

# Health Talents International

## Surgery Clinic Trip Report

March 7-14, 2020

**Trip Percipients: Surgeons:** Jason Brashear, Lee Coleman, David Gilliam, Carson Rider, John Shipp; **Anesthesiologist:** Stephen Santi; **Dentist:** George Huffstutter; **Physician:** David Gutlove; **Surgical PA:** Blakeley Burleson, Louise McDaniel; **Surgical Tech:** Richard Yates; **Nurse Practitioners:** Vanessa Bolyard, Cindy Ford; **Ophthalmology Assistants:** Amy Coleman, Jennifer Shipp; **Nurses:** Terry Delaney, Clarissa Lavaki, Becky Tilton, Mark Wilkinson, **Nursing Students:** Bethany Cobb, Hannah Cobb, Mackensie Cobb, Bethany Cobb, Abby Mullins; **Caregivers:** Daisy Abernathy, Mackenzie Bankes, Cortland Baum, Allison Brandon, Alexandra Cortinas, Kaylee Dahl, Madisen Dye, Morgan Foots, Leonardo Garcia, Elena Gutlove, Lauren Jewell, Mallory Lane, Preston Lynn, Misha Munoz, Emily Puente, Lisette Sandoval, Leonardo Garcia, Misha Munoz, Shelbi Stephenson, Cate Rivers Shipp, Sheridan Shipp, Faith Tilton, Tierra West, Sophia Wharton; **Translators:** Alyssa Barrundia, Oscar Calel, Linda Kemp, Rita Sills, Samantha Rodas, Sussan Talamas; **Sterilization:** Cary Sills; **Team Leaders:** Rick Harper, Bode Teague

This trip, like most others, started off in typical fashion but as the week went on, news from home in regards to the Corona Virus and the unrest that was going on at home, seemed to leave us feeling pretty fortunate that we weren't there to deal with it.

Our week was about patient care and what we could do to serve our guests the very best we could. Our eye surgeons ran into a little glitch on Sunday as one of our phaco machines was not working properly. They were having to double up in one room while we tried to contact someone stateside that could help us with the problem. Fortunately, we were able to reach Dr. Russel Brear by phone. He was actually in Aruba on vacation but was eager to help any way he could to resolve our issue. After a few trials and pics sent to Dr. Brear and a precious prayer offered over the phone, the second phaco was up and running and both rooms were back to work.

We were blessed to have eighteen Abilene Christian University students on this trip, as well as a faculty leader, Linda Kemp, and recent BSN graduate, Clarissa Lavaki. The students were very helpful in many different capacities. They were assigned to specific duties and responsibilities and each carried their own the entire week.

Late Monday evening, Drs. David Gilliam and Carson Rider inquired about the availability of implants to repair a broken clavicle. We found a few titanium plates designed for femur reconstruction, but none for shoulder repair. We improvised by cutting the implant plates with a bolt cutter, using a belt sander to remove the rough edges and we were in business.



We also had four Lubbock Christian University professors with us. These four were along to see for themselves what HTI was all about and discover for themselves how LCU students and graduate students might get involved within our program. All four were very complimentary to our program and were extremely excited to return with students. Their nursing program is unique in that many students are already licensed RN's working to obtain their BSN degree. They have already committed to bringing ten nurses/nursing students on our August trip.

Dr. Bob Huffstutter, a dentist from Calhoun, Louisiana returned for his 9<sup>th</sup> trip with HTI. Dr. Huffstutter worked in our dental clinic during the day and was able to perform multiple root canals for those patients that needed them. He was great to work with and the staff in the dental clinic loved having him join them for the week.



*(The Shipp family: Dr. John Shipp, aka the Cataract Cowboy; mother Jennifer and daughters Cate Rivers and Sheridan.)*

We finished the week with a total of eighty-one eye and fifteen ortho surgeries. There were no complications and the week seemed to go by quickly.

The two groups (Ezell and Chi Chi) met up at the Hotel Antigua for a relaxing day of shopping, eating, and resting. We had multiple shuttles leaving on Saturday and all save one made it home by Sunday. Drew Bennie, who had extended his stay by another week, remained in Guatemala for some personal travel and has since returned to the US.

