

**TRIP REPORT
MOBILE MEDICAL
CLINICA EZELL
JULY 3-9, 2016**

Those volunteering for this trip: Celena Smith, a pharmacist from Searcy, with her two daughters Sydney, a sophomore at Harding and Gentry, age 14. Camie Hunt, a senior nursing student from Austin Peay who is a seasoned missions traveler; she will attend Spanish school in Antigua after this trip and then join us for the surgery week later in July. Taylor Hodge is a CNA and attends Belmont U. in Nashville. She is pre-med, currently a junior. Marcus Mellor is our grandson. We had not taken him on a mission trip before and were happy that he was able to join us and serve as a translator. He will be a senior at Bryant High School in Bryant, Arkansas next fall. Kristi Winn is a mother of three who works in senior citizen care. She is a friend of Karen Sims, long time volunteer who encouraged her to take her first mission trip, first flight, first time out of the U.S. Karen Sims is from Arab, Alabama and likes to tease Kristi about being from Hog Jaw, Alabama. That is pretty indefensible. Karen worked with the mobile dental groups all week and is the resident comedienne. Madi Harmon is from Texas and is a kinesiology major. Her father is a trainer for the Texas Rangers. Evan Laman is a recent graduate from Harding and will enter medical school this fall at UAMS. Mariah Lawler is a nursing student.

This was a small group of 12. Yes, just like the small group that travelled with the Great Physician. We started with 15, but 3 had complications the day of departure and were unable to make the trip. (and 15 is not a particularly Biblical number)

Out of the 12 who made the celestial number only Karen Sims and Susan and I had travelled with HTI before. Karen has been many times and is always willing to do whatever needs to be done. Her combination of dedication, wisdom and humor is a valuable asset to our teams. She had recently had knee surgery and was not completely recovered, but she never slowed down.



People often ask me how do we get people to come on these trips. One of the most effective ways is when someone comes and experiences the joy of service, then they invite their friends.



Marcus Mellor

Karen brought her friend, Kristi Winn. As soon as Kristi returned home, she signed up for another trip next year. Kristi has a servant's heart and was very helpful to the dental team. She spent most of her time teaching children and adults how to properly brush and floss their teeth. This is a key element in the overall improvement that is being seen in dental care.

Evan Laman is a recent Harding graduate who will enter UAMS this fall. He is obviously very smart. I say this because he also was the only male volunteer on this trip besides my grandson who is still in high school. Evan was taken under the wings of our mobile doctors and they took special efforts to instruct him and challenged him to diagnose patients based on the symptoms they gave. He is eager to return with a surgical team.

Celena, Sydney and Gentry Smith joined us from Searcy.



Sydney Smith

Celena is a pharmacist, Sydney a student at Harding and Gentry is a high school freshman. One of the greatest joys a parent can have is to share a spiritual experience like this with their children. Sydney volunteered to work with Dr. Sylvia who is a great teacher. She loved her week learning dentistry.



Celena Smith

It's always interesting to take a group of strangers and watch them form a team:

Camie Hunt will be a good nurse when she begins practicing. She has a great sense of duty and compassion toward her patients.

Madi Harmon is an athletic trainer, but has decided to go back to school to become a PA. We pray that she gets accepted to a PA school.

Mariah Lawler was a little older than the other students. Her maturity was evident and she expressed amazement at the quality of work the "dental women" accomplished in very basic surroundings. She talked about understanding some of the hardships that come along with racism as a woman of color herself, and was "in love" with Manuela and her sweet and cheerful spirit by the end of the week. Most of the volunteers on the dental team were amazed at the cooperation and grace of the Guatemalan women's dental team.

Taylor Hodge had traveled to Guatemala twice before with another group. She said she really didn't want to come with us, but it was her only option if she wanted to come to Guatemala this year. She had made good friends with Guatemalans on her previous trips and was resistant to coming with a different group. By the end of the week she was singing the praises of HTI, how well we function, how organized we are, and mostly how appropriately we treat the poor. She wants to be a doctor and has the heart of a missionary. We talked with her about the MET program and will continue to encourage her.



Mariah, Camie, Madi and Taylor take on the bridge



I wish everyone could see how open and helpful our Guatemalan staff are when we bring groups down to work on the mobile medical teams. They allow our people the experience of what happens every day in the HTI ministry. We are blessed with men and women who truly love the Lord and the lost. One of the team members said they came on the trip because it would look good on her PA application, but she did not expect the experience to have such a profound effect on her spiritual life. Another student said she had never felt comfortable praying with others, but every time someone came to the clinic she was asked her to pray with them. She was moved by the simple act of praying for another individual. One of the students told how Dr Nehemias would actually drawn on the patient with his marker so he could explain what was happening and his diagnosis.

He didn't have to take the time to be a teacher, but what an impression he made on our

students! I was, once again, amazed at the staff God has put together in Guatemala!



MOBILE MEDICAL JULY 2016