

TRIP REPORT
General Surgery April 9-16, 2016
Clinica Ezell
David Mellor

ANOTHER GREAT WEEK AT CLINICA EZELL

We arrived to find our rooms clean and prepared. Stacks of scrubs were clean and ready, towels were in place and medical supplies in order. Thank you Guatemala team for your hard work.



Lisa Bartee served as charge nurse, rarely leaving the side of her post-op patients

This week we were able to perform 83 surgeries thanks to the skills and generosity of Doctors Ed Grogan, David Mature, John Kaczmarek, Fred Massey and Michael Flanagan. It is always a joy to see gifted doctors like these work with so much harmony and so little ego.

Rhonda Hendon, Tiffany Horton and Karen Parrick are the 3 wonderful CRNA's who provided anesthesia to each of our patients.

It seemed that every time sterilization caught up someone from a surgery team would bring another tray to be cleaned. Everything in the ORs worked smoothly because of Kimberly Chester, Lesa Dale, Rebecca Norton, Shanda Poitra, Emily Smith and "smiling Tim" Thurston. A happy OR is a productive OR. Even though most of these pros

have never worked together they came together and made it work. Thank you for your service.

Once the surgeries are completed our patients need to be cared for until it is determined that they can be released to go home. This is a vital part of the service that was provided by HTI. A special thanks to Lisa Bartee, Jane Benny, Abby Burroughs, Nancy Crooks, Chris and Amy Frasier, Taylor Reed, Lauren Pfeiffer, Jody Pilot, Samantha Prichard and Natalie Smith.

Lisa Despain, PT, was able to provide therapy and relate to many people. She went out with the mobile medical teams each day. This is a new program and already seeing great results.

A SPECIAL MOMENT

Dr. Al Jones is an anesthesiologist who has traveled to Guatemala on many many occasions. He is gravely ill at this time. We paused on Thursday to plant a tree in his honor. As we stood by his tree we prayed and sang the song, "Soon and Very Soon". We love Dr. Al and thank him for being a part of the HTI family. Many of our workers are with us because of Dr. Al's influence and encouragement.



Dr. Massey adjusts the "Dr. Al tree"

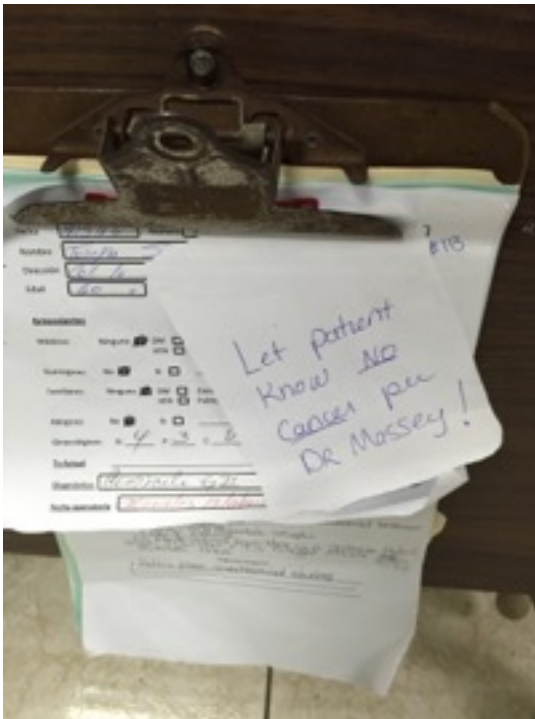
A FAMILY AFFAIR

Few things bring families together as much as serving the Lord. This trip was full of beautiful examples of loving families loving the Lord and serving the underserved.

Dr. Fred Massey has been with us on many occasions, but this time he brought his bride of 65 years on her first mission trip to Guatemala. What a powerful example for us to witness this two servants. Peggy was a caregiver, taking care of the patients on whom Fred had just operated.

Dr. Jeff Bennie served as our medical director. His wife, Jane, who went back to school after raising her children to become a nurse was one of our nursing staff. These two humble servants exemplified the servant leader model of Jesus.

