

Health Talents International

GYN and General Surgery

April 27-May 4, 2019

Team Participants: **General Surgeon:** Anthony Fillmore, Jerry Smith; **OB/GYN:** Kathryn Johnson, John Macy Jr.; **Resident OB/GYN:** Benjamin Spires, Natasha Sebastian; **Anesthesiologist:** Sandra Lumby, Randall Malchow; **CRNA:** Melinda Gibson, Raymond Alonge Jr.; **SRNA:** Rebecca Silver, Jessica Burns, Emily Culbreth, Kyle West; **PharmD:** Maegan Rogers; **Nurse Practitioner:** Sherry Murray; **OR Nurse:** Kathy Jackson, Ashlea Yale, Marissa Abts; **LPN Circulator:** Jean Damren; **Recovery Room RN's:** Carol Angelo, Ryan Beseda, Laura Fisher, Imelda Frigoli, Elijah Penny, Tiana Perry, Joanne Pilot, Sarah Pinson, Mary Lokey, Manuel Quino; **Caregiver:** Kristi Hilton, Ginny Kretzschmar, Debra Blesener; **Translator:** Alyssa Barrundia, Rita Sills, Mafer Farnes Manuel Guarcas, Luis Barrundia, Bryan Quiñónez; **Mr. Fix It:** Robert Hilton; **Sterilization:** Cary Sills, Bret Pinson; **Trip Chaplain:** Craig Thomas; **Team Leader:** Sheri Kretzschmar

Before the team from the states touched Guatemalan soil, we had hurdles to jump.

Remembering that God remains in control, fervent prayers were sent to our father and as always, the prayers were answered.

We were saddened to hear of the illness and death of Dr. Jeff Bennie's dad. This prevented Jeff and Jane from being with us. Sally Taylor's mom had also had a change in status, so Sally needed to cancel her trip. With these changes, we were missing an anesthesiologist, who also serves as our medical director and two nurses.

Trusting that God would provide, we pressed on. Dra. Sandra Lumby and Dr. Randall Malchow, both anesthesiologists, answered the call at the last moment.



We were very thankful!

Dr. Tony Fillmore agreed to serve as our medical director. Sherry Murray was willing to try her hand in the OR for the week; and helping to fill in as needed, were Craig Thomas and Debra Blesener.

Everyone arrived at the airport as scheduled, with all their luggage. We quickly finished inventory, finished dinner and had our orientation. This team included many veterans but also several new people. It is an encouragement when new people sign up for a trip and then later return with family or friends to share the experience.

Sunday morning, we walked across the street to worship with the Montellano Church of Christ. We delighted in our worship time with them and Alex shared a message with us from Romans about God's love for us.

After worship, we had our meeting with Dr. Walter. We reviewed information that we would need during the week. After lunch, the OR cranked up! The nurses and caregivers met in the recovery area to talk about the schedule and the nursing responsibilities.

Ashlea walking one of her patients to OR 2

Melinda and Ray, CRNAs kept two rooms running. Each had two SRNAs, who rotated out to the recovery area and helped Henry in the post-op area. Thank you Becky, Jessica, Emily and Kyle for helping to keep the flow rolling.



When the OR had patients ready to roll out, Henry and the other nurses were ready.

Ray and his patient, blowing kisses to the nursing staff on the way to the OR

Sunday was a slower day and we are thankful that all the patients did well. We had a new GYN group and it was great to work with them. Dr. Johnson, Dr. Macey and Dr. Sebastian kept that room jumping with Ben, Jeanie and Sherry providing the needed support. Nine surgeries were completed on Sunday.

Monday, we finished with seventeen patients.



Dr. Randall seeing patients before they were taken to the operating room

Craig served as our trip chaplain for the week. He spoke to us in the morning as we prepared for the day and then again in the evening devotionals.



Bret, who worked in the sterilization room, led us in singing during the evenings.



The nights are always a special time when we pray for each patient by name and ask that God continue the healing process. We also remembered the Benny and Taylor families every night in our prayer.

On Wednesday evening, we finished with day with singing to our patients. We gathered in the middle of the recovery area, while Bret led us in English songs and Josue led us in some Spanish songs.

It was obvious that the patients enjoyed this time as well, when some of them began to sing with us.

While the focus of the week is medical and surgical, there are other areas of service that can't be forgotten. Support services are also vital in the ministry.

One hard worker during the week was Bob. He played the Fixit Man role and worked with Francisco. What a team they became! Bob and the stand he built for the speaker system. It looks great!



Another support system is the counting and packaging of medicines. The medical mobile clinics depend on these bags when they dispense medicines in the clinics. Ginny enjoyed counting during the week and people would rotate through to help. Here Mary and Kristi are taking their turns.



This is one group that we never want to forget! These are the ladies who start cooking before dawn and continue into the night. They not only prepare the food for the clinic staff but also for the patients in the recovery area.



We finished the surgeries around noon on Thursday. We scheduled a trip to the chocolate farm, and several took advantage of that trip. They filled every available seat on the shuttle and headed out.

This is the group in front of the ceiba tree, which is the national tree of Guatemala.



While those that wanted to go see the chocolate farm left, some of us stayed behind to watch over the patients. The group included nurses, translators and caregivers.



Thursday night, we reviewed information that we needed for the departure on Friday morning. We would travel to Antigua and enjoy the day participating in different activities. It was a diverse group with some wanting to ride horses, others wanting to zip line, a few attended a class in making chocolate and others relaxed with a massage.

We concluded the evening with people having the opportunity to speak about something that touched their heart during the week or a special experience. It is nice to hear that first timers are already planning a return visit with us. Bret led us in a final song and Craig led us in a final prayer.

Friday morning started with taking luggage out to the buses or shuttle. Most would be going to Antigua, but some would go directly to the airport.

We searched our rooms being sure that nothing was left behind.

We were thankful that the cooks had prepared an excellent breakfast for us.



Our final photo at Clinic Ezell, while talking and reflecting on the sixty-nine surgeries and what had taken place during the week.

Remembering words that Craig and Alex shared with us, about caring for each other and remembering God's love for us.

Romans 8:38, 39 (NIV) For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor

depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let us continue in His love until we are able to serve together again.