

# Mission UpReach

September 2014

Titus 1:5 tells us that God's plan for every local church of Christ is for them to have Elders that shepherd the flock. We are excited to share with you that our local church here in Santa Rosa was able to complete a seven month long process in August that culminated with the appointment of four men to serves as elders in the Santa Rosa church of Christ that meets in Barrio Belén.

Lots of other activities too are discussed in this issue of our newsletter. Be sure and read Caleb Gossett's column on his experience as an AIMer here with Mission UpReach. We are grateful for these eight young people that are living and serving with us for the next 22 months.

Dios bendiga,

Phil Waldron

Missionary/Evangelist



# Newsletter

Mission UpReach  
Waldron Family

September, 2014  
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## Elders Named in New Church Plant in Santa Rosa de Copán

Phil and Donna Waldron, along with their two youngest children, Harrison and Laura, moved to Santa Rosa de Copán in June of 2009. They began worshipping with a small congregation of 35 meeting in Barrio Calvario. Initially a man from Stark City, MO by the name of A.J. Hendrix established this congregation. The Stark City church would send him for 6 weeks at a time to work in several communities in western Honduras. The Calvario congregation had been in existence for 15 years when the Waldron's arrived. During the next five years the congregation grew to an average of about 155 per Sunday. In addition, the Waldron's sponsoring church was able to raise \$50,000 towards purchasing a larger piece of property in the Colonia Mejia Garcia and the Calvario congregation sold its building and combined the funds to purchase the new property.

In February of this year, the Waldron's and a team of Mission UpReach employees and full time Volunteers began a second congregation in Santa Rosa de Copán. Great pains were taken not to "cannibalize" the congregation in Mejia Garcia. These efforts included not allowing any outsiders (apart from the church-planting team) to attend the worship and Bible study of the new congregation the first two months. This prevented anyone from the Mejia Garcia congregation "defecting" to the new congregation since the goal was to establish a new congregation to reach new people and not to debilitate the original congregation. The new congregation has an average of 60 people in attendance and the Mejia Garcia congregation is averaging 130.

We are excited to share that our new congregation has named 4 men as Elders after completing a 6-month intensive, in-depth study on Biblical leadership. This was only made possible in part by the fact that our church-planting team is made up of some mature men, two of whom grew up in the church. Scott Galloway, from Atlanta, who was on hand for the installation ceremony on Sunday, August 10 shared meaningful comments on his perspective of working with and under Elders over the years. He also led a prayer for the men as they were formally recognized in front of the congregation.



## National Congress of Persona Jurídica has annual meeting

Under Honduran law the best way for the church to protect the individual properties that various congregations own as well as to have the ability to obtain missionary visas for its missionaries is to have a legal entity known as a Personaria Jurídica. Often you will hear of a church in the US buying property for a congregation in the mission field and putting it in the name of the local preacher. Some times (too many to count), the Preacher or his heirs wind up with the property as their own instead of it being kept in trust for future generations.

Our new congregation joined the Personaria Jurídica this past month and Mission UpReach provided a bus for representatives from area churches in the west to attend the national congress. Representatives from new congregations that we have established as well as some men from older, existing congregations went on our bus to the event. One of the positive things about the church in Honduras is that a number of years ago a group of mature men with foresight saw the need to form a legal entity whereby churches of Christ could gain legal representation before the government. This allows churches to hold property in trust guaranteeing the use of their buildings for future generations. Part of our training and preparing men for leadership in area-wide congregations is devoted to explaining the benefits of each congregation participating actively in the Personaria Jurídica. The Congress this year had over 100 participants from across the country.

# English Evangelistic Bible Study

Over the years that we have been here in Santa Rosa we have used several programs involving speaking conversational English with people as a way of meeting new people and studying the Bible with them. We began with several Let's Start Talking groups coming and holding one-on-one, conversational English classes, which were well attended at the time. It was always difficult to maintain momentum with the local participants after the short-term missionaries (that came for one to three weeks at a time) returned to the US.

Now that we have eight AIMers from the Sunset International Biblical Institute with us for 22 months we were able to start an outreach to the bi-lingual community that is a yearlong sustained effort. We chose to hold the weekly Saturday night English Bible study in a local coffee shop after they close their doors to normal business traffic. We provide free Café Americano to all that participate and the Coffee Shop provides a Barista to attend to anyone that wants to purchase one of their specialty drinks. This provides a very comfortable atmosphere for us to attend to our guests before and after the actual Bible study.

The AIMers have taken to this outreach effort with great enthusiasm. We prepared a media blitz campaign to promote the kick off and the AIMers did all of the radio and TV spots as well as designing the posters and flyers that we distributed around town. During the two hours that we hold the coffee shop Bible study each AIMer knows his or her individual role in making the time together both successful and productive. Some are greeters, some are getting the contact information of our visitors and some are working on setting up one-on-one Bible studies later in the week with visitors. We are very proud of how well these AIMers are working in this ministry and we believe it will produce a great harvest for the Kingdom in the coming months. Read the article at right by Caleb Gossett, one of the AIMers, and see what some of the initial results are in just three weeks since opening the study.



