

Health Talents International

Dental to Chichi

August 2021

Team Members

Dr. Nathan Russel (Dentist from Bainbridge Island, WA), Dr. Nathan Owens (Dentist from Nashville, TN), Sydney Provence (Hygienist from Austin, TX), Robert Abston (Assistant from Searcy, AR), Collin Hansen (Assistant from Seattle, WA), and Bode Teague (Team Leader, sterilization)

Our trip began on Saturday, August 28th 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 after 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 resting up for the week.

On Monday, we divided up somewhat, Dr. Russel and his assistant Collin were dropped off to work at the dental clinic at Clinica Caris. The rest of us drove another hour or so to Patzite where we would set up for the week at the Iglesia De Cristo Mactzul V outbuilding. Our goal for the week 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 waiting at any given 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 outbuilding was set up with two chairs in one room and a third outside on the covered porch. Dr. Owens worked in one chair in the double room, while Sydney, who was assisted by Robert worked on the front porch. In the room with Dr. Owens was Dr. Aura Alvarez who was assisted by Martina Sente, both work for TSI and at Clinica Caris. This ran very smoothly for the three full days we held clinic there at Mactzul V.

On Wednesday morning before we left the hotel for the day, Kemmel had arranged for the local lab to come and do our Covid test. Since we were leaving on Friday for the states, this would meet the 72-hour timeline set by the airlines.

Around 10:30 am, we received the news that Dr. Nathan Russell had tested positive. It was then that Kemmel and I decided to head back down the mountain to Clinica Caris to inform him of the news as well as relieve him of his duties. We also had set up an additional lab test for when he returned to Chichi just in case the first was a false positive.

Long story short, Dr. Russell again tested positive and at that point it was decided that the remainder of the team would be transported to Guatemala City for their return a day early and Dr. Russell and I would be transported to Clinica Ezell for the remainder of our stay.

Once at Clinica Ezell, we had our own room and Dr. Russell would then test daily awaiting a negative test. On Saturday night Sept. 4th, he tested negative. The next morning, he tested negative again, so we were then transported to a clinic for an official test. We both tested negative at that point so arrangements were made to transport us to Antigua for flights out on Monday morning.

All in all, we serviced 48 ABC students and 18 adults. It was a very productive and satisfying week even though it was cut short.

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

Bode, Robert, Sydney, Nathan Owens at Mactzul V



Sydney and Robert at Mactzul V



Collin and Dr. Nathan Russell at Clinica Caris



Our clinic for the week in an outbuilding just below the church

