

Health Talents International

ACU Mobile Medical Trip March 7-14, 2009

Trip Participants: **Physician:** Lane Lanier, Kenneth LeCroy; **Dentist:** Jeff Webb; **Students:** Brittany Armenta, Amber Bower, Kelsey Chrane, Brenda Daniels, Alexander Davis, Dan Dubose, Lauren Durham, Dylan Gay, Karli Hedgepeth, Brett Hicks, Jaura Holton, Garrett Lawson, Chase Lindsay, Conner McDaniel, James Morgan, Haley Phillips, Stacy Sanchez, Georgia Saniuk, Kayla Stephens, Shevaun Sabihj; **Dental Student:** Hayley Harrell; **Team Leader:** Julie Wheatley

Once the ACU team arrived in Guatemala they started in on the Pollo Campero while waiting on the last team member coming in on the Delta flight. Once everyone was together and the Pollo Campero almost gone we loaded up into the pickup trucks and rental cars and headed out for Chichicastenango. Our caravan stopped off for a quick restroom break on the road and made it to Chichi with just enough time to unload luggage, orient the team to Chichi and head to dinner.

Dinner that night was at Las Cofrades and they had the tables all ready and waiting for us when we arrived. Most of the students were tired from the day of travel but they were all very excited to be in Guatemala. After dinner the team headed back to Hotel Pop Wuj and said goodnight. Sunday morning started with an early breakfast at Las Brasas and then a trip out to a town called Chinique. The church members from that town and other towns in the area had recently started a new congregation there and invited the team to come and join them for the morning service. The meeting room was very small but we all managed to squeeze in and everyone had a seat. Josefina and Marcos brought their parents with them to church that morning so they were able to meet some of the students after church.

Lunch was held at Casa San Juan and then the team took off into the market. Most of the afternoon was spent enjoying the sights and sounds (and putting up with the smells) of the market in Chichicastenango. At six in the evening we gathered together for devotional time to sing and hear a few words from Kimmel. Kimmel started off with a description of what HTI does in Guatemala and the mindset behind the mission work being done. He did a wonderful job helping the students to start the week out with their minds focused on Christ and his example of service.

Monday morning came and the group split up and headed to Clinica Caris and Chinique. Most of the group was in Chinique for the day where we were reunited with the church members from the previous day. One family in particular stayed all day long to help out with the clinic. The whole family was present and even the youngest children were lending a hand with translation or wherever they could help. The day was a great success. There was a basketball court/soccer area just outside the building where we held clinic. Lots of children and teens were present throughout the day and each of them got their turn to play with bubbles or get their face painted! The doctors saw a steady flow of patients and the dental team stayed very busy all day long.



Over at Clinica Caris the students were able to get some good time talking to and learning from Drs. Josefina and Marcos. They had a pretty typical number of patients and as always had a few kids to entertain!

The student leaders for the team were Brett Hicks, a former MET student and Kayla Stephens, a repeat trip participant. These students did a great job dividing up the team into clinic groups and making sure that everyone had the chance to work with the doctors, dentists, pharmacy, etc. Brett also scheduled a couple of different men to lead the devotional time at night. Conner McDaniel and Dr. Lane Lanier both lead talks that week. They each showed a great passion for mission work and gave challenging talks encouraging us to be intentional about loving those around us whether in the mission field or at home. We appreciated their thoughtful words and their willingness to share with the group.

Tuesday the teams went to Xepocol and Chucam. The group in Xepocol had a nice day, saw a good number of patients and enjoyed the beautiful view. The students once again rotated between the pharmacy, doctor, dentist, and vitals station. All the students had the chance to take blood pressure and pulse and learn how to read a urinalysis and pregnancy test among other things. All the students who wanted to pulled teeth with the help of the dentists. When lunch time rolled around we were served chow mein and tortillas! You may not think that Chinese food is what you would find in Central America but those Guatemalan's are big Chinese food fans! After clinic in the afternoon a couple of students joined Sheri as they drove around announcing the clinic in Xatinab for that Thursday. The hope was to get the word out so that we would have plenty of patients come Thursday!



In Chucam the other half of the team got off to a slow start with just a few patients but as the day progressed, and after some more announcing the patients did arrive! There was one patient that arrived that day that will need some special prayers. His name is Diego and he is around 11 years old. He has some sort of renal disease and his kidneys are slowly failing him. Thankfully we had some medicine on hand to help with his condition but unfortunately it isn't something that we will ever be able to "cure". Around lunch time Martina, our new dental assistant's family arrived with some yummy rice, salad and chicken. Everyone was hungry and appreciative!

On Wednesday several of the gentlemen that went to Mactzul 6 came back to the hotel that night with some sunburn! They were on top of the church building with sledge hammers and picks helping to tear down a wall in the way of new construction. The church members were very grateful for the help! As they worked up top the rest of the group sat with the doctors and dentist as patients were seen. Both the medical and dental groups saw close to 30 patients in Mactzul 6 so it was a busy day for everyone!



Over in La Palma the other half of the group was a little more relaxed. There were not many patients but enough to keep the morning interesting. Julie was also able to use the Focometer to prescribe a pair of glasses for a little girl named Sara. She was severely nearsighted and once she had her new pair of glasses the change in her was evident. Her smile lit up her face when she put on her new glasses and could see! Once all the patients had been seen the team ate a lovely lunch of eggs and beans provided by the sisters from the church. All in all the day was a great success and several students ended up the night with a nice Sarita ice cream cone after dinner!

Thursday was the first clinic ever to be held in Xatinab. The family that hosted the clinic gave us the use of their home and stayed with us all day long helping out and translating. When we arrived we unloaded and Sheri and the health promoters hooked up the megaphone and headed out once more to announce the clinic. By 10am we had a full list of patients waiting for the doctor and a full list for the dentist. We were pleased to have such a great turn out at the first clinic. The students were well adjusted to the flow of a clinic day and were all able to rotate through the different jobs and enjoy the time with the patients and each other. In the afternoon the family hosting the clinic provided lunch with lots of tamalitos to go around. After lunch we saw the last few patients, packed up and headed to Clinica Caris to unload and organize the supplies in the pickup trucks.

The team at Clinica Caris stayed busy all day seeing patients, entertaining children, talking to the ladies waiting for their turn, and working with Dr. Lisa and Dr. Marcos. Several students were able to watch as Marcos filled cavities and pulled teeth. In the afternoon the rest of the team showed up and all the pickup's were organized for the clinic days on Friday and Saturday. A group picture was taken and the team headed off to Chichi. Throughout the week the team saw 246 medical patients and 130 dental patients, in other words, we were busy!!!



After devotional time and dinner everyone headed back to the hotel to pack and rest up before heading to Antigua the next day. Goodbyes were said to Josefina, Sheri and Marcos and everyone said good night. The next morning we had our last breakfast at Las Brasas and headed to Antigua. In Antigua we met up with the group that had been at Clinica Ezell for eye/orthopedic surgery and were pleased to hear that they had a great week. The team spread out all over Antigua all afternoon and met up for a nice dinner at the hotel that night.

Our last devotional time was after dinner. The team members were all able to share about how the week had touched them, we prayed together and said goodnight. 3:30am came shortly after that and we loaded onto the bus with some of the Ezell crowd and headed to the airport. Everyone got off safely and we certainly thank God for a safe and wonderful week!

Report by: Julie