

Health Talents International

November Mobile Medical/Dental

Nov 7-11, 2012

Trip Participants: Dentists: Jim Haller, Robert Lamb; MD: Andrew McCormick, Sara Castellanos; NP: Ruby Lucroy; PA: Halston Hendley; RN: Teresa Parkman; Medical assistant: Laurie Peterson; Dental Assistant: Barbara Haller, Julie Stanley; Translator: Miriam Galicia, Nicky Hackett; Caregiver: Kolby Calhoun, Micahela Hendley, David and Susan Mellor, David and Linda Morton, Scott Sewell, Debra Blesener; Trip Chaplain: Joshua Kingcade; Team Leader: Julie Wheatley

Thurs Xepocol, las cuevas/la palma, caris

Paxot II, Mactzul II, Mactzul I

Mactzul V, Chuchipaca Mactzul VI

What a great week we had in Guatemala! God was with this team as we all arrived and made it through customs with no trouble at all. We loaded up the pick-up trucks and headed out of Guatemala City for Chichi shortly after arriving in the country.

Upon arrival at the Hotel Santo Tomas the team split up into their different rooms and relaxed a little bit before dinner. Dinner at the hotel was a fun experience as everyone was in a great mood. We had a short meeting after dinner to discuss plans for the following day and make introductions. Josh the team chaplain led the group in a prayer and we headed off to bed for some rest before the big day of clinic to follow.

Thursday morning we headed out after breakfast in three different directions. The villages we visited that day were Xepocol, Las Cuevas and our own Clinica Caris in Lemoa. Clinics went very well with plenty of patients for both the practitioners and the dentists. The group in Xepocol was happy to visit with the church members who attended clinic that day. Gaspar Chan an evangelist on staff with HTI lives in that town and is a leader at the Xepocol church. His influence and wisdom are gratefully appreciated among the congregation members and also among the HTI staff. Their team saw 43 ABC/medical patients and 20 dental patients.

In Las Cuevas the group was able to do the annual ABC check-ups on the children. The team was happy to see that the ABC children are growing and gaining weight as hoped. This year the HTI staff made a big push to focus on hand washing and personal hygiene with the ABC children. The kids had to come to their check-ups with clean hands and faces or they lost points. This was a great motivator to the kids and we were happy to see lots of clean hands and faces at clinic! This team saw a total of 41 ABC/medical patients and seven dental patients.

The group at Caris was a smaller team but they were able to see quite a few patients none the less. Those on that team were also excited to get to see the new portions of Clinica Caris which were finished earlier in the year. Their group saw 33 ABC/medical and 11 dental patients that day.

Friday morning the team divided up once again and headed out to three different villages. Paxot II, Mactzul II, Mactzul I were all visited on Friday. Each of these towns were scheduled for ABC check ups as well as general patients so our teams were all busy throughout the day. In Mactzul I Sheri and Halston saw all the ABC children as well as a few general medicine patients. Nicky was a huge help translating for Halston. Translators make a world of a difference on these teams! All together the Mactzul I team saw 46 ABC/medical patients and 14 dental.

The Paxot II team had a big day with 66 ABC/medical patients and 39 dental patients. Dr. Lamb was even able to see his ABC child! The group in Paxot II enjoyed visiting with the brothers and sisters of that congregation who tend to be a little more outgoing than some of the other villages.

In Mactzul II the medical team had a good number of patients, 35 all together and their dental team had a grand total of 37. The day was a little more relaxed so each patient was able to have plenty of time with the doctors and dentists to administer not just their treatment but also a good dose of Christian love!

Saturday was our final day of clinic. The team visited Mactzul V, Chuchipaca and Mactzul VI. The team was still full of energy and excited about being out at clinic. The group in Mactzul VI saw 39 ABC/medical patients and 14 dental patients. At the end of their day after the last patient had been seen Halston shared her daily devotional book's thought for the day with the group. They sat around and talked about the deov thought and read related scripture together. It was a warm and enjoyable way to wrap up the last day of clinic for this team.

In Chuchipaca Dr. Lisa led the team where they were able to see 23 medical patients and 33 dental patients. Dr. Sandra was certainly busy and was glad to have help from the team members as she worked through her dental patients.

The group in Mactzul V had a lot of fun. There were lots of medical patients, 60 all together with 14 for dental. The group was honored to receive a bag of delicious apples from one of the brothers from the congregation. His daughter is a Sherman scholar and they have an apple orchard. Since apples were in season they were happy to share the fruit of their labor with their brothers and sisters visiting with HTI. It was a special gift to receive and the team felt honored.

That night the devotional time was extra special. Time to share about the week and talk about special moments on the trips was enjoyed by all and there were several who couldn't keep dry eyes! Shortly after devotional time we all said goodnight and headed off to bed.

The next morning the team gathered for worship together in the "Upper Room" at Hotel Santo Tomas. The activities of market day could be heard from the street below but we were able to share in some lovely worship time together, communion and prayer. Robert Lamb led the service and did a lovely job

of bringing God the glory for all the work that had been done over the past few days. Once again there were a few whose hearts were touched and their eyes just couldn't stay dry. After worship we enjoyed a few hours in the market before meeting back at the hotel for lunch and departure. The buffet at Hotel Santo Tomas was delicious as always.

That afternoon the team arrived at Hotel Barcelo without any trouble and enjoyed a nice dinner together before heading off to sleep. The next morning came extra early when the team caught the 5am shuttle to the airport from the hotel. Thankfully everyone made it and there were not major flight problems that day. The team arrived safely back in the USA grateful for yet another wonderful trip to Guatemala in the service of our most high God!