



Mission UpReach Newsletter

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done...

By: Phil Waldron, CEO, Mission UpReach, Inc.

December 31st is fast approaching. That is not too far in the future from this writing. In terms of our year end annual fundraising campaign though, we are a “loong way” from making our goal. It has been an interesting year end. Unlike any that I can remember in the last 15 years. Perhaps it is due to the abysmal news that our news sources report on a daily basis that are causing fear, anxiety, and discouragement. What sources of news do you use to stay abreast of what’s going on the world?

Just today, on the Fox News app that I have on my phone, I read about the following discouraging events: a Catholic group being targeted by the FBI for monitoring for terrorist activity, horrible acts committed by HAMAS against hostages, JP Morgan making grim predictions about the stock market, etc. Where can one turn to for good news? All we hear, regardless of the source of news media or social media, is bleak and dreary. And on top of the horrible news confronting us on all sides, no one can even agree on whether any of these sources are credible. One news source blasts another news source as being completely spurious in its intentions and sources, and the discouraging cycle repeats itself: around and around and around again.

If the popular mediums of staying informed are the only sources that we listen to, it is no wonder we are

all worried and concerned about our futures...about our finances...about our ability to pay for health care and other things as we grow older in an economy that is spiraling out of control.

The good news in the midst of all of this is that God’s kingdom is advancing. Jesus promised that the Gates of Hades would never prevail against its advancement. In spite of things being dark and dreary in our present circumstances, our eyes need to be focused on Jesus and the coming of His kingdom. Time is rushing forward to an event that God foreordained since before the foundations of the world. The specific day and time of which only He knows. Our inability to see into the future and know “the when” of this day of judgement when He will judge the living and the dead does not for a second diminish the truth of its coming.

We began our Year End Fundraising Campaign, entitled GPS for God Positioning System, by releasing a video talking about our struggles from year to year in funding our various ministries. In that video, I mentioned that thanks to your donations God’s kingdom is advancing day by day here in our region. It is truer than ever before that God’s kingdom is the “rule of God in the hearts of men.” We have shared in our 2024 calendar just twelve stories of lives that have been changed by God’s working through various ministries of Mission

UpReach. This is a very good example of God’s kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven. As more and more people are converted to Christ and learn to live under His lordship, God’s kingdom is advancing. These transformed individuals make up the church. Apostle Paul wrote this about the church (literally the assembly of the saints) in Ephesians 3:10 ESV: “so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.” His delight in using the church to “show off” His manifold wisdom assures us that what is important, no matter what comes, is that His kingdom continues to advance and will not be stopped.

Come recessions, government persecutions, betrayals, or whatever... If God’s kingdom is advancing, how can we then be anxious?

Please search your heart and see what God might be asking you to do in consideration of our request that you make a generous donation by December 31st of this year. Our commitment is to steward your gift to the best of our abilities to maximize the kingdom impact that your gift will have. Give now while there is still time to take advantage of the 2023 tax year, or make a pledge to be given over the next twelve months. Either way, please let me know what you will be doing this year to help by writing me personally at: phil.w@missionupreach.org



Anticipating 2024 Bible Camp

The anticipation for Bible Camp begins to build around October of each year. We open registration and select our staff for the year. Most of our staff are DESEO team members, but we also have numerous volunteers each year. Planning includes selecting a theme, deciding on crafts, activities, and most importantly, the food. We have had an overwhelming response this year with 90 children already registered for each of the first two weeks and almost 60 (the limit) for the last week. After 10 years of camp, the reputation of camp has reached far and wide and we are thrilled to have a waiting list this year for the first time.

We would like to ask you to pray for the children and staff who will participate in Bible Camp in January. We know for a fact that camp is life changing and a highlight for most participants. If you, or your children, have benefited from Bible camp, would you consider making a special contribution to our camp? Our children come from poor families that cannot possibly pay or even offset the costs of camp. We do require a



\$10 non-refundable payment to be sure the spots are occupied by committed campers. But, as you can imagine, that is a drop in the bucket of the real cost. We would truly appreciate your help in making camp possible for these children.

