

Health Talents International

Lipscomb Mobile Medical Trip March 14-21

Team Members: **Physicians:** Kirby Sweitzer, Brian Leeper; **Dentists:** Tim Blair, Andy Burton; **Nurse Practitioner:** Julie Barnes; **Nurses:** Lisa Nikolaus, Alanya Young, Laura Hitchcock; **Students:** Kelsey Dunderson, Dylan Addis, Derek Allison, Ben Bailey, Laura Bailey, Alex Burney, Robert Burress, Kathryn Callis, Azmera Debrezion, Lindsey Grant, Lindsey Heaberlin, Kelsey Kent, David Kraft, Jessica Lee, Catherine Lynn, Brandon McClary, Jay Ramsey, Valerie Schara, Esther Schara, John Schara, Blake Smith, Clint Sweitzer, Allison Black; **Adult Volunteers:** Karen Bradfield, Cynthia Ezell, Lindy Lawrence, Johnny Barnes, Jill Schara, Magda Sherman, Steve Sherman; **HTI Trip Leader:** Julie Wheatley

The Lipscomb team came in to Guatemala City Friday evening and headed to INTECAP to spend the night. Early the next morning they loaded onto the bus and headed toward Montellano. Just before leaving the capital they stopped to meet up with Danny and Julie who had dropped off other teams that morning. Once everyone was all together we hit the road and made it to Montellano for a late breakfast.

After breakfast the team got their hands dirty cleaning, painting, counting the mountains of pills we had and doing several other odd jobs around the clinic. This group of students was really something special. They had fun no matter what they were doing. They were always laughing and enjoying their time together while being productive! Ana, Antonia and Christina, our cooks, really appreciated this group because there were students in the kitchen helping them prepare the meals and most importantly...washing dishes after EVERY meal! This was a special blessing to our kitchen ladies.



Saturday evening we had our devotional time led by Steve Sherman. Steve and the other devotional leaders used that time to encourage discussion among the students. They talked about the differences in culture, the way mission work should be and should not be done. They also talked about poverty and how it affects people and their lives both physically and spiritually. All in all the devotional time was an

important part of the week that helped keep our minds in the right place and encouraged us to grow and be Christ to the people around us.

Sunday rolled around and the group headed across the street to the Montellano Iglesia de Cristo. Carlos asked Dylan Addis, a repeat trip participant to lead some songs. Dylan did a great job leading the English portion of the song service. After church we had a special treat. A man who had been at the service that morning decided to give his life to Jesus and be baptized. Since the baptistery behind the church was empty (dry season) we all walked down to the river. At the river we joined our brothers and sisters in song and prayer and celebrated along with the angels in Heaven as our new brother arose from the waters cleansed of his sin. Following the baptism we headed over to the clinic for lunch. In the afternoon the team finished up with the odd jobs around the clinic and spent the afternoon relaxing and playing after a trip to the cacao farm.

Monday morning we split up into two different groups. One team headed to Las Margaritas with Dr. David and the other group went to Rio Bravo with Dr. Walter. In Las Margaritas the dental team stayed very busy pulling teeth and teaching students. The medical team saw a few interesting cases and scheduled several people for appointments to be seen by a surgeon. In Rio Bravo the team had a nice clinic day and stayed very busy in both medical and dental. Each of the students was able to spend time learning from the physicians and the dentists as well as the nurses.

The team from Las Margaritas was close enough to Montellano to be “on call” in case the container came. The container did indeed arrive on Monday around midday. A group from Las Margaritas ran back over to Clinica Ezell and got to work unloading the supplies. We were grateful for the local firemen who came to volunteer their help! Slowly we unloaded the boxes and then the heavier anesthesia and orthopedic equipment. No one was harmed in the unloading of the container and we were thankful to have had the help of so many to accomplish the task. Once everything was unloaded the whole sidewalk in front of the storage rooms and offices was full and we were tired!



