

## Health Talents International

### Harding P.A. Trip Report

March 7- 14, 2020

**Team participants:** M.D.: Brian Crest; PA-C: Gary Hill; Harding FNP Student: Susan Harrod, Katie Ritter, Cathy Collier; Harding PA Student: Jalyn Henderson, Natalie Russell, Vanessa Shields, Kobi Stephens, Madison Wickline; Harding Undergrad: Lyndsey Dillard, Rebecca Reed, Annalee Reed, Carter Sipe; Translator: Drew Bennie; Team Leader: Bode Teague, Sheri Kretzschmar

It was nice to return to Guatemala and be part of the Harding P.A. Spring Break Team again. Everyone's luggage arrived and we were soon loading the trucks and van. As soon as the luggage was tied down, we enjoyed Pollo Campero Chicken in the parking deck. Gary prayed for our safe travels and we headed for Chichicastenango.

As always, everything was prepared. The clinic team was in position and the communities knew which day that we would be in their area. We were focusing on the ABC Children in the Chichi area, so those families and congregations were prepared for their specific clinic. Gary had prepared the students and they were ready to roll.

Sunday morning, after breakfast, we enjoyed the market. We had a brief meeting in the afternoon and then worshipped with the Chichicastenango Church of Christ.

For four days, we divided into groups and traveled to communities. We set up for clinics, prayed and then saw the patients. In Paxot III, Manuel stand on a chair so everyone could see and hear him.





Whenever I see Manuel in a chair, I think of Zacchaeus who climbed the tree to see Jesus. Manuel would never compare himself to Jesus, but he and the other coordinators of the ABC Program have information that they need to have. While the ABC Program is a blessing to the families, they also have responsibilities to remain in the program and they take this very seriously.

After we prayed, we divided into teams and the consults began.

Everyone jumped in to get the clinic rolling and that is vital. Kobi and Vanessa prepared patients.



Katie seeing patients in Mactzul VII



We had a few clinics in Clinica Caris in Lemoa. On this day Madison, Jalyn, Ana and Natalie were in Lemoa. Ana is a translator that worked with us and she did a great job.



In Saquilla, Lyndsey was able to meet Manuel's family. They expressed their gratitude to Health Talents and those who contribute. Because of this, Manuel is now a professional nurse and continues his studies.





While we were in Paxot III, we met Jairo who needs an ABC Sponsor. Susan connected with him she is hoping to receive Jairo as an ABC Child.

While in Mactzul VI, after lunch we went to a house below the church and watched as they worked on their looms and prepared material. It is always fascinating to watch as they create the beautiful materials to make skirts, table runners and napkins with. They are always ready to answer questions and welcome us to visit them in their homes.

After we finished with the clinics, we returned to the hotel to have dinner and a time of devotional together. Dinners are always fun as we enjoy talking about the activities and adventure we had through the day.



One night in particular night to remember was when we tried “Booger Fruit.” We passed it around the table, and everyone was able to sample it. Yes, it is slimy and well.....I will spare you the details but most people like it.



Also, this week, many people enjoyed going on the roof of the hotel and watching the sunrise. It is beautiful in the morning as you can look over a sleeping Chichi.



It was a very busy week, seeing about 315 ABC Children and 165 sick patients, who are not part of the ABC Program.

As I mentioned earlier, preparation had taken place before we arrived. As we packed our suitcases and returned to Guatemala City, we were not prepared for what was ahead. We had been somewhat isolated in Guatemala with limited television and news during week. Yes, we heard some about the Coronavirus or the Covid-19 but it did not have quite the same impact on us.

This was our last photo before we left for the capital.

Life was different than ever before, when we landed in the states. Something had drastically changed. No one was playing with children, juggling or high fiving as we did during the clinics. No one was sharing fruit or playing with fruit, which had served as a soccer ball during some clinics. No longer was the invitation to share a new food or taste a limonada drink of a friend. Life



became heavy during the week that we were gone. Something was present that we were not prepared for and it has shaken us.

Many are turning to the Psalms for comfort during these times. Those verses give us strength and hope, that we will survive. We all hope that life will return to pre-coronavirus days. Survival and hope come from God alone. Virus or no virus, our faith needs to remain in Him and Him alone. It is not easy; it is a daily renewal and refocusing of our minds.

We look forward to our next time in Guatemala together. We trust that Gary will bring another team of students that are as prepared as you were. Thank you for your help, teamwork, and friendships. Until then, let's pray for each other and serve as we are able. I pray that everyone's relationship with God is closer than when you first arrived in Chichicastenango.