



Marvelous Deeds

A Tale of the Lord's Provision for His Boys in Honduras

"...the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes." Psalm 118:23

Marvelous
Provision

Marvelous
Care

Marvelous
Growth

Marvelous
Challenge

Marvelous
Team

I honestly don't know if the wonder will ever begin to fade. The new Micah House has been completed, inaugurated and inhabited for a couple of months now, but every time I walk through it, I still get chills. I can't stop wandering through the different spaces in the house, trying to get my heart around what it means to be walking through a miracle.

The goosebumps are not just because this is such a beautiful space, although it truly is. It is hard to choose a favorite part of a house that is so breathtaking, but I find myself repeatedly climbing onto the rooftop terrace that overlooks the indoor courtyard. Our gifted Honduran architect designed a space in the middle of the house that looks fresh and clean, but also as if it could have been built 200 years ago in Honduras' colonial past. There is something magical about how its stonework and rich ochre tones frame the vibrant green mountainscape behind it. It truly pays homage to the master Architect and His perfect creation!

In late September, the boys spent their first night in the new house, a trial run as we finished up final details before the permanent move-in in early November. The next day, Moises described waking up at sunrise to the most peaceful silence that this city-boy has ever experienced. In his words, "I opened my eyes and peeked out the bedroom window to the sun rising over the mountains and the only thing I could say was 'aaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhh.'" Sometimes a contented sigh says it all!

Just a year ago, this place was nothing more than a cow pasture with a dream attached to it. We knew we needed a better place for our boys, removed from the violence and constant threat of city life. But as we walked over that rolling pastureland last year, the distance between dream and reality seemed endless. At the same time, there was a growing sense of expectation, as if the Lord were asking us to get ready for a greater work that He was preparing to do through us on this new plot of land.

When three hundred people gathered to inaugurate the new Micah House on August 17th, there was a communal feeling that we were standing in a holy place, one consecrated by the Lord to do His work. As we dedicated the new home that day, we marveled at the way it came into existence through His perfect provision in His perfect timing. And as those gathered there sang praise songs that echoed out to the mountains beyond our property, we also had the sense of being surrounded by that great cloud of witnesses—that special section of the body of Christ that we lovingly call the Micah family—that was spread far beyond those mountains. Yes, we could hear your cheers echoing back at us as you celebrated all that the Lord was doing in this place!

That is why we wanted to prepare this little book for you. Since you have been such an important part of the Micah family, we want you to be able to marvel with us at the great faithfulness of our Lord to the Micah Project and our boys. We want to THANK YOU for being a part of the miracle. At the same time, we want you to understand that His work through the Micah Project is only just beginning, and He is getting ready to move in powerful ways.

It is my prayer that, just as that wonder never seems to fade as I walk through the new Micah House and see such tangible signs of the Lord's faithfulness, that you too will marvel at how the Lord is using your participation in the Micah Project to powerfully and radically change lives. It is our prayer that you will be blessed and strengthened by watching the Lord change these lives through YOU! And finally, it is our hope that you will prayerfully consider how the Lord is calling you to be a part of this next, exciting chapter of His ministry through the Micah Project!

Muchas gracias!

Su hermano en Cristo,
Michael Miller



Chapter



Marvelous Provision



We begin this tale with an ending: the completion of the first phase of construction at Micah 2.0! So many areas in the new Micah House have been designed to foster healing, growth and community. As you walk onto our wraparound front porch, you will see boys and staff members sitting in Adirondack chairs (built by our Technical school

students!) shooting the breeze as they gaze out over the mountains. Entering the front door, you will be in our spacious dining room, a perfect place to share meals and family life together. You will pass by the kitchen and food storage areas as you enter a large open space (with cathedral ceilings!) that serves as the boys' comfy living room, complete with couches, desks for studying, and a bank of computers.

Walk through the living room, and you will hear happy chatter as you enter the

game room and see the boys (and staff!!!) playing ping-pong, foosball or pool.



Surrounding the game room are the boys' bedrooms — five spacious rooms with four beds in each — filled with beautiful handmade wood furniture. Back out through the airy interior courtyard, you can make your way into our modern office area, where you will see our growing staff hard at

"He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me." Psalm 18:19



work in five different offices and a large meeting area. Oh! And before you leave, don't forget to go upstairs to visit our music room, outdoor terrace and tienda, a little store where the boys can spend their hard-earned allowances!

Finally, we would be remiss if we didn't take you to a nook that we call the Garden of the Heroes. You will love the beautiful mosaic of the Micah logo surrounded by a sea of beautiful terracotta tiles displaying the names of everyone that has supported the construction of Micah 2.0. The mural reminds us every single day that you have been an integral part of God's marvelous provision of this new house! Even if you can't come to visit Honduras that often, we say a prayer of thanksgiving for you every time we see your name on the Wall of Heroes!

