

Health Talents International

Harding P.A. Trip Report

March 9-15, 2019

Team Participants: Physician Assistant: Melina Calderon, Joe Calderon; P.A. Student: Sierra Wallace, Holly Spencer, Lindsie Knowles, Jalyn Henderson, Rachel Long, Blake Buehrer; Pre-PA: Hannah Minton, Evan Rosenweig, Dakota Endsley; Nursing Student: Lyndsey Dillard, Timothy Roncal; Pre-Med: William Crews; Pediatrician: Dr. Brian Crest; Translator: Drew Bennie; Caregiver: Susan Harper, Julie Ann Harper; Team Leader: Rick Harper

We always wonder how Gary continues to bring cream-of-the-crop students to us every year. The Harding P.A. students always comes prepared and ready to participate in clinics. This group of students did not disappoint us!

What was disappointing, was Julie Ann's flight was delayed, and she arrived in Guatemala at 0200 but without her luggage. She was a trooper and held on until Wednesday, when it finally made an appearance.

The group arrived on Sunday in time for lunch at the Santo Tomas Hotel and then enjoyed the market. In the afternoon, we met with Kemmel to review information that was needed through the week. We worshipped with the Chichicastenango Church of Christ in the evening, enjoyed dinner and then prepared for the next day.

During the next four days, we would visit nine communities. The majority of clinics were medical and dental check-ups for the children in the ABC Program. These are excellent opportunities for the students to improve their assessment skills and practice their Spanish.

Also helping with the group, was Dr. Brian, who is a pediatrician. Two other P.A.s joined us, Joe and Melina, who also happen to be father and daughter. Joe has filled in for Dr. Lisa when she was on vacation in the past and has also worked in the operating room in Montellano. Melina was one of our MET Students a few years ago and she was able to visit again with her host family. Drew translated for the group and he also translates for surgical teams in Clinica Ezell.

This year, we also focused on reading and comprehension. Several suitcases of books were taken to clinics and children were encouraged, with their parents, to read and discuss the content. Julian Ann, Susan and Rick helped with this project. It is a slow process but by doing so, we can improve comprehension and the success that children have with their studies.

Monday, a small group went to Caris, which is our central clinic. We saw thirty patients in Lemoa, while the others went to hold an ABC Clinic in the Paxot area.

Drew, Lyndsey, Jalyn and Gary after a busy day.



Monday evening, we enjoyed dinner and a devotional time. Rick reminded us of the story in II Kings, chapter 4, about the jars being filled with oil. Briefly, Elisha requests that a widow collect empty jars and fills them from a partial jar of oil that she has in her home. Her personal jar continued to flow with oil until the last of the jars were full. The application is, that we should continue to search for jars and not be content when the last one is full. We need to locate and collect more jars, to utilize the resources that we have, and to share the experience of service with others. In doing this, we hope that they too, will want to further the growth of the kingdom.

Tuesday, we headed out to three areas. One group went to an area called, Saquilla, which is close to Chichi. The other two groups went to Chutzurob and Mactzul VII. Tomas and Joe, as we welcome our patients.



Lyndsey and Sierra look over and ABC Chart before they weigh and measure the child.



Lyndsey, Tim, Sierra, Tomas, Holly and Brenda preparing to see patients.



into

When Wednesday arrived, we divided up three groups, which included Caris, Chuguexa and Chuchipaca.



In Chuguexa, we saw twenty-four ABC Children and eighteen general patients.

Gary had the opportunity to visit with his ABC Daughter, Angelica.



Rick had a few minutes between books to entertain the students with balloons.



Following clinic, we met back at the hotel to celebrate the time that Andrea, one of our dentists, has been with us. Friday will be her last day of clinic, since she soon will be married and move to Guatemala City. She will be missed by all of us and her patients. We wish her the best as she begins a new phase of her life and hope that she will return in the future, to assist us in clinics and our service in the communities.



We also celebrated her birthday with a cake. It is a tradition here in Guatemala, for the 'birthday person' to take a bite from the cake, while someone from behind gives a gentle push to the head...Lisa, gave that gentle push and then Andrea came up for air, as you see in the photo below.



Thursday arrived before we realized it. We headed out in three different directions.

Some of us did an ABC Clinic in Mactzul VI, where we saw forty ABC Children.

Dr. Brian demonstrating how to take a deep breath.



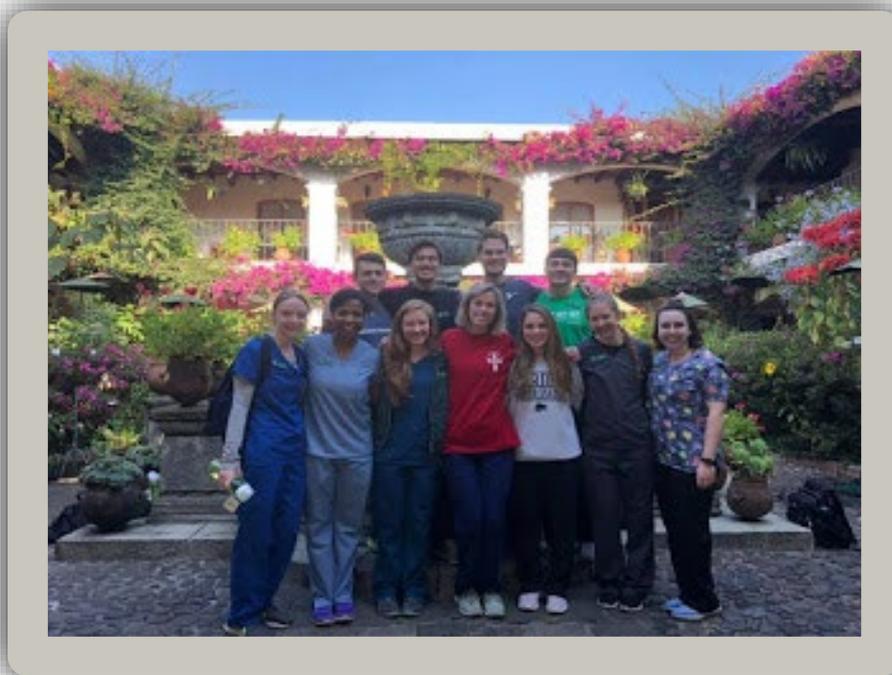
Gary and students seeing a patient. Drew's talent of translation was not needed at this moment.



Susan and Julie Ann talking with some children and a mom about reading.



The week was a success, and all went well. Everyone pitched in and took part in the work. It is not always easy to load the trucks, carry in the equipment, set up clinic, care for patients and then be ready to do the same thing, the very next morning. When we all have the same focus, of service and giving God the glory, the day goes so much easier.



We wish the students the best of luck in their studies. We hope that you will return to serve again with us.....and to continue to search for more jars to fill.