



Far as the Curse is found

Micah Project

Christmas letter

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found*

As I reflect back over the Micah Project's ministry in 2010, there is one snapshot that reminds me more than any other that the curse of sin still afflicts humanity to this day. It is a picture we took in March of 12-year-old Axelito under the bridge in the market area of Tegucigalpa.



In the photo, he is covered in dirt from head to toe, malnourished and clutching a burrito that our street outreach team had given him. He has his bottle of yellow glue tucked into his shirt collar, so that all he has to do to inhale its noxious fumes is bow his head...a terrible parody of prayer that acknowledges the god-like power that yellow glue has over street kids. But it is the look on his dirt-streaked face that tells his story more than anything. I don't know if there is a word to adequately describe it: dejection, despair, hopelessness? Or perhaps we should go right to the heart of the matter and call it what it is: *cursed*.

The Axelito we know and love today...the one who has been a Micah boy since April...is one of the sweetest young men that you will ever meet. Though the last vestiges of street life have yet to fade in his day-to-day struggles towards healing, Axelito's personality has the ability to brighten anyone's day. He has given everybody in the house a nickname, and he is so funny (often unintentionally so!) that every room he enters immediately lights up because of the bright twinkle in his eyes. And if you are going to be in Tegucigalpa soon, ask him to show you his stomach: he is so proud of its new pudginess that reminds him daily that he no longer has to scrounge through the trash to find his day's nourishment...he loves to show it off!

As Axelito's days on the streets recede into the past, he is beginning to realize the power that the curse had over his life. In October, he made the decision to be baptized along with several of our other boys...an outward sign of his transformed new life. Just two days after his baptism, he wandered into my office and announced, "Michael, if it weren't for the Micah Project, I would have wound up dead on the streets." At such a young age, he has already been a firsthand witness to the cruelty and dehumanizing reality of the curse.

But, as the Christmas season nears, we don't sing "Joy to the World" with such gusto because of the reality of the curse; we sing it because of the promise of "NO MORE". *No more should sin and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.* No more should sin and brokenness cause children to die alone on the streets or under a bridge. No more should the thorns of addiction and abandonment choke out a young life that has just so recently sprouted.

No more.

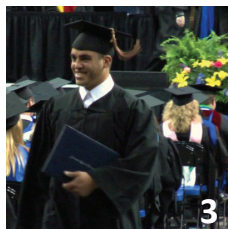
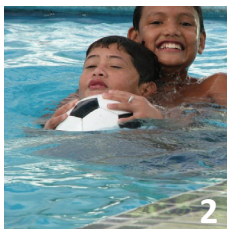
When Zechariah broke out in prophetic song to announce to the world what God was about to do through the advent of Jesus Christ, announced by his son John the Baptist, he said, "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us... salvation from our enemies (Luke 1: 68-69, 71). That is why we break out into the refrain "Joy to the World" every Christmas! The power of the curse has been broken, and while the battle still rages, we know that the ultimate victory is secure.



Goofy Axelito literally lights up the room as he tries the Christmas tree on for size.

The Micah Project exists because of that promise. We have been called to participate with Him in the destruction of the curse and the flowing spread of His blessing here in Honduras. And your active and loving participation in the Micah Project's ministries this year allowed boys such as Axelito to be a part of that blessing! But that is not the only blessing that your participation accomplished this year. Here are the highlights of the many ways that God worked through the Micah Project this year:

- January:** The Micah Project technical school was launched by Brian Wiggs, to help our young men, and others from our barrio, learn the skills, values and discipline they will need to be successful in their lives. This year, the school focused on carpentry and welding. (1)
- February:** Davidcito left the streets to join the Micah Project. Jeremy Tolleson joined our staff as a full-time missionary.
- March:** Axelito and Miguelito showed up at our door and left street life behind them. (2)
- April:** Oscar Izaguirre graduated from Missouri Baptist University. (3)
- May:** The Leadership House for our older participants was re-inaugurated "The Timothy House" in order to re-focus our efforts on the intense discipleship needed to form these young men into godly and purpose-filled followers of Jesus.
- June:** We launched the planning phase for Micah 2.0, the facility that we will build in 2011 to take the Micah Project into our next decade of ministry.
- July and August:** Israel Zaldaña and Megan Scheumann joined our staff as full-time missionaries!
- September:** The Micah Moms renamed themselves "*Grupo Mama Jo*" to celebrate the life of Jo Bewley, who created this group to help several of our boys' moms and other single mothers learn how to sew. Kamia Paul continued to hold a weekly Bible study with the Grupo Mama Jo as well. (4)
- October:** Axelito, Miguelito, Miguel, Yeison, Joel and Nelson were baptized! (5, 6)
- November:** Jeferson, Hector, Hauner, Bryan, and Maycol graduated from high school and Danilo graduated with a sacred music degree from a seminary in Honduras.
- December:** Olvin Funez graduates from the University of Houston.
- Throughout the year:** Jeferson, Hauner, Bryan, Oscar, Tino, Hector and Marvin Morazan all found full-time employment, a huge blessing in a country with extremely high levels of unemployment.



He comes to make his blessings flow! I hope that each and every one of the accomplishments in this list is a reminder to you that God is using you to spread the joy of His salvation to so many lives. All of the points above describe people who were once victims...powerless beneath the crushing weight of the curse. Now, with every positive step forward that each one of them takes, we are reminded that the days of our enemy's curse are numbered.

And just wait and see how God is going to use the Micah Project in 2011! Early in the new year, we will send you a formal plan for Micah 2.0, the new facility that we will build so that we can minister in a more intentional, more effective way. We are so excited about how God will use this new facility to allow us to have an even greater impact on so many lives!

In the meantime, we ask that you consider making a year-end gift to the Micah Project. Over 60% of our operational budget is met by individuals who give generously to support this work. That statistic is so special to us because it reminds us how many partners we have who join with us in ministry! Your faithful support has allowed us to impact lives over the last eleven years. Your giving for 2011 will allow us to continue our efforts in a year that will mark an exciting transition in the life of this ministry.

And, as you consider your support for the Micah Project, please be assured that, in 2011, the Micah Project will continue with singular focus to share God's blessings...far as the curse is found.

Su hermano en Cristo,

Michael Miller

