

## HEALTH TALENTS INTERNATIONAL

Surgery Clinic Trip Report

June 23-30, 2018

**Team Members:** **Surgeons:** Charles Gross, John Kaczmarek, John Little, Ralph Marrero, Xiomara Amador de Romano, *Ellen Shaver, Jenny Vickrey*; **Physician:** *JR Shaver*; **Anesthesiologists:** *Nabeel Khan, Sandra Lumbi*; **CRNA's:** *Mary Beth Greenway, Pam Wade*; Physical Therapist: Nathan Click; **Nurses:** Mike Caldwell, Meagan Celsor, Michelle Click, Kelsey Foy, *Shadow Graves, Sarah Hayden, Barbara Jones, Mary Lokey, Jena Niles, Beatrice Paneto, Valerie Rivas, Laura Rozell, Adrian Spruill, Kristin Wloszczynski*; **EMT:** *Phillip Dahl*; **Medical Students:** Kenneth Coca, Emily Mylhousen, *Hannah Robinson, Matt Spence*; **PA Student:** Abby Atchley; **Lay Circulators and 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistants:** Emily Bussard, *Austin Calhoun, David Grant, Matthew Hayden, Jessi Johnson, John Grant Little, Matthew Little, Jon Niles*; **Translators:** Kristin Beyer, Kathlyn Chan, Sarah Click, Julie Ann Harper, *Joe Shaver, Nina Shaver, Rita Sills, Anna Yates*; **Caregivers:** *Sam Click, Sawyer Click, Emma Dahl, Jennifer Little, Sarah Little, Carrie Moore, Angela Shaver, Mindy Yates*; **Artist:** *Hannah Knabe*; **Sterilization:** Susan Harper, Cary Sills; **Trip Chaplain:** Tim Henderson; **Trip Leader:** Rick Harper.

(First-timers listed above in italics.)

### We are the innkeepers!

Tim Henderson served as our trip chaplain this week and referenced the story of the Good Samaritan each night during our devotional time. We pictured ourselves in the role of the various characters each evening; with the last night being the innkeeper. As you read about the lives touched, tenderized and transformed; please consider that perspective.

A few weeks before our departure, and after her ticket had been purchased, one of our OR nurses had to withdraw from the trip; then a surgical tech on Thursday before our departure. At this point, one bed remained in the inn, Clinica Ezell, and we were unsuccessful recruiting an OR replacement...what to do?

Knowing we had thirteen premed, pre-PA, first year medical and PA students on this team, and knowing our surgeons would be asked for an extra measure of patience; the lone bed in the inn went to an extra translator. That may seem odd, but a good translator is incredibly helpful during patient consults and in the OR when administering anesthesia. If an extra translator makes life a bit easier for the surgeons and OR crew, additional patience and time were available to teach these students to circulate, scrub or assist. Sixty-three patients receiving successful surgeries bear witness to this. God provided what was needed in the form of gifted, bright, servant-minded students; along with excellent surgical techs and surgeons willing to teach. The inn was adequately staffed!

Travel for our innkeepers was relatively smooth with flights all arriving within ninety minutes of their schedule, usually considered a success by the airlines in the current travel era. Two people arrived without their luggage, but to the credit of Delta airlines, it was delivered to Clinica Ezell within thirty hours.

This would be the last surgical team hosted by Carlos Baltodano, our now former Director of Coastal Operations. Carlos delivered the sermon during our Sunday worship time, Alex Gonzalez, our new Director of Coastal Operations shared communion thoughts. Alex is ready to manage the inn; and Carlos is ready to pursue his Master's of Divinity at Lipscomb University.

