



## Health Talents e-newsletter/April 2011

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### HTI's 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, HTI Director  
[htirick@aol.com](mailto:htirick@aol.com)

Greetings!

Spring has come to Alabama, and new growth is everywhere! It reminds me of Health Talents. What started with a vision to help people both physically and spiritually nearly 40 years ago is growing into a much greater reality than anyone ever dreamed. This issue of the HTI e-newsletter will tell you of more new additions to our ministry.

As you read these wonderful stories of people helping people for the Glory of God, you might ask yourself if you are as involved as you would like to be. The width and breadth of the Health Talents ministry is directly proportional to the talents of our supporters. So give us a call. We're open to new ideas and new talents.

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## URGENT NEED!

**1 Anesthesiologist & 1 CRNA for the  
June 4-11 Gen/Gyn Surgery Clinic**

**1 Ophthalmologist for the  
July 16-23 Eye Surgery Clinic**

**PLEASE HELP US!** If you know any of the above, ask them if they are available on these dates...and if they would like to be a part of something really great. Julie Wheatley is awaiting their call:

**615-397-5447**

Christian Health Evangelists role expanded

Julie Wheatley  
Recruiting Director  
[juliecarmen@gmail.com](mailto:juliecarmen@gmail.com)

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## Missionary Blogs

Kemmel & Dr. Lisa  
[kemmelandlisa.blogspot.com](http://kemmelandlisa.blogspot.com)

Sheri Kretschmar  
[sheriinguate.blogspot.com](http://sheriinguate.blogspot.com)

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## **2011 Trip Schedule**

April 9-16 - Gen/Gyn Surgery

May 13-18 - El Salvador Mobile  
Medical/Dental

June 4-11 - Gen Surgery

July 6-11 - Mobile Medical/  
Dental

July 16-23 - Eye Surgery

August 6-13 - General, ENT  
and Plastic Surgery

Sept 3-10 - Gen/Gyn Surgery

Oct 1-8 - Gen/Gyn Surgery

Nov 2-7 - Mobile Medical/  
Dental

Nov 19-26 - Eye Surgery



HTI's Christian Health Evangelists (CHEs) Ivan Yachi (left) and Oscar Mejia (right) work very hard every day to broaden the impact that Health Talents has in the Clinica Ezell area. They also spend time studying so they can provide the best info available about a wide range of health topics. They are both learning English so they can communicate better with visiting team members and with personnel from the Agricultural Department of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, who have been quite instrumental in our developing this ministry.

Their most recent effort has been to go into ABC homes and schools to deliver the new water filters and teach the importance of clean drinking water. While there they educate the families and students in the proper use and care of the filters.

The first step in our new agriculture initiative was to build a garden "lab" on the Clinica Ezell grounds. It is now a veritable "Garden of Eden" with its wide variety of vegetables growing, like squash, melons, beets, many kinds of peppers, beans, and corn. Ivan and Oscar use it to teach better agricultural techniques to enhance nutrition. They are focusing initially on La Florida, the poverty-stricken village where the majority of the villagers are former migrant workers.

For better pulmonary health, they've been placing smokeless woodburning stoves in the homes of families that need them. The cost of the stoves is shared by the families themselves, and the family members benefit from a smoke-free environment. A much appreciated added bonus is that the stoves use 80% less wood.

We are very excited about the work of Oscar Mejia and Ivan Yachi. Their efforts will serve to increase the general level of understanding of how great a role prevention plays in good health.

## Diabetes Classes... in Full Swing

A common health problem among the Maya is diabetes. As we all know, diabetes can become very nasty if it is not treated properly. HTI's caregivers

have come to understand that the average patient does not have a



good understanding of what diabetes is and why it is important to do certain things. Thus, Dr. Lisa and Kemmel Dunham and nurse Sheri Kretzschmar are trying to change that. Sheri is preparing the lessons and doing the teaching, while Dr. Lisa handles the medical aspects with the patients.

Fueling this desire to educate their patients is the continuing problem of patient compliance. Sheri told of one lady who had been coming to the clinic for several months but had not been able to get her blood sugar under control. Sometimes when she came, her mouth was so dry it was difficult for her to talk. Last month her glucose reading was 467... last week it was 147! Sheri said that after getting a lot of individual instruction, the woman said that she thinks she now finally understands the diet. Success is sweet...no pun intended!

The first class was held in Chuchipaca. The program they designed is a series of three Diabetic Classes focusing on diet, exercise and medication. They plan to rotate the subject matter monthly. As they were setting up, they were told that there were a lot of people waiting and they might not all fit in the classroom (see picture above). Sheri responded, "Isn't that a terrible problem to have!" There was a good deal of discussion and questions/answers throughout the class. Everyone left feeling that the time spent was very worthwhile.

## Kingdom News



We stand in awe of how God works, day after day. Our latest experience was when **Ivan Yachi** moved his family from Guatemala City back to his hometown of Montellano, where Clinica Ezell is located. Last summer he began attending a Bible study that was being held in his mother's home. It wasn't long before he felt the desire to be baptized. About two weeks ago his lovely wife, **Brenda**, decided that she, too, wanted to accept Jesus as her Lord. Now they have a lovely Christian family, serving God together as they raise their two beautiful children, **Gaby** and **Oliver**, to know God. We feel very blessed to have them on the HTI team.

## Matching Gift Challenge 2011

Health Talents has received an \$8,000 matching gift challenge from a foundation wishing to support our Bates Scholarship Program for students in Central America studying medicine and dentistry. In early February representatives from the Foundation met with Carlos Baltadono and two of our current scholars who are studying dentistry, Manuela and Aura.

No surprise to those of us who know Carlos, Manuela, and Aura, but the foundation representatives were so impressed with all of them, that they returned to California as advocates for Health Talents and persuaded their trustees that we were worthy of their support. If you would like to help us reach this challenge by the end of 2011, please send your gift to Health Talents International, PO Box 8303, Searcy, AR 72145 and indicate your gift is for the Bates Matching Challenge.

Your gift, coupled with their match, will allow four students to attend school in 2012. They will pursue their dream of becoming an MD or Dentist, and one day join Health Talents as we seek "*to teach and heal as Jesus did.*"

### **Activities of note:**

- April 8-9...Family Counseling Training in Chichi by Klay Bartee, Asst Professor of Bible & Marriage/Family Counseling at Harding University.
- April 9-16...General/Gyn Surgery at Clinica Ezell
- April 12-13 - Family Counseling Training at Clinica Ezell
- May 13-18...First El Salvador Mobile Medical/Dental Trip
- May 14...MET Students arrive in Guatemala