

Health Talents International
September 2-9, 2017
General/ GYN/ Urology Surgical Mission

Trip Participants: *General Surgeon: Richard Hwang, Dave Mauterer; Pediatric Urologist: Gerald Jerkins; Pediatric Urologist Resident: Christina Carpenter; OB/GYN Surgeon: Walt Schoutko; UT Resident OB/GYN: Kelly Schwirian; Anesthesiologist: Jason Buehler, David Parks; Anesthesiologist Resident: Jacque Linton; Anesthesiologist Resident/ CRNA: Allen Gould, Rachel Turner, Janet Sessums; Physician Assistant: Todd DeCarlis; Surgical Tech: Shelley Bloor, Nicole Real; RN Circulator: Susan Thomas, Janine Goline, Samantha Pritchard; Recovery Room Nurses: Stacey Ashby, Barbara Burg, Sara Fikes, Roger Graves, Haley Hanson, Carra Linde, Lauren Moore, Adair Osman, Whitney Peterson, Katie Ryan, Evelyn Mynk, Sawncy Surber, Katie Welch; Translator: Kathlyn Beyer, Rita Sills, Manuel Guarcas, Alyssa Byer, Gernado; Caregiver: Sophie Corwin, Joanna Smith; Mr. Fixit: Jaime Free, Gary Tabor; Sterilization: Cary Sills, Rick Harper; Trip Chaplain: Jeff Lovitt; Trip Leader: Sheri Kretzschmar*

Each surgical trip has its own challenges and this one was of no exception. With Hurricane Harvey hitting Texas and closing the Houston Airport, many flights were changed and some of our team were not able to be with us this week. We hoped that the return travels would be easier but Hurricane Irma presented herself, which also caused delays and changes to itineraries. Between the two hurricanes, we packed in seventy surgeries and also survived an 8.1 earthquake.

Once all flights landed, everyone received their luggage and we traveled to Clinica Ezell where we settled in quickly and had a good night of rest after the day of travel.

On Sunday morning, we worshipped with the Montellano Church of Christ and then rejoiced together and with the angels as Carlos baptized Antonio. Now, we have a new brother in Christ.



We met with Dr. Walter and reviewed guidelines for the week. The group had many veterans and some new staff, as well. The nurses and caregivers met with Lauran to review the patient recovery area and soon the patients were rolling out of the operating room.

The immediate recovery was staffed by Lauren, Stacy and Katie W, with Lauren accepting the responsibility of charge nurse for the week.

Toward the end of the day, we had a young boy, Danny, who needed surgery. Rachel, CRNA talked to the mother before Danny was taken back to the OR. We knelt beside his mom and Rachel told her that she would take care of Danny, as if he were her own son. We then prayed for a successful surgery and wisdom for those that would be doing it. The surgery finished after midnight and Danny slowly started feeling better.



This is Joanna with Danny, before he was discharged.

Evelyn, Katie R. and Roger provided the nursing care during the night shift.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday continued to be a full OR schedules and between cases, we continued to see more consults.

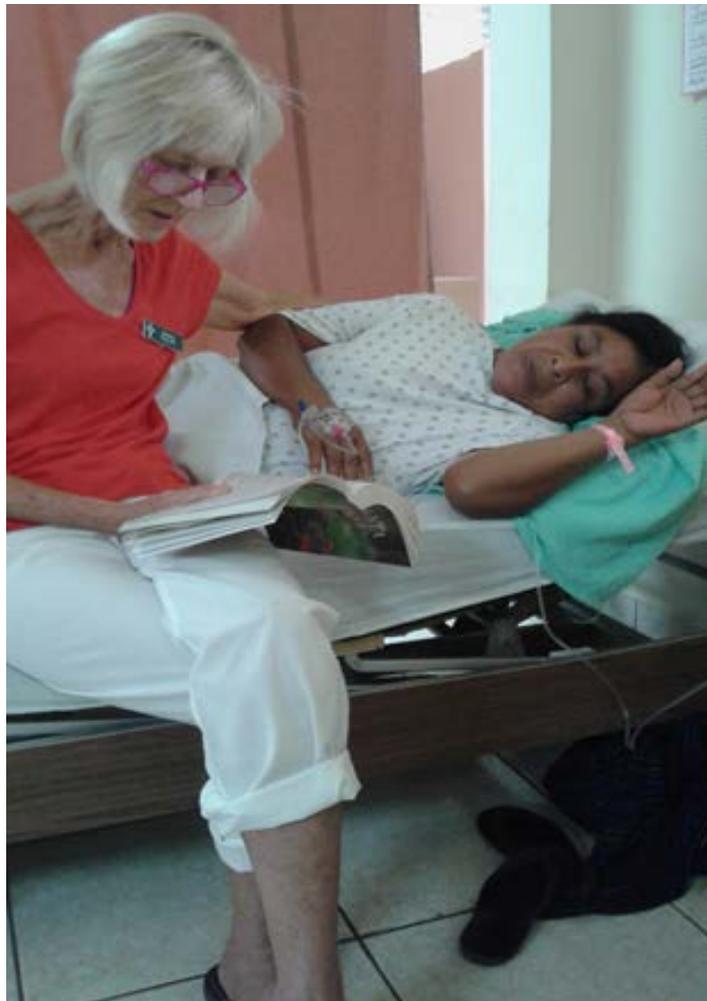
On Tuesday, Jeff, Haley and Gerardo had the opportunity to go out with Dr. Walter on a medical mobile clinic. Jeff began talking to patients and one lady was there who previously had surgery at Clinica Ezell and was now trying to get her family member a consult. She admitted that she was not a Christian but would be interested in learning more. Jeff introduced her to Baldemar, our evangelist and they studied for the remainder of clinic. Before the team left, they asked to be baptized and the plans for this to take place on Friday were set! What another exciting day!

Tuesday evening we celebrated Carlos' birthday.



On Wednesday, our own promoter, Josue had surgery and we are thankful that he quickly returned home.

Barbara spent time reading the Bible to patients. As Barbara read, the patient pictured below praised God.



Jeff led us in morning and evening devotionals. He focused on how all things are possible. We should replace our anxiety with trust, our fear with courage, our doubts with confidence and our ignorance with understanding.



Gary has a new friend and he could not take his eyes off of Gary.



We had a few patients that were very sad cases. One lady presented with advanced cancer and there was nothing we could do for her. Dr. Walter, Dr. Kelly and I knelt with the patient and her family and prayed for her...prayer for comfort, peace and healing.

Dr. Christiana rounding on her patients.



Between the hurricanes Harvey and Irma, followed by the 8.1 earthquake, we had a full week. The epicenter was in Chiapas, Mexico but it was strong enough to rock us out of our beds. Several of us met near the fountain, about 11 pm, as the aftershocks settled down.

We had one more photo to take and then we were on our way to Antigua.



We pray that our service was beneficial physically, and also spiritually, to all of our patients. Thank you to everyone for all of your hard work! We hope that each one will be planning their next visit to Guatemala. It was good to see several people that we knew and to make new friends...*Sheri!*