Chapter

2

Marvelous Care

Little Edward is the youngest kid that we have ever taken off the streets of Tegucigalpa. As a nine-year-old, he looked so out of place hanging with a group of older street kids, sharing his bottle of yellow glue with them. Even so, he definitely had that same glassy-eyed look that all of the street kids have when trying to escape their tragic reality through those toxic glue fumes. Thanks to the passion and perseverance of our street minister Stephen Kusmer, Edward left the streets this April, and has become a beloved little brother to the rest of the Micah boys in our home.



Edward is just one miraculous example of the way in which our Heavenly Father has shown how much He marvelously cares for His children through the Micah Project. And while we have spent a lot of time and energy on building the new Micah House in 2013, we never wavered from our core mission: being conduits of that marvelous care. And what a blessing it is to watch Him work!





Edward wasn't the only boy to join the Micah family this year. 12-year-old Ismael, with his easy grin and infectious laughter, also left the streets and joined our family in June. Two new brothers in a growing family that is at every stage of development! The ways in which each one of our young men has grown this year is a separate story in itself.

*"...for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care."
Psalm 95:7*

We could spend a lot of time talking about our younger guys, how they spent the whole year studying the Gospel of John in early morning devotions before starting their home-schooling classes each day. Or how they headed out to Micah 2.0 during the construction process to help build the perimeter wall and to learn how to plant and care for vegetables in our very first garden.



Or we could tell you about our high school guys, who left the house at the crack of dawn every morning to make the trek to their schools. Yeison, Moises, Yoel and Pedro Luis were juniors and seniors at a Christian high school, while Wilmer finished up his first year at a Technical school. Each one of them is learning valuable lessons, too, with formal part time jobs during their school vacations.

And don't forget about our college guys! Whether it be Marvin studying in Portland, Oscar at Wheaton College in Illinois, Jose in Costa Rica, or Pedro, Maycol, or Junior in Tegucigalpa, it's amazing to see the Lord continue to sustain them as they become His men! Celebrating with Marvin Soto as he received his masters degree in May, with Olvin Funez as he got married in September and with Pedro Martinez as he earned a degree in civil engineering in November were highlights for us this year!



Truly, there are so many stories of the Lord's marvelous care of His children through the Micah Project this year. Next time you are in Honduras, we'll sit on the front porch of the new Micah House, drink some coffee, and we'll tell you some more of those amazing stories!



Chapter

3

Marvelous Growth

Those relaxing chats on the front porch may need to wait until after sundown. For Micah 2.0 is not just about the peaceful environment that the Lord has provided us, it is also about the work He has called us to do! As we have watched the new house go up brick-by-brick, we have also had the sense that the Lord is preparing us for deeper—and broader—ministry. Having new facilities means reaching into more lost lives with the light of Christ.

Already, our dreams for future ministry are morphing into concrete realities. We are planning a more formal technical school on the Micah 2.0 property, one which will teach auto mechanics, welding and carpentry not only to the Micah boys, but to many other youth that have not had the opportunity to receive an education. As the founder of the school, Brian Wiggs, put it, the Technical school will be based in “body-off discipleship”: just as the students will learn how to tear down a car and build it back up again so that it runs like new, we want to help them tear off the vestiges of their old lives as they build a brand new life in Christ.

Another aspect of ministry involves soccer (since everything in Honduras involves soccer at some point!). Our long-serving Honduran missionary, Roger Figueroa, is already planning a formal outreach to the communities that surround the Micah 2.0 property using athletics as the basis for the ministry. Moreover, Roger plans to use the Micah boys themselves as the missionaries that run this sports outreach. As we plan soccer leagues and other sporting events, it will provide a marvelous opportunity for our boys to share their testimonies and disciple kids their same age!



Back in the downtown area, the old Micah House is being prepared for its next phase of ministry as well. Stephen Kusmer envisions a discipleship center that will reach out to the older street youth population, those that are 17 and up. Because there are literally no opportunities for them to get off the streets once they reach that age, Stephen is designing a one-year program that will focus on intense rehabilitation, job and life-skill training and, of course, discipleship. He is already working intensely with older street boys such as Ronny and Edgar directly on the streets, and is anxious to create a space in order to help transform their lives!

“If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides...”

1 Peter 4:11

Finally, growth will come inside the new Micah House itself. There are lots of young boys just like Edward and Ismael that still live on the streets and desperately need a place to call home. We are already building relationship with many of them: Victor, Cristian, Axel, Oscar, Carlos, Junior and Noe, to name a few. With your prayers, they will become Micah boys sooner rather than later!

Meet little Noé. I can't tell you exactly how old he is, because he doesn't even know. Nor can I tell you where his home is, because he doesn't have one. I can't even tell you where his mother is, because she abandoned him years ago. I usually find him wandering the rough streets of the market district, lost in the intoxicating fumes of the yellow glue that he constantly inhales. He has perhaps the most beautiful little smile in the world, but that is only a momentary illusion that covers up the deep pain and suffering that have marked his life. Noé's story is one of a childhood that is being robbed. But it is a story that doesn't have to end there... We at the Micah Project believe that the new Micah House will one day be “home” to him, and that he will be one of many street boys for years to come who will enter Micah and find their true “Home” in the Father's eternal embrace.

