

January 2017

*Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise. 1 Chronicles 16:23-25a*

We are overjoyed and feel so blessed to be in Corquín, Honduras as we begin 2017. As we looked back over the past year, we are truly amazed and humbled. We reflected on how God first put the people of Honduras on our hearts in the Fall of 2015 followed by the desire to be apart of the work that God was accomplishing through Mission UpReach in Western Honduras. As we prayed and sought the Lord's will, we became confident that God was calling us to step out in faith, to leave the security of our jobs, home, family and friends and move to Central America. We weren't sure how He was going to work this out, but we chose to obey. Within a year of God's first prompting, we had packed up our house, quit our jobs, moved to Honduras, and begun language school in Guatemala! An amazing whirlwind, to say the least! We are grateful beyond measure for every prayer, encouraging word, and the financial support of so many that helped make this mission possible. We thank God continually for each of you.

The past year has been filled with planning and preparation. We have been anxious to "jump in" to the work, but understand the need and benefit of preparations and lots of language study. The last two weeks of January was spent studying Spanish in Antigua, thus completing our 12 weeks of study. That sounds like a lot, but sometimes it feels like we have just begun to scratch the surface.

February is an exciting month for us. We are officially moving from preparation into action and it feels great! Currently, as we have mentioned earlier, a Mission UpReach bus transports visitors from Corquín to Santa Rosa for Sunday services. This is a blessing and a great opportunity for visitors to take part in a large congregation and be connected to other believers and seekers. The trip over takes 45 minutes by car, but takes 1½ by bus. That length of time makes going over for a mid-week Bible study pretty unmanageable, which is why we will be starting a Thursday night gathering at our house beginning in February. This will be a time of worship, Bible study and prayer for the folks here in Corquín.

In an effort to quickly meet additional members of our community and get involved in their lives, we are offering English classes on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Both Mike and Kris will provide two classes back to back for groups of six children each. Kris will be teaching the younger ages and Michael will be teaching the older groups. It is our prayer that these

classes will provide an open door into the lives of these families and a way for us to offer the gospel of Jesus to them. Classes begin February 6<sup>th</sup>.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the DESEO workers will be coming to Corquín every Friday beginning February 17<sup>th</sup> to work in three of the schools here. DESEO is Mission UpReach's youth outreach program that instructs values, morals, and personal health and hygiene in public schools using a Bible based curriculum. It also forms the umbrella for the afterschool tutoring, sports, and music programs in Santa Rosa that help support the students while introducing them to our church family. If you would like more information on this outreach program, please use this link: [DESEO Program](#). This is another great way we are hoping to reach the community of Corquín for Christ.

Beginning February 4<sup>th</sup>, we will start attending the CRESCO program every Saturday in Santa Rosa. CRESCO is Mission UpReach's two-year, college level theological program that is offered to both men and women. This program allows for participants to attain a higher understanding of scripture in order to better minister in local communities. (Equipping local Christians to "Go and make disciples") This is a great opportunity for us to study with other Christians from surrounding communities and to work on learning (Spanish) vocabulary that will help us as we begin studying with non-believers.

Would you join us in prayer for the works that are beginning here? To make it easy, we have made a prayer schedule for each day of the week. On the following days, please pray for the requests listed:

Sunday: Visitors that are attending our services

Monday: English classes and the outreach to the families of our students

Tuesday: Our Spanish language proficiency

Wednesday: Individual Bible studies with non-believers

Thursday: Mid-week group Bible study at our home

Friday: DESEO program

Saturday: CRESCO Program

Blessings,

Michael and Kris Bridges