

Health Talents International July 2010 Mobile Medical/Dental Team

Participants: Drs. Lesca Hadley, Jason Paltjon; Dentists: Jim Haller, Nathan Owens, Robin Pruitt; Pharmacist: Theresa Harris; Physician Assistant: Melinda Richardson; Pharmacy Students: Cameron Alt, Matthew Fricks, Kristen Kirsch; Physical Therapy Student: Jackie Swale; Dental Student: Macie Mills; Nursing Student: Kayla Tamez; Translators: Allison Brewer, Carol Creel, Abby Stanley, Cara Stanley, Grace Strickland; Dental Assistant: Barbara Haller; Non-Medical Personnel: Jill Baber, Taylor Banks, Johnny Barnes, Kim Bradley, Danielle Bryant, Matt Calhoun, Nicholas Clemmons, Kaitlyn Cromeens, Drew Harper, Jimmie Harper, Susan Harper, Alex Higginbotham, Ginny Kretzschmar, Jack Kretzschmar, Paige Kretzschmar, Kortney Phifer, Carson Pruitt, Chance Pruitt, Jennifer Paltjon, Dalton Robbins, Colin Sandlin, Dee Sandlin, Matt Swale, Julie Stanley, Rick Triplett, Sarah Triplett ; Trip Chaplain: Brandon Edwards and Rick Harper.

The great states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas were represented on our July 2010 team, a wonderful collection of God's servants. The Delta flight arrived on time, but the Continental flight was delayed by more than an hour. Nevertheless, we got on the road in decent time and arrived in Chichicastenango before 6:00 PM.

This team had three pharmacy students, two from Lipscomb and one from Harding, working under the supervision of our only pharmacist on the team, Theresa Harris. We had multiple students who are pre-med, pre-dental or pre-PA students that were able to shadow and be inspired by our healthcare professionals. *And two of our MD's are graduates of Health Talents' MET Program.* Before we were done...all were inspired.



We divided into three groups on Thursday morning with the smallest group going to Clinica Caris and the other teams were evenly split. This year, we provided wellness exams to children in our ABC Program in at least one community each day and on Thursday, it was Mactzul Sexto. Team three went to Panaxit and between the three clinics we cared for more than three hundred medical and dental patients...and Clinica Caris' exterior was repainted.

We met that evening after supper for a time of prayer, singing and devotion. We reviewed the day, heard a bit about Health Talents overall ministry and made plans for the next day. Brandon Edwards, our trip chaplain, provided us with nightly thoughts that were insightful, encouraging and designed to keep us in tune with our great God. Jimmie Harper took the lead in our song service and enlisted the support of other youth over the course of our time together.

Friday, Day Two of Clinics: We worked in two teams with Team A going to Mactzul Segundo and Team B to Mactzul Quinto. The Mactzul Segundo team followed the pattern set in Mactzul Sexto and provided wellness exams to our ABC children. Our dental teams ran like well oiled machines with Drs. Nathan Owens, Jim Haller and Robin Pruitt combining forces with our full-time physician, Dr. Macos Lux. Dr. Robin Pruitt kept a bevy of teens busy assisting him and two of our team, Allison Brewer and Taylor Banks are heading to dental school in another year, so this was a truly enriching experience for them.



Both of the churches where we held clinic today are in the midst of building new church buildings and several in our team were able to work alongside members from the local church and assist. Johnny Barnes and Rick Triplett tried their hand and plastering cement at Mactzul Segundo and half a dozen others moved several tons of cement blocks...building a pyramid in the process for fun, at Mactzul Quinto. Once again, we cared for more than three hundred patients today, really working our dental teams as they cared for a bit less than two hundred.

Saturday, Day Three, we continued with our two team format with teams with Team A going to Chuchipaca and team Team B to Paxot Segundo. We saw ABC children at Paxot Segundo and our dental, medical and work crew were in Chuchipaca. The Chuchipaca congregation has been constructing a new building for 2-3 years and they are close to completion. Our work crew and the church members used over seventy gallons of paint on Saturday and did not spill a single drop. (They spilled or splattered several 1,000 drops.)



Sunday was a day of rest, relaxation and worship. We met together that morning for a worship service with devotional thoughts provided by Brandon and communion service by several of four youth men. Following our worship time together, most of the group went to the market and enjoyed the “Chichi” experience. Following lunch, we loaded up and traveled to Guatemala City and a final dinner together at Hotel Barcelo. Staying at the Barcelo is new to most team members and being able to have dinner and not board another bus once we arrive in Guatemala City is a nice change. An “alfromba” was on display in the lobby and captured the attention of our team members. (A sawdust work of art.)



God entrusted us with the care of more than 1,000 patients over three days, what an honor. We worked beside and with our Guatemala brethren on construction projects, we befriended children and adults and grew to love one another at a deeper and God-honoring level. I suspect many of this team will be together again in July of 2011.