

The Micah Project - January 2013 Monthly Photo Update



2013 started off with a bang for the Micah Project: quite literally! The boys follow the Honduran tradition of filling a dummy with firecrackers, dousing it with gas and lighting it on fire! The dummy is called the "Old Year" and it symbolizes "out with the old, in with the new"!!!



January always begins with the Micah Project board meeting! This year, we met in Houston on January 4-6. God has truly brought a talented and gifted group of people together to help plan for Micah's future! Here, we enjoy a gourmet lunch together during the meeting. Above: Bill Wichman, Jonathan Rogers, Chris Herbold, Bill Marshall, Becca Bell, Howard Jacobson, Julie Harris and David Miller. Not pictured: Matt Darr and Michael Miller.



Work continued on the new Micah House at Micah 2.0 in January! The workers finished the wall up to the level of the supporting beams on which the roof will be built. Above left, some of the Micah boys peek through a new window in what will one day be the living room!



Since January is a month of school vacations (the Honduran school year runs from February through November), the Micah boys were able to spend a few days each week working on the Micah 2.0 site. To the right, Raul digs out the area where sewage pipes will be laid. To the left, Axelito, Moises, Miguelito and Yelson take a few minutes away from the work to smile in front of their new house!



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God has blessed us with such a gifted staff! Whether from Honduras, the United States or El Salvador, each staff member has one thing in common: a true calling and passion to serve the Lord by serving the young men of the Micah Project. Here, we stand together at the conclusion of our strategic planning retreat!



Since 2013 is such a big year as we transition to life at Micah 2.0, we have entered into a strategic planning process as a staff. Micah's board president, Jonathan Rogers, is a gifted strategic planner, so we invited him down to Honduras to help kick off our planning! To the left, Jonathan smiles with board member Eduardo Barahona, Stephen Kusmer and our accountant Gaby Centeno during the strategic planning retreat.

After working hard at Micah 2.0 during their school vacation, we decided to take the boys on a real vacation near the end of January. We started out on the Caribbean coast of Honduras, in the town of Tela, to enjoy sun and the sand for a couple of days! Here, Jose Luis, Manuel, Luis, Yonni, Carlos and Miguel enjoy the pool at the retreat center where we lodged!



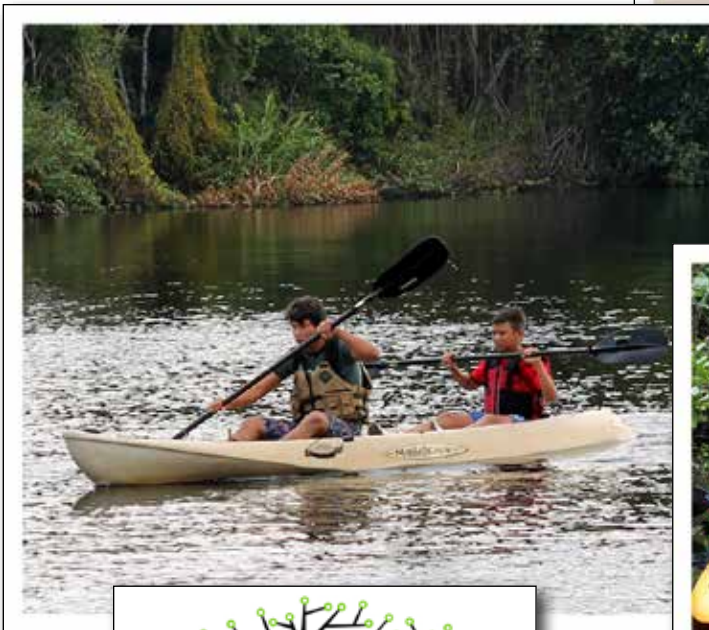
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Our favorite stop on the Caribbean coast is a Garifuna village called "Triunfo de la Cruz". The Garifuna are an Afro-Caribbean culture that is descended from Carib, Arawak and West African people. They have their own language and culture, and the boys love spending time in their villages! To the left, Jose Luis and Hector play with a Garifuna boy.

Below, Miguelito and Raul enjoy the beach in Triunfo de la Cruz!

While on the coast, the boys also got to go kayaking in a national forest called Punto Izopo. While rowing their way through this amazing mangrove swamp, they saw monkeys, alligators and some beautiful birds!



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After our time on the Coast, we met up with the rest of our staff and our older guys, who were supporting the First Presbyterian Church in Houston's annual medical brigade in Copan, in western Honduras. John and Becca Bell, who have taken boys to Copan to support this brigade for years, returned to Honduras from their study leave in Denver to support the team! Above right, John translates for the founder of this annual brigade, Dr. Robert Moore in the clinic in the indigenous village called Otuja. To the right, Jenna, Megan, Nelson and Pedro Luis worked hard in the pharmacy for the clinic in Otuja. Above, Wilmer hands out soft drinks to the kids of another indigenous village called "La Pintada"



While in Copan, we spent a day at the world famous Mayan ruins, most of which date from 600 to 700 AD. Here, Becca and the boys enjoy a moment together at the ruins. The Guacamaya parrot is the national bird of Honduras, and they fly freely among the ruins of Copan. What a beautiful site in this amazing country!

