

2005 Guatemala Mission Team Daily News

Ron Amberg, Communications

Number 4, August 15, 2005

Spring Valley United Methodist Church

The Spring Valley Guatemala Mission Team sets forth on their first day of undertakings. Today's journal entries are by Frank Andersen and Leona Wynne.



DAY THREE, MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2005 SPRING VALLEY GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM

The work begins!

Frank Andersen:

A medical note...

We started in earnest today. It was wonderful to see Phil and Dr. Freddy again. We met Chris Nee, the new clinic assistant (You'll hear more about Chris later.).

The day started with a devotional led by the pastor of the Methodist church in Comanchaj.

Then it was to work. Jan and I found our exam room, cleaned it and moved some equipment in and were ready to see patients.

Our first patient was also our most difficult of the day—a 70 year old woman with an advanced breast cancer, well beyond any hope of therapy. Fortunately, she does not seem to have a lot of pain, but it's hard

to see someone and know there is nothing I can do for her. Harder still is being unable to communicate to give her any sense of caring or peace. I can only pray that she will find the love and care that she needs.



The group assembled in the clinic at the top of the day for a morning devotional. The nine at the back, left-to-right, are Ted Butler, Peg Gilbert, Carol Baughn, Ginny Bitting, Terry Baughn, Lucy Hemming, Tom Purcell, Nancy Purcell, and Jan Andersen. The two of our team in the immediate foreground are George Sikes and Elizabeth Gross.

The best part of the morning was taking care of two infants, 3 month old, with ear infections—something we can treat and a chance to create a relationship with a young family as they return in the future.

Another family came to see me: The husband complained of pain and numbness in his arm that started when he woke up in an alley after a 3 day drinking binge. His wife complained of headaches, difficulty sleeping and anxiety symptoms. It didn't need a doctor to diagnose stress! The clinic has two therapists (Ana and Maria)

who do complementary therapy—a combination of massage, aromatherapy and acupressure. It's a wonderful addition to the medical care at Salud y Paz.



A "Before" picture of the pharmacy.

Between Dr. Freddy (He is the full-time internal medicine doctor at Salud y Paz.) and myself, we saw 35 patients today.

It was a slow day because today is a national holiday. We finished seeing patients around 12:30. That meant that after lunch, Robert assigned me to manual

labor with the construction crew. It was a great opportunity to reflect on why I went to medical school!

Our team pharmacist, Bekki Beverly, found plenty of work in the clinic pharmacy. We brought many plastic bins and labels, as well as the drugs bought with your contributions. Bekki got a great start on organizing the pharmacy (See the photos.). Her work will be an ongoing blessing to the clinic.



An "After" picture that shows Bekki Beverly's work in reorganizing the pharmacy.

Once again, thank you for your prayers and your support of the Guatemala team.

The drugs and supplies will be well used and greatly appreciated. The changes in the clinic are truly impressive, but I'll write more about that in a later message.

- Frank Andersen, MD

Leona Wynne:

Hello once again from Guatemala –

This is already another great experience, one after another.

Sunday was full of fun, sharing, shopping, and seeing the amazing growth in Daniel's church, along with the excitement and just the usual mission group friendship.

Today, Monday, was our first day of work at Salud y Paz.

First we met the new assistant who was Chris Nee from Dallas. Coincidence? ... Well, there's more! ... Peggy [Gilbert] had worked in the Dallas Independent School District (DISD) and she knew Chris who was a retired



Ted Butler (in the white hat), George Sykes (on the right) and our local helper are tying rebar for use in building a wall around the clinic.



Terry Baughn is digging a ditch for the foundation for the wall.

principal in DISD. She's a great addition, only being there one month.

In the last year they have done amazing things and work has progressed so much. It's kind of like home.

So many things are getting done and our team came in like a "well-oiled machine" to really make things happen.

You will hear more later from many others.

I can't imagine *not* experiencing

this in my lifetime. We miss our last year's friends but we have some great new friends along this time. See you soon.

- Leona Wynne