

# A Land of Promise

## The Micah Project September 2011 Letter

Dear friends,

We have big news!!! On September 14, we signed the paperwork to purchase seven acres of land for the next chapter in the life of the Micah Project: Micah 2.0! We praise God for providing us with the funds to obtain this beautiful, green space and for allowing us to dream boldly about the future of the Micah Project. I know that many of you have been praying for the Micah Project throughout this entire process, and we can't thank you enough for your encouragement and prayers. This new property holds so much promise and potential for the next phase in the life of the Micah Project!

Over the past year, as we have searched for properties and moved towards the purchase of this land, we have had a lot of time to dream and pray about what a new property means for the Micah Project. During that process, I've done a lot of reflecting on the biblical view of land. As I read through the stories of the Old Testament, it seems like "land" and "promise" almost always go together. When God's uprooted and drifting people finally got close to the Promised Land after wandering in the desert for forty years, the early reports were of a land that flowed with milk and honey, just as God had promised (Numbers 13:27).

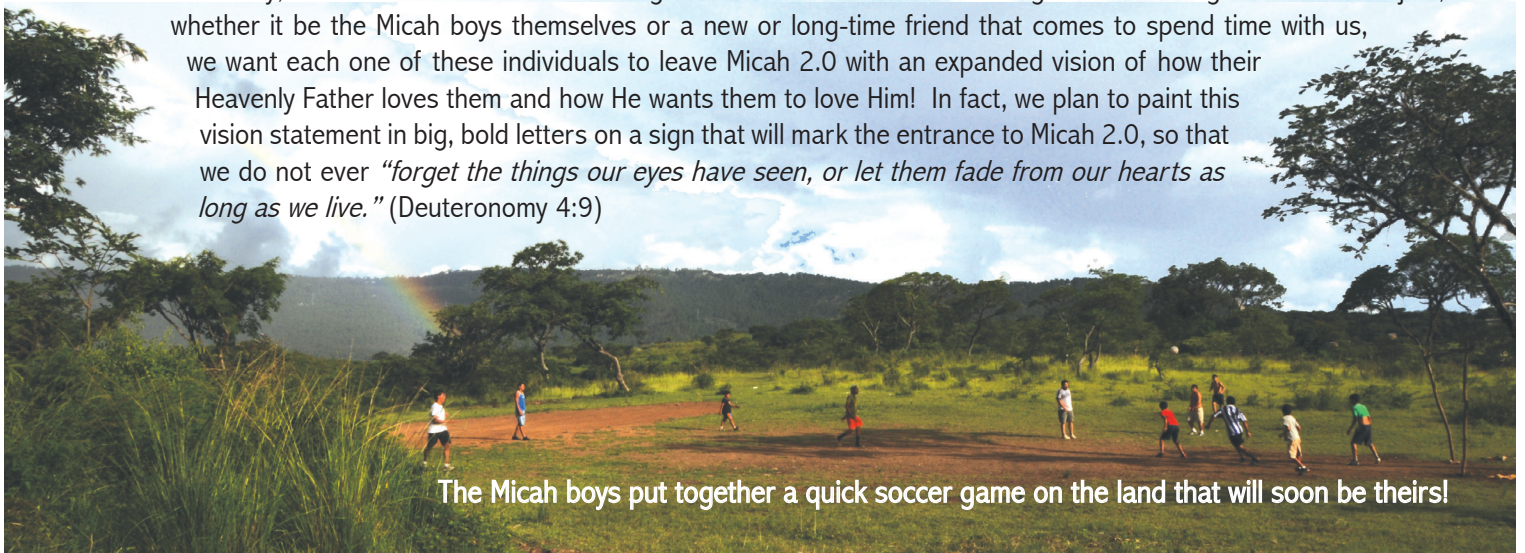
It is funny to hear our boys talk about our new property, to hear their own teenaged-version of "milk and honey." In their own way, they are already dreaming big about the potential for their new home...it will be such a change from the limited confines of the current Micah House! If their dreams come true, we will have more dogs than people on the property (David already surreptitiously bought a dog with his allowance, which he has on loan to a friend until we move onto the new property!). At different times, the boys have talked about having a basketball court (which is doable), horses (not so sure about that), a long, winding track for skateboards (we'll put that down as a maybe) and several four-wheel ATVs for a little off-roading fun (definitely out of the question!).

But more than dreams of milk and honey, the promise of land in the Bible is always centered on God's promised Presence. It is not so much about territory and green space...it's about relationship. When Joshua prepares his people to enter the Promised Land, he encourages them by saying, "*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for **the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go***" (Joshua 1:9). At its core purpose, the Promised Land was a place to live out God's covenant promise: "*I will be your God and you will be my people.*"

That is our primary reason for developing a new Micah property as well. Micah has been so successful for eleven years now because we have made it our primary goal to reintroduce our young men to their Heavenly Father. Now that we are talking about new land and a capital campaign in order to develop it, we want to remind ourselves that land and new buildings are not an end unto themselves; rather, they are a means to a better end. In order to make sure that our priorities remain clear and focused, we have created this vision statement for Micah 2.0:

*Micah 2.0 will be a simple yet beautiful place, with both indoor and outdoor spaces that are intentionally designed to be a platform on which everyone that enters through its gates will experience God's love in a fresh and profound way, and will be transformed by that love to such an extent that they are motivated to "act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with their God (Micah 6:8)."*

