

# **Health Talents International**

## **Dental to Chichi**

**July 24-31, 2021**

### **Team Members**

Dr. Mark Whitefield (Dentist), Dr. Silvia Alvizures (Dentist), Julie Stanley (Assistant), Gary Tabor (Assistant), Holly Hill (hygienist from Nashville), and Bode Teague (Team Leader, sterilization)

Our trip began on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> with flights converging in Houston and then on to Guatemala City. We arrived on time and made quick time through customs and luggage claims. We caught a shuttle to Hotel Barcelo and stayed there for the night.

The next morning, we met up with Kemmel and Lisa for breakfast and then the three-hour transport to Chichicastenango. After an uneventful ride to Chichi, we checked in at Santo Tomas and then spent some time at the market prior to dinner.

On Monday, we divided up somewhat, Mark, Gary, Holly, and me went to Paxot II Church of Christ while Silvia and Julie made their way to Clinic Caris for the day. Our goal for the week at Paxot II was to service 20 ABC students per day. Families were to arrive in a staggered pattern so that there would never be too many families at the church at any give time. I will say, this worked out great, we never had more than 6-8 waiting at any given time. At Clinica Caris, they would be servicing anyone who arrived for dental care, which turned out to be about 8 per day.

Monday was uneventful, just your typical dental needs, cleanings, fillings, and a few extractions. The church was set up with two chairs in one room and a third in another. Mark, who was assisted by Gary, worked in one chair in the double room, while Holly did cleanings in the other room. In the room with Mark was Dr. Aura Alvarez who was assisted by Martina Sente, both work for TSI and at Clinica Caris. This worked out very well. Holly would see most patients after they were checked in and went through the Covid check-in protocol, then either Mark or Aura would pick them up when she had finished. This ran very smoothly for the four days we held clinic there in Paxot II.

The highlight of the trip was for some of us to be able to meet and spend a little time with our ABC students. Gary, Julie, and I were all able to visit with some of our sponsored children and meet their parents. This was quite the treat.

On Wednesday afternoon, after returning to the hotel, we were greeted by a lab tech who provided our Covid 19 test for departure. The results were returned to the hotel later that evening and everyone in our group tested negative.

Friday morning Julie and Silvia checked out early. Both were picked up and driven back to Guatemala City. Julie needed to fly back a day early for a family event and Silvia was spending an additional week with her family.

The remainder of the group were picked up after breakfast by Lisa and Kemmel and driven to Antigua for the remainder of the day and evening. A shuttle picked us up Saturday morning for the return to Guatemala City and flights home.

Our trip went extremely well. There were no delays, very little traffic, and except for some road work, all our days in clinic were very smooth. In all we serviced 72 ABC students and 32 adults. It was a very productive and satisfying week.

Thank you to all who lifted us up in prayer and thought of us on our trip. Your thoughts and prayers were felt and greatly appreciated.

Bode Teague

Team Members L-R Mark Whitefield, Kemmel and Lisa Dunham, Silvia Alvizures, Julie Stanley, Holly Hill, Bode Teague, Gary Tabor



Bode, Holly, Mark, and Gary



Paxot II Church of Christ



Holly Hill



Julie Stanley