ESPERO closes another great year

This year, we graduated our first class of 9th graders from our school for the deaf. Three students, who have persevered the past 7 years to complete the requirements, graduated. As important as a 6th grade graduation is here in Honduras, 9th grade is even more important. From here, these students will have the opportunity to continue their studies and enter what will be a 3 year program with an emphasis on technology. We have selected this approach, knowing that learning technology and putting it to work opens doors of opportunities for the deaf that other programs cannot bring. Due to the governmental requirements, we will be accepting an invitation from a local high school to enroll these 3 students in their already

established program by providing an interpreter and tutor for the students. It will be challenging, but we are committed to helping them take this next big step in their education.

Of course, we also celebrated the 6 students who completed the 6th grade. Seeing the joy and pride in the faces of the students as well as their parents is a wonderful experience.

Annual Planning in progress

The month of December is filled with planning and preparation for the upcoming year. Our DESEO team, for example, must create lesson plans for the year along with their devotional plans. Once the new year rolls in, this team will spend the month of January at Bible Camp and immediately begin the new school year in the schools we select to serve. Annually, we spend one entire day planning the details of the school year as a team. Our operational system leads us to create an annual plan, a quarterly plan, and performance indicators to keep the team accountable throughout the year.

After the annual meeting, there will be weekly follow up meetings as well as quarterly check ins with leadership. This same approach is applied to ESPERO and our Church Planting team. Since implementing this operational system, we have found our teams to be more productive with greater results. We look forward to all that God has in store for us in the new year.



Moses Project happenings



Boys headed home for the holidays

Since school ends here in the first weeks of November, we send the boys at Project Moses home to spend the holidays with their families. Most of them will return to participate in our annual Bible Camp and then by the beginning of February they will be with us again. All our boys ended their schools year in what is called “academic excellence.” Considering that most of them came to us behind in basic skills, it is truly amazing how well they have done. Structure seems to be key to helping them move towards success. It is also noteworthy that they don’t have cell phones and have very limited access to the internet. Their days are filled with schooling, studying, doing homework, taking Bible courses, studying English, tending to their garden, learning about science and horticulture, and of course good nourishment and recreation, specifically soccer. We really hate to see them go and anticipate their return in February!



Try Out Week for Candidates

The first week in December will be “try out” week for the 13 candidates we have identified as potential participants in our Project Moses program. We will be selecting 5 of these young men after spending several days observing and interacting with them.

We have already assessed the boys through basic educational tests and have found that they, as most all others who have entered our program in the past, are way behind educationally. This is because they come from small villages where the education is lacking as well as coming from families that may not highly value education. What we look for in the boys during their “try out” time is a positive attitude towards learning and hard work. Without those two factors, it will be nearly impossible for the boys to succeed in the high school where they will be enrolled.

We trust and believe that the structure and tutoring we will provide to them, along with their own determination and hard work, is the key to future success. We look forward to introducing them to you in a future newsletter.





A note from Donna

As December begins, we are once again in shock that another year is ending. We were able to spend another Thanksgiving

in the U.S. with Phil's family, and of course I was able to see my family as well. We will be spending the Christmas and New Year's holidays at home in Honduras. Our daughter, Laura, will come for a few days, and we look forward to the time we will get to spend with her.

Our new year will start with a bang and a rush. We receive our first visiting team on January 1. January 5th

begins our annual Bible camp, and I will be at camp for all the 3 weeks. February will be filled with our annual board meeting and two visiting teams. Also, we kick off the school year here in Honduras, which mean the kickoff of DESEO, ESPERO, and the return of the boys at the Moses Project.

Our offices close starting December 15th and reopen on January 2nd. This allows most of our staff time to rest and recoup for the coming year. Phil and I are so thankful to God for our team members and their passion for what they do. They work very hard all year to accomplish the set goals and they do so with integrity and purpose. Would you please pray for our team members? Thank God for them with us and pray that He will continue to use them in His work here in western Honduras.

2024 Brigade Season

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| VCOM..... | January 1-7..... | Medical |
| Redtail Community Foundation..... | February 4-11 | Construction |
| Brad Russell Medical Team | February 24-March 2 | Medical |
| Country View Family Farms | March 16-23 | Construction |
| Ryan Duncan Team..... | May 19-26 | Surgical |
| Southside CoFC, KY | June 22-29 | Medical |
| Pine Tree CoC, TX..... | July 20-27..... | Medical |

Mission UpReach Board

Scott Bedichek, Ft. Worth, TX
 Phil Berry, Coral Springs, FL
 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

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

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.



facebook.com/missionupreach



twitter.com/missionupreach



instagram.com/missionupreach