Whether it be students in the technical school, children and teens coming over from Villa Linda Miller to play soccer or participate in a Bible study; whether it be a street kid coming to learn about how he can change his life through the Micah Project; or whether it be the Micah boys themselves or a new or long-time friend that comes to spend time with us, we want each one of these individuals to leave Micah 2.0 with an expanded vision of how their Heavenly Father loves them and how He wants them to love Him! In fact, we plan to paint this vision statement in big, bold letters on a sign that will mark the entrance to Micah 2.0, so that we do not ever "*forget the things our eyes have seen, or let them fade from our hearts as long as we live.*" (Deuteronomy 4:9)

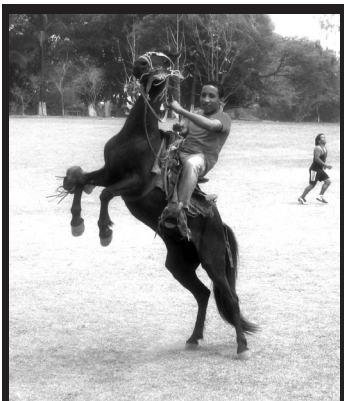


The Micah boys put together a quick soccer game on the land that will soon be theirs!

One of the things that excites us most about Micah 2.0 is that word *“intentional.”* Although we love the current Micah House and have seen God work in marvelous ways here for the last eleven years, often, when it comes to space, we are just trying to make do the best we can with the limited space available. The ability to create intentional spaces, designed so that our ministry can have maximum impact, will be a huge blessing for our staff...and will allow us to be even more creative in the way we minister to the people God has placed in our lives.

Another important word in our vision for Micah 2.0 is *“simple.”* When you have a blank slate and you're allowed to start dreaming of all the things you want in your new home, the tendency is to design a palace, with all the luxuries that you may not have where you currently live. Yet this would be a huge mistake on our part. If we truly want our boys to learn to “walk humbly with their God”, we cannot build a house so big and beautiful that suddenly they feel they have graduated into the privileged elite of their society. As we finalize the design for the new Micah House, we are designing ample spaces to do the ministry He has called us to do...without over-reaching. Please pray for us as we continue to discern where that line is!

Since purchasing the new land a couple of weeks ago, we have been taking the Micah guys out there every few days. Sometimes, those are work days: for example, we have been repairing



*Maicol demonstrates one of the reasons why we will NOT have horses on the new property*

the barbed wire fence that encloses the land. Other days, we simply enjoy the wide-open spaces and fill them with some joyful rounds of soccer, baseball or football. There's something about being out there—about lifting your eyes upward and gazing at the green hills that roll off into the distance—that is both peaceful and invigorating at the same time. And even though it is just six miles outside the city, that ability to stretch your eyes...to look beyond where you are now, is so much easier than in the densely-packed bowl that is Tegucigalpa. There is something about being able to extend your physical vision to the horizon that helps your inner eye do the same as well. It is my prayer that Micah 2.0 will always be a place of vision...of looking beyond the horizon of this earthly realm with a view toward the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father.

In the weeks to come, we will send you a more formal plan for the construction of Micah 2.0. As we plan our capital campaign, we are looking at various avenues of support to raise the funds for building (in fact, one exciting development is that some members of the Honduran business community have become increasingly interested in supporting Micah). In these next few weeks, as we finalize our building design and put together a budget for the new project, we ask that you

would prayerfully consider supporting Micah 2.0 and the future of the Micah Project. Also, if you know of churches or foundations that might be willing to support us, we'd really appreciate it if you would help us make contact with them! We'll let you know when we're ready to launch that phase of Micah 2.0 in the coming weeks!

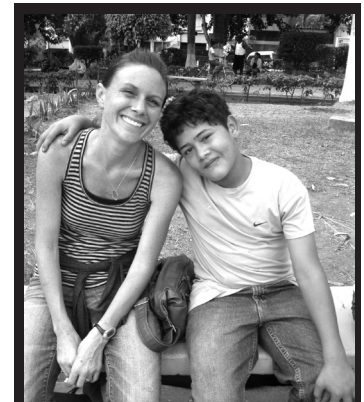
In the meantime, we want to make sure that you know we are available to answer any questions that you might have. Please write us at [micahproject@hotmail.com](mailto:micahproject@hotmail.com), or we can even arrange a phone call if that would be helpful. Also, we encourage you to come down and see what God is doing here with your own eyes! One of the best times to come this year is over the weekend of November 12, when we will have our graduation celebration (two of our boys, Arle and Junior, will be graduating from high school, Daniel will be graduating from Zamorano University, and Wilmer, David and Miguel will be graduating from sixth grade). Come on down for a few days!

In the meantime, please know how encouraging you are to us and how much we depend on your prayers and constant kindness. As we continue to point our boys towards an eternal relationship with their Heavenly Father, and to the promise of all the ways He desires to use them for His kingdom purposes here in Honduras, your support gives us the courage and energy to keep doing so!

¡Muchas gracias!

Su hermano en Cristo,

Michael Miller



*Staff one-on-one time with the boys will be much more accesible in our new facility*



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