

Health Talents International

ACU Mobile Medical Trip March 13-20, 2010

Trip Participants: Physicians: Martin Johnson, Ellen Little **Dentist:** Jeff Webb; **Students:** Abby Brown, Kelsey Chrane, Becca Fullerton, Lindsey Hannah, Jim Huddleston, Jake Hutto, Jordan Lowe, Edmund Martinez, Conner McDaniel, Jermias Mejia, Wyatt O'Grady, Sarah Russell, Adam Schwalm, Todd Selby, Kaitlyn Wilkins, Rachel Williman; **Med Tech:** Laura Johnson; **Team Leader:** Rick Harper

The ACU team arrived on schedule and breezed through immigration and customs. Such was not the luck for a Mobile, Alabama group in front of us, as customs officials were requiring them to pay duty on “deflated basketballs” they were bringing into the country for use in their Spring Break campaign. We got on the road at a decent hour, stopped for Pollo Campero in San Lucas and hit the road in earnest and arrived at Hotel Santo Tomas before 6:00 PM. Following dinner and a brief meeting/devotional, we were off to bed.

This team had two student leaders, Kelsey Chrane and Conner McDaniel, both veterans from 2009. They were outstanding leaders, well prepared and the students were exemplary at all times. Of course, they had a truly special physician with them in Dr. Ellen Little, currently the university physician at ACU. Ellen is legendary with Health Talents! She was a member of our 1991 MET class and returned in 1992 and 1993 as a MET “student” leader and afterwards, spent eight years in Uganda as medical missionary physician, only returning to the states in June of 2009. Be watching for Dr. Little to be featured in a future Christian Chronicle publication.

Sunday was market day and the team enjoyed the Chichi bargains, adjusted to the climate, altitude and culture before worshipping with the Chichi church family that evening.

Our mobile clinic work began on Monday, with one team going to Clinica Caris and the majority of us going to Xejoj, a community beyond Zacualpa. The Xejoj team provided dental and medical exams to the 36 ABC children and their families.





On Tuesday, we split into two groups once again, with one group going to Mactzul Primero and the other to Xatinab.

As we hit the middle of the week, it was time for a little diversity and a few students went to work beside the church members in Mactzul in building their new church building. Three students traveled to Chimente for a dental clinic and the remainder to Chuchixa. It rained that afternoon, calling a halt to the construction work, but settling the dust that is 1-5 inches deep this time of year.



Panajxit was the Thursday destination for one team and clinic was held in the community building beside the Puesto de Salud. For you non-Spanish speakers, the Puesto de Salud is a “free” community health center, somewhat equivalent to our county health centers in the US. Why would dozens of patients line up to see us, instead of the free care next door? We had medicines *beyond* over-the-counter pain killers and we had MD’s, not just nurses or medical school students manning the post. Fortunately, we have a great relationship with those who work

at the puesto and they send patients to us... and occasionally, we do the same if the patient needs a test that they are able to offer.

Others went to Paxot Segundo to install smokeless stoves as part of our community health and development work, and a few others went to Clinica Caris for Dr. Dunham's normal day for referral patients.



Friday morning came early as we began loading the vans and pickups at 6:30 for the trip to Antigua and the last full day in Guatemala for the 2010 ACU team. We arrived safely in Antigua, meeting up with the surgical team from Clinica Ezell and began exploring Antigua and enjoying its rich history. We closed out Friday night with a time of singing beside the pool at Hotel Antigua. Several in the group made it clear...they will be back.