

HEALTH TALENTS TRIP REPORT

MARCH 14 -21, 2015

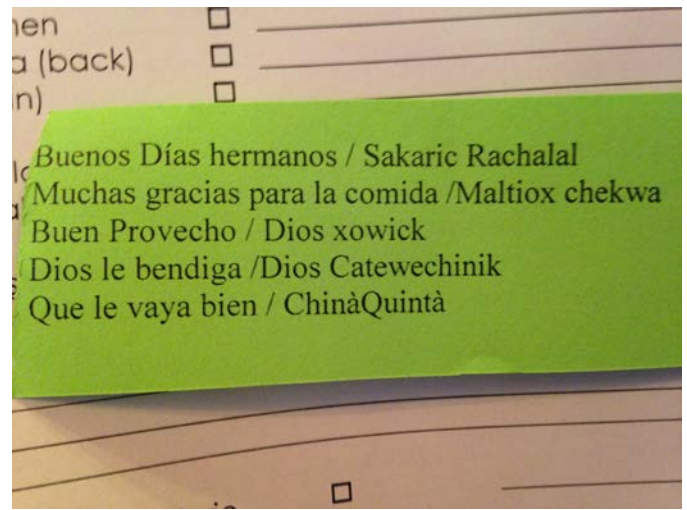
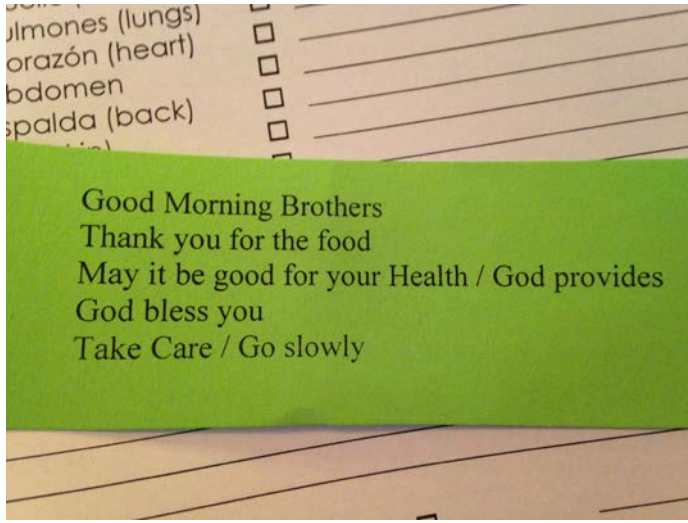
OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY TO CHICHICASTENANGO

Those attending this year were Neil Roberts, MD; Zann McMahan, MD; Deborah and Owen Corwin, DDS; OC students: Meridith Corwin, Nathan Giles, Jackson Higginbottom, Brooklyn Hutson, Ryan Jones, India Loyd, Ellyn Reid, Alyx Siemer, and Laura Wilson. OC faculty leader was Eric Phelps, MD; who was joined by his daughter Alex Phelps who is in high school. Matthew Anderson was an amazing translator. David and Susan Mellor were team leaders.

We met the students late Saturday evening and took them to Hotel Barcelo for a good night's sleep. Sunday morning we packed up and headed out for Chichi where we were treated to Hotel Santo Tomas' famous buffet and shopping in the market later that day. We headed up to the pool area for our orientation and evening worship service. Kemmel explained the round robin method we would be using this week and pulled out his ever-present spread sheet of who would be working where the next day. Each day we had three teams going out to various parts of the countryside.



Dr. Phelps had really prepared his students well in advance for their service here. He had trained them in reading vitals and took them to a free clinic in Oklahoma City to practice their skills. They were prepped ready to work! Once again, we applied the round robin method so the students participated in the full spectrum of a well-child clinic. This included rotating through the dental clinic since many of these undergrads have not decided on their specific field of interest. Kemmel provided common phrases in 2 new languages and the students tried their best to use them daily!



One thing that repeated itself daily on this trip was the whispered “gigante” we constantly heard. Dr. Neil was 6’8” and was something of a celebrity before the week was over! Matthew Anderson was also well over 6’ and very muscular -



they made a formidable team. They were easy to spot on market day!

By having a married dental team we were able to accomplish a great deal of dental work beyond just cleaning and checking the ABC students. Sandra mentioned how helpful it had been working with Dr. Debbie who took the time to show her new and helpful methods.

Dr. Phelps mentioned several times how much he appreciate the organized way in which Kemmel runs this work. He also was impressed with the spiritual emphasis and the Guatemalan's part of the follow up. The churches here are obviously growing and enthusiastic.

We were also impressed to see the "cross training" that Kemmel has implemented. When Lisa had to make an emergency house call and returned to get her truck which had a flat tire, Tomas was dispatched to take care of the tire which pulled him away from his pharmacy duties. There was not a minute of down time because all the other Guatemalans were fully aware of how to step in and do the job. Well done!

