

Health Talents International

2019 April Surgical Trip

Team Participants: Surgeons: Elisa Benzoni, Andrew Dreslin, Michael Flanagan, John Kaczmarek, Fred Massey, Dave Mauterer, Kelli McEntee; Anesthesiologist: Steve Santi; CRNAs: Jan DeHaven, Rhonda Hendon, Dave Ratliff; Pharmacist: Leng Ngang; LPN Circulator: Mike Caldwell; OR Nurses: Lesa Dale, Samantha Pritchard; Circulator: Terry Doughty; Surgical PAs: Chelsea Peterson, Tim Thurston; Lay Circulator: Terry Doughty; Recovery Room RNs: Carol Angelo, Daniela Cabezuelo, Lisa Cortina, Mary Lokey, Anne McEntee, Jodi Pilot, Brenda Robinson, Heather Shingleton, Susan Thomas, Lyndsie Warren, Noemi Wells; Translators: Taylor Allen, Audrey Amy, Alyssa Barrundia, Mafer Farnes, Manuel Guarcas, Daniela Rodas, Rita Sills, Ashley Thurston; Caregivers: Fannie Amy, Kara Caldwell, Katie Castleman, Riley Hendon, Peggy Massey, Morgan Murphy, Charlotte Peterson, Allie Shingleton, Neta West; Sterilization: Ernie King, Doyle Robinson, Cary Sills; Mr. Fix-It: Jamie Free; Chaplain: Wesley Hargon; Team Leader: Rick Harper.

Our gallbladder team from Paducah, KY could hardly wait to arrive for the inaugural week of a newly refurbished arthroscopy tower with digital cameras and monitor. Fortunately, air travel was mostly on time, even if immigration looked like a Black Friday opening crowd at Walmart with three-fourths of the checkout lines closed.

We hit the road around 2 PM, arriving at Clinica Ezell before dark and promptly unpacked and inventoried supplies; readied the OR rooms for surgery, began patient consults and assembled the new arthroscopy tower. Eureka, it worked like a charm!

Two of our number would not arrive until Sunday afternoon, a little detour through Virginia as the result of some scheduling challenges. Veteran CRNA, Rhonda Hendon and daughter, Riley, aka Tigger, reached Clinica Ezell around 3:30 that afternoon. By 7 PM, we'd enjoyed a time of worship with the Montellano church family, participated in orientation and completed ten surgeries. Three GYN, five urology and two gallbladders; we were off to a strong start.

Wesley Hargon was our trip chaplain this week and he did a masterful job. One of Wesley's gifts is poetry in the form of "spoken word" recitations; you'll find one below.

Come Alive

*I was dead,
like a battery in the freezing cold
I had no purpose
I only did what I was told
I was a zombie
Walking dead with no direction
Feeding on fleshly things
Trying to spread my infection
I was sick*

*And I thought that I was okay
I was focused on me
And having My way
Had no idea
That something better existed
Until I signed my life away
And I was freshly enlisted
into the kingdom of God
And now I can see
There's something more to live for
Than just my flesh and teeth
Something that's more gratifying than the sweetest of sweets
Something with more peace
Than a full day at beach*

*And that's Christ
He is life
And when I found him
It's like I was revived
I had new purpose and a better peace of mind
And it wasn't just about me
And what I had in mind
I wasn't mine
I was sold out
I was so proud
And I felt whole
Like no doubts*

*And I knew that I just had to share this feeling
So I talk about the only name
That brings us all healing*

And that's Jesus

*He is risen
And without him
We'd still be unforgiven
He is light
He is right
So accept his call
And come alive*

This was Wesley's first time out of the country, so everything was an adventure...don't be surprised if Guatemala is part of his future plans in ministry.

Our team numbers were small when compared to our January and February teams, in fact we hired a couple of Guatemala professional nurses to work the midnight shift and enhance our quality of care and improve our patient to RN ratio. This would limit those who were able to go out on mobile clinics with our physicians,



but we still found time to send out a few throughout the week. Fannie Amy, recently widowed, came with her granddaughter, Katie and daughter-in-law, Audrey. Fannie had such a wonderful time she has already signed up for the October trip.

Katie, along with Riley and Allie Shingleton were the only teens on this trip. (Allie is nicknamed Bundle, since she is a thirteen-year old bundle of joy.) Charlotte Peterson, mother to veteran PA, Chelsea, spent much of the week in OR two, learning to circulate and observe her daughter plying her trade.

Peggy Massey joined her husband, Dr. Fred; Neta King was there with her husband, Ernie; Ashley Thurston with her father, PA, Tim Thurston. Ernie, Fred, Neta and Peggy octogenarians, not through serving. Other family units included Doyle and Brenda Robinson; Kelli and Anne McEntee; Cary and Rita Sills; Jamie Free and wife Samantha. If you haven't noticed, we're fond of our family combos.

Monday resulted in seventeen cases, and all patients did well. Six GYN, five gallbladders, three urology and three general cases, pretty close to the maximum we could in a single day. Tuesday brought another sixteen, Wednesday thirteen and Thursday eight. All patients were discharged on



Friday, and we have since received a report from Dr. Walter Sierra that all patients returning for checkups were complication free.

One special patient, Wendy, who developed a fistula following surgery in September, had a successful repair confirmed by a cystogram. God be praised!



Last Hope

Tell me what's playing on your radio

Tell me what's playing on your iPod

Tell me what's playing on your T.V.

And could you tell me that it's all glorying God ?

I highly doubt it

Because we are living in a world that is misguided

Because we are living in a world where there's war

And there's pain and we hurt and there is nothing we can do about it

Except pray

Because we don't know what tomorrow brings

Tonight, could be the last time that we ever dream

So, if you get another day

You should pray

That'll you'll never go astray

*Then give your glory all to the king
Because you don't know the problems that you're going to face
And you don't know that everything is going to fall into place
We all given a right
To live right
But we treat it like a game
And we lucky they we get to play
Because at the end of the day
We aren't worthy
At the end of the day
We need mercy
At the end of the day
We so thirsty
And we need hope to even make it through this journey
And we can make it through and we can all do the things that we meant to do
And we can prove
All the things that we meant to prove
And I know that it's a hard fact
To chew
But if you want to see some change
Then It all starts with you!*