Our orientation following worship was quick, informative and all were eager for surgery to begin. Dr. Jenny Vickrey, OBGYN, was with us for the first time and teamed up with Dr. John Kaczmarek in OR three. Dr. Kaz as he prefers to be called, had planned to join us in April but had a motorcycle accident the night before the trip. His presence this week helped us address the backlog of GYN patients and they knocked out two cases on Sunday. OR two, our ENT room, completed three cases on Sunday; a good warm up for some marathon cases on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Dr. Charles Gross, a veteran general surgeon returned after a two-year hiatus and teamed up with Dr. Ellen Shaver, a neurosurgeon from Augusta, Georgia. Dr. Ellen complimented Dr. Gross with her humility, willingness to teach students and serve in any role that moved surgery along. The general room completed four cases on Sunday. Hopefully, she and her family will return!

We did have a special situation to handle, a little eight-year girl, *name withheld*, and in need of surgery, had contracting the HIV virus when receiving a blood transfusion. We set up a special area in the ward to keep her isolated and only allowed licensed providers to care for her. This was a necessary precaution, especially for the teenagers on our team who were serving as caregivers...but we did not stop loving her and showered her with as much affection and attention as we could. Unlike the priest and rabbi who walked on the other side of the highway, or the Samaritan who brought her to us, we chose to be a welcoming inn and made special accommodations. All went well with her surgery the next day and she was discharged on Tuesday.



Monday would find five GYN, two ENT and eleven general cases on the schedule, a little over zealous in the general room and we ended up doing eight cases that day. Our ENT surgeons would only have one semi-simple case the next four days, with the average case lasting six hours and one going as long as eight. I am amazed at the stamina and concentration required for cases this lengthy, sleep came easy for those in OR two this week after so many exhausting thyroid and parotid cases.

*(Nurses Meagan, Kelsey, Kristin and EMT, Philip)*

Dr. JR Shaver, husband to Ellen, went out on mobile medical clinics Monday through Thursday, delighting all with his sense of humor and servant heart. He quickly took on the air of “favorite uncle” with his new HTI family. Of course, he was so fatigued on day two that he fell asleep that evening in someone else’s room, the one right next to his. Nurse...*name withheld*, was more than a bit surprised to find a man in her room asleep but, handled it with grace and a sense of humor matching JR’s.

Patient Audilania decided to enhance our prayer life on Monday afternoon when the crash cart came out following what can best be described as a “cardiac event,” but not a heart attack. Dr. JR Shaver, an internist and critical care specialist got on the phone from his mobile clinic site in Rio Bravo, and soon returned to check on Audilania was doing fine by the time he returned and was discharged later in the week.

Our team hit the ground running on Tuesday morning, four GYN, two ENT and nine general cases were on the docket; and we packed Fuego relief supplies for families displaced by the recent eruption. The day went smooth with approximately one hundred supply bags being packed and only one room going past supper time and since Tuesday is lasagna night, you dare not be too late.



Nathan Click, a physical therapist, and his wife, RN, Michelle, brought their three children this year. Nathan broke his arm on Sunday before our trip while breaking a new horse, leading him to become a patient in Birmingham. His injury required surgery, calling into question whether he would be able to come. He toughed it out, determined to bring his family and by Tuesday, we able to work with our full-time therapy provider, Noe Chan, and care for patients. Of course, Nathan was limited in what he could do and served more as a teacher for Noe than in the past. The Click family was one of three, five-member families we had on the trip.

This report is getting long, so you’ll have to ask one of our team members about Samantha and Richard, who became patients, the bat who met an untimely demise, the couple of came straight from their honeymoon in Mexica to join us and the trip to the cacao farm. Just know that we completed fifteen more surgeries on Wednesday and eight on Thursday. All patients were discharged on Friday, and all returned without issues the following week.

Your friendly innkeepers never stopped serving or caring for all entrusted to us by parents, spouses and most importantly, the Father. We believe the Good Samaritan would be satisfied, and trust our Lord was glorified!



(Cacao pods (Chocolate) Rookie nurse, Shadow and future MD, Emily pictured above.)

(The June 23-30 surgical team, aka innkeepers, pictured below.)