-Stephen Kusmer



Growth in ministry can be hard. It requires more staff, more planning, more logistics and more resources. At the same time, when that growth come from the Lord and is sustained by His mighty right hand, then it is indeed marvelous!

Chapter

4

Marvelous Challenge

One of my favorite things to do on the Micah 2.0 property is to climb the water tank that is on the highest point of our land. We built a tall tank, primarily because we wanted the water to flow into our house through gravity without having to waste electricity by using a pump. But there is another advantage to that very tall tank. While standing on it, you can see the entire breadth of the Micah 2.0 property. You can see the beautiful new Micah House, and the flower gardens growing around it, and the first of six missionary cabins, perched on a hillside overlooking the verdant mountains. You can see the dirt access road, winding its way from our entrance gate up to the Micah House.

From that birds-eye view, we can see all that the Lord has provided for the Micah Project, and it overwhelms our heart with thanks and praise. At the same time, we can see all the areas of our property that have yet to be developed, and they challenge us to keep pushing forward with those plans!



We have already mentioned the Technical school, which is still in the planning stages and which we will begin designing soon. We also need to continue to develop our athletic facilities. Currently, the boys are playing on a temporary dirt soccer field, but eventually we will have a grass field and a more formal soccer court/auditorium under an open-sided roof. Speaking of roofs, we have received funding for four of the six staff cabins we are planning to build, but we still need funding for the additional cabins and the furnishings, appliances, sewage, water and electrical work for all the cabins.

In terms of infrastructure, we need to improve our road, which is currently dirt (and sometimes mud!) and add in some walking paths on different parts of the property. We are about halfway through with our perimeter wall, and we also had the idea of making a running/walking path that follows the wall as well!

Our original goal upon planning this project was to raise \$1.7 million dollars to develop the project, and, to date, we have raised over \$1.3 million, thanks to our Heavenly Father and thanks to you! As we gear up for 2014, in addition to raising funds for our growing operational budget, we would also like to raise the final \$400,000 in order to finish these projects!

What a marvelous challenge, right? Marvelous, because the Lord has shown over the last fourteen years since the founding of the Micah Project, that He is willing to take our giving, to take our prayers, to take our work on His behalf, and to multiply it over and over again in the lives of so many people here in Honduras.

*"Everyone will sit
under their own vine and their own fig tree, and
no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken."
Micah 4:4*



Conclusion

Marvelous Team

Throughout the year, we hear from many of you through emails, Facebook messages, or visits to the Micah Project. Your words and prayers are always encouraging and give our staff renewed energy to keep doing this work! The staff that you pray for and support is honestly a group of the most tireless and passionate people that I have ever met.

Being a part of Micah is honestly like having a second family – a family away from “home”. I won’t lie to you; it is hard work. But at the same time, it is so rewarding and fulfilling to be a part of the great work that God is doing here in Honduras. Just recently, Izzy and I were amazed at how beautifully the boys’ graduation celebration turned out. We could see how every member of the Micah staff willingly stepped up and went the extra mile to make sure the event was truly a celebration – from teachers cooking dinner for 200 people, to bus drivers hanging streamers, to the Technical school instructors building a stage that fit perfectly in our new living room. It is a joy and a privilege to be a part of this staff – to use the talents and skills God has given me to be a blessing and to make a difference. But as we often tell the boys, with great privilege comes great responsibility, and we do not take our jobs lightly. We value every penny that you sacrifice to make it possible for us to be here, and we strive to “work at it with all [our] hearts as working for the LORD, not for men.” (Col 3:23) We thank you for trusting us with the lives of these boys that we all love so much, and we cannot thank you enough for your prayers that give us the strength and wisdom to lead them well. - Jenna Zaldaña



Now that the Lord is calling us to grow as a ministry, we are going to need more missionaries here on the ground to do His work. If you or anyone you know feels called to pursue full-time ministry here in Honduras, we highly encourage you to pray about it and to talk to us about your future place here at Micah!

“The Micah Project is first and foremost about family. Boys with little or no hope are rescued from the violent, hopeless streets and given love and life opportunities that most of the rest of us take for granted. They become part of the Micah family. We cannot emphasize enough that you are part of that family, too. You are the heroes who have heard God’s call to pray, encourage, visit and fund this powerful and effective work. When we visited Honduras several months ago Michael shared that although God has done miraculous, almost unbelievable things in the last fourteen years, he believes He is just getting started. Through the power that works through us, God is able to do far more abundantly than all we can imagine. Won’t it be exciting to see where we go from here?” - Bill Wichman

This is the end of this little story book, and it has been an incredible story so far. But we believe God has many more chapters to write about the Micah Project. We pray that you will continue to be part of this story and remember to joyfully tell it to your family and friends. As we all continue to be blessed, we want to invite many more people to be a part of this marvelous family, the Micah family.



www.micahprojecthonduras.org