheard him say to one of the teenage participants that the goal of life is not just to survive the day but rather to stay in communion with God.

At that particular moment, with things we were facing personally as well as in the ministry, his words resonated with me. Wayne Kellis, our Board Chairman, has often said, God’s goal for us is that we are conformed to the image of His Son. The two statements made by both of these wise men appear to me to be saying almost the same thing. Their statements are like facets of a diamond. They are sayings that should bring us great strength in facing adversity and challenge in life.

The implications of these truths are numerous, and they apply equally to our personal life as well as to our mission. Here at Mission UpReach the stories that we can tell of how God has sustained us these many years are testimony to His faithfulness. Come what may, be it persecutions, financial challenges, death of loved ones, and more all of the challenges and threats that we have faced have only served to highlight that our Father uses these things to deepen our dependence on Him.

I have a new goal for my day now after thinking about Scott and Wayne’s words. My goal is to be able to end the day and say with confidence, today I maintained communion with my heavenly Father, and things are well.

On the level of our work here at Mission UpReach, the good works that God is doing through your prayers and donations are truly making a life transforming difference in 1000’s of lives. There is no question that God’s enemy, the Adversary, along with the forces of darkness will do everything

in their power to frustrate and derail what God is doing here. Please join us in the spiritual battle that we are waging against evil, corruption, oppression, poverty and overwhelming lostness that pervades in this region in which we work. We need your prayers. And we need your gracious and generous donations too.

At the end of the day, I hope we can all say what King David wrote in Psalm 3. “Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be on your people!”



The needs are many... Like the line waiting outside for assistance during the Southside Church Medical Brigade held in Corquin. We are so thankful for our visiting Brigades. Check out more information and pictures of these on pages 2 and 3 inside.



Brigade season in full swing



Southside Church of Christ, Lexington, KY

A wonderful team from the Southside Church in Lexington, KY also came for the first time to our part of the world. The Southside Church supports Mike and Kris Bridges in Corquín, Copán. Their focus was on the Corquín area, providing medical and vision care. This team served 981 people with those services. It was a great to see the members of the local church in Corquín volunteering to fill out the clinic. That gave them a wonderful opportunity to serve the community and make new friends. On Thursday night of that same week, there were 5 new families, all a result of the brigade, who attended the Bible study at the local church. The team left content, knowing they had made a difference in the lives of those they served.

Blacksburg Church of Christ

The church in Blacksburg, VA came for the first time to our part of the country. Some on the team are seasoned mission trippers but it's the first time they have worked with us. The group consisted of teens and adults. They focused their service the week they came on helping us hang and finish drywall in our emerging health clinic. Some of the members of the team are very experienced at hanging and finishing drywall, so their progress was impressive. A few of the team members each day joined our DESEO team to experience what we do in the program. We are so grateful to each of them for the sacrifice of time, energy and resources and hope this trip was the first of many to come.





Southside Church of Christ, Ft. Worth, TX

The Southside Church of Christ from Ft. Worth, Texas returned this year with participants from the Legacy Church of Christ in N. Richland Hills, Texas, and individuals from other places like Oklahoma City and Albuquerque, NM. This team always comes well prepared to serve the masses with medical care, vision checks and dental services. They were able to serve 900 people the week they came in a community by the name of Los Mangos. Los Mangos is a community in which our DESEO team works and for several months our church planting team has been conducting a weekly Bible study. The interest is growing and soon we will be busing those interested into Santa Rosa to worship with our congregation at Barrio Belén. Once the group grows, they will begin worshipping in Los Mangos. Although this group saw fewer than the previous week's brigade, we used much more medication. This always reflects the needs of those we serve. This area is poor and has limited access to medical assistance. The team left feeling they had truly served the neediest in the region. And the best news of all is that the following week, 8 individuals that had been served at the brigade, attending the weekly Bible study.



Disciple Trips

Have you heard about Disciple Trips? You can visit their website at www.discipletrips.com. This organization puts together teams of people from around the country to travel and serve in various locations. This works well for individuals who aren't a part of a church that takes regular mission trips or a smaller church with only a few interested in going on a trip. They will match you with a team and location and handle all the logistics (that Mission UpReach doesn't). This year, the team of 14 individuals were led by Darrin Bible. The initiative for the team was started by Dr. Mike Hughes, from the Grand Junction Church of Christ in Colorado. Dr. Hughes has been to Santa Rosa some 5 other times and wanted the members of his church to return with him. Disciple Trips filled out the team. The individuals were from several churches in Colorado, Georgia, Florida, Oklahoma, and Texas. This team chose to serve the community of San Jose with medical attention. This community is one our church planting team has identified as a potential church plant community. The medical brigade helps to open doors in the community for our team to share the good news with. They were able to see 884 people and left very content with what they were able to accomplish.





A note from Donna

I am happy to report that Oscar’s surgery went very well. I expressed to Phil that witnessing him walk just after surgery was the closest to

experiencing the miracle of Jesus healing the lame. Truly it was an encouraging experience for Phil and I and a privilege to be with him and his wife during the process. He will recover a few more months and then the second hip will be replaced. Thank you for your prayers.

June 23 was the one year anniversary of our

Harrison’s passing. It still seems surreal and difficult to process. We miss him so much and can’t help some days but to think about all we’ve lost. We try to focus on things that are positive and good, like the fact that we were selected by God to be his parents in the first place. He brought us so much joy in his short life. We are learning that grief is a strange companion. It pops up when you least expect it, and it distorts moments that should be joyful. Additionally, our hearts hurt when we watch our girls grieve and process the loss of their brother and Hayley her husband. We know that God calls us to be joyful and to rejoice in Him always. Our lives are not void of joy and rejoicing, but some days are just so difficult. Would you continue to pray for our family?

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	Jeff Simpson, White Oak, TX
Phil Berry, Coral Springs, FL	Adam Spencer, Longview, TX
Kory Cummings, Ft. Worth, TX	Donna Waldron, Santa Rosa de Copán
Wayne Kellis, Gilbert, SC	Phil Waldron, Santa Rosa de Copán
Dorris Gulley Shelton, Dunwoody, GA	

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

 facebook.com/missionupreach

 twitter.com/missionupreach

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