

Launched!

Looking through the pictures of our Micah 2.0 dedication ceremony in June, there's one thing that stands out to me about that day. It's not the landscape...the beautiful, rolling green carpet that is our acreage or the breathtaking mountains that are its backdrop. It's not the formal setting either; the stage that our tech school built for this event, surrounded by hundreds of people listening to speeches about the future of the Micah Project. It's not even the music, although our little band set the tone for the event with uplifting songs of worship and praise.

No, what strikes me most about the pictures from that day are the candid shots of Micah missionaries interacting with our boys. Without meaning to, our friend (and amazing photographer!) Jamie Kutter caught the true reason behind Micah 2.0 in the moments when the official ceremony was on pause. There was our chaplain John Bell, joking around with a smiling Miguelito. Our missionary Megan Scheumann was chatting with Wilmer and Yeison, and Jamie caught me rough-housing with Nelson. Nothing planned or set-up about these shots; just normal, everyday interactions between our boys and the staff that loves them so much.

These pictures, these snapshots of extraordinary, ordinary moments, show the reason why we are launching Micah 2.0.



I was going to start this letter talking about the terrible crime and violence in the current Micah neighborhood. How in June, four of our boys were mugged at gunpoint in different incidents just yards from the Micah House; how they witnessed a kidnapping just a couple of blocks away that was part of a turf war between drug dealers for control of our neighborhood. How we've had to send one Micah boy to a different city to escape death threats directed against him. I was going to mention in that introduction how Honduras now has the highest murder rate in the world, and how several people in Micah's extended community have met violent death in the last two years. How we need to get out of our increasingly violent neighborhood.

But when I scrolled through the pictures of our dedication ceremony, I remembered the real reason for Micah 2.0...it's not about escaping a bad environment as much as it's about moving toward a better one.



Our young missionary Stephen Kusmer, who is serving as our street ministry coordinator and our assistant chaplain, said it perfectly during a video interview last week:

"One thing I am very passionate about is discipleship...really having those deeper conversations with the boys, really understanding what they've been through...doing some of that deeper soul work and truly leading them to a relationship with the Lord. I've found that a little bit hard in our current facility, because it is a restricted space. I think the project has grown so much...God has truly blessed it, but now we have lots of people in one small space. So as we launch the next phase of Micah, I'm thrilled to have this beautiful space to pull a boy aside and have those conversations with them; to truly pursue discipleship in a place that will allow for that better."

(See video at <http://vimeo.com/45813563>)

Every time we go out to the Micah 2.0 property, our missionaries think of new, creative ways to pursue transformation in our boys' lives. These seven acres of verdant pastureland will one day hold several formal structures: the technical school, educational facility, missionary housing, athletic fields and, of course, the new Micah House...but those are just the platform from which real transformation will be launched. With a little imagination and a lot of faith, the possibilities for pursuing transformation on this new land are as big and as beautiful as the lush, green mountains that surround it.

Our mission statement for Micah 2.0 reflects our desire to use our new property in just this way: *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)

During a couple of the longer speeches at our dedication ceremony, I noticed that a few of our boys had wandered off to other parts of the property and were being used as jungle gyms by the kids of the neighboring Villa Linda Miller community. Axelito was leading several younger kids in a game of duck-duck-goose and Miguel and Hector were playing Frisbee with some of the older boys. I understood at that moment that Micah 2.0 will not only be a place where our boys will be receivers of transformation—they will be *creators* of transformation as well. It will be a launching pad: a training ground where they can learn to use all of the talents they are developing and gifts they are discovering to be a blessing to so many others.



Now that we have officially launched Micah 2.0, and dedicated every square foot on the property to the Lord, we are ready to break ground and get the process rolling! We feel so blessed to be at the point where we are today: we have been able to buy the land outright, pay for architectural and engineering plans, sink a 450-foot deep well, and, thanks to mission teams, build 680 feet of perimeter wall! Beyond these initial tasks, we have also received over two hundred thousand dollars in additional funds to begin the new Micah House in August. Thank you for your incredible generosity that has allowed us to get this far in the process of building Micah 2.0!



To complete all of the different aspects of Micah 2.0, we will need to raise a total of \$1.7 million dollars (for a break-down of these costs, go to: <http://www.micah2pointo.org/#/the-costs>). For the projects described above, we have already raised \$400,000 of this total amount, which is an amazing start! Our first goal is to complete the Micah House and the staff housing in order to get moved onto the property. We will then work on the technical school, educational facility, athletic facilities and the agricultural project. So many dreams...just ready to launch!



As we ended our dedication ceremony on the lovely June day, Pastor Jeony of the Villa Linda Miller church asked everyone in attendance to extend their hands over our new property as he prayed for the Lord's blessing over it. Though most of you weren't there that day, we know that you have extended your blessing toward the Micah Project as well...through your prayers, your love, your constant encouragement, and your financial support. You are an integral part of the transformation that happens through the Micah Project! We ask at this time that you prayerfully consider how you can continue to be a part of this blessing through Micah 2.0. If you are led to contribute financially, please visit our site here to find out how: <http://www.micah2pointo.org/#/engage/donate>. If you would like more details, please write us at micahproject@hotmail.com. We can arrange a phone call, a visit, or even a trip to Honduras!

Thank you for allowing God to use you to launch this new phase of transformation in the Micah Project and our boys!

Su hermano en Cristo,


Michael Miller

