

2005 Guatemala Mission Team Daily News

Ron Amberg, Communications

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Spring Valley United Methodist Church

Today's journals share a visit to the orphanage, another day to see patients at the clinic, and more construction work outside Salud y Paz.



DAY FOUR, TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2005 SPRING VALLEY GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM

A full day of activities!

Lucy Hemming:



Our Team took time out to visit the Hogar del Niños orphanage.

Last year I knew that I wanted to return, just as the previous team was enthusiastic to return.

I also wanted to see the children again at the clinic and the orphanage.



A child at the orphanage.



Betty Reichel with a boy at the orphanage.

It was great to see the progress made on the caretaker's building.

While we had tiled two rooms, other teams had come to complete another room and the bathroom.



Jan Andersen feeding a baby.



Carol Baughn with a new young friend.

The caretaker has a place to live thanks to many teams coming to Salud y Paz.

It takes all of us.



Elizabeth Gross with an orphan baby.

We were able to visit the Hogar del Niños this afternoon, and find out more about the children's care and needs.

The special donations help with the tuition for the children to go to a private school to provide the best education possible.

We brought suitcases filled with clothes, children's art supplies, sheets and bedspreads.

- Lucy Hemming

Frank Andersen:



Chris Nee (clinic assistant) and Peggy with kids at Salud y Paz.



Salud y Paz Clinic – Patients were waiting when we arrived.

A Medical Note...

Our second day at Comanchaj, we saw 39 patients.

It was a mix of young and old, men and women, a multitude of problems.

Some things, like dysentery, are easy to treat and I can know that the person will probably be cured.

Some problems are frustrating because I just don't have the resources, or communication ability, to get to the diagnosis. In those cases, I have to "shoot from the hip".

A young woman came with lower abdominal pain, that was either a pelvic infection or an ovarian cyst. I couldn't tell which, so I treated her for both. As we were talking (through our translator) about the medications, she said that when she was 12 years old she was assaulted. Again I felt helpless to be able to really talk with her and provide some help.



Devotions – left to right – Rev. Don Barnes, Jhugo Moses Velasquez (studying bible in Comanchaj), Sebastian Riquial Bocel (Pastor Methodist Church, Comanchaj), Dr. Phil Plunk.



Elizabeth Gross helps mix cement. (Tom Purcell is on the right.)

I have a wonderful translator (Daniel), but as good as he is, there are nuances that require person-to-person talking, as well as an understanding of the culture.

Dr. Phil tells me that just the fact that we take time to listen to them, treat them with respect, and try to solve their physical problems, goes a long way to show that we care.

But for every frustrating case there are two that I know we are making a real difference.

The pharmacy is looking great with Bekki Beverly's reorganization.



Carol Baughn and Betty Reichel pour the cement.



Weary Workers – left to right – Jerry Malone, Ted Butler, Israel, Terry Baughn, and Robert Gross.

Again I thank you for your prayers and support.

Salud y Paz will be in good shape because of your support.

- Frank Andersen, MD