

Mission UpReach Newsletter

“Surely God is with you!”

By: Phil Waldron

Donna and I, our MUR Team, and the volunteer missionaries that work with us are blessed to be on the cutting edge of God doing great things here in the communities that we work in throughout western Honduras. However, one thing that has been reinforced over and over again during our 14+ years of work in the region is that our battle is “not with flesh and blood but spiritual forces of darkness.” We have seen too many “coincidences” of bad things happening at “just the wrong time” that have a devastating effect on what we are doing. To date, God has delivered us from each and every one of these “traps” that the forces of darkness have thrown against us.

Recently, we had another “coincidence” that once again highlights what I am telling you about. Before I share the specifics of what happened I need to give you some background. During the month of June this year, a group of people with Disciple Trips, from Lubbock, TX held a village medical brigade in San José Copán. We were able to attend to 844 people with a medical consultation, medicines, vitamins, etc. Our church planter team, headed by Richar García, is responsible for going out into the community a few weeks prior to the dates of the brigade to distribute tickets that allow people to have access to the medical attention during the week. They also go back through the



community after the medical brigade is over visit with people that have received medical attention during the brigade. We have found that this is the most effective tool that we have to open doors into the homes in a community.

A couple of weeks ago, Richar García and Carlos Umaña, two of our church planting team members were spending time in the San José community. After visiting several people in the small city, it became clear to them that San José is full of quite a few churches already. These two men and their fellow team members are passionate about planting new churches, so they decided to drive up into the mountains surrounding San José to visit some of the smaller, poorer communities that had people attend the medical brigade. What they heard over and over was, “we need a church here in our community.” This excited both Richar and Carlos, but as they

were leaving on the one lane muddy road that followed along the edge of deep gorge, the road caved in and their vehicle rolled down the side of mountain, flipping over and over a total of six times.

When the four-wheel drive pickup that they were traveling in finally came to rest, both Richar and Carlos had escaped serious injury and got out of the vehicle. They stood looking at the truck and the devastation that the fall had wreaked on the vehicle. Carlos turned to Richar and said, “we need to stop and thank God right now for His protection because we both should be dead.” Members of the community came to their aid and also said, “surely God is with you because you both should be dead.”

When I heard these details, I was reminded of the story that we read about in the book of Acts in chapter

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More birthday parties

First, allow us to apologize for the incorrect text under the heading “DESEO Project Celebrates Birthdays” in last month’s newsletter. Once again, this month we were able to celebrate some birthdays of children in our DESEO Project program. We can have a birthday party for our sponsored children when their sponsoring family sends extra money for birthdays.



Our team purchases gifts for the child, some groceries for the family, a cake, decorations, and of course Coca-Cola, a favorite here. They go to the home of the child and celebrate with the child and their family and any other neighbors they may want to include. You can see from the photos the pure joy it brings to the children. Some of the children we celebrate have never had a birthday cake and certainly not a birthday celebration.

It is our privilege and honor to bring this joy to the children. We continue to promote and encourage our supporters to consider sponsoring a child. We promise you will be blessed by knowing you are providing the basics for their education, which can make a difference between a child continuing to study or dropping out of school. And of course, you can give to make their birthdays and Christmases extra special. Please consider sponsoring a child. Go to deseoproject.org to see how the program works.

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28. The Apostle Paul had been shipwrecked on the island of Malta. He and the other survivors made a fire to stay warm and as he was dropping a bundle of sticks on the fire a poisonous snake came out of the fire and bit him on the hand. The people from the island that saw what happened at first thought he was being punished by the gods for being a murderer or bad person but when Paul shook the snake off into the fire and did not die from the poison, they changed their mind and thought that he was a god.

This story about Paul is a little different from the story I shared with you about Richar and Carlos, but it does have this one thing in common: The Apostle Paul was able to do a mighty work on the island of Malta because of how God had protected

him against the poison of the snake bite. I have no doubt that this serpent was sent out by the God’s enemy, but because the people recognized that God was with Paul, after he explained that he was not a god but rather a servant of the God Most High, he was able to preach the Good News of salvation in the name of Jesus.

These people who witnessed God’s providential protection of Richar and Carlos are convinced that God is with them. Please be praying for Richar and Carlos’ work in this new community that God will open their hearts. And pray that He will establish a church there that is filled with men and women who not only love Jesus but have the passion to share the Good News with others in neighboring communities.



Basketball League underway

We told you last month about Scott Galloway and Bobby McVey coming to Honduras to conduct training for our DESEO team as well as a basketball camp for children in our program. We are seeing the fruits of their labor as the children are really learning the sport. They practice two afternoons a week, and the last week of the month they have games.

Parents and friends are invited to watch the games and the children

really love showing off their new skills. Watching their faces when they make a basket or steal the ball is priceless. The competition is real, but it is especially wonderful to see them high fiving their friends on the opposite team when they get a basket.

We are certain that our implementation of basketball league devotionals, scripture memory, and prayer produces a whole new

environment where competition can be fun and not a reason to resent or be angry with the team that may have beaten you.

We are so thankful for this opportunity to teach this sport to the children, but we are especially thankful for the extra time it gives our team to build relationships with the children while at the same time leading them towards a deeper relationship with Jesus.





A note from Donna

This past month Phil and I were able to travel in the U.S. We were able to visit with some of our supporters and make connections with some individuals

and organizations that have an interest in collaborating with us in the future. Our travels took us to Tennessee, Colorado, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York. We drove approximately 4,000 miles. We experienced some parts of the U.S. that we had never seen before and enjoyed the creativity of God in the various terrains and foliage. We have discovered over the years that stepping away from the day-to-day is good and healthy. While our trip's focus was developing new connections and thanking donors, we found that the change in our daily routine and challenges was very

restful. It also allows us a glimpse of what still requires our day-to-day management here in Honduras and what does not. Our goal, over the next 10 years, is to become less and empower more in the work the Lord is doing in western Honduras. To accomplish this, we have a lot of work ahead of us. We pray daily for God's wisdom and guidance and that He will bring us the right people to lead and serve. We covet your prayers.

While on this trip, we were blessed to see Phil's parents, my mother, all three of our girls (Hayley included), siblings, and cousins. As our parents age, we try to take advantage of every chance to see them. Being with our girls is so refreshing and wonderful. We are thankful to call them ours. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We have faced some difficult days in the past year and we know your prayers have sustained 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

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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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Please send all checks, donations and correspondence to this address.

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