

Growing up and Taking off...

Micah Project May 2011 Update

“...our goal is to find poor children who have the desire and potential to study and to help them become future leaders in their community...develop them as leaders through their own ministry to others..”

This quote is from a video that our board member Dianne Becker shot in August of 1999, a few months before the Micah Project opened its doors in January 2000. If you have six minutes, you should really watch the video, which reflects on our first ten years of ministry: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okoYRym1jhg&feature=player_embedded . Ever since Dianne put the video on Youtube a couple of days ago, the Micah boys have been giggling at my “deer-caught-in-the-headlights” look as I talked about the opening of the Micah Project (although they also enjoyed seeing what ten years of tortillas, refried beans and fried plantains can do to a person’s trim figure!!!).

But more than marveling at how young we all looked back then, the video is worth watching because of what it says about God. At one point in the video, I reflect back on those months of visioning before opening the Micah House in 2000 and shake my head and say, “what was that 26-year-old thinking???” Street kids becoming the future leaders of their society? Kind of naïve, isn’t it? Naïve...until you remember Jesus’ words to his disciples: “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

This past month, God has proved to us clearly and without a doubt that He is accomplishing His vision of forming Christian leaders out of these boys. On May 20, Olvin Funez moved back to Tegucigalpa after getting his degree at the University of Houston. He has accepted a position with a foundation called “Building a Future” (www.buildingafuture.org), where he will implement programs to help marginalized children in Honduras receive the education they need to become successful adults. Sound familiar? This passionate and forward-thinking young man, who fled one of the most violent barrios of Tegucigalpa when he was just a boy, is now going to dedicate his life to helping young kids just like him!



That, my friends, is what we’ve been praying for since we first made that video in August of 1999.

Jarvin’s life is another example of how God has been accomplishing His vision for the Micah Project. Jarvin began his life on the streets when most kids are entering kindergarten. He really had no choice, since his dad had long-since abandoned the family and his mom was in prison. Along with Olvin, Jarvin was one of the first young men to enter the Micah Project when we began this long journey back in 2000. Now, fast forward to last Thursday, May 26: Jarvin stood up and received his Associate’s Degree in Psychology from the Universidad Latina in San José, Costa Rica!



Jarvin has moved back to Tegucigalpa, and he is now teaching at a school that focuses on adults who were not able to get an elementary or high school education...the same high-school completion program that we use at the Micah House, by the way!

Both Jarvin and Olvin are choosing to use their education to give back, which is an incredible, joyful truth for those of us who have poured our lives into theirs. Both of these young men would admit that the last ten years of their lives were anything but easy. Throwing off a past of violence, abandonment and hopelessness is not just a one-time decision...it is a daily choice to keep moving forward, and to keep trusting in God's plan for their lives. Jarvin put it best in a Facebook post on the day of his graduation:

"It's true that, in this process, there have been a lot of ups and downs. I have laughed and I have cried. Worry has been a struggle for me, as I have realized that there are some things that are out of my control. But, it is also miraculous to realize that the painful process of growth is the only way to be able to touch Glory...Thank you, God, for allowing me to achieve the first part of my dream!"

If you watch Dianne's video through to the end, you'll see several of our young men accomplishing their dreams of a college education. I wish each and every one of you could come here and meet these inspiring young men yourselves! Since that's not possible for everybody, I've recently updated all of the older guys' biography pages on our website so that you can see what God is doing in all of their lives. Just go to www.micahcentral.org/biolinks.html and scroll down to the section of Timothy House participants and the section of graduates. It is a good way to know how to pray for them!



Even as God is allowing our older participants to grow and mature, He is doing the same thing for the Micah Project itself. We're going to be mailing out a letter in June with some really exciting news about the future of the Micah Project in it...you're not going to want to miss it! If you are not on our mailing list, send us your address!

A couple of other newsy items to end our May update. First of all, we have had to cancel our golf tournament, which was scheduled for June 3 in Houston. We apologize to all who saved the date! We will try to reschedule the tournament at a later date. Also, the processing of donations has been handled for the last eleven years by a wonderful group of volunteers on our board of directors. Since the volume of work has been steadily increasing over the years, we have now hired a part-time person in order to help us with these tasks. If you ever have a question about a donation that you have made to the Micah Project, you can now direct that question to Cari Lowe at micah.project1@gmail.com. Cari has been the missions' assistant at the Central Presbyterian Church in St. Louis for many years...we are excited that she has joined our team!

As we celebrate all that God is doing to grow our older guys and to grow the Micah Project itself, we want you to know that we also celebrate YOU! You are a constant encouragement, and we want you to know that God is using your support of the Micah Project for the glory of His name!

Muchas gracias,

Michael Miller