



## Health Talents e-newsletter/Feb. 2011

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### HTI MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Health Talents International is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through teaching and healing ministries.



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### Greetings,

If you feel as I do that we are at our best when we are helping to make a difference in the world, you will enjoy the follow-up story of the ABC water filters. In a very personal one-on-one way, our ABC sponsors are doing just that. Their acts of generosity may inspire others to help as well.

We also have a heart-warming story about a surgical patient who came to understand that good health doesn't stop at physical healing. Read on to see how his experience at Clinica Ezell caused him to seek God.

Every year at least 500 people travel from the U.S. to participate in HTI mobile medical and surgical clinics. Some go only once or twice, but some go year after year. In this issue, we've asked someone who's been going to Guatemala since the late 1970's to tell us why he does it. As a cardiologist raising a family, Dr. Quinton Dickerson had many reasons not to find time to get involved, but get involved he did...and it changed his life.

There is so much going on within the Health Talents' ministry that it is impossible to relate it all here. You may be so inspired that you'll just have to go see for yourself what is going on! In the meantime, we covet your prayers for our team members, local partnering churches and our patients as we seek to impact their lives with a compassionate touch in the name of Jesus.

### Clean Water: Gift for a Healthy Life



ABC children, Irma and Jesica (far left), and their family will benefit greatly by having clean water.

## Missionary Blogs

**Kemmel & Dr. Lisa**  
kemmelandlisa.blogspot.com

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**Sheri Kretschmar, RN**  
sheriinquate.blogspot.com

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## 2011 Clinic Schedule

March 12-19  
Eye/Ortho Surgery

April 9-16  
Gen/Gyn Surgery

May 13-18  
El Salvador Mobile/Medical  
Dental

June 4-11  
General Surgery

July 6-11  
Mobile Med/Dental

July 16-23  
Eye Surgery

August 6-13  
Gen/ENT/Plastics Surgery

September 3-10  
Gen/Gyn Surgery

October 1-8  
Gen/Gyn Surgery

November 2-7  
Mobile Med/Dental

November 12-19  
Eye Surgery

It is a well known fact that the easiest and fastest way to bring good health to a community is to provide clean drinking water. Thanks to the generosity of many ABC program supporters, this past week HTI's team in the Guatemala Highlands delivered 5-gallon Onil water filters to 50 ABC families. Most people in the rural areas boil their water to drink (using expensive firewood), but many drink directly from the tap, especially children. Needless to say, intestinal worms are a huge problem.

When Kemmel Dunham, Sheri Kretschmar and others delivered the filters, they took time to explain how easy the filters are to use and how to maintain them. The filter needs to be replaced only once a year. In the meantime it filters 99.99% of microbes out of the water, making it safe to drink. It is a very inexpensive way of improving the overall physical health of these families. And healthy children give moms more reason to be thankful!



Little Sebastian wants to be the first in his family to try out the new water filter!

**At \$50 each, ABC sponsors provided enough funds to purchase water filters for all our ABC families...all 326 of them!**

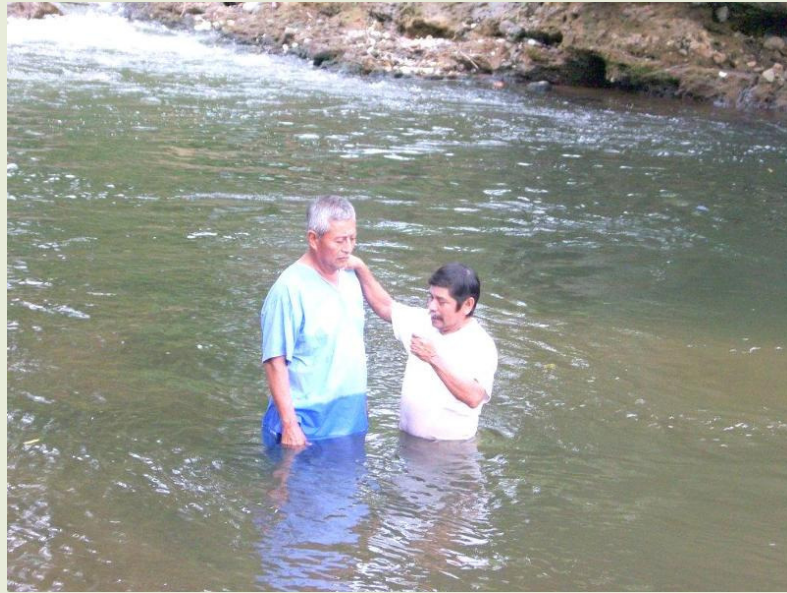
**NOT an ABC sponsor yourself, but would like be? Let us know! We have new children coming into the ABC program who are looking for you!**

