

Mission UpReach Newsletter

GPS: God Positioning System

By: Phil Waldron

It's that time of year again when we go public with our year end giving campaign. Since early August, a small group of donors has been working on pledging or giving money towards a \$500,000 Challenge Fund to help motivate other donors to give.

Over the years we have learned that people enjoy the Challenge from "both sides of the coin." Everyone that participates is agreed that doubling your giving dollars is a good investment in Kingdom work. This year the campaign is themed around GPS and plays on the idea of the Global Positioning System that we are all so familiar with in our day to day lives. The difference is that Mission UpReach is guided by the God Positioning System. Our theme verse is Proverbs 16:9 that says, "A man makes his plans, but God directs his footsteps."

Here at Mission UpReach, we call it "muddling through in faith." So many times, in the past fifteen years, we have responded to what seemed to be God calling us to take action in a particular way. Almost always, we have to struggle with whether to commit time, energy, money, and resources to that particular need in our community. Looking back, it is clear that God directed our footsteps even when we may have initially launched out on a tangent. And honestly, our greatest advances in spiritual growth have come through our greatest struggles. It reminds me of the anecdote of a butterfly struggling to free itself from the cocoon. I have heard it

said that if someone gently cuts away the cocoon freeing the butterfly without the struggle that normally takes place that the butterfly will die. It seems that the struggle is what produces the strength in the butterfly's wings that give it the power to take flight; without the struggle, they cannot fly.

Thankfully, our God is good, and wise, and perfect in all His ways. Over the last 15 years we have seen clearly how He "positioned us" to be right where He needed us in order to be able to watch Him transform dozens of people's lives.

As far as programs go, one example of GPS is how we started our public school Bible values education program with no money and then watched as God provided.

It's been 14 years now since DESEO began and more than 10,000 children have received lessons from our team. Many of the families that are now members of our local church in Barrio Belén, Santa Rosa were first connected with through our DESEO program. It begins with the children, and in many instances, leads to the parents obeying Christ and becoming Christians as well.

Our 2024 calendar includes twelve stories of lives that God has transformed through various ministries of Mission UpReach. These twelve people represent a fraction of what God is doing here. We feel honored to be a part of what is going on. You should too because it is your prayers and your donations that make

it all possible. If you have not received one of our calendars in the mail, write me at: phil.w@missionupreach.org to let me know, and we will send you one.

Your prayers and donations are what sustain us. If it weren't for you, we would not be here doing these good works in Jesus' name. Please give some careful consideration to making a significant donation to our year end campaign. Right now, we are

looking for pledges of monies to be given before August of next year. Some people prefer to give their entire pledge prior to December 31st since it is a tax-deductible donation. Whether it is a donation prior to the end of this year, or a pledge be given over the next 9 to 10 months, please let me know what you are going to contribute by emailing me personally at: phil.w@missionupreach.org.

2023 YEAR END FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

GPS

Proverbs 16:9

*"A man's heart plans his way,
but the Lord directs his steps."*



Check out this special kickoff message from Donna and Phil for our 2023 campaign.

Día del Niño (Children's Day)



Children's Day is one of the most anticipated days of the year for Honduran children. Their hopes and dreams come to the forefront that day, and as an organization that recognizes the importance of getting upstream and transforming the next generation, we never want to miss an opportunity to strengthen their hope for the future! Our DESEO Program and DESEO Project prepared for weeks to fundraise, prepare the show, and buy supplies and gifts for each child. In some schools, parents collect enough money to have a big celebration for Children's Day. They buy cake, a piñata, food, toys, etc. However, this is not the case for the schools in which the DESEO team serves. These schools and families

don't have access to such resources, so it is the DESEO team and many people donating money who makes it possible. In addition to visiting some 1,000 children in various schools, the team was also able to go to the public hospital that week. The children there weren't expecting to be able to take part in any Children's Day celebration, so they were thrilled to see DESEO dressed up, spending time with them, giving out presents, and sharing smiles with them.

Finally, two church plants were also able to put on big celebrations that brought many children into the churches. We pray that more children and their families are brought into the communities of the Barrio Belén and Villamí churches through ministries such as these.



Church family retreat

At the first of September our local congregation in Barrio Belén had its second annual family retreat. The 120 participants enjoyed being away from the city in nature as well as being fed spiritually by our guest speaker, Selvin Monterroso, who spoke on the theme of following Jesus. Our retreats are conducted at a rustic campground and our church members are involved in all aspects of making the retreat a success, such as preparing and serving hot meals and providing meaningful Bible classes for the children. It's a beautiful time of family fellowship while being challenged to follow in the footsteps of our Savior more fully.



Independence Day parade (ESPERO)

September 15th is Honduran Independence Day and each year schools across Honduras participate in parades to commemorate it. Our ESPERO school for deaf adults walked in the parade, and it was such a positive experience. Our students were able to show off their accomplishments, while also raising awareness about

the deaf community and our school. As the school year draws to an end, ESPERO will begin recruiting for next year to expand our reach in the deaf community in order to provide the quality education they were denied in their childhood.





A note from Donna

This time of year gets busy for us as we wrap up our school year activities.

Our DESEO program will be finishing up at the end of October with our school

values program as well as basketball. Our ESPERO school for the deaf will end their school year as well and will graduate its first class of 9th graders. The young men in our Moses Project will also complete their academic school year but will be staying on the farm until the end of November to allow for continued farm training as well as Biblical studies.

The months leading to the end of the year will be filled with planning, recruiting, and setting goals for next year's continued effort to impact lives and move them towards a deeper relationship with their Creator. As we mention

in our year end campaign launch video (see QR code above), we feel the reality of being on the front line very intensely these days. Perhaps we are weary, worn down by life's challenges, but we believe the weariness brings us into a more dependent relationship with the Father. Ironically, or perhaps providentially, facing challenges and disappointments are reminders that self-reliance is dangerous.

We are also reminded that "success" from the world's standards is not the same as success in God's standards. God calls us to persevere, worship Him despite the losses, and fully depend on Him to give the increase. Please pray for our family, and for each person who is either working for the mission or are being reached by our efforts. And thank you for your consideration as we launch our annual campaign.

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

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 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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