Dr. Massey models the apron he brought to our cooks



Tiffany Horton, a CRNA who is a regular volunteer with HTI, brought her son, Trevor. She has also brought her daughter, Erika. These children are learning the value of serving. Tiffany's energy and dedication is contagious and I think her children are catching it!

Amy Burroughs who just finished her first year as a nurse brought her mother, Avan. These two wanted to see everything we do. It was a joy to see their excitement as they experienced their first trip to Clinica Ezell together.

Lisa and Klay Bartee are long time participants with HTI. Klay has provided very helpful marriage and family counseling mentoring to our staff both at Clinica Ezell and Clinica Caris in Chichicastenango. Klay is a counselor and professor at Harding University. Lisa served as charge nurse this week working long hours in post-op. Lisa's mother, Elaine Griffin is the VP of the HTI Board.

Josh and Christina Matlock are a young couple who recently began attending the congregation in Colorado which sponsors Kimmel and Lisa Dunham. They heard the Dunham's share their mission report when they were home visiting from Guatemala and were immediately drawn to the work they were doing. They joined us on this trip to learn more about what we do at Ezell, then went to Chichi to see the work there. They are praying to know how God will use them in the mission field.

Chris and Amy Frazier are an adventurous couple spending several months backpacking central America. They're also both nurses and Spanish speakers. This is the second time they have joined us at Clinica Ezell. They're also making plans to be with us one more time before returning home. We were greatly blessed by these two wanderers.

Reba Nordin, who has been with us several times, brought her mom, Jennifer Van Kooten and sister-in-law Melissa Van Kooten on their first mission trip. Reba is one of the hardest workers I've ever seen. Jennifer and Melissa served as caregivers and pill counters. They were eager to serve in any way they could.

Shanda Poitra brought her teenage daughter Madyson Wilkie. This mom must be doing something right because her daughter gave up going to her prom to make this trip. On our last night when we share what was special for the week, Madyson said "this is way better than prom".

We were also blessed with many wonderful caregivers, Betty Collins also known as "aunt Betty" has such a sweet spirit in gentle way of serving. Nurse Jodie Pilot demonstrated her love for HTI and our Guatemalan family. She shares her joy wherever she goes and even stayed behind to work with Sherry Kretschmar in the Highlands and spend more time in Guatemala. She is truly a traveling nurse.

Terry, "the fixer", Doughty reminded me that the most important part of the servant is a willing heart. Terry has great skills in being able to fix things and with a campus as large as Ezell there are always things to be fixed. A big thank you goes out to Terry.

Taylor Reed was a teenager at the church where I used to preach in Chattanooga. It is so encouraging to see young adults reach their goals. She is now a nurse and was quick to answer our call when we said we needed nurses on this trip.

Taylor also brought her close friend Lauren Pfeiffer. They took one of the first all-night shifts and were still going strong the rest of the week. Taylor has already started to persuade her father to come on the next trip

Mercy Smith was one of our translators. She is originally from El Salvador but now lives in Little Rock, Arkansas. The first time I saw Mercy at church I told her she was needed in Guatemala. She was excited about coming and now she is excited about coming back.

Dr. Ed Grogan is a regular on our HTI trips, his son has come with him in the past but he was unable make this trip. Dr. Grogan provided one of the highlights of this trip when he allowed Rigoberto's son to come to surgery with him. Rigoberto is the Guatemalan staff member who cleans the surgery



Reba Nordin recruited first timers mom, Jennifer and sister-in law Melissa Van Kooten



Dr. Ed Grogan sharing a moment with a grateful patient

rooms and takes such good care of our laundry. This is a special occasion because his son just found out that thanks to a scholarship provided by HTI, he will be able to attend medical school!

Our spiritual leader for the week was Charles Johansson we knew him as Charlie Chaplin his thoughtful sharing of the word and songs were helpful to keep us focused on a real purpose to serve and save.

OUR NOT SO GREAT RETURN

Several of our team members and board members faced difficulty with delayed and canceled flights on their return due to the heavy rain and flooding in Houston. A big thanks to Rick Harper for helping with new flights, hotel rooms, and words of encouragement. Eventually all got home and most are already planning their next trip!



Rigoberto and son, newly minted medical scholarship student, Sergio

