

# Health Talents International

## Surgery Clinic Trip Report

February 9-16, 2019

**Team Members:** **Plastic Surgeons:** Philip Strawther, Dwayne Fulks; **OB/GYN Surgeons:** Rusty Ethridge, Mark Kellum, Roy Kellum; **Neonatologist:** Katy Farrell; **Physician:** Kris Roberts; **Dental:** John Case; **Anesthesiologist:** Jeff Bennie, Jon Bennie, Sloan Youngblood; **PA-C:** Kelsey Wilkins; **OR Nurses:** Val Ethridge, Mindy Linnell, Katy McNally, Susan Thomas, Misty Vance, Lyndsie Warren, Tammy Watkins; **Recovery Room RNs:** Jane Bennie, Ann Cross, Susan Easterling, Emily Giboney, Michelle Gontko, Joy Kellum, Linda Osborne, Allie Osborne, Holly Peterson, Steve Vickers; **Recovery Room LPNs:** Robin Nixon, Chaz Turner; **Harding Nursing Students:** Ashley Collins, Cameron Freeman, Alicia Harrison, Kathleen Lance, Julie Plunket, Bailey Shelton; **Compassionate Caregivers:** Pat Dwyer, Anna Gontko, Mallory Gipson, Susan Kellum, Tasha Roberts, Annika Roberts, Amery Roberts, Lenaya Roberts, Karlyn Roberts, Sandra Robinson, Ella Vickers; **Translators:** Alyssa Barrundia, Drew Bennie, Katie Berube, Cynthia Brazzel, Manuel Guarcas, Rita Sills; **Sterilization:** Cary Sills, Alfred Anderson; **Trip Chaplain:** Rick Harper; **Team Leader:** Sheri Kretzschmar

We are always thankful that God provides us safe travels when we return to serve in Guatemala. This is something that we should never take for granted.

Some of our team arrived a day early and spent the night in Guatemala City. Philip, Dwayne, Jeff, Jane, Ann, Cynthia and Alfred traveled to Montellano on Saturday morning, arriving in time to begin seeing patients and preparing for the week. We were sad to hear that two of our team members, Rita and Amy, would not be able to be with us but we remembered them nightly in our prayers.

Several suitcases of medicines and equipment were transported by different team members. Inventory was completed, we enjoyed dinner together and then it was time to rest and prepare for the morning.

We worshiped with the Montellano congregation and Alex had prepared a good lesson for us. Some of our patients and families joined us for this special time. Dr. Dwayne led us in some English hymns, as we praised our Lord and worshipped together.

Following the service, we met with Dr. Walter to be reminded of policies and practices that we need to follow. Drew translated for Dr. Walter and following lunch, the OR cranked up. Linda served as our head nurse in the recovery area and Misty had the three ORs running smoothly. Cary, Alfred and Rick kept the OR supplied with their needs.

Rick also served as our chaplain through the week. During breakfast and at the end of the day, he would give us some thoughts and then we would pray. The focus of his message was, "How would we or our life be different if, 1) we viewed prayer as sacred, 2) we treated the church as priceless, 3) thought of ourselves as holy and 4) viewed others as worthy?"

These are thoughts and reflections that can strengthen our spiritual life. Sloan led us in songs during the evenings and then we prayed for each patient by name. There is no better way to conclude the day.

Harding University was represented this week by a great group of nurses and nursing students. We are always appreciative of their help and for returning with other friends.



Alicia celebrated her birthday during the week, so we celebrated with her.



A special patient, Esperanza, came for more surgery this week. We met her last year and her story touched us all. She suffers from epilepsy and had fallen in a fire, causing a lot of scarring and limited mobility. She and Joy shared some special moments together this week.

Unfortunately, early Tuesday morning, one lady began to bleed and needed to return to the operating room. She received some blood that we had collected on Sunday afternoon and was

stabilized. Everyone was complimentary of the nursing staff and how they cared for the patient before getting into surgery.

Our service and relationship with patients are vital if we are to show the compassion of Christ. Susan enjoyed sitting and talking with some of the ladies after their surgery.





Our care begins even before the surgery. Katy examines Brayon before he goes back to the operating room.

A patient receives a little special attention and enjoys it.



Caring for a small boy immediately following his surgery.



A mother praying outside of the operating room while her daughter is in surgery. We know that our God hears the moans of those who are in pain, as The Spirit intercedes for us.

The surgeons are not very positive of their finding in the OR so they sent a specimen for a biopsy. Cynthia spent time talking and praying with the patient, mom and Dr. Rusty.



Please remember this young lady and her family in your prayers.

On Thursday, several people went to the chocolate farm and everyone had a good time.



Dr. Case enjoys a few minutes with the dental staff at the end of the week.



This young boy has on a shirt that says, "Ladies Man." The girls liked the shirt and asked if he would take a photo with him.



We finished the week with 57 surgical patients and are thankful that they are doing well. We were also able to help a few dental patients while administering some sedation on Thursday afternoon.

On Thursday evening, we walked rounds with the Guatemalan nurses, and they started providing care until each of the patients are discharged.

We had our final devotional together on Thursday night. On Friday morning, we took our last photos then some traveled directly to the airport, while others of us traveled to Antigua.



We had several with us that are board members and we appreciated their presence with us this week. Rick and the board work tirelessly and prayerfully as they provide direction to us through the year.



Everyone had safe travels to their destination. Those of us in Antigua enjoyed a relaxing dinner at the hotel.

This is Dr. Kris and his family, who stayed at Clinic Ezell and assisted in medical mobile clinics and two surgical clinics. He visited once when he was a medical intern and then returned to complete a month internship with Health Talents.



We finally could gather the Harding group together for one more photo after dinner. They invited Susan and Roy to join them since they are appreciative of the OR time they were able to experience with Dr. Roy.





We pray that everyone has safe flights and travels back to the states.

We also pray that our service and actions were pleasing to God and that we were an extension of Christ's hands and feet.