



**Health Talents
International, Inc.**
"A Ministry of Teaching and Healing"



Health Talents e-newsletter April 2012

In This Issue

[New Dentist for Highlands](#)

[Students, Students...everywhere](#)

Quick Links

[Register Now](#)
[About Us](#)
[Related Topics](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

HTI Mission Statement

The mission of Health Talents is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through teaching and healing ministries.



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Missionary Blogs

Dr. Lisa & Kemmel
kemmelandlisa.blogspot.com
Sheri Kretzschmar, RN

Greetings!

It is Spring time again, and that means university groups come to Guatemala! Health Talents has been privileged for several years to host groups from Harding, Lipscomb and Abilene universities, and they are always a blessing. The students come laden with excitement, enthusiasm and energy...all of which it takes to have a marvelous missions experience! There is no better way to understand and get excited about missions than getting "mud on your own boots," especially at such a young age. Read on to see for yourself the kinds of experiences they have while they are in Guatemala.

We are continuing to grow our surgical ministry. A year ago orthopedic surgeon Dr. David Gilliam from Little Rock, Arkansas, performed our first ever arthroscopic knee surgery. This year Dr. Jason Brashear followed up on that start. Knee problems are common everywhere, and the Mayan Indians are no different. Our ability to provide relief for them will be of great benefit to many, many people.

I hope that 2012 is being good to you thus far. We continue to be grateful to you for being a part of the Health Talents family. God bless!

New Dentist for the Highlands



HTI welcomes a new dentist to its ministry team. Dr. Sandra Aldana is from Guatemala City, but she will be working in the highlands with the Dunhams, Sheri and Dr. Ruben Romano. Here she is surrounded by several little children eager to help her clean up. Welcome, Dr. Sandra!

sheringuate.blogspot.com

2012 Trip Schedule

May 12-19 - Eye Surgery
June 2-9 - Gen/Gyn Surgery
July 4-9 - Guat Mob/Med
July 25-30 - El Salvador
Mob/Medical
August 4-11 -
Gen/ENT/Plastics Surgery
Sept 1-8 - Gen/Gyn Surgery
Sept 29-Oct 6 - Gen/Gyn
Surgery
Nov 7-12 - Guate
Mob/Medical
Nov 11-18 - Eye Surgery

Students, Students...everywhere!

The dates for Spring Break this year were different for all three of the schools that normally send teams to Guatemala. A group in training to become physician assistants from **Harding University** was there the week of March 3-10; **Abilene Christian** from March 10-17; and **Lipscomb University** from March 17-24. Harding and Lipscomb were in the highlands with Drs. Ruben Romano and Lisa Dunham, while the ACU group went to Clinica Ezell to be a part of the eye/ortho clinic. The students experienced medical evangelism in a variety of different ways, from taking part in the surgical clinic, helping out in the dental clinic, and in the case of the PA students, gaining practice in examining patients. We appreciate the faculty at each of these schools for making these opportunities available to their students. The students bring us their great energy and excitement, and they hopefully take home a better understanding of the Biblical command to use one's talents for the Lord. Here are a few pictures from their experience that you might enjoy!



Harding PA students treating a badly infected ankle.



Abilene students working in the eye surgery clinic.



Lipscomb students in the dental clinic.

Knee Surgery Options

Just as in the U.S., athletes and aging populations often experience knee pain. Until now HTI has been unable to easily provide relief, but that has all changed! Following in Dr. David Gilliam's footsteps from last year, during the eye clinic in March at Clinica Ezell Dr. Jason Brashear of Piney Flats, Tennessee, performed four knee arthroscopic procedures. This is now a proven addition to our surgical options. HTI's first surgical clinic was for cataract surgery back in 1993. Today we provide so much more: hernia repair, bowel resection, tumor removal, bladder repair, hysterectomies, gallbladder removal via laparoscopy, cleft palate repair, and now knee surgery. We are glad to be able to continually improve the surgical services available because were it not for Clinica Ezell, most of our patients would simply have to do without. Thank you, Drs. Gilliam and Brashear, for taking us a step further down the road of providing the care that our patients need.

Physical AND Spiritual

The desire to see our patients draw closer to the Lord permeates everything we do in Guatemala. This extends even to our part-time staff. **Marta** Tobias is a nurse who lives near Clinica Ezell. She has been working in our surgical clinics for many years as the primary person to start IVs in pre-op. We have grown to love her very much, and we rejoice with the angels in heaven that she was recently baptized into Christ! She is pictured here with nurse Rosario Poncio.



HTI Family News

Shoulder Surgery: Kimmel and Dr. Lisa traveled to the States in late March for Kimmel to have his shoulder operated on. He had fallen back in October and injured it but it just hadn't healed, so Dr. David Gilliam of Little Rock, Arkansas, offered to fix him up! Kimmel and Lisa remained in the States for a couple of extra weeks for recuperation and physical therapy before returning to Guatemala. Hope you are back "fit as a



fiddle" before too long, Kimmel!



Carlos & Silvia: Carlos and Silvia (and little Dante) traveled to the States recently to meet with their sponsoring congregations. For Carlos, that is the GracePoint Church in Montgomery, Alabama, and for Silvia it is the West End Church of Christ in Nashville. Carlos has been to GracePointe several times, but this was Silvia's first time to meet with her sponsoring congregation. While

in the States they had ample opportunity to visit with old friends and to see again some of the many folks from those two cities who have participated in HTI clinics.

Activities of Note:

- April 21-23 - HTI (bi-annual) Board Meeting in Antigua, Guatemala (just concluded)
- May 12-19 - Eye Surgery Clinic
- June 2-9 - Gen/Gyn Surgery Clinic
- July 1-3 - Lipscomb's Summer Celebration/HTI Luncheon on July 3
- July 4-9 - Mobile Medical Clinic in Guatemala
- July 25-30 - Mobile Medical Clinic in El Salvador (**SPOTS FOR NURSES STILL AVAILABLE!**)
- August 4-11 - Gen/Plastics/Ent Surgery Clinic
- September 1-8 - Gen/Gyn Surgery (**NEED MORE NURSES!**)
- September 29-October 6 - Gen/Gyn Surgery (**NEED NURSES**)