

**Trip Report**  
**Mobile Medical Clinics**  
**Clinica Ezell**  
**July 2 - 7, 2014**  
**David & Susan Mellor**

Those volunteering for this trip were: Steve, Lydia, Somer, Weston and Emily Howe, Scott, Sandy and Elsa Sims, Larissa Plnczuk, Keaton Smedley, Kelli Long, Elizabeth Valerie, Jill Huffman, Chris Wright, Kim Bradley, Terry Brown, Shana John, Kristina Smith, David and Susan Mellor

After attending the Health Talents luncheon at Lipscomb, Susan and I went by Healing Hands to get an extra bag of supplies. We love the cooperative spirit we share with them. Julie does a great job of keeping the supplies in order and moving along the supply chain.

We headed to the airport to meet Kelli Long. She is a member of our congregation who is a nutritionist who has decided to return to school to obtain a degree in occupational therapy. We assigned her to work with Steve in his PT work for two days and she was an asset to him and loved learning from him. We also sent her out to deliver food supplements to the ABC children one day and she was grateful to see that their nutritional needs were being met.

We met most of the rest of the group in Houston. Elizabeth Valerie is a Harding biology student from Fresno. Jill Huffman from Tulsa who is fluent in Spanish and testing for admission to dental school and Shana John were also new to us. Shana heard about us from friends; Jill is well travelled, and she found us on our website. She and Shana have no connection to the churches of Christ, they just want to serve. They were great assets to the team, in fact there were several young women on this team who didn't know each other at the outset, but were fast friends when we separated.

Each day we went out with the Guatemalan teams to medical, dental clinics and also to distribute ABC supplies. Susan and Carlos made up the schedule each evening for the next day with a goal of giving each person a meaningful assignment and also varying their experiences each day. We assigned the medical people to their obvious areas, and the caregivers were given a bag of supplies to give the children who were waiting with their parents an opportunity to learn about dental hygiene and hear Bible stories. Susan had been given a puppet we named "Dental Dog" by one of our dentists at church and he was a huge hit. We let each child brush his teeth, then asked them to teach their friend how to brush their own teeth. This particular puppet has the ability to spit, so the children were fully engaged with this process! We are going to try to get another dental dog puppet for the highlands work. Sylvia and Heidi were thrilled to add this puppet to their educational repertoire.



Steve Howe is a PT who has been bringing his family down for years. They served as an excellent example of a committed Christian family who “walks their talk”. Steve had a full schedule every day of folks who needed physical therapy. Sandy Sims is a licensed medical translator and she was assigned to work with Steve (her brother in law) each day.



Our evening devotionals were greatly enhanced by the talented singers we had on this trip. Weston Howe was our song leader and the singing was nothing short of amazing. Emily and Somer Howe were both exceptional working with the children.

We had two students from Freed Hardeman. One was Elsa Sims, Steve and Sandy’s daughter and her boyfriend, Chris Wright. Elsa is a nursing student so she was a great asset. Chris has travelled extensively, is fluent in Spanish, has just completed a master’s degree in New Testament and is now accepted to medical school. He is one talented young man and we loved the devotional he led us in. He will be a blessing to the world.

Terry Brown and his daughter Kim Bradley also joined us. He is a translator and teaches children’s worship at his home congregation so he was a natural to help with the dental hygiene lessons. Kim likes to assist the dentists with sterilization. They are both HTI veterans.

Larissa Pinczuk grew up in Ukraine (missionary parents), and while she’s fluent in Russian dialects, we did not use her as a translator! She is a nursing student and is one of those people who fits in well. She did not return to the States with us, she is backpacking around Guatemala.

Keaton Smedley has begun a 3 month internship with HTI. She was working with Dr. Mark Whitfield in Nashville as a dental hygienist and felt that she needed to take a break and think through her life’s direction. She has worked with us in the past, so with Mark’s help she applied and was accepted to our internship program. We left her in Antigua beginning her language training.

Kristina Smith was a great blessing on this trip. She fell into a natural role relating to the younger women and sharing her experience from her many visits to Guatemala. Having a board member’s wife on a trip is a great benefit! She was assigned to almost every job we have and said she enjoyed seeing so many different aspects of our work.

Sandy Sims was to be commended for coming this year. She is scheduled to have hip replacement this week, but didn’t want to break her 10 year string of spending a week of vacation with her family in Guatemala. She was in considerable pain, but she never complained. She was a great blessing and a real trooper!

Our volunteers were wonderfully cooperative on this trip, but we are always amazed by Carlos and his crew who shift into a more difficult gear when we descend upon them. They were organized, efficient and super hosts (as usual).

Guatemala sent us off with an earthquake and spewing volcano the morning we left. Perfect ending to an exciting week!

