

September 7-14, 2019 Trip Report

GYN and General Surgery

Team Participants: Pediatric General Surgeon: Andrew Walker; General Surgeon: Weerachai Wiri; Pediatric Urologists: Gerald Jerkins, Christina Lay Circulator: Debra Blesener, Marina Mitchell; Surgical PA: Abby Carpenter; OB/GYN Surgeons: Carolyn Thompson, Kenneth Mitchell; Medicine: Bianca Arrindell; Anesthesiologists: Jason Buehler, Justin Freeney, Madeleine Garren; CRNA: Tim Dawson; LPN Circulator: Mike Caldwell, OR Nurses: Jean Damren, Samantha Pritchard; EMT Circulator: Kenneth Earle; Stanley; Recovery Room RN's: Pamela Brown, Patricia Grubbs, Anne McEntee, Emily Panrin, Brenda Robinson, Susan Thomas, Diane Walker, Katie Welch, Sandra Wilkinson; Translator: Rita Sills; Caregivers: Shannon Alexander, Beverly Mihelich, Bryan Parnin, Julie Stanley, Grant Wallace; Sterilization: Doyle Robinson, Cary Sills; Photographer: Kathryn Parsons; Trip Chaplain: Wayne Mihelich; Team Leaders: Bode Teague, Sheri Kretzschmar

The bus was already full as the North Carolinians arrived later than planned; Bode had everyone on board, eating chicken and ready to roll. All the luggage arrived, and we were thankful. When Tim was stopped in customs, he produced the list of medications that he had, which were previously stamped for approval by the authorities. He was thankful that he had made a copy of his list before leaving home.

Our bus tour to Clinic Ezell was uneventful. We quickly unpacked and completed the inventory. It was then time for a delicious dinner prepared by our infamous cooks. We had some first timers on the trip so they would soon learn how special the cooks are.

Sunday morning, we walked across the street to worship with the Montellano congregation. Alex had a very good sermon on forgiveness. Bode led us in a few hymns and then it was time to meet with Dr. Walter. During this time, Dr. Walter gave us instructions on how to help the week progress smoothly.

We completed the week with sixty-eight surgeries. Every day presented unique challenges, but the team persevered, seeing patients, who had suffered from long-term physical needs.

There were days that the operating rooms turned patients over very quickly and then there were other days that the cases were longer and somewhat more complicated. Before every surgery, we prayed with each patient and before we retired for the night, we prayer for each patient by name. While the surgery produces physical healing, we believe our prayers and petitions assist in spiritual healing. We want each patient to have a closer relationship to God after they have visited us at Clinica Ezell.

From time-to-time there were moments to play with patients.



From time-to-time there were moments to parade with patients to improve their pulmonary health and prevent infection.



There was a time to pray for patients. One special patient, Miguel, had a difficult time when he came out from the operating room and he had an extremely high fever. Several team members went to get Wayne, who served as our chaplain during the week. Wayne found a spot to serve in the manner that he could, as the medical staff carried out the orders from the physicians.



Then there was time to praise God for the healing of patients. Cary and Rita talk with Miguel before he returns home.

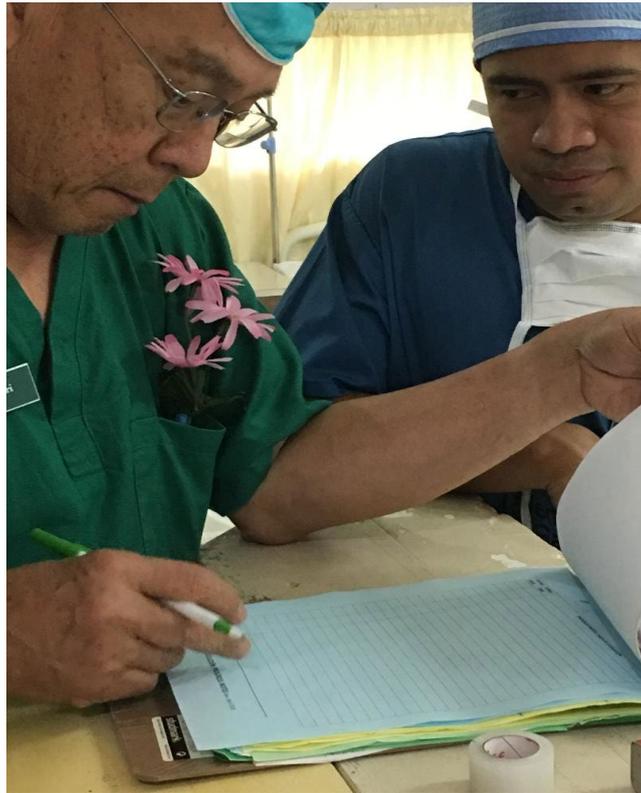


Grant made his first trip with Health Talents and he became a special part of the team. He helped us move patients from bed to bed and prayed with patients.



As previously mentioned, Wayne served as the chaplain and shared morning thoughts with us as we finished breakfast. We would join together at night to share some time together and pray for needs that included some of our team members. We remembered the families of Philip Strawther, Tim Dawson and Mike Caldwell. While we are here to primarily serve the Mayan indigenous population of Guatemala, we never want to forget those of our number that need prayer and strengthening

Dr. Wiri joined us again and kept us going with some of his humor!



Dr. Jerkins, Gordon, Marta, Dr. Carpenter, Julie and Abby enjoy some sunshine between cases.



Dr. Wiri and the crew in OR one.



Dr. Jerkins and the group in OR two.



The staff of OR three.....Dr. Diaz, Dr. Mitchell, Marina, Jeanie and Dr. Thompson



When the surgeries were completed, it was the nursing staff, caregivers and translators that carried the baton.



On Wednesday evening, we went to sing and pray with the patients. Several that could walk, joined us as we sang. Ken and Sandy share a songbook with a patient as we praise together. Josue led everyone in a final prayer, to conclude our night.



We are thankful that many lives were touched, and many hugs were shared before patients went home.



So, as a busy week came to a close, it was time to travel to Antigua and enjoy our last day together.



Many thanks to each person that served this week. May God bless each of you and your families as you took time to serve at Clinic Ezell. May God also bless each patient that was touched, as they continue to heal.