

TRIP REPORT
March 10 - 17, 2018
Lipscomb University Spring Break Team
Chichicastenango
Team leaders: David and Susan Mellor

A few days before this trip was to begin, we received word that faculty sponsor, Dr. Alan Bradshaw and his wife, nurse Leah, would not be able to come this year due to death and illness in their family. Dr. Bradshaw has been leading student trips from Lipscomb for several years and his absence was felt deeply by the students. We appreciated David Hardy filling in as trip advisor on such short notice. Students from Lipscomb included: Heath Bridges, Mikey Cannone, Gabby Cannone, Gigi Cowherd, Kenneth Driskill, Mason Forchetti, Macy Glassco, Kelsea Hadley, Colton McConnell, Graysen McConnell, Sean Pino, Lydia Rubenic, Lexie Vasilikos, Mary Welch, Kamryn Wong, Ellen Butterfield, Alexa Erazo, Elizabeth Cluck Grace Proffitt and Collin Vasseur. Ellen, Alexa, Elizabeth, Grace, Collin and Drew Bennie, a retired social worker from Texas, served as translators.

We were blessed to have medical professionals (and fathers of students on this trip): Dr. Mike Cannone, Orthopedic surgeon, and Tim McConnell, DDS. Also, Drs. Clint and Emily Sweitzer rounded out our professional team. Clint is a dentist and Emily a physician.



This team arrived midday on Saturday the 10th and after the traditional lunch of Pollo Campero chicken in the car park of the airport, we loaded up 2 vans and 3 trucks and headed up into the mountains for our week of work in Chichicastenango.

Saturday evening we had dinner at Hotel Santo Tomas, then met together for our first informational meeting with Dr. Lisa and Kemmel who outlined the work we would be doing for the week, David followed with a devotional thought and after some singing, we retired for the night.

Sunday brought a special treat. We drove out of town about 30 minutes to worship with the young people at a special Sunday service. Noe Chan brought us our lesson and many others participated in the songs and prayers and Lord's supper. After worship, the Lipscomb students led a few songs, then the Guatemalans joined in. It was a moving experience.

Then the Lipscomb students initiated some games and the Guatemalans quickly caught on. The language barrier was no problem! Finally, the 30 pizzas that Kemmel had ordered arrived and we enjoyed a delicious, familiar lunch. It did give us pause to note that the Guatemalans ate their pizza with ketchup and mayonnaise on top!

We returned to Chichi in time for a little market shopping, then in the evening we had devo time and then to bed. Monday we would begin our work early!

Monday morning we met for breakfast at 7 a.m., then gathered to receive our assignments, pray and load vans in the parking area. Soon 3 groups headed into the hills of Guatemala to serve with our medical teams already in place. The days of the week all looked similar with 3 teams headed to different areas. The students took vitals on each patient or ABC student then took them to their various posts - consult with the doctor, teeth cleaning, dental check, pharmacist and photo. By the time the patient had been ushered to each post, they had developed a form of communication with the American student and there was a comfortable rapport. This was the pattern for most of the week with a few exceptions. On Wednesday, about half the students were assigned to paint our physical therapy provider's office which is a stone's throw from Clinica Caris. They had a big job since the cement blocks had never been painted and absorbed paint almost instantly. Kemmel purchased the thickest paint available, but it absorbed like water. By the end of the day, the office building and the students were a nice creamy lemon color! A great improvement for the building, not so much for the students.



Since there were so many students on this trip, they would not fit into the church building where clinic was being held on Thursday, some were assigned to Caris and some went to a diabetic clinic with Sheri, but several were left over, so we organized a great pill counting event at the hotel and provided a much needed service for our pharmacy. Half went to the Chichicastenango Church of Christ in the morning while the other half counted pills, then they swapped jobs after lunch. Thousands of pills were rounded up into bags of proper dosage for future patients.



Late in the afternoon the work was completed and our transporters stayed in town to drive those who wanted to play soccer to a field nearby. Tired, sweaty students returned in time for dinner and devo before their last night in Chichi.

Friday morning the team departed as dawn broke in order to arrive in Antigua by 10:30 to meet the team coming from Ezell. Hotel Antigua was swamped with HTI people! There were some happy reunions with folks from both teams. As Semana Santa approaches, the town takes on a festive air with purple swags and flowers festooning the windows. The streets were being decorated for the passing of processions of floats depicting the life of Christ. It is an interesting time to visit Antigua. Friday night the entire group met at the hotel for one final meal together before everyone departed for the airport and their flights taking them back to the States on Saturday. Memories were made, friendships renewed, Jesus served. It was a good week.