## Kingdom Work

Juan Elias Chamaj accepted Jesus as his Savior and was buried with him in baptism in the river near the clinic. We rejoice with him, as the angels rejoice! But, as usual, there is a "back story."

Juan had cataract surgery at Clinica Ezell in March of last year. His surgery was a success, so in appreciation to God, he decided to seek Him. Although he is from a community called La Maquina, about 3-4 hours away from Ezell, he began visiting the Ezell staff frequently. One time, he brought plantanos for the entire

team. Another time he donated a couple dozen plastic chairs for the patients to use while they wait to be seen by our doctors. He had even been visiting the church in Santo Tomas from time to time. During one of these visits, he heard that there was to be a Leadership Training seminar at Clinica Ezell soon, and asked if he could come. As he participated in the seminar and heard more of the gospel, he decided to be baptized into Christ. This is the short version of the story. We know that our job is to "water" and God will give the increase. In this case, that increase is named Juan.



## Medical evangelism...and me?



Dr. Dickerson with wife, Ann, and Guatemalan dentist, Dr. Marco Lux

Guatemala to meet with a medical missionary, I was immediately interested. We went with the plan to study the possibility of having medical students from our church spend time there to see medical missions in practice. I was then about four years into my cardiology practice and going on the trip to look for opportunities for others quickly grew into a deeper desire to become personally involved in the work of Health Talents in Central America. Reading the gospels

One phone call changed my life. I had read many books by Dr. Thomas Dooley, a medical missionary to French Indochina, while I was in Pre-Med at Ole Miss in the early '60's. Then while in Medical School in the late 60's, I became aware of the work of Dr. Henry Farrah in Africa. When our minister called me in 1977 to say we had an opportunity to go to

again made me see more clearly that healing almost always accompanied Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom. It is easy to read past those accounts, but physical healing was always what Jesus did in response to human suffering.

Jesus was concerned about all of the aspects of human suffering: physical, social, emotional and spiritual. Although it should not be, the reality is that it is much easier to see this in the practice of medical missions than in health care at home. The abundant life which Jesus wants for us all is wholeness in our entire being. Our churches need to learn that we should be a community of healing. Right in our midst there are people hurting emotionally, socially, physically, as well as spiritually. I have learned that from foreign missions; we need to open our eyes to the hurting around us every day.

Why do I go to Guatemala? It is the smiles of the children. It is the beauty of the land. It is the patients who say, "Gracias, doctor." It is seeing in reality that "it is more blessed to give than receive." It is knowing that Jesus went throughout the villages teaching and healing and by using the talents He has given me I can in some very small and inadequate way follow His example.

by Quinton Dickerson, MD

HTI Board Member since

1978

**CALLING ALL DENTISTS! We need YOU. HTI's new goal is to have two dentists on each clinic trip...both mobile medical AND surgery because the need for good dental care is so high. Dental spots are available from the April surgery trip on thru the rest of the year, so you have a wide choice of dates. (See the sidebar for clinic dates.)**

**Interested? We hope so. Please contact Julie Wheetley at [juliecarmen@gmail.com](mailto:juliecarmen@gmail.com). We'll be awaiting your call!**

#### **Activities of Note:**

- Feb 26-March 19...Spring Break teams from Pepperdine, Lipscomb, Harding and ACU
- March 12-19...Eye/Ortho Surgery
- April 8-9...Family Counseling Training in Chichi by Klay Bartee, Assistant Professor of Bible & Marriage/Family Counseling at Harding University
- April 12-13...Family Counseling Training at Clinica Ezell

- April 9-16...Gen/Gyn surgery
- May 13-18...El Salvador Mobile Medical/Dental Trip (**Recruiting volunteers now!**)