

**Mobile Medical/Dental Trip Report  
Chichicastenango  
September 2014**

The following people accompanied us on the September Mobile Medical trip: Julie and Mike Kelly, MD, Andrew McCormick, MD, Donna and Robert Lamb, DDS, Barbara and Jim Haller, DDS, Amanda Bodine, PA-C, Sharon Van Cleave, Don Proctor, Jessica and Lisa Bilz, RN, Dave Morton, Julie Stanley, Alyx Seimer, Jordan Akins, Mike Duncan, Debra Blesener and Terry Fischer. Six of these volunteers were first-timers with HTI.



This trip had great balance. From those who had many years of experience (Dr. Jim Haller was the first volunteer to go to Guatemala with HTI) combined with those making their first trip; those who had professional skills and those who provided compassionate care; those who knew a great deal about HtTI and those who were learning. There was a depth of knowledge running alongside excitement of a new adventure that bonded this team.

It was good to have the Hallers return this year after illness prevented their trip last year. The Kellys brought a great depth of insight into the culture as they returned to fill in for the Dunham's while they're on furlough. Dr. Kelly's ability to speak the native language was impressive and he and Julie jumped right back into the work.



***Dr. Jim and Barbara Haller, joined by right hand girl, Julie Stanley reporting for duty yet again!***

Every successful ministry needs some anchoring congregations and individuals to give it stability. Memorial Road in Edmond, OK has been one of those anchors. Dr. Robert Lamb and David Morton (elder) led a group of wonderful servants from Memorial Road. This congregation's vision and commitment to take Christ to the world has blessed many. We loved having former missionary, Terry Fischer, serve as our chaplain this week. He had an ability to cut to the heart of the matter and encourage us daily. Fortunately his Portuguese transferred to Spanish with few glitches, so he was transformed into a Spanish speaking pharmacist before the trip was done.

The Memorial Road congregation sent letters to be delivered to Dr. Marcos Lux. They were thanking and congratulating him on his service and encouraging him in his future private clinic. While we were there, Dr. Lamb and Dave Morton got to travel to Santa Cruz to see Marcos' new clinic which includes 3 dental exam rooms. It is an amazing accomplishment and the blessing he and his family will be to that town will be significant.

Another anchoring congregation is East Brainerd in Chattanooga. They have been incredibly supportive of our mission. So far, four members of East Brainerd have joined us in Guatemala counting this trip, Jordan Akins our women's youth minister, and Sharon Van Cleave who is a speech pathologist and Spanish translator. Ironically, her husband, Vince was a co-worker of David Stanley's in Abilene. We look forward to a nurse, PA and general surgeon joining us in 2015.

The main emphasis of this trip was the well child check-ups for the ABC students. Each day we were able to see around 100 children. We were given the task of photographing each ABC child so we can begin to include a photo in their file. We were impressed with the bright eyes and rosy cheeks we saw. We were grateful to the folks who were instrumental in getting the ABC program started because the change in health is dramatic.



***Little brother waits for his big sister to get her ABC exam - the entire family benefits spiritually and physically.***

Mike Duncan and Robert Lamb were able to interview nine candidates for scholarships. When you think about the difference the scholarship program and just the emphasis on education that has come through the ABC program it is amazing. To offer education leading to a career would have been unthinkable, much less possible just a few years ago. These bright students approached these interviews with hope - what a gift!



***Robert Lamb interviews a potential scholarship student while Sheri Kretzschmar translates.***

One of the things we find so rewarding is serving with people who are dedicated to making a difference in the world. For Sharon Van Cleave this was a first mission trip. In her words, *“I anticipated that on this Health Talents trip I would be brushing up on my Spanish enough to get by for translating during a 5 day trip. Instead I believe that God used this trip to tell me that it is time to get going! You see, a week and a half before I left for Guatemala our church announced that we will be picking up the Spanish speaking Iglesia de Cristo because their current physical location is no longer an option. So, in the course of a week and a half my frame of mind switched from the short term ways I could benefit others on a short term trip to how I could use this trip as the jumping off point for becoming involved in a Church, in the United States, with a 60% Guatemalan membership! I said Yes to participation with HTI because I was asked and it seemed like a good thing to do, and God took that Yes and turned it into a lot of future Yeses. I am grateful He pushed me to transition from “Get By” to “Get Going Sharon Van Cleave”- very quickly I might add!”* What a blessing!



**Sharon Van Cleave finding a way to thank friends for helping making her first mission trip possible.**