

## Harding PA Trip Trip Report March 4-11, 2017

Joining us on this trip were: Dr. Brian Cress, Tori Cress, Gary Hill, Nicole Mount, Amber Acord, Sarah Coleman, Jordan Milam, Mary Morhardt, Audra Nosal, Anne Prentiss, Rowdy Sarrett, Bryson Wandling, Megan Albers, Kohl Blickenstaff, Brandon Gates, Brooke Miller, Kennedy Neal, Seth Ransom, Sara Smith and Payton Ransom. (Team Leaders: Dave and Susan Mellor)

Saturday we met the Harding PA students in Houston. Two students left with us on the 11:30 a.m. flight, then we waited 7 hours for the rest of the group to arrive. We had an uneventful flight to Guatemala and arrived at Barcelo by midnight. Kimmel and Lisa and the drivers met us in the morning and we loaded up the vans and were off for Chichicastenango.



We arrived in Chichi about 3 p.m. and ate a late lunch at the Santo Tomas buffet. We wanted to give the students time to see the market before it closed, so we were free until our group meeting at 5:30. Kimmel went through the things we would be doing this week and some of the expectations and customs. Then we headed out to worship with the Chichi congregation. As promised, we shared 2 hours of preaching and singing without understanding much. The preacher switched between Spanish and Q'iche, so most of the time we were totally lost. The congregation was very friendly and hopefully encouraged by the presence of the gringos.



We walked back to Hotel Santo Tomas and had dinner at 8:30, then headed to our rooms for unpacking and much needed sleep.

Monday morning we started our day with fruit and pancakes, then most of us loaded up for Paxot Segundo. A few stayed back and went with Lisa to Caris. This was a full day of clinic with over 70 patients expected including the ABC children who were seen by Dr. Cress (pediatrician), Gary Hill, PA and Nicole Mount, PA. The students were assigned to "round robin" which meant that they took a chart, called the name and stayed with that person throughout the entire session. That way they could get a feel for the process and get to know the patient a

little. We had 4 strong translators, but several of the students had enough Spanish to suffice.

We arrived back at the hotel around 5:30 which gave us a few minutes of rest before dinner at 6:00. After dinner we gathered for information and devotional. David gave the devotional thoughts.

Tuesday morning we gathered at 7 a.m. for breakfast of eggs and hot dogs, then headed out to 4 locations: Clinica Caris, Saquilla, Patzite and Pacaja. Kohl set a record by pulling 12 teeth! (he is pre-dental major). It was a dusty day with many ABC students waiting to be seen. We got back to the hotel at 5 and we had a few minutes to catch up on email before dinner at 6. The wifi at the hotel is iffy at best. Usually it doesn't work at all.



Seth gave our devotional thoughts Tuesday night encouraging us to remember that although we cannot make things perfect, we can make them better. Rowdy led us in some devo songs and we went to our rooms to pack. A large crowd coming to Hotel Santo Tomas necessitated us moving to Casa Del Rey the next morning.



Wednesday we broke into two groups, the smaller going to Caris, the majority of us went to Chuchipaca where we saw mostly ABC students.

One interesting patient was treated at Caris who had gone to the witch doctor with pregnancy complications. The witch doctor told her the problem was that she was carrying an animal baby. They were able to assure her (by taking an ultrasound) that her baby was indeed fine (and human!). In fact, the baby cooperated by waving during the ultrasound, further reassuring mom.



We arrived at the new hotel about 5 pm where our luggage waited for us in the lobby. Having never seen this hotel before, we were greatly impressed with the grounds and rooms. We had heard that the food was good, the that was indeed the case. This restaurant serves a nice buffet with lots of choices. Rowdy was in charge of the devo and encouraged us to serve, know who we serve, and know why we serve. This group likes to sing, so we sang for 20 minutes or so. Before we closed for the night, Seth Ransom asked Kemmel and Lisa what they, as students, could do to be a blessing to HTI. They responded with several good ideas.

Thursday morning was bright and beautiful with a glorious view of the city from the high vantage point of this hotel. We had a sumptuous breakfast buffet and loaded up to head out to Caris and Mactzul Primero. Once again we were welcomed warmly, worked steadily until 4 pm. then back to the hotel for the last night in Chichi. Bryson Wandling was in charge of the last night devo, then we sang for another 30 minutes - this group loved to sing!

Friday morning we were on our way to Antigua where we said goodbye to the team. This was a special group of people who have the potential to do great things for God and humanity.

