

2005 Guatemala Mission Team Daily News

Ron Amberg, Communications

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Spring Valley United Methodist Church

The Spring Valley Guatemala Mission Team has arrived on schedule at their destination in Guatemala! Don Barnes and Robert Gross have provided the first on-location reports.



DAY ONE, SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2005 **SPRING VALLEY GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM**

Don Barnes:

First Day,

We all began the day with crawling into vehicles to arrive at DFW by 5:15 A.M.

Thanks to Tom Purcell's planning, Continental had 2 persons to check the Spring Valley UMC 20 missionaries in and on to our flight.

There was lots of excitement and smiling faces.



To the left is our driver Adolfo, along with his wife Heidie and daughter Jacklyn. Daniel (on the right) is our interpreter.

On arriving in Guatemala City, we were able to skip customs and head for our bus, loading our luggage plus the 20 Suitcases packed with medications for two local mission Clinics.

Our driver was Adolfo Santiago, getting us safely over the mountains to our hotel—Casa Del Ray in Chichicastenango—our base for mission this week.

We were surprised to hear fireworks when we arrived, only to learn they were for a local funeral. Among our group is Phyllis Sikes, who made her first airplane flight.

We're thankful to have arrived safely and eager to do what God has for us to do.

- Don Barnes

Robert Gross:

All arrived safely in Chichi.

On the trip in, were only stopped twice by the police,... and they only boarded the bus once to check us out.

There are many more police in evidence now than in prior years.

The area looks more prosperous than we have ever seen it however.

- Robert Gross



Riding on the bus (Note all the luggage in the rear.)

Left to right: Front row: Robert Gross, Ginny Bitting

Second row: Bekki Beverly, Stephen Beverly, Lucy Hemming

Third row: Nancy Purcell, Tom Purcell

Back row: Jerry Malone, Betty Reichel, George Sikes, Phyllis Sikes