



CROSSROADS

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Medical Missions Report 2016

Greetings,

Once again, I am delighted to provide you with a report of the 2016 medical mission trip to Guatemala and to thank you for your continued support. The 6th annual medical mission and Christian outreach to Guatemala took place over four days from November 2 through November 5, 2016. Approximately, 1000 patients were registered and triaged as follows: adult medicine 44%, pediatrics 42%, OB/GYN 12%, and general surgery 2%. In addition, about 300 patients were seen by the ophthalmologist and received free eye examination and glasses for a total of 1,300 patient encounters.



This year, we were blessed with a team of 21 volunteers from the US, led by Faustinus Onyirimba, MD. There were 6 physicians, 6 nurses, 1 pharmacist, and 8 non clinical volunteers. The six physicians in the group were:

Alicia Chilito, MD (family practice),
Scheuster Christie, MD (general surgery),
Linda Taylor, MD (OB/GYN),
Kweku Ghartey Sam, MD (pediatrics),
Assumpta Madu, MD (ophthalmology), and
Faustinus Onyirimba, MD (internal
medicine). The nursing team was comprised
of six registered nurses: Mary Latham,
Evangel Lee, Shavonne Overton, Kathleen
Polhemus, Natalie Roche, and Virginia
Jones. Sandra Daniell-Medina was the

team's pharmacist, and the non-medical volunteers were: Norma Christie, Christy Custer, Olga Jacques, Chelsea Moskites, Benjamin Polhemus, Jeffrey Polhemus, Salvador Rivera, and Sylquia Rodriguez. We were joined by more than 30 local volunteers, including Dr. Lenin Peña, pastor Jose Alvarez, members of the Kitchen of Love Ministry (KOL), local pastors, and a team of English-speaking Spanish interpreters.

Many of the patients walked for several hours to get to the project site of KOL in Esquipulas where the free clinic was held. Services were provided free of charge in the areas of internal medicine, pediatrics, general surgery, ophthalmology and gynecology. The most common conditions we encountered were as follows: Infectious diseases, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, gastritis, anemia, various eye conditions and malnutrition. In addition to health education and free health screening, many patients received gifts of clothing, footwear and toys for the children. Food bags, enough to feed a family of 4 for up to 5 days, were given to those in greatest need. COMM International has been supporting a continuity clinic in Esquipulas for the past year. Dr Lenin Peña has been working at the clinic 2 days per month and has had 580 encounters in the last 10 months. The clinic has been very well received and is providing access to health care to this indigent community.



We make every effort to follow the regulations and guidelines of the governing authorities in Guatemala and so we were surprised to learn that our cargo of medications and supplies had been impounded by the customs in Guatemala. This news came only a few weeks before our departure to Guatemala and did not give us enough time to make a robust alternative arrangement. It was disappointing, but did not deter us from the mission. Instead, we put our trust in God, knowing that his grace is made perfect in our weakness. The mission became an opportunity for us to show compassion for the lost out of our sincere belief and obedience to the word of God. We shared our faith freely and as a result, 68 people gave their lives to Jesus Christ for the first time.



Our organization believes in the power of the Gospel, prayer and the use of medicines in bringing hope and healing to humanity. The Scripture tells us in 1 John 5:4 that "whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith". We are having a lasting impact in Esquipulas as people come to realize God's full purpose in their lives. We are thankful for your prayers and financial support without which none of the successes of the past year would have been possible.

Yours Sincerely,

Faustinus Onyirimba, MD

President of COMM International



COMM-International
Christian Medical Mission