

## Health Talents International

### 2018 April Surgical Trip

**Team Participants:** Surgeons: Ed Ziedins, Ed Grogan, Dave Mauterer; 4<sup>th</sup> Year Medical Student: Dave Picklesimer; Anesthesiologists: Jeff Bennie, Steve Santi; CRNA: Duane Gill, Scott Hudgins, Shelby Turner; PA: Justine Gadd; Mission Intern: Evan Bridges; Surgical Tech: Shanda Poitra; EMT Circulator: Justus Boever; LPN Circulator: Mike Caldwell; OR Nurse: Lesa Dale, Samantha Pritchard; Circulator: Terry Doughty; Surgical PA: Tim Thurston; Recovery Room RNs: Carol Angelo, Lisa Bartee, Jane Bennie, Alice Bush, Kim Grewelle, Elaine Griffin, Jodi Pilot, Amy Smith, Mich Walden, Paige Williams; CNA: Madyson Wilkie; Translator: Katie Berube, Edgar Lucero, Rita Sills, Judith Paredes, Manuel Guarcas; Caregivers: Eryka Berryhill, Kimmy Boever, Tessa Brimblecombe, Aunt Betty, Sadie Fischbeck, Noah free, Easton Gill, Aurora Kelley, Peggy Massey, Morgan Murphy, Trevor Roberts, Eriks Ziedins, Lilianna Ziedins; Family Therapist: Klay Bartee; Mr.Fix-It: Jamie Free; Sterilization: Cary Sills; Trip Chaplain: Tim Genry; Team Leaders: Sheri Kretschmar, Rick Harper, Dave Mellor and Susan Mellor.

We always pray before a surgical clinic that we will show the compassion of Christ to our patients. We pray that they will see Christ's love through our actions and attitudes. Each member of the team, regardless of the role they provide, impacts our patients in a unique manner.

Before the surgical team left the USA soil, rapid changes needed to be made. We were saddened to hear that Dr. Massey would not be able to be with us due to health issues and then disappointed to hear that Dr. Kaz suffered injuries due to a motorcycle accident. Rachel Hobbes unfortunately developed food poisoning and had to return home from Guatemala City before even leaving the US. We prayed several times during the week for these individuals and that they would be comforted during their difficult times. The Guatemalan staff quickly cancelled all GYN surgeries and attempted to bring in more general surgery patients.

Upon arriving at the clinic, we quickly completed the inventory, enjoyed dinner, had a quick orientation and got a good night of rest.

Sunday morning, we worshipped with the Montellano congregation. Edgar brought us a lesson about the gospel of Christ and how it is our foundation. The gospel is simple and yet powerful, including the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. The gospel provides our eternal hope!

Arriving a little early before Sunday worship.



Kimmy and Justin arrived in the afternoon with Dr.Walter, completing our team. As the OR cranked up, Alice met with the nurses, caregivers and translators. We reviewed the pain protocol so everyone knew how we would manage post-operative pain.

Micah and Lisa provided care to the patients immediately after surgery, but before they were moved to their regular bed. Even with the late start, we completed twelve surgeries and everyone did well.

Paige, Morgan and Madyson worked the night shift. We are thankful for their willingness to work and care for our patients through the night hours as the other team members rested and prepared for the next morning.

Aunt Betty was able to spend some time in the operating room, observing the removal of a gall bladder. After the surgery, she was able to practice her dissecting skills.



Monday afternoon, Cary was seen running outside with a fire extinguisher.....he was actually running! With his quick response, a fire near the generator was controlled and he prevented further damage.

On Monday evening, we sang and ate cake to celebrate Terry's birthday! We appreciate him circulating in the operating room.

Doctors Ziedins, Grogan and Mauterer kept the operating rooms busy with general patients. The OR staff was on top of everything and we ran efficiently.



Klay, our family therapist, was able to stay with us until Tuesday before he went to the highlands. Gaspar and Juana came to provide transportation and were also able to spend some time with Carlos and Sylvia. In the near future, Carlos and Sylvia will be moving to the States, so this allowed Gaspar and Juana to visit with them again.



Tim served as our chaplain through the week. Our first evening together, we talked about the story of the prodigal son. We then divided into small groups and further discussed the story on how we personally relate to those people within the story. Micah, Rick and Mike led our worship and evening singing.

Jamie, our special “fix-it” man kept things running for us. As he needed things from the hardware store, he patiently waited until he had it and then went to work.

Our translators, Katie, Rita, Judith, Edgar and Manuel assisted in consults, made rounds with physicians, prayed with patients and eased patient fears in the operating rooms.

The evening shift of nurses, used humor to make it through their shift! Nurses Amy, Carol, Elaine and Kim kept each other laughing, while providing excellent care to the patients.....and it is almost certain that each will return in the future to do it again!



While we enjoy good times with our patients, we never want to forget the spiritual aspect.



Susan kept many care-givers busy with counting, packaging and preparing bags of medication. It seems to be a boring task but a vital one to keep the medical clinics running.

Dave and Cary kept the sterilization room under control.



As always, we enjoyed the meals provided for us by the kitchen staff!



During the week Justine, David and Morgan were able to go out with Doctors Walter and Nehemias to help in the medical mobile clinics. Morgan had the opportunity to witness two baptisms in the river. How rewarding it is to see a patient cared for physically, while also receiving spiritual healing.



On Thursday afternoon, several people were able to visit the chocolate farm that is located near the clinic. Behind them is a La Ceiba tree, the national tree of Guatemala.



We completed the week with 71 surgeries. Every night we continued to pray for each patient by name.

Our last night together in Montellano, people had the opportunity to share memories of the week and events that they would not soon forget. It is these special moments that cause people to return year after year!

We enjoyed the last breakfast of the week and then took our last group photo.



Carlos prayed for our safe travels and then we traveled to Antigua.

It was a great week and we leave Montellano with many emotions. While we are ready to return home to our family and for some rest, we are thankful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to the next time that we are with our Guatemalan family. And when that moment arrives, we will give thanks to our Lord!