



Health Talents International, Inc.

"A Ministry of Teaching and Healing"

Health Talents e-newsletter/October 2010

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HTI Mission Statement

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



Contact us

Rick Harper, Exec. Dir.
htirick@aol.com

Julie Wheatley
juliecarmen@gmail.com

Greetings,

A lesser known element of the Health Talents ministry is its scholarship programs. These are a vital part of HTI's work because just as medical care often provides dramatic healing, education can transform the lives of young people who never imagined that a good education was within their reach. The enhanced attention to the value of education, plus the improved earning capacity of the returning scholarship students, will ultimately impact local congregations and communities. Following is an overview of our scholarship programs, plus the personal stories of a couple of our current students. They are heartwarming indeed.

HTI Scholarship Ministry

Bates Medical/Dental:



Beginning in 1994 or so, a precious little 3-year-old Mayan girl began coming to work with her mother at HTI's surgical clinic facility in Chocoma, Guatemala. She would spend the next several days playing around the clinic grounds while her mother cooked meals for the visiting HTI surgical teams. As the little girl played, she watched all the activity...and in her heart a vision formed. "Some day," she said to herself, "I want wear one of those HTI scrub tops!"

Fast forward sixteen years or so and you will find that precious child, **Manuela Tambriz**, to now be a lovely young woman who is finishing her first year of dental school at the San Carlos University in Guatemala, courtesy of the Bates Medical/Dental Scholarship Program. The program is named after **Dr. Charles Bates**, who dedicated many years developing Health Talents as a viable ministry. It provides help to deserving Christian young people so HTI can "grow its own" medical professionals for service in Latin America.

Nehemias Lopez has also received a Bates scholarship, but his was for medical school. He had seen firsthand the importance of doctors after his father sustained a traumatic head injury. His first year of medical school included a 2-hour bus trip twice a day, since he needed to be home at night to help his mother with his father's care. He is now in his final year of medical school and doing well. It took a great deal of determination, hard work and a strong faith for



MISSIONARY BLOGS

Kemmel & Lisa. MD
kemmelandlisa.blogspot.com

Sheri Kretzschmar, RN
sheriinguate.blogspot.com

2011 Clinic Schedule

January 15-22
Gen/Gyn Surgery

January 27-Feb 1
Nicaragua Mobile Med/Dental
Surgery

February 5-12
Gyn/Plastics Surgery

March 12-19
Eye/Ortho Surgery

April 9-16
Gen/Gyn Surgery

June 4-11
General Surgery

July 6-11
Mobile Med/Dental

July 16-23
Eye Surgery

August 6-13
Gen/ENT/Plastics Surgery

September 3-10
Gen/Gyn Surgery

October 1-8
Gen/Gyn Surgery

November 2-7

him to get this far, and we are certain God will use Nehemias mightily in His kingdom.

The Bates program expects to award 2011 scholarships to two dental students and three medical students. The annual cost of a Bates scholarship is \$4,000.

Three former Bates scholars are currently on staff: **Darling Ayerdis, R.N.**, at Clinica Ezell; **Dr. Marcos Lux**, dentist working in the Highlands; and **Dr. Jessica Romano**, dentist working with Dr. Silvia. Receipt of a scholarship obligates the student to work with HTI in Guatemala a year for each year of scholarship. Dr. Romano will complete her obligation this December and plans to return to her home in Nicaragua. Her brother, **Dr. Reuben Romano**, completes his medical training in Nicaragua very soon and will begin working with HTI in 2011.

As you can see, HTI is benefitting greatly from this scholarship program. But...wait...there is more!

Bennie/McDonnel Nursing Scholarship: This program was endowed by brothers Drs. Jeff and Jon Bennie, in Nashville, Tennessee, to honor the matriarch of their extensive family, Nancy Bennie, and her late sister, Ruth McDonnel, both of whom were nurses. Its purpose is to make it possible for students in Latin America to become nurses. The average cost for a year in nursing school is \$2500. We have a good candidate applying for the 2011 school year. Additionally, a young girl who is still in high school is working diligently to prepare herself for nursing school in two years and planning to apply for this scholarship.

