

2007 Guatemala Mission Team Daily News

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Spring Valley United Methodist Church

The Spring Valley Guatemala Mission Team has arrived at their initial destination! Robert & Elizabeth Gross, Judy Kline, and Tom Purcell have sent the first on-location journal reports from Casa del Rey in Chichicastenango, Guatemala.



DAY ONE, SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2007 **SPRING VALLEY GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM**

Robert and Elizabeth Gross:

Greetings from Chichicastenango, Guatemala,

Wow!! What changes a year can make. We all arrived safely to a brand new modern and fresh airport, with parts still under construction.

With the ride up to Chichi it appears that the economy is flourishing as the cows look fatter, there are more bike and motorcycles on the road, and there is a major road construction project with long delays for some people. ... Just like Texas.

We did stop by the clinic at Camanchaj to visit. The floor is finished and is beautiful and the building for the labs and preschools is well under way.

Tomorrow we step out in faith to a new frontier in Cunen to hopefully contribute to spreading the love of God and Spring Valley to more people. Keep us in your prayers.

- Robert and Elizabeth Gross



Tile Floor

The tile floor in the Camanchaj clinic. This is the work that the teams did in 2006.

Judy Kline:

What an incredible trip this has been already and it's only our first day in Guatemala. I've been amazed by the wonderful hospitality, first from the Spring Valley team in welcoming me to this group. Even Continental Airlines provided a meal and held the plane until our luggage made it on board.

I was awed by my first glimpse from the air and the incredible lushness of the green mountains. The scenery was beautiful—many well tended small farms, beautiful flowers, terraced hills, colorful clothes and beautiful children.

Stopping at Salud y Paz and feeling the excitement of the group in seeing the progress that has been made in the medical and dental facility that they have worked on for 5 years, was exciting.

The hotel accommodations at Casa del Rey make this mission club med,... so far that is. Tomorrow the market then on to Cunen where the work begins.

- Judy Kline

Tom Purcell:

On our way to Chichi we stopped by Salud y Paz just to show the new folks what we had been doing over the past few years.



Sebastian Family

Pastor Sebastian pastors the local Methodist church in Camanchaj.
Pictured (left to right): Josefina, Rose, Nathan, Israel, Pastor Sebastian

It was Saturday so it wasn't open but there in the apple orchard adjacent to the clinic I saw Israel and his father Rev. Sebastian.

Those of you who have come here in the past will remember Israel. We have seen him grow up over the past 4 years. He's now 8. I was very excited to see him and Israel was excited to see us. He remembered our baseball games and the photos of his family that we have given him over the years. He came running up to me.

The caretaker had by then opened the clinic so I took another family photo and printed it off for them to have.

It was like seeing family again. This has made the start of this trip very special.

- Tom Purcell