

Dear friends,

My name is Juan Carlos Ortiz and as you probably know I'm one of the graduates from the Micah Project in Honduras. I would just like to share a little with you all about what I have been doing the last couple of years and where I am planning to lead my life in the next couple of months. I graduated from high school here in November of 2013, and then I got a job as a night manager at a hotel. I worked there for over a year, and then I had another job at a call center company, which was also a good experience, but I am now realizing that God had something else in store for me. As the time passed I left the call center and was without a job for a long time, which did not help my situation mentally and emotionally. I went through some really rough patches in those months, which led me far away from the Lord and this caused so much depression and emptiness in my life. **I came to a point of not really knowing what I was doing with my life or if there was even a purpose for me.**

Thankfully, through this struggle I have been reminded that God never lets you down or allows challenges that you won't be able to overcome. God rescued me from that deep hole I was in and brought me back to the Micah Project for a while to clear my mind and start to take steps toward health and purpose. **After so much praying and moving a lot of pieces of the puzzle of my life I decided to apply for a six-month YWAM (Youth With a Mission) program in Costa Rica, which starts in mid-September.** YWAM is an organization that helps you grow in God's word and learn what God's purpose in your life is, and how to follow Him.



On a Missions trip in northeastern Honduras in July 2016

YWAM's six-month course is called a Discipleship Training School, which helps you grow in your faith and discover your unique and special gifts that God has put in your life to use to serve others. The program consists of first **12 weeks of classroom teaching and community living**, where they will have different speakers from all over the world guiding us through different themes each week. Then we will leave for an **8-week field assignment**, and the teams from my school will be sent out to apply the principles learned in the classroom to a cross-cultural experience to serve those in need - something that I have learned to do well at the Micah Project! These outreaches usually take part in Central America and South America, and sometimes in parts of Asia and Europe. If you would like to know more about this program in Costa Rica, please check out their website - www.ywamsj.org

In order for me to be able to take part in this training course, **I have to raise \$2800 dollars for the classroom time** (this includes all the materials I will be using, housing and food, as well as a trip to the border each month to renew my visitor visa, and my bus ticket to Costa Rica from Honduras). After this comes the **outreach phase** where we will be traveling and spreading God's Word and reaching out to those in need. **For this part of the program the cost is between \$2500-3000** (including my personal expenses), depending where the outreach takes place.

The US administrator of the Micah Project, Howard Jacobson, **has offered to help me manage my personal support for my discipleship school.** The funds won't be going through the Micah Project, as I am doing this independently, but the staff at Micah are very supportive of my decision. Checks can be made out to Howard Jacobson, and sent to his office at:

Howard Jacobson
Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
11612 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77024

Howard will directly pay the YWAM base for my school and outreach fees and has helped me come up with a monthly personal budget as well and will send me that monthly allowance. (If it somehow happens that God provides more funds than I need, we will use them to help pay the outreach costs for any other international students who don't have the money needed.)

I really want to do this program both to learn more about the Lord but also to be able to really reflect on what He wants for my life and in what direction I should go. I've seen how God has changed the lives of people I know through this program at other YWAM bases in the world, and I think it would be a great foundation for me as I prepare for my future.

Thank you so much to each one of you for playing a part in my life, and for helping me to see that God never leaves us or abandons us. I pray that you are encouraged as He leads me into the future that He has for me.

Sincerely,

Juan Carlos

