

**Health Talents International**  
**Pepperdine Spring Break Mission**  
**Feb 27-March 6**

Trip participants: Physician: Brian Cress; Students: Elizabeth Allinson, Kjirsten Carlson, Michael Davitt, Caleb Dominguez, Christopher Franco, Kayla Lemmons, Joseph Liao, Richard Shaw, Lisa Tenorio; Translator: Anna Kate Pruett, Nadia Aguilera; Team Leader: Julie Wheatley

The group from Pepperdine arrived in Guatemala City on Friday evening and was shuttled directly to Hotel Barcelo. Sunday morning the group had breakfast at the hotel, met Anna Kate, Danny, Nadia and our guest dentist, Margarita, at the hotel. We loaded up and headed out for Chichicastenango. We had a beautiful drive and great weather all the way to Chichi. We got into town with enough time to hit the market before going to church with the Chichicastenango Iglesia de Cristo.

Everyone enjoyed the church service with the church in Chichi and then we headed back to Hotel Santo Tomas, our base camp for the week, for dinner. We had a brief devotional led by Kemmel Dunham after dinner, discussed plans for the following day and said goodnight. Each night throughout the week the students gathered in one room and played Catch Phrase for a little while before bed. They put our staff member Danny Rodriguez's English to the test with that game! (He passed with flying colors !)

Monday morning we had breakfast and headed out to Chuchuca and Lemoa. Most of the group went to Chuchuca which was about 2 hours away from Chichi. A few people went to Lemoa with Doctor Josefina and had the opportunity to sit with her as she saw some interesting cases. Meanwhile the group in Chuchuca worked with our ABC children from that village. The students rotated through the various stations; doctor, dentist, height and weight, coloring and face painting. Everyone had a great day playing with the darling little ABC children and attempting to speak to them with what Spanish we could muster! That night we had devotional time once again led by Kemmel. He talked about how we are to be the aroma of Christ to the people we are around. That talk had some great application to the way in which we were to think and serve throughout the whole week.

Tuesday we split the group a little more evenly. Half the group went to Chutzurob and the other half to Pacaja Xesic. Both clinics were bustling with activity and were able to see a good number of patients. The group in Chutzurob had the most patients and got lots of instruction from Dr. Brian and nurse Sheri. The dental crew in Pacaja Xesic was the busiest and there were many people helped with teeth that were bothering them. Toward the end of the day in Pacaja Xesic a HUGE beach ball with the globe printed on it was blown up and a fun game of kick ball ensued. It was fun watching the children attempt to kick the ball that was at least twice their size! After clinics we all headed back to Chichi and some of the students ran out into town for ice cream and crepes before dinner. A sweet treat in the afternoon is a great way to wrap up a wonderful day of clinic!

Wednesday was another busy day. The groups went to Xepol and San Jorge. In Xepol there were only about 10 patients to be seen. Not long after all the patients had been seen and prayed for it was time for school to let out. Students from the nearby school started flooding in to the clinic to color and hear stories about the creation. Nadia and Danny along with some of the students turned the afternoon into Bible class time. They taught songs that Nadia knew from growing up in church in Honduras, they passed out coloring sheets with the creation story and crayons. The day ended up being simply delightful and lots of fun despite the lower patient volume!

The group over in San Jorge stayed busy. There were plenty of patients for medical and dental. The students once again rotated through the different stations to learn all they could about blood pressure, diabetes, dentistry, arthritis, etc. The family that hosts the clinic in San Jorge is a very special family. They have a house full of daughters and they are all sweet as can be. The girls Sara and Janaly easily stole away our hearts. At the end of the day the girls called all the female students into one of the rooms of their house and dressed us up in their typical clothes. We had a blast playing dress up with them and taking pictures with the family!

On Thursday the teams headed to Panajxit and Lemoa. In Lemoa students sat with Lisa and Brian as they saw patients. There were some interesting medical conditions seen that day and it was a great day for all the pre-med students to get some hand on experience in the clinic with the patients. The team in Panajxit had only eight patients that slowly meandered in as the day progressed. However, there happened to be a school near by the clinic so during their recess time the students headed over to see if they could keep up with the kids in a game of soccer. It was a bit crazy but the students held their own against all the future soccer all stars from the Panajxit school.

Both clinics wound up fairly early so we all headed to Clinica Caris to reload the pick-up trucks with supplies for clinics the next day. All together we had seen 93 medical and 42 dental patients. Later that afternoon everyone got back together at the soccer field just outside of town for a game of "fut" (pronounced like 'foot' with a Spanish accent!). The teams were Pepperdine vs. HTI staff. It was a good game but the Guatemalan's had the upper-foot in the end.

That night we closed out with our last devotional time together. We sang and shared about special moments we had throughout the week. We were sad to see such a great week come to an end. Friday morning we headed out early in the morning for Antigua. We made a pit stop in Tecpan for breakfast then got into Antigua around 11. The students went directly to their group salsa dance lesson! They had a blast learning some of the basic steps and turns of this traditional latin dance. After the lesson everyone divided up to shop, zip line, see ruins, etc. We gathered together for dinner at the hotel that night. Dinner was relaxed and we said goodnight after passing out everyone's coffee order.

Saturday morning we loaded up the pick-up trucks and headed to the airport. The students got off without any trouble. We thank God for a safe and productive week.

By: Julie Wheetley

