



# Health Talents International, Inc.

"A Ministry of Teaching and Healing"

Mission Moments E-Newsletter

August 2008

## ***HTI'S MISSION: MORE THAN JUST MEDICINE***

In developing countries, life can be tough for a variety of reasons. Lack of education is a big one. Part of HTI's mission is to provide that education where we can...be it for physical, spiritual, mental or social problems. Read on to see how HTI, with the help of another non-profit organization and an agricultural team from the University of Tennessee have worked together to make a difference.

There was NO clean water in La Fortuna... only marginally clean well water and filthy river water. The solution was to build some above-ground cisterns to house rain water collected from rooftops. The community as a whole was not sold on the idea, so we started with only three test homes. Follow-up a year later showed the results to be outstanding! Of the three cisterns, two provided water during the entire rainy season and half of the dry season. The third provided water for the entire rainy season and at the *end* of the dry season was still one-third full! We tested the cistern water and, after 24 hours of incubation, we found no bacteria present! We also tested the well water and the river, which were, of course, full of bacteria. The cost for making these cisterns is only a bit more than \$100. The task now is to educate the community on the value of clean water. In the process we can help them understand that this is a viable and affordable option for them to provide the clean water their families need. This is something they can do on their own...with their own resources and materials.

In the Mayan community of Xepecol, families raise chickens for food and income. Their biggest problem was chicken mortality. The solution was to educate them on the value of using vaccines. In August '07 some Univ/Tenn students taught classes on the importance of immunizing the chickens and provided the first round of vaccines. For maximum effectiveness,

however, it is important to vaccinate the chickens every three months...which no one was doing. At the first vaccination day, they marked each chicken so its status could be monitored.

Afterwards, the ladies of Xepecol created a committee to monitor and continue vaccinating chickens. By April '08 they reported having completed three rounds of vaccinations of more than 800 chickens with between 40-50 families involved. The results were incredible! During March and April, the most deadly months for chickens, NONE of the vaccinated chickens died. Now they may have died from having been eaten...but none died from disease!



The Xepecol Chicken Committee

So instead of a family losing ten to twenty chickens per year, they sell these chickens for about \$6 for a hen and \$16 for a rooster while paying less than \$.06 per vaccination. We encouraged these women to go to Paxot 2, a nearby community, to teach the women there how to manage their chickens. Paxot 2 recently had a mass epidemic of disease and lost many chickens, so they were *very, very* interested. The ladies response was "Sure, we'll do that...so long as they cook us a good chicken while we're there!"

## **!!NEWS FLASH!!**

Dr. Lisa Dunham has just completed her "year of government service," which is required in order to be a licensed medical doctor in Guatemala. This will be of great benefit to the HTI ministry. It has been an excruciatingly long year, but she made it through! We are so very proud of her and grateful for the sacrifice she and Kemmel have made to do this.

Lisa and Kemmel have been living in the city during this time and after a vacation in the States they will be only too eager to return to their life near Chichicastenango and the patients they've come to know and love.

## **PUTTING A NEW FACE ON THINGS**

Meet Miguel, shown below. During the August surgery clinic at Clinica Ezell, Miguel had his fourth and, hopefully, final cleft palate/lip surgery. His adopted mother is a very special lady who took Miguel into her home when he was only a few days old, after his birth mother abandoned him because of his disability. They live near the Choacaman area where HTI has clinics.



## **NEW COLPOSCOPY CLINICS**

During the August surgery clinic, the HTI staff physicians and nurses learned how to perform colposcopy treatment (follow-up evaluation of abnormal pap smears) from Dr. Kristina McCain from Nashville, Tennessee. They reviewed the indications for colposcopy and examined patients with abnormal pap smears. They had already seen one patient with advanced cervical/ possibly endometrial cancer and another severe dysplasia/ possibly early cancer. HTI's goal is to diagnose and treat these lesions *before* they spread. It is documented that 60% of all cancers treated in the Cancer Institute in Guatemala City are cervical cancers. They have seen at least one advanced case of cervical cancer during each gyn surgery week at Ezell. This service will be a big step forward in our women's health services. Pray that we are able to stimulate more interest for preventive care like pap smears for women.

## **2009 HTI CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST TIME!**

Time is running out to vote for your favorite photos for the 2009 calendar! Cast your votes today! We will announce the winners after September 1.

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

Some of these news items were taken from blogs that Dr. Lisa and Kemmel Dunham and nurse Sheri Kretzchmar write: Check them out!

[www.kemmelandlisa.blogspot.com](http://www.kemmelandlisa.blogspot.com)  
[www.sheriinguate.blogspot.com](http://www.sheriinguate.blogspot.com)

## ***Education Is Essential***

*By Rick Harper, HTI Executive Director*

In the April edition of Mission Moments we featured recent classes to area school children where they were taught to be students of character. In this newsletter, education once again takes center stage.

Poultry management training in Xepocol...how to harvest rainwater in La Fortuna and colposcopy treatment training at Clinica Ezell for implementation on the coast and the highlands.

Left unsaid, until now, is the training of 25 health promoters in the department of Quiche and a similar number in the department of Suchitepequez. Or the more than 600 children in our ABC Program who are attending school through the generosity of you, our supporters. These are children who will not join the ranks of 2,000,000 school age children who are not in school.

How about the ten university students who spent six weeks in our Medical Evangelism Training Program, MET, the one hundred men who attended a three-day seminar on I, II & III John, the fifty women who attended a seminar on I Peter or the four dozen women who are attending an education seminar with Linda Henry this very weekend.

Still to come is October men's seminar on Philippians with Jose Garcia de Llana, the two October Midwife seminars with Anita Garland and Janice Gray, and the teen conference in November with Mike Lewis.

Last but not least will be the numerous Bible studies by our ministry team and our partnering churches that have led to new Christians either meeting or beginning to meet as a body in Chocoma, San Jose del Idolo, Chinique and Chutzurob.

More than just medicine? YES! HTI is a ministry where education is essential, a ministry of *teaching* and *healing...all in the name of the Lord.*

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### **In memoriam**

We are deeply saddened at the passing of Carolyn Maddux. Carolyn began serving on HTI's Board of Directors in 1989 and resigned only last year because of failing health. During her period of service she devoted much time and energy to starting the ABC program. She ever promoted this medical evangelism ministry and was constantly recruiting people to go on our clinic trips. Her enthusiasm for HTI's ministry was clear to all.

We have much to thank her for and will miss her dearly.

### **2008-2009 Clinic Dates**

#### **2008**

October 4-11 – Gen & Gyn Surgery  
November 5-10 – Guatemala Mobile Medical  
Nov 20-Dec 6 – Eye Surgery

#### **2009**

January 17-24 – Gen & Gyn Surgery  
Jan 29 – Feb 3 – Nicaragua Mobile Medical  
February 14-21 – Gen & Gyn Surgery  
March 7-14 – Eye Surgery  
April 18-25 – Gen & Gyn Surgery

If you'd like to go on one of these trips,