## Los AIMers- from the Sunset International Bible Institute REPORT:

By Caleb Gossett

Much of the month of August has been adjusting to our new schedule. The start of the month marked the end of the summer brigade season. The time spent with the brigade groups was definitely tiring but rewarding. One of the best things about the groups was seeing the people who come be touched by Honduras and the people. Now that the brigades are over we have been getting back into a regular Spanish class schedule and been working in the afternoons with other MUR ministries or things that come up. The month of August has also been a time of opportunities. We have had the chance to spend a day in training for first-aid and CPR, and a three-day basic barista course.

August has been an exciting month for the AIMers. After much preparing and advertising we held the first coffee shop Bible study on August 9th. We were met with a rainy evening but five people decided to come. So far we have had three Saturday night coffee shop Bible studies. Many of those from the first night have returned and one even brought a friend. God is definitely working in this ministry and we have faith that it is going to grow. So far we have had Bible studies throughout the week with almost every one of the people who have come to a study, and multiple studies with some. This new ministry really is what AIM is about. Sharing God's word and showing people they have a savior who loves and cares for them is truly why we are here. Be praying that those who we are currently studying the Bible with will come to know what God wants in their life, and that our coffee shop ministry will continue to grow.







## Regrouping after Short-Term Mission Season

### Phil & Donna Spend Three Days in Strategic Planning and Curriculum Development

Phil and Donna went away from Santa Rosa for three full days this month to work on a couple of large projects. Phil was working on writing a 5-year strategic plan with a narrative and budget projections to present to the Board of Directors of our newly formed 501(c)3 that is meeting in Santa Rosa in September. If the Board approves the plan it will set the direction for our mission for the coming years.

Donna took advantage of the three days away from the hustle and bustle of daily life in Santa Rosa to work on a curriculum for a marriage mentoring training program that we will be kicking off before the end of 2014. We will be writing about this program more in future newsletters.

### Trip to Belize for MUR Team

On Saturday, August 2 we dropped our last short-term mission group off at the San Pedro Sula airport. The Southside church

from Shelbyville, TN boarded the plane and our small group of North American missionaries headed to a hotel for two days of R&R. On Sunday we took a 1.5 hour boat trip to an island off the



coast of Belize and enjoyed playing on the beach, snorkeling and eating grilled chicken prepared by our host Gerardo Johnson. That evening we returned to our hotel in San Pedro Sula and celebrated the Lord's Supper before going to bed early and sleeping in a way that only happens when you are exhausted. It was a great way to celebrate the conclusion of a busy and productive short-term mission season.

### First Responder and CPR Training:

This month we hired a local non-profit, CAMO, to come to our facility in CREO and train 31 of our staff and full time volunteer MUR team members. It was an intensive day of training but there was a lot of laughter and cutting up as our group worked through the practice scenarios that the CAMO staff led us through. We believe that having our team members prepared for emergency response and CPR will help us better serve our community as well as the visiting groups that come on short-term missions.





## DESEO team's ministry blessed by basketball camp

Scott Galloway from Atlanta, Georgia brought two good friends, Ray Hamm from Llano, Texas and Paul Klerlein from Doraville, Georgia, and spent the week working with our DESEO team this past month. They were able to make use of our new facility for the train the trainer sessions in the mornings while the afternoons were spent working with kids in a basketball camp.

A total of 48 kids from three different schools in the Santa Rosa community participated in the afternoon basketball camp. This camp kicked off a three-month season for a league that involves all three schools. The season will end with a tournament to determine a league champion. This program of afternoon basketball continues to be a very effective tool for our DESEO team's ministry to young school age children.



## Planned Giving Available

Remember that with Mission UpReach now having official IRS 501(c)(3) status you can leave a bequest in your will that will bless future generations with new church plants in western Honduras. All you need to do is include Mission UpReach, Inc. in your will stating what size of bequest you would like to make.

## A Note from Donna:

As I write we are in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas area. Our trip had multiple purposes, not the least of which was oral surgery for both Laura and I. She had to have all four wisdom teeth cut out and I had to have some gum surgery. The attention and loving care of those who not only did our surgeries but also hosted our family has been encouraging and almost made it worth it. Of course we were also blessed to worship with several congregations that are partners with us as well as explore future opportunities with their respective missions' committees. It has been a wonderful trip and one in which God affirmed that many good Christians support us and the work of Mission UpReach with daily prayer and many with financial investments.

Being stateside is always a mixed bag of emotions for me. Experiencing good American food, clean and mostly pothole free highways, air conditioning, and the fellowship with faith filled individuals sometimes makes it hard to go back. But, as always, a couple of weeks of these things that have become luxuries in my mind is enough and I am ready for home. "Home" is wherever God has placed us. That can be Fort Worth, Texas, Nashville, Tennessee, or Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras. I am thankful and honored to call Honduras home and am mostly thankful that God has honored us with the privilege of spending a segment of our lives doing His work there. So, as we say goodbye and thank you to some really great servants of God that He has placed in Texas, we eagerly embrace the really great servants of God that He is pulled together as team Mission UpReach. I can't think of anywhere else I would rather be.

**You Can Correspond Directly with us contacting us at:**

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**Or You Can Send Your Tax Deductible Contributions to:**

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