

Health Talents International
February 2018
Plastic and GYN Surgical Clinic

Trip Participants: *Plastic Surgeon: Michael Hueneke, Philip Strawther, Dwayne Fulks; OBGYN Surgeon: Roy Kellum, Jud Allen, Rusty Ethridge, Mark Kellum; Dentist: John Case; Mission Intern: Evan Bridges; Anesthesiologist: Jeff Bennie, Jon Bennie, Sloan Youngblood; CRNA: Tamera Tanner; FNP: Carmen Tanner; Speech Pathologist: Janae Richter; RN Circulate: Lisa Cantrell, Jan Harper, Marilyn Poole, Susan Thomas, Misty Vance; LPN Scrub: Jeanie Damren; Recovery Room: Ann Cross, Susan Easterling, Emily Giboney, Michelle Gontko, Joy Kellum, Mindy Linvell, Christine Martin, Katy McNally, Linda Osborne, Brenda Robinson, Molly Vandiver, Chaz Turner; Harding Students: Ashley Collins, Ethan Brown, Jess Trujillo, Morgan Blake; Compassionate Caregivers: Melanie Dixon, Susan Kellum; Translator: Drew Bennie, Kathyln Beyer-Chan, Kristin Beyer, Katie Berube, Rita Sills; Trip Chaplain: Jerry Myan; Sterilization: Alfred Anderson, Doyle Robinson, Cary Sills; Trip Leaders: Sheri Kretzschmar and Rick Harper*

During the week of the February surgical clinic, we were able to touch the lives of over 100 people, while fully understanding that this is only possible due to the presence of our God.

We were sad to learn that Dr. Quinton and Ann Dickerson, due to illness, would not be with us. It was a special trip for them, since their granddaughter, Melanie had planned to spend the week with them. Melanie, continued as scheduled, due to working on her thesis. Kemmel Dunham met the group at the airport, to accompany Melanie and Rick to Chichicastenango. Rick stayed a few days and then returned to Montellano to help with the surgical clinic.

Melanie lived with a family in Chichicastenango for three weeks and worked with the promoters to place 53 water filters and to visit 70

families in their homes. Thank you, Melanie for your work and good luck on your thesis.

Sunday was a great “warm-up” day to get our skates rolling. We worshipped with the Montellano Church of Christ, had a short meeting with Dr. Walter and donated a few units of blood to have in case of an emergency. Soon, the patients began to roll out of surgery and we were thankful that there was no need to utilize any of the blood.

Linda filled the head-nurse role, while Molly, Chaz and Brenda worked the post-op area.

The majority of the group have served in the past but there were some “rookies” which is always an encouragement. Our four Harding Nursing students were Ashley, Ethan, Jess and Morgan. Susan E. and Katy McNally were students last year and returned this week, as RNs. Congratulations, Katy and Susan!

Jerry served as our chaplain and shared many good thoughts with us during the week, while Dwayne and Sloan led our singing during nightly devotionals. On Wednesday night, we sang with our patients and Rick led us during that time. Dr. Case, who worked in the dental area, shared one night some of Paul’s verses on “Hope.” Nightly, we prayed for each patient by name.....while remembering how faithful God is and the power in prayer.

One evening, we had a quick threat of no water. Many thanks to the rapid actions of the Guatemalan staff to get that corrected quickly.

Janae, who is a Speech Pathologist, met with many of the babies and parents to offer them help. Many children who are born with cleft-lips and cleft-palates have trouble with pronunciation so she was able to offer them suggestions with those problems.

Ann, Jane and Jess kept things running during the night shift. Nights can be difficult after surgery for the patients due to pain and not having family with them. We never want to forget what a blessing that the night shift staff are to patients.

At different times during the week, you could find Susan K. and her crew of pill-counters in the cafeteria. This is something that many people do not put a lot of value in but it is necessary to continue the work of the medical mobile clinics. There is work for everyone to do!

As always, there are patients who touch us in a special way. This week, we had the opportunity to meet Esperanza, who is only thirty-nine years old.

Esperanza has suffered a great deal this last year. While having a seizure, she fell into a fire and was severely burned. It was an event that caused her life, to never be the same. Philip, Michael and Dwayne realize that this is going to be a multi-step process but first, they wanted to give her more mobility of her neck area by removing some of the scar tissue. As she waited for her surgery, Susan T. sat and held her hand so she did not have to wait alone.

Susan E. is pictured below, helping Esperanza with her dinner in the evening. It is almost impossible for Esperanza to chew so Susan helps her with a syringe of a high protein pudding.



We look forward to seeing Esperanza at a future clinic and seeing her progress. The name Esperanza, means “hope” in English. We pray that our actions have given some hope to this kind lady.

Ethan, one of our nursing students, shown spending time with Jeffrey who had broken his nose during a motorcycle accident.



A group of recovery room nurses.



The Harding Students with Jerry.



We definitely need the sterilization crew to continue the week, and Alfred, Doyle and Cary kept the sterilization room running. It is a good place to stop and chat during the day and evening.

We finished the week with 52 surgeries and 43 dental patients. The week passed quickly and the patients did well. As always, we give all thanks and glory to God for what has taken place. We look forward to serving again in Montellano and being reunited with our Guatemalan brothers and sisters.

