

Health Talents International July 2011 Mobile Medical/Dental Team

Participants: Physicians: Drs. Amy Ballard, Antonio Barksdale, Lesca Hadley, Dave Stanley; Dentists: Dale Entrekin, Jim Haller, Robin Pruitt; Nurse Practitioner: Meghan Lazenby; Nurses: Leigh Blackwell, Michelle Click, Barbara Haller; Pharmacy Student: Jacob Holt; Physical Therapist: Steve Howe, Gerry Rodgers; Psychotherapist: Glenda Gabhart; Medical Students: **Stephany Guttierrez**, Drew Guess, **Norma Romero**, **Jennifer Sanchez**; Medical Technologist: Rita Entrekin; Translators: Samantha Adcock, Megan Browning, Haley Howe, Sandy Sims, Abby Stanley, Cara Stanley, Grace Strickland; Dental Assistant: Barbara Haller; Non-Medical Personnel: Kim Bradley, Larry Davis, Somer Howe, Lydia Howe, Carson Pruitt, John Rodgers, Scott Sims, Elsa Sims, Olivia Sims, Kristina Smith, Ben Young, Nancy Young, Julie Stanley; Trip Chaplain: Bret Morris and Rick Harper.

In addition to team members from Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Texas this team also had three medical students from El Salvador join us for the week. (Their names are in bold print above.) Even though the Continental/United merger continues to create difficulties with flight schedules, all of our team arrived in Guatemala City by 1:30 that afternoon. Our nine travelers from Birmingham missed their initial flight, but caught the second flight out of Houston. The highways to Chichi were in fair shape and traffic was light so we were all in Chichi before 5:00 PM. Following dinner and a brief orientation period, we were off to bed for a good night of rest. Breakfast would be served at 6:45 and we needed to be on the road by 7:45.



(Dr. Antonio Barksdale, with Stephany Guttierrez. Stephany is a third year medical student from El Salvador and served as a translator this week.)

Our first day of clinics found us breaking into three groups, team A to Xepocol, team B to Panajxit and team C to Clinica Caris. While we cared for more than 150 patients on Thursday, we will highlight the Xepocol activities.

In addition to the medical and dental team care, thirty-eight dental patients and fourteen medical patients, the Xepocol team spoke to seven different classes on the importance of good hygiene with skits on hand washing and sneezing. Plus, each student was treated for parasites a treatment that will last six months and will do much to prevent many illnesses during that period.



(The sign reads, "Bacteria is not our friend.")

After a good first day of clinics, we returned to Hotel Santo Tomas for dinner and a devotional period. Bret Morris, minister with the Vaughn Park Church of Christ in Montgomery, AL served as our trip chaplain for the week and did a masterful job of matching message with song.

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 Quinto team followed the pattern set in Xepocol and taught classes in the schools as well as providing medical and dental care. Since we began working with the Mactzul Quinto congregation in 2005 they have replaced their old "house of prayer" with a new building, large enough to hold a "cozy" 1,500 people. You can get an idea of the size of the building when you realize that Rita and Leigh, in the photo below, only show 15% of the interior.



Team B, the Mactzul Segundo team, had a special day as they delivered water filters to several families and a few on this team were able to visit with their ABC children.



(Kristina Smith with two of her ABC children on each side along with other children in the ABC Program.)

Both teams returned to Hotel Santo Tomas by late afternoon and looked forward to a performance by Voces Accappella. They have recently released their second and third CD and are working on a fourth CD that will include songs in English, as well as Spanish and Quiche.

Saturday, Day Three, we returned to our three team format with teams with Team A going to Chuchipaca, team Team B to Paxot Segundo and team C to Chutzurob. Teams A and B each saw forty plus dental patients and upwards to thirty medical patients, but the busiest medical clinic went to Chutzurob...the smallest team sent out that day. Forty-six medical patients for Sheri and Dr. Amy Ballard and another twenty-one dental patients for Dr. Dale Entekin! (The Chutzurob team, sans the elusive Sheri Kretzschmar is pictured below.)



Sunday was a day of rest, relaxation and worship for most of the team, though we did bid farewell to Dr. Robin Pruitt, his son Carson, Glenda Gabhart and Norma Romero. The Pruitt's needed to return to the US, Glenda to Antigua for language school and Norma to El Salvador. The remnant met together that morning for a worship service with devotional thoughts provided by Rick and communion service by Bret. 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.

All returned safely to their homes with memories sufficient to last a lifetime...or at least until next year.