The Rio Bravo group had a full day of patients in both medical and dental. They were able to see some interesting cases and the students had a chance to watch teeth being pulled or pull one of their own.

Once they finished up with patient they headed back to Clinica Ezell and met up with the Las Margaritas team. Everyone relaxed a bit in the afternoon. The students entertained themselves throughout the week playing a couple different group games. They enjoyed playing the game mafia where they had to discover who the “mafia” were and take them out of the game before they got rid of all the good guys. The students didn’t miss an opportunity to work or play!

Tuesday was a big day in Samayac where they were extra busy. That clinic is always large but with the extra help they were able to see 80 medical patients and 26 dental patients. Everyone was able to plug in and do some good work and we were still able to take a break every now and again to play with the kids! Dr. Walter was great about teaching the students and helping them learn more about the human body. At the end of the day we were all tired and grateful to head back to the Clinic to relax.

The other group in San Jose had a slower day but was able to enjoy spending time with the family and local church members. Dr. David and Dr. Tim were able to use the extra time to give some good individual attention to patients and invest time in teaching the students. The day passed somewhat slowly but certainly enjoyably. After having lunch we saw a few more patients, thanked the family for the use of their home, thanked the local church for their participation, said bye to the adorable children and headed back to Clinica Ezell.



On Wednesday we got to an early start with breakfast at 6am. The new team members headed up to Pasaquijuyup in the mountains beyond Xejuyup. We got to Xejuyup and then loaded into the backs of the pickup trucks for the rest of the bumpy ride up the rocky road to the village. Once we got to the village we quickly set up and started seeing patients in the dental clinic. We had more dental patients in Pasaquijuyup, 55, than in any other village and the least amount of medical patients, 10, than in any other village. The students got plenty of experience in the dental clinic and plenty of time to play with the children. The villagers were so friendly and the team enjoyed the day up in the clouds with lots of culture to learn from.

The team members that were able to experience the trip to Pasaquijuyup the year before all headed over to Concepcion Chinan way up beyond Mixpilla. We took the Belmont school bus up a road you wouldn't think a school bus could make it through. After passing through coffee fields and banana trees we made it to the village where a few patients were waiting to be seen. The family hosting the clinic had cleared out several rooms in their home and wet down the dusty ground so that we could work. They were very happy to have the doctors in their village. Once things were set up we had a short devotional time and started working. The morning started out a little slow with just a few patients. As the day wore on people got the news that we were there and started coming!!! There were 37 dental patients and 58 medical patients seen that day!

In addition to the patients seen there were BUNCHES of children around all day long. Valarie even got a game of Simon Says going at one point! There was a nice play area adjacent to the house where the kids spent time with the team members playing and receiving love all day long. Once all the patients were cared for we loaded back onto the school bus and pulled out with all the children standing near waving us goodbye. We had a great day and were sad to leave.

Thursday was another big day for everyone. In Santo Tomas we showed up to find a large number of people waiting to be seen. We quickly set up and got to work so that we could be sure to see all the patients that had come. There were 59 medical patients and 48 dental patients seen that day. By the end of the day the children from Santo Tomas were covered in stickers and temporary tattoos and lots of love.

The clinic in San Juan Moca was also busy. The team there enjoyed their day visiting with patients and experiencing a little more of Guatemala. The students had their last chance to sit with the doctors and dentists and learn from their experience. Everyone was excited to have spent the day caring for the patients and playing with the children.



Throughout the week we saw a total of 268 dental patients and 333 medical patients! The week was very busy and wonderfully blessed. Thursday night we had a great devotional time where everyone was

able to share about their experience throughout the week. Friday morning we woke up, took the group picture and headed to Antigua. The group spent a lovely day in Antigua, shared dinner together at Posada de Don Rodrigo and even got to see a special cultural dance and listen to the marimba as we dined! Everyone arrived home on Saturday tired but happy.

Report by: Julie