Rivas Scholarship in El Salvador: This program was endowed by Mario Rivas in Austin, Texas, to honor his late wife, Deborah Rivas. It provides opportunities for deserving students in El Salvador to become medical professionals. One medical student is currently receiving a Rivas scholarship, and we have received seven applications for consideration for the coming year.

Sherman Scholarship for ABC students: Education is not a highly valued commodity in Guatemala, especially among the rural Maya population. To help change this, the HTI Board created the Sherman Scholarship Program. It is named for **Steve and Magda Sherman** in tribute for their many years of ministry in Guatemala, and offers scholarships ABC children for both high school and college. It is not limited to the medical track. Public school education is free through the sixth grade, but Guatemala has only regional high schools that require greater effort and financial commitment from the students.

Seven ABC high school students received Sherman Scholarships in 2010. Three of them graduated this year, and one of those is starting medical school on a Bates Scholarship. Two students in the program are attending the university now, studying accounting and communication. On average, the annual award to attend the university is \$1500.

Since its inception, ten young people have graduated from high school with help from the Sherman program. As these young people graduate and find gainful employment, we pray that more students will be encouraged and come to believe that they, too, can graduate from high school. We are getting reports from local ABC coordinators that this is beginning to happen.

The annual cost for this program on average is \$1,000 for high school. Students study specialized training in everything from education, agriculture/landscape, bookkeeping, and even auto mechanics. We are

Mobile Med/Dental

November 12-19
Eye Surgery

confident that in only ten years time we will see the effect of more educated young adults in the churches and communities. The investment of a small amount of money will surely reap wonderful rewards for Guatemala as it brings glory to God.

One final note about these scholarship programs...We are so excited about the quality of the applicants. Many are leaders in their local churches and teach classes, lead singing and even preach on occasion. They are all very grateful for the educational opportunities available to them because of the Health Talents ministry.

If you would like the satisfaction of making a profound difference in the life of a child, we welcome your help. We would especially appreciate help with the Bates and Sherman programs. Please note on your contribution which program you would like to help. Send your gift to this address: **Health Talents, PO Box 8303, Searcy, AR 72145**

ABC Program...



HTI started this program in 1990 with Magda Sherman as its director. The original purpose was to help care for children in the Church of Christ whose families had suffered terribly during the Civil War and had relocated to Guatemala City. ABC has since expanded throughout the western portion of Guatemala and now operates in 36 different churches.

There are currently 663 children in ABC, with 477 sponsors providing \$30/month per child for them. With an historical 3rd grade dropout rate among Mayan children, ABC offers incentives for families to keep their kids in school. The requirement that their children stay in school in order to be a part of ABC brings medical/dental care, food, clothing and spiritual guidance that makes a huge difference in the lives of these children.

Juana, our spina bifida patient



Little Juana never smiled. She was born with spina bifida and had never been able to walk, so she didn't have much to smile about. In September her mother carried her (literally) to Clinica Ezell for help with a urological problem. When urologist Dr. Gerald Jerkins and anesthesiologist Dr. Al Jones and their team found out that she didn't have a wheelchair, we

searched the storeroom and found one just her size. What a difference it made in Juana's disposition! She was thrilled to be in charge of her locomotion, and spent much of the rest of her time with us wheeling herself around the hospital, smiling with every wheel rotation. God does indeed like to make us smile. Sometimes he uses wheelchairs.

Activities of Note:

- Oct 22-23...HTI Board of Directors meeting
- Nov 3-8...Mobile Medical/Dental Clinic
- Nov 13-20...Eye Surgery Clinic
- Jan 15-22...Gen/Gyn Surgery Clinic
- Jan 21-22...Medical Mission Seminar in Fort Worth, TX