

HealthTalents Internacional

Lipscomb Spring Break

Mobile Medical/Dental

March 16-23

Trip Participants: Dentist: Wes Fitzgerald; Nurse Practitioner: Bethany Massey; Lipscomb Team Leaders: Alan Bradshaw, Jenny Stites; Students: Chaslynn McAvoy, Rachel Alexander, Neely Baugh, Zachary Bradshaw, Chelsi Cassilly, Kenneth Coca, Erika Dore, John Michael Elder, Cory Ferguson, Kimberly Keen, Courtney Loudermilk, Rachel McAngus, Nicole Muszynski, Aaron Pruyear, Kayla Raines, Kellie Regal, Stephanie Silvers, Andrea Westrich, Blake Harper, Sarah Parish, Andres Gonzalez, Denise De laTorre

The team traveled to Guatemala on Friday and was met by Kemmel and Lisa, Marcos and Ruben at the airport. Everyone made it safely and on time and loaded into the pickup trucks and mini vans and headed out for Chichi. When the group arrived at Hotel Santo Tomas they moved into their rooms, enjoyed a little free time and then met for dinner at the hotel. After dinner Kemmel and Lisa gave them a brief orientation and welcomed them to Chichicastenango. They discussed how clinic would work the following day and gave assignments for where everyone was to go the following day.

On Saturday morning Julie and Danny left Antigua early and made their way to Chichi to meet up with the team before heading out for clinic. They arrived in time to say hello and grab a quick breakfast before heading out for the day. The group was divided between three clinics, the first was Clinia Caris where the team was helping paint and finishing up the addition to the clinic. The other clinic locations on Saturday were Chuchuca and Chuchipaca. Say those two names five times fast! Both of those clinics were ABC clinics so there were LOTS of children to play with and the Lipscomb students came prepared! They brought face paint, sidewalk chalk, games and cameras. The children in each of these villages certainly felt loved by the end of the day. The Chuchipaca group had a good day and made it back to Chichi in time to relax a little before dinner. The Chuchuca team had a 2 ½ hour drive so they had a long dusty day but enjoyed every minute.

Saturday evening after dinner the team had some devotional time out on the patio up stairs at Hotel Santo Tomas. Kemmel, Lisa and Julie talked a little about HTI and also about what the group could expect from market day in Chichi the following day. Alan led the team in some deep devotional thoughts and wrapped up for the night.

Sunday morning the group ate breakfast and then headed out to explore Chichi and the market. The sun was shining and stronger than many students expected so by the end of the day there were several with pink cheeks and more than enough red necks to go around but a very happy group of shoppers! That evening the team got together and walked to the evening service at the Chichicastenango church of Christ. The sermon was mostly in Spanish so several of the students were able to understand much of the sermon. After dinner we had a brief meeting to discuss plans for the following day and then headed off to bed.

Monday morning the team split up into three groups again. Kemmel and Danny headed up the Caris work group along with Dr. Ruben and the clinic there. The other team headed out to Xejoj, a few minutes down the road from Chuchuca, another 2 ½ hour drive. The Clinica caris crowd enjoyed a full day of painting, and saw several patients with Dr. Ruben. There was also a pretty good number of dental patients that Dr. Wes and Marcos divided up between themselves to work on mainly restorative treatments.

We were thrilled that Dr. Wes was able to join the trip. Nicole just happened to run into him at a store in Murfreesboro, TN and asked if he was a dentist. God knew we needed a dentist for the trip and paved the way for us to have a great dentist who was enthusiastic about the work and a great teacher to boot.

Dr. Sandra, HTI's new dentist was again impressed with the little teeth of the ABC children. She was excited to see the Lipscomb students jumping in and helping out with the sterilization of instruments as well as the education portion of the ABC check up. Each child sat with one of the Spanish speaking Lipscomb students to learn about the correct way to brush their teeth. This portion of the check up was extra fun because they had a HUGE set of teeth with an over-large toothbrush for the kids to practice with!

On Tuesday the group split up between Caris, La Palma and Mactzul I. The group at Caris continued plugging away at the painting and getting the clinic addition in shape to start being put to use. They also helped with ladies clinic day. The ladies had been scheduled to come and see nurse Sheri for their pap smears and other such needs. The team in La Palma had a very neat experience. They pulled off the road and parked the cars near a foot path leading down into the woods. From there they each grabbed some of the supplies from the pickup truck with the help of the local brothers and headed down that foot path toward the La Palma Church of Christ a ways into the woods. They were at one of our more remote clinics that day, high up on the mountain. The ABC checkups went well and the team was happy with how their day was spent with the children and families of the La Palma congregation. The Mactzul I group had a slow morning since most of the ABC children were in school. After lunch however there were 41 children waiting to be seen by the doctors and dentists. The heart breaking thing the group saw upon their arrival was a set of adorable little 1 ½ year old twin boys sipping on bottles full of Pepsi. The importance of continued education can't be stressed enough.

Tuesday afternoon the clinic wrapped up in enough time for the Caris and La Palma groups to get a little time on the soccer field. The team from Mactzul joined in for the second game and everyone enjoyed playing with the local HTI staff members. Unfortunately John Michael and Andres had a collision which left John Michael's foot a little worse for the wear. John Michael's foot wasn't broken and he stuck out the next couple days with a pair of crutches borrowed from Clinica Caris.

That night the group med again for devotional time and had a few extra people join in! There was another group meeting at the hotel and when they got out of their meeting several of them stopped to listen to our singing. They were invited to sit with us and sing and accepted. We were happy to have made new friends!

Once again the group divided up in the morning and headed out to several clinic locations. One team made their way to San Jorge, another to Mactzul VI and the third to Clinica Caris. The team members in San Jorge had a smaller clinic since HTI recently started doing that clinic twice a month. The patient volume was too big for one clinic day so the staff decided to make the two hour drive once every two weeks. The students enjoyed playing with the many animals at the home of Sister Anna and her daughters. Sister Anna was also kind to allow several of the students to attempt making tortillas, despite how misshapen they came out! In the afternoon the girls of the house decided it was time to play dress up with the gringas so they invited Bethany, Nicole and Ericka into the house and dressed them head to almost toe in Sacapulas' finest fashions!

The team at Caris worked hard all day and completed the last of the painting that remained to be done. The team put in lots of hours painting ceilings and walls inside and out. Danny was a great help and deserved a great pat on the back at the end of the week for helping at Caris every day. The team in Mactzul VI also had a nice day seeing a bunch of ABC patients. They had loads of time to play with the children and enjoy the time at clinic. Dr. Lisa was there to help teach and share with the students throughout the day, always happy to share her knowledge with inquiring minds.

Wednesday evening the team gathered for a wonderful devotional time. Alan opened up the floor for team members to share about who they had seen God working in or through during the week. It was a wonderful time of sharing and a blessing to all those who were there. Sadly Kenneth wasn't present as he had to leave early for the national competition for his cello playing. Everyone missed him but wished him well at nationals.

Thursday morning the team stopped on the way to Antigua in Tecpan and had a nice breakfast. Once in Antigua everyone headed their different ways to shop, see ruins or the organic macadamia nut farm. The group enjoyed a lovely day of relaxation and a nice dinner together at Posada de Don Rodrigo with the other Lipscomb spring break team from Coban. There was a Mayan dance and marimba players at dinner so we were not only well fed but well entertained by the end of the night!

Saturday morning the team headed out for the airport at 4:30am. They made it safely to the airport and gave God all the glory for a wonderful week of service to the Guatemalan people.

