

# Health Talents International

November ABC Mobile Dental/Medical Team

November 5-12, 2022

Trip Participants: **Physician:** David Weed; **PA-C:** Joe Calderon, Melina Calderon; **Family Nurse Practitioner:** Susan Harrod; **RN:** Jill Voss; **LPN:** Mike Caldwell; **Child Life Specialist:** Sierra Endsley; **Dental Asst:** Gary Tabor; **Translator:** Drew Bennie; **Caregivers:** Jenna Voss, Julie Voss

We closed out 2022 with one final trip to Chichi, a mobile medical and dental team with the primary goal of completing ABC medical and dental checkups. The US team members are listed above, but I wanted to provide some background information on them.

Dr. David Weed, a now retired pediatrician from Houston has traveled to Guatemala or Nicaragua every year for more than twenty-five years, only being interrupted by Covid...he is an anchor. His dear friend, traveling buddy and former board member, Gary Tabor, made them the dynamic duo.

Joe Calderon, a PA from Cleburne, TX and his daughter, Melina, also a PA in High Point, NC were part of our medical consultation tandem. Melina is a former MET student who connected with Health Talents while at Harding University as an undergraduate student, introduced us to her father who was a surgical tech in Ft. Walton, FL at the time. Inspired by his daughter, Joe began to travel with Health Talents and once Melina completed PA school, he followed her example. Melina inspired Joe and they both inspire me!

Susan Harrod, a family nurse practitioner from Warren, AR joined a Harding Spring break team in 2020 and fell in love with our ministry. At that time, Susan was in the master's program at Harding. Jill Voss, an RN and long-time friend of Kemmel and Lisa Dunham brought her two daughters, Jenna and Julie, both high school students from the Sacramento, CA area.



Sierra Endsley, a child life specialist was introduced to Health Talents by her brother, Dakota, while attending Harding University. Dakota, who now in medical school, is



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Mike Caldwell, retired from the Air Force and also an LPN, has now been part of more than twenty trips and Drew Bennie, a poet and retired social worker served as a translator, a role he has filled since 2013 when he joined his aunt, Nancy Bennie, and cousins, Drs. Jeff and Jon Bennie.

Why do I take time to provide background on the various team members? To highlight the friendships that are forged and how one person inspires and influences countless others.

Health Talents is beholden to storytellers, stories told by friends and family, ultimately bringing others into the Health Talents family. On to some trip details!

It has become the norm, at least since the pandemic, for teams traveling to Chichi to arrive on afternoon flights and spend our first night in Guatemala City at Hotel Barcelo prior to traveling to Chichi on Sunday morning. Outside of one traveler who became carsick, the trip from Guatemala City to Chichi was uneventful and we arrived around 1 PM, got settled and enjoyed a meal at Hotel Santo Tomas.

We had planned to worship with the Chichi church family that evening, but as we were preparing to walk the half-mile to the church building, a monsoon ensued, and we went to plan B, having our own worship service in the 'upper room' at Hotel Santo Tomas.

Beginning Monday, our little team would divide up into as many as three locations, but most days only two as a small contingency went to Clinica Caris each day, Monday through Thursday. Picturesque communities like Las Trampas, Chinique, Chajbal and Lemoa were hosts at elevations ranging from 6,500 to 8,300 feet.

We cared for three hundred children in our ABC Program and more than one hundred additional patients. Ready for an incredible stat? Of the three hundred children receiving checkups, only one scored less than 85% for their proper weight and height for their age category. A tremendous testimony to the impact of ABC!





Our team photo is above and the one below, was taken at Luna de Miel after dessert crepes as a nightcap...one last Antigua adventure for Jill, Melina, Julie, Sierra and Jenna before flying home.

Until next time!



### **El Quiche Today (By Drew Bennie)**

In these hills covered with pine and oak,  
The Quiche Maya live lives of hope.  
The martyrs of the past they mourn,  
As they birth their children and grow their corn.  
They remember the days of fear and war,  
With peace today they strive for more.  
The quest for peace is still ongoing,  
It's even on their Quetzal coin.  
They go to church and pray to El Senor,  
To make Guatemala...Guata-mejor!