

## **2007 Guatemala Mission Team Daily News**

*Ron Amberg, Communications*

Number 6, August 15, 2007

Spring Valley United Methodist Church

Kathryn Beverly shares her impressions. Jerry Malone tells of an interesting encounter. Dr. Frank Andersen provides another medical report. Construction progress is shown in photos.



### **DAY FIVE, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2007** **SPRING VALLEY GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM**

#### **Third work day in Cunen**

##### **Kathryn Beverly:**

When we arrived at the Guatemala City airport, I couldn't believe it was the same place we visited last year.

Everything looked so clean and new.

The same goes for the areas we passed through on our way to Cunen.

There was more construction going on than last year, more new clothes hanging on laundry lines, better-fed animals and happier people.



Kathryn Beverly doing vital signs

Also, the farmers are embracing greater crop diversity and rotation, improving chances of income.

Once again, I was hit by the astonishing array of colors and the unbreakable spirit of the Guatemalan people.

There were very few patients who didn't return a smile, especially the children.



**The medical team (minus the doctor) relaxing before patients start**  
(left to right) Joan Copeland, Meghann Beverly, Daniel (our interpreter), Jan Andersen, Sue Metzler, Kathryn Beverly

Finally, the chance to see, work, and live with old friends again was a treasure beyond price which made this trip the highlight of my summer.

Even though this is only my second time to join the group, it still feels like coming home.

- Kathryn Beverly

**Jerry Malone:**

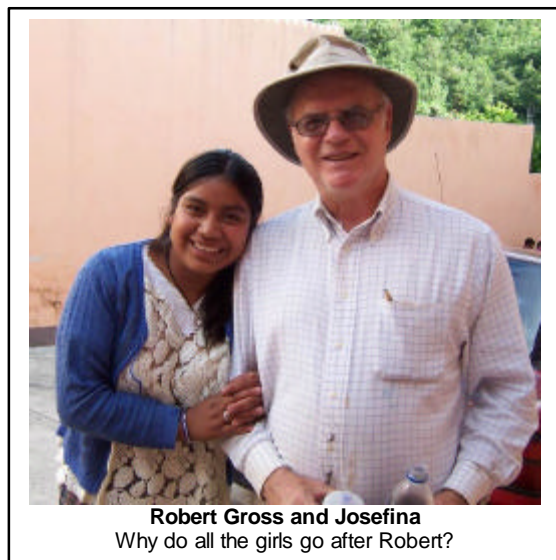


Yesterday after work, as the construction team was walking down the hill towards the hotel a car was coming up the hill. We stepped on the sidewalk to let it pass but it pulled over to the curb and the driver leaned over to the passenger side and asked if we were Americans. We said yes and he asked where we were from and we told him Texas. He then asked what city in

Texas and how long we would be here in Cunen. We told him we were from Dallas and would be here for a week working on



a new clinic next to the Methodist Church. He got out of the



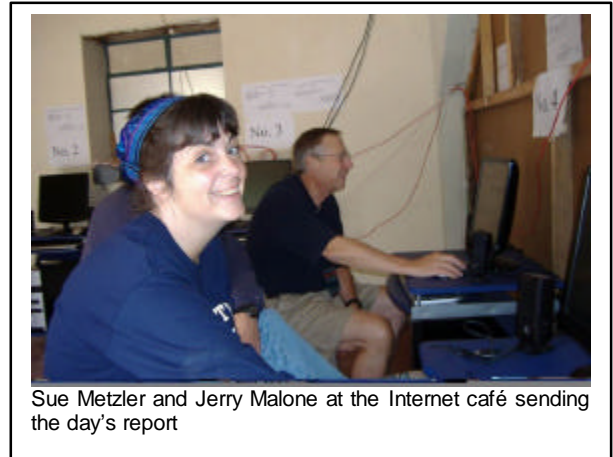
**Robert Gross and Josefina**  
Why do all the girls go after Robert?

car and shook everyone's hand. He introduced himself as Ramon Castillo and told us he was 80 years old and that he was born in Cunen and had lived here all of his life. He was very gracious and thanked us for helping his city. He told us he would be in Texas next week to meet his family for a

birthday celebration cruise for his 70 year old wife. They would be leaving Galveston for a Caribbean cruise. He has a daughter who lives in Pflugerville near Austin.

It is indeed a small world, but the differences between our lives and the day to day lives of people who live in Cunén are vast. Yet here was a man who was obviously educated and had apparently been quite successful in Cunén and could just as easily be our next door neighbor. He thanked us again for what we were doing in Cunén and shook hands all around again and left. It was very gratifying for a native Cunénite to go out of his way to thank us for helping the people of Cunén when he himself had received nothing directly from us. It made an impression on me that I won't soon forget.

- Jerry Malone



### **Frank Andersen:**

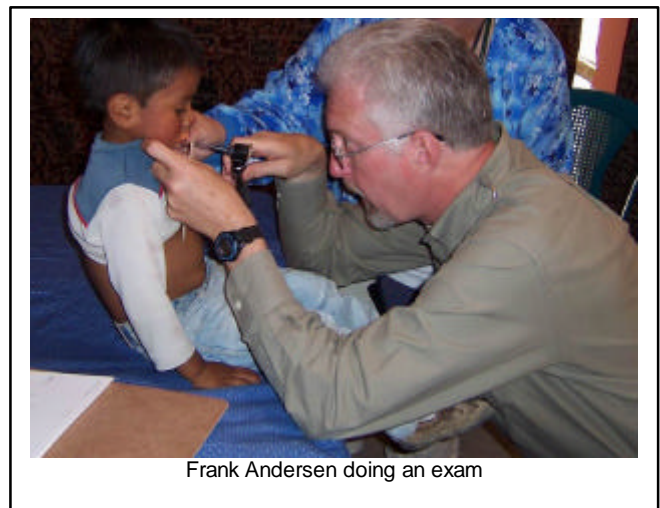
#### **The Wednesday Medical Report, August 15, 2007**

What a day!! We saw 60 patients and had to turn several away at the end of the day. Word seems to be getting out. Once again a lot of children, 24 (4 were infants). Some families bring three children in to be examined. And once again, dysentery is a common problem. A lot of the kids get boiled water at home, but drink from the tap at school. Jan [Andersen], Sue [Metzler], and Joan [Copeland] started giving the kids a bottle of aqua pura



(pure bottled water) with a sticker and their name printed on it, so they could take good water to school.

We also saw a number of elderly patients. Most have the aches and pains that are normal with aging, but it is frustrating to see so many cataracts that could be easily treated in the states, but it is difficult here. Even with mission teams coming, many don't have the ability to travel to where the teams are operating.



It seems like on the third day on these trips I run into things that are beyond my ability to treat or sometimes even to diagnose. It