

# But Why?

## The Micah Project Summer 2016

Jeferson visits with Michael  
on the Micah house patio



Why would we possibly love him? How would you have answered that question if you had been the one with your hands on his shoulders that day? On the streets, love is a transaction, something to be bartered in exchange for survival. This boy can clearly see unconditional love at Micah, but he simply doesn't trust it—it makes no sense to him based on his brutal experience. Why would we love him without asking for something in return? In his young life, no one has ever truly loved him just because of who he is. Because of this, he sees himself as dirty, unworthy—as someone who belongs on the streets, where at least he knows the rules of survival.

When he showed up at the front gate of Micah 2.0 a few weeks ago, he had a desperate look on his face. “I don't want to be on the streets anymore,” sighed this fourteen year-old over and over again. He had actually joined the Micah Project last June, only to go back to the streets in December. We talked about why he had decided to leave the project—reasons which ranged from his inability to overcome his addiction to his difficulty in accepting authority after having been his own boss on the streets for so many years. But the most revealing reason as to why he was back on the streets came in his response to one of my comments. “You know that we love you, don't you?” I asked, with my hands on both of his shoulders. Before I could even finish that sentence, though, he blurted out,

*“But why?”*



Ismael hangs out with his buddy Victor,  
whose strong addictions drove him back to the  
streets several months ago

**Right:** Our social worker, Wendy, checks Jeferson into a detox program on his path of returning to Micah.

**Bottom:** Friends from St. Louis show some love to Maycoll on the streets.

If you get to know the stories of the boys that have called the Micah Project home, you know that the heart of Micah lies at the heart of this brief interaction. We are called to show unconditional love and grace to these boys until they finally begin to understand and accept it. And while we are incredibly imperfect at showing that love, we are able to point them to their Heavenly Father who absolutely IS perfect in his love for these lost sons of His.

Accepting that love often takes YEARS, and they may run away from it and reject it many times in the process. Sometimes they even run away from it in order to prove to themselves that we will not give up on them. Because of this, we can't insist on our own timing for their healing; rather, we are called to a tenacious hope that does not give in until our Father claims them as His own.

Please know that you have played a key role in each of the lives that have called the Micah Project home since we opened in 2000. The love that you show them through your encouragement, visits, prayers and financial commitment is a physical sign to them that they ARE worthy of love. It paves the path that they must walk in order to become the men that are loved and that can learn to love others in a way that transforms the world around them.



When we show love to the broken boys of the streets and we get that "but why?" in return, you have empowered us to fling open the gate of Micah, invite them in and respond,

**"Why? It's because He first loved us..."**

Thank you for being partners with us in unconditional love,

Su hermano en Cristo,

*Michael Miller*



# We would Love to hear from you...

If one of our guys or staff stood with you today and asked "But why...? Why do you continue to love us, support us, and pray for us here at the Micah Project?" what would you say? We would love to share your answers with them. Send a response to [hajacobson.micah@gmail.com](mailto:hajacobson.micah@gmail.com) or to 11612 Memorial Dr. Houston, TX 77024. Thank you again for loving, supporting, and praying for us all!

**Top Right:** Stephen has developed such a special bond of trust with the street kids.

**Bottom Right:** Friends from Houston chat with Eduard on the streets.



# Q&A

## What are the financial needs of the Micah Project?

Our need for operating funds is pressing. We are currently operating three group homes with over thirty boys, a vibrant street ministry, family support, and community outreach. The staff continues to stretch funds in creative ways, however the growth of the ministry, additional governmental regulation, and increasingly difficult societal pressures place financial strains on our ministry.

## What to watch for:

Our missionaries are scheduled to speak at missions conferences in St. Louis and Houston in September. Let us know if you are interested in attending! Also, in December, the Micah Project is teaming up with Living Water International and Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church to drill a well in a northern Honduras community that lacks access to clean water. We are currently raising funds to provide Micah guys and staff the opportunity to take part in this short term mission trip.

[www.micahprojecthonduras.org](http://www.micahprojecthonduras.org)

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## Does the Micah Project run a clinic?

Since 2015, we have supported two doctors and a dentist who provide daily services to the Micah family and to the surrounding villages in a clinic right next door to our property in the Villa Linda Miller community. This has been a huge blessing to us, since they are able to provide primary medical and dental care to our boys and staff and also care for the street youth that often come out to the project with medical needs. And of course, it is a way to bless the surrounding communities which have little access to medical care. The Micah Project provides a stipend of \$2,000 a month to help cover the costs of running the clinic, and the doctors charge a modest fee to patients that can afford to pay to help cover the rest. This service has been especially important this year as we have dealt with three mosquito-borne diseases that have been prevalent in this area: zika, dengue and chikungunya.

## Other than donating how can I help?

One way to help is to spread the Micah story! You can attend an event to support the Micah Project or host an event of your own! This May, over two hundred Micah friends attended a dinner gala called "The Gathering" in Houston to support the project, but there are many small ways to help as well. You can attend our fifth annual Labor of Love run on Labor Day (you can either run in the formal race in St. Louis or sign up to run wherever you live in order to receive the t-shirt). Others have held car washes, dog walks and lemonade stands in order to support the Micah Project and spread the word about what the Lord is doing through this ministry. We can also arrange for a Micah missionary or graduate to visit your church to share our story there.

For comments or  
to learn more about any of the above,  
contact Howard Jacobson at

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