

HEALTH TALENTS INTERNATIONAL
February Gyn/Plastics Surgery Team
February 6, 2010

Participants

Gyn Surgeons – Drs. Jud Allen, Mark Kellum, Roy Kellum, Ken Mitchell; **Plastic Surgeons** – Drs. Dwayne Fulks, Mike Hueneke, Philip Strawther; **Cardiologist** – Dr. Quinton Dickerson; **Pediatrician** – Dr. Katy Farrell; **Family Practice Resident**- Dr. Jasmin Ignatius; **Anesthesia** – Drs. Jeff Bennie, Jon Bennie, CRNAs Amanda Parsons, Tamara Camern, Yvette Riker; **Physician Assistant** - Tammie Campanali; **Nurses** – Nancy Bennie, Sarah Bennie, Hannah Buzhardt, Lisa Cantrell, Ann Cross, Freda Gardner, Scarlett Johnston, Joy Kellum, Lauren Moore, Linda Osborne, Laura Reeder, Lori Roberts, Brenda Robinson, and Misty Vance; **Harding Nursing Students** –Emily Crooks, Whitney McMullan, Michah Walden, Christi Wendeborn; **Translator** – Nadia Aguilera; **Sterilization** – Alfred Anderson, Charles Hall, Doyle Robinson, Bill Strawther; **Compassionate Volunteers** – Rita Benson, Ann Dickerson, Rosemary Hall, Susan Kellum, Marjorie Strawther, Kobee Vance; **HTI Team Leader** – Rick Harper.

Everyone, including luggage arrived on time and as scheduled. Of course, that did not keep customs from seizing Rick Harper's luggage over a dispute on taxes for donated supplies...we got those bags on Friday, the day before departure after paying over \$500 in taxes. *The good news is that we worked out a remedy for future donated medicine with one of our suppliers.* We departed immediately for Clinica Ezell and arrived without incident. After unloading the bus, screening the surgical patients scheduled for Sunday and unpacking surgical supplies, it was time for supper and a brief introductory meeting.

The February team is composed of many veterans, in fact, six of the seven surgeons worked together last year and the seventh, was part of our very first surgical team. Many of our young cleft patients had been on previous trips and were returning for a second procedure or their first, after gaining the necessary weight. We spent Sunday morning in continued preparation for the week, both spiritually and physically as we participated in worship service with the Montellano church family before commencing with surgery around 1:30 that afternoon. We ran two GYN rooms that day, completing four cases that afternoon. Following supper, we held our first devotional, focusing on II Corinthians 2:15-17. We used these verses and the theme of being the "fragrant aroma of Christ to God" throughout our week together.



On Monday, the pace picked up dramatically with five plastic patients and seven GYN cases. It is always moving when we are able to comfort the waiting parents of the little ones and then rejoice with them when their child is brought out of surgery. In addition to the surgeries going on, Drs. Quinton Dickerson, Dermatology PA-Tammie Campanali went out each day with Dr. David Lux or Dr. Walter Sierra to their mobile clinic sites. We also had Dr. Dan Kellum, a dentist and brother of OBGYN surgeons Roy and Mark Kellum on this trip. Dan went out two days with Dr. Jessica Romano for mobile dental clinics and spent two days at Clinica Ezell's dental clinic helping Dr. Silvia and Jessica.



Tuesday made for another busy day with seven GYN patients and four plastic patients. The GYN cases were completed by mid-afternoon and we were able to send a group to the chocolate farm. However, the complexity and delicate nature of the cleft lip and cleft palate repair made for very full days in OR two.

Dr. Dwayne Fulks left early that morning and our pioneer plastic surgeon, Dr. Philip Strawther and second year veteran, Dr. Mike Hueneke carried on. We were so blessed to have a strong anesthesia crew in Dr. Jon Bennie and CRNA Tamara Cameron who take special delight and care with the children.

Rookie RN, Scarlett Johnston worked in OR two with our plastic cases and her smile says it all.



During our devotional time on Tuesday, several of our team shared examples of “the fragrant aroma of Christ to God” being shown by one another, our patients and Guatemala ministry team members. It is always encouraging to hear these stories and to affirm the service being provided by fellow Christians.

We moved onto Wednesday with a schedule identical to Tuesday...seven GYN cases and four plastic cases. Once again the GYN rooms were finished by mid-afternoon, while the plastic cases continued on into the evening. Wednesday would be our last day of GYN surgery as we like to have two days for recovery time for our GYN patients. However, veteran GYN’s Roy Kellum and Ken Mitchell, discussed a shift in this practice as our improved level of care and advancement in equipment and staff may now make it possible for us to do some less complicated cases on Thursday and make the trip a bit more productive for our GYN’s.

Six plastic cases were scheduled for Thursday, giving a total for the week of nineteen plastic surgeries and twenty-six GYN surgeries, or forty-five for the week. We were able to finish surgery before noon and send two different groups to San Lucas Toliman on the shores of Lake Atitlan for a nice meal and beautiful view.



Of the many highlights of the week, none was more powerful than the exercise “conga” line for our GYN patients on Thursday morning. The ladies walked around the recovery room for some needed exercise, then formed a circle and began singing a silly song with continued exercise. ***Then...the tears began to flow.*** Each patient moved to the center of the circle, one at a time and expressed their appreciation for the care they had been given and how their particular surgery had changed their lives. After speaking, each patient kissed every team member present. They laughed together, cried together, prayed together and rejoiced together. The rejoicing continues...to God be the glory!

