

TRIP REPORT MARCH 7-14, 2014
HARDING PA TEAM
Chichicastenango

The following people made up this team: Dan Middleton, MD; Brian Cress, MD; Melissa Shipp, PharmD; Gary Hill, PA-C; Tim Shipp, PA-C; Whitney Tappan, RN; Christina Byler; Drew Harper; Melanie Sallee; Joe Calderon; Annalyse Faulk; Sarah Tipton; Trent Tappan; Carmen Meeker; Jimmy Skaggs; Katie Griffin-Patterson; Alicia Simpson; Daniel Hardison; Susan Mellor and David Mellor.

This trip started out backwards. Due to some flight changes we had to stay in Guatemala City the first night, then travel to Antigua for a day of touring. Sunday we were able to travel to Chichi. We had our worship service at the local town congregation that evening which was uneventful with the exception of one drunk man who joined us and was so taken with Bro. Dave's song leading that he insisted on coming up the aisle and handing him a bottle of water!



Monday morning we were ready to head out to the mountains. Kemmel did his usual outstanding job of organizing our daily activities, complete with spreadsheet of who works where. Dr. Lisa, Dr. Sara plus the two doctors from the US enabled us to set up at least 3 clinics each day. Drs. Sandra and Marcos were busy with the dental work. We were impressed with the patience of the doctors toward the students to encourage them to use their knowledge and skills. Dr. Shipp managed the pharmacy and used it as a time to teach and test the pharmacy students each day. Susan was assigned to keeping ABC records each day and said she learned a lot just listening to these conversations!

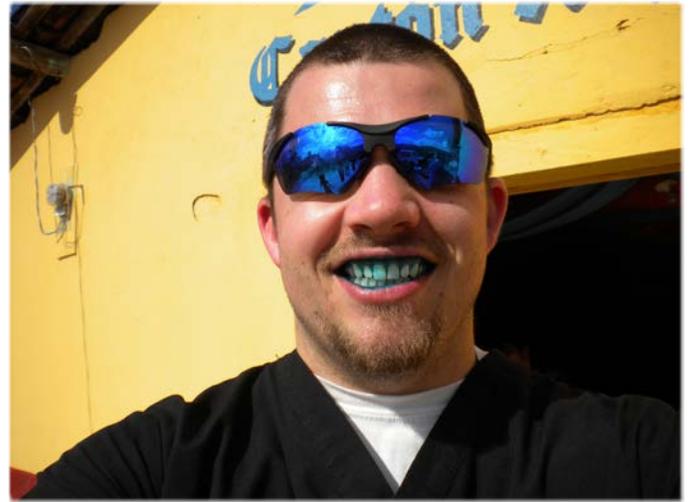
Did you know the albendazol tablets that we give each student for parasites actually doesn't kill the worms? It paralyzes it so it can't attach to its' host and is eliminated with food waste! Your pharmacy lesson for the day. You are welcome.

Kemmel had the trucks, drivers, interpreters and staff all organized and ready to go each day. We were able to see several hundred patients, most of them ABC children. Susan and I believe we can pick the ABC students out of crowd by their bright eyes, clean hair and hands and the greater confidence to interact with us gringos. We did notice a decline in patients for other services probably due to the fact that there were at least 3 other medical teams in the hotel with us who don't charge for their services.

The effort to teach better dental hygiene by squirting blue food color all around the child's teeth and then showing them all the "dirty" areas that need to be brushed better was a big hit. The

Harding students loved participating in this example! Daniel Hardison looks especially ominous in the photo to the right.

Each night at devotional, the students shared stories about patients they had seen. Dr. Middleton works with the CDC in Atlanta and was able to share some of his knowledge of various diseases with the students and Dr. Cress, a pediatrician, was an excellent mentor in examining the many ABC children. Our efforts to pray with each patient brought an unexpected response from some of the students. They were moved by the fact that we can and do pray with each person and



family as a priority. Several stated that this is what they want to do with their patients back home.

One last thought...the devotional at the end of the day and prayers in the morning before we load up set a spiritual emphasis that was obvious and appreciated by the staff and students. On our last night together we remembered the passion with which Lauren Bump had served last year on this trip.