

Mission UpReach

November 2014

This month Donna wrote the entire newsletter because I had come down with Dengue Fever for the second time. She took good care of me while I was down and wrote the newsletter as well. She does a great job writing. Really better than me, I think. I hope you enjoy all of the good news that she has shared here. We continue to thank God for for the very real growth that we are experiencing.

Bendiciones,

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Newsletter

Mission UpReach
Waldron Family

October, 2014
Vol. 7, No. 11



250 Attend Building Inauguration in Contamal

It was an honor to share in the inauguration of the new church building in Contamal. Many of our visiting groups this year worked alongside the church that meets in Contamal to construct this facility. Area congregations were invited and 250 were in attendance. The congregation in Contamal has approximately 60 members (including children). They worked for days in preparation for this grand event. They installed electricity and poured a concrete floor in preparation. Our desire is to help these newly planted congregations have their own meeting place as this is important in the culture in which we work. However, we look to the local congregation to be participants in the process. This little church has worked hard and made many sacrifices and will continue to do so, based on our observations. The event included a worship service followed by a meal that the ladies prepared. The church felt encouraged by the great turnout of brothers and sisters from surrounding congregations. It is our hope that we will realize many of these inaugural events in the years to come.

Official Transfer of Property Title to the church in Contamal

Another significant part of the inauguration of the church building in Contamal was the passing of the property title to the local church. This communicates to the local church as well as the community that the property belongs to them. Mission UpReach made the initial purchase of the property. Church buildings can either be owned by individuals or placed in a trust that is managed by an elected board of the national organization for the Churches of Christ. This ensures that one person does not and will not have the authority to sell or possess the property. Mission UpReach completed the legal work and documentation to move this property into the national Churches of Christ organization, making it the property of the

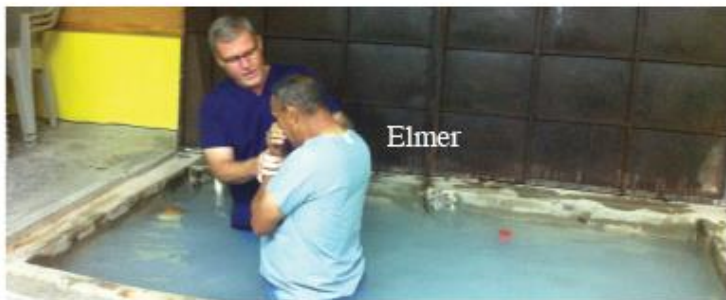
local congregation in Contamal. The passing of the title communicates confidence in the congregation's capacity to be good and responsible managers of what God has given.



Los AlMers- Sunset International Biblical Institute REPORT

By Matthew Bridges

This month we are wrapping up our work with certain ministries of Mission UpReach, like DESEO and Church Planting. We have really enjoyed working with the DESEO team this month and experiencing the end of the school year and its activities. We've had a wonderful time working with and getting to know the children in the schools we've been visiting, as well their families. Our last few trips out to the church at Contamal with the Church Planting team are complete. Along with the studies that we have been having before services in Contamal, both Rex and Caleb had the opportunity to preach for the congregation. On our last Thursday, they made everyone "pastelitos", a fried and breaded pastry, and fresh orange juice. We were glad to be able to say goodbye on such a good note. Some other good news that we have is that Hamlet, one of the Hondurans that we've been studying with, decided to obey Christ and be baptized. That was encouraging for all of us and helps to show us that we are making a difference for God here in Honduras. While the couples of MUR were in a marriage retreat, the girls of our team got to help take care of their kids for a week. Our Spanish is coming along well, and everyone has noticed an increased ability to communicate with the Spanish speakers here. It is uplifting to feel confident that one can go and do or say whatever they need to without needing to ask someone to translate for them. God definitely blessed our first five months here and we look forward to what He has in store for us in the months to come.



Wedding of one of our Dulce Refugio girls

Yeny Escobar, beloved by many of our visiting missionaries, got married this month to a wonderful Christian, Jose Luis Rodriguez. Watching Yeny find the man of her dreams and start her next chapter was wonderful. She participated in our Dulce Refugio ministry for the past three years. Yeny was the ideal candidate for this program and thrived due to this ministry. Last December she received her associate degree in education. Lord willing, as she continues to study she will graduate with a bachelor's degree in education next December. Phil and Donna had the privilege of serving as the "witnesses" in their wedding. A Honduran wedding consists of a civil ceremony, and if desired, a religious ceremony. Witnesses are those who have been supportive of the couple and witness to the legal authorities that they are apt for marriage and legally capable of performing their marital duties. It was an honor to have been witnesses for Yeny and Jose Luis as they begin their new life together.



15 New Graduates from Boot Camp

It was exciting to participate in our second annual Boot Camp Graduation ceremonies. 15 new graduates were honored and rewarded with diplomas and an official graduation for their hard work. These men, both young and old were thrilled with having completed the six modules required to graduate from our Boot Camp program. It is also thrilling to us at Mission UpReach, because we know there are now 15 men better prepared to lead and serve in their local congregations. We are able to do this without taking them out of their local congregations or communities or put them on full time support. These weeklong intensive seminars require they stay overnight and study 70 hours for each of the weeks over a period of two years. They leave with practical information and insights that make them more effective as they work and serve in the church. Many of them haven't even graduated from high school, so this represents a



great accomplishment for them. It was moving to see some in tears as they realized this was the end of the process. They have grown to love our staff as well as their fellow participants. We promised to not abandon them and are considering how we can continue to provide opportunities for growth and enrichment for these men.



First Marriage Mentoring Retreat

This month we were able to have our first of hopefully many marriage-mentoring retreats. Six couples were selected to participate in a three-day retreat that Phil and Donna facilitated. These couples are all leaders in the new local church plant in Santa Rosa and are actively involved in serving others. The skills obtained not only helped to strengthen their marriages, but gave them tools to use as they reach out to and counsel others marriages. The three-

day retreat was the kick off to a series of classes within the course that will last into December. We enjoyed learning as well as played some fun games and enjoyed some great fellowship. This first course is one of many that we plan to offer to these six couples as they continue to grow in this area. Our hope is to invite a second group of couples for the same series in the fall of 2015. We are convinced that strong families make strong churches.



DESEO Closing Ceremony

Our school year came to a close during the month of October. This is always bittersweet for our DESEO team. While they hate to say goodbye to the children they have worked with all year, at the same time it is good to have time to regroup and prepare for the next school year that will begin in February 2015. One of the schools in our program always likes to have a closing ceremony in which the different age groups prepare a song or a poem or a skit to perform for our team. They are so sweet with their gratitude and the teachers even present our team with certificates. This event is followed with a plate of food and drinks to celebrate all that has been accomplished this school year. The expression of gratitude is fulfilling and reminds our team that they really are making a difference. Our DESEO team has much to look forward to in 2015 with the addition of an afternoon tutoring program, extending our basketball leagues, and adding a local high school to our outreach. God has provided great opportunities and He has also provided a great group of people to serve as our DESEO team.

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:

If you noticed this newsletter is written a little differently, it is because I am the author of the entire newsletter this month. You may also notice it is arriving a bit later than usual. Phil has been sick for the last 10 days with dengue fever. Dengue fever is a mosquito born virus that can only be prevented by not getting bitten by the virus-carrying pest. This is Phil's second bout with dengue fever since we arrived in 2009. The second time around the virus manifest itself a bit differently and can lead to hemorrhaging. He spent the first 7 days with high fever followed by a rash all over his body. During this last phase of the virus there exist a danger of blood platelets dropping low, facilitating internal bleeding. Today, the date of this writing, his platelet count moved up just a bit, which is a good sign. He is not out of the woods and the most challenging part will be allowing him self to rest and recover. There are so many things to do in our busy mission. These times remind us of who is really in charge and that we can rest in Him, our faithful and good Provider. We appreciate your prayers for us always, but especially now as Phil battles this virus.

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Or You Can Send Your Tax Deductible Contributions to:

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