



CROSSROADS

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Medical Missions Report 2017

Greetings,

I am pleased to provide you with a report of our latest medical mission trip to Guatemala and to thank you for your continued support. This was our 7th annual trip, taking place from November 2nd to November 5th, 2017. There were 1,300 patient encounters and services were provided free of charge in the areas of internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN, and ophthalmology. Highlighted below are examples of some of our patient encounters.

One of our most memorable cases involved a 3-year old boy who was rushed in by his grandmother with severe shortness of breath, cough and fever. He had been sick for a few days but the family was too poor to afford a hospital visit. Our clinical staff assessed him immediately, and determined that he had pneumonia, asthma and severe dehydration. For the next four hours, our treatment room was transformed into a makeshift ICU where he received meticulous care with all our available resources. Within those four hours, the toddler was up, alert and asking for food. He left the treatment room to play with the other children attending the clinic. He visited us the next day for a follow up check and none of us could believe his miraculous transformation.



On our third day of clinic, we encountered a 19-day old baby who was born prematurely to a 14-year old mother. The baby was only 4.5 pounds at birth, but due to poor nutrition, her weight had dropped one full pound. She showed signs of malnutrition, and lacked the strength to latch on to breastfeed properly. We intervened with education for the parents and grandparents and provided them with supplemental high-calorie formula specifically for children born prematurely (Enfacare-22). Follow-up arrangement was made for them with our continuity clinic to get more nutritional supplies.

I remember a young man who I saw as a patient. He was the son of two pastors and his parents were helping us with spiritual counseling at the clinic. He had walked away from his Christian faith, to the despair of his parents. When I witnessed to him, I did not know his situation. To the glory of God, he decided to renew his faith and recommit his life to God. At his request, I invited both parents to the room to pray with him. There was no dry



eye in the room as healing and reconciliation took place in the family. This encounter was not unique. As followers of Jesus Christ, we recognize the power of the gospel in transforming lives. With the help of many local ministers, our team focused on all dimensions of health: physical, emotional and spiritual. During this mission, 210 people made a commitment to become devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

In working among the poor, and focusing on the word of God, our team has been transformed. A new member stated that the trip has made her more humble, grateful and generous. In stewardship, she has found God's purpose for her life. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10). The value of what was done is not always measurable as it is often within.



This mission was in partnership with the Kitchen of Love Ministries in Guatemala. The team of 20 volunteers from the US, was led by Faustinus Onyirimba, MD. There were five physicians in the group: Alicia Chilito, MD, Linda Taylor, MD, Kweku Ghartey Sam, MD, Assumpta Madu, MD, and Faustinus Onyirimba, MD. We were blessed with nine registered nurses: Mary Latham, Yvonne King, Sue Kirch, Evangel Lee, Shavonne Overton, Kathleen Polhemus, Maria Segarra, Virginia Jones, and Maria Valentino. Sandra Daniell-Medina was the team's pharmacist, and the non-medical volunteers were: Christy Custer, Olga Jacques, Edgar Dreyer, Jeffrey Polhemus, and Salvador Rivera.

In February, we will be going to Peru on our first medical mission trip to the Amazon jungle. It is your prayers and financial support that makes it possible for us to continue to do what we do. We thank you for your continued support.

Yours in Christ,

Faustinus Onyirimba, MD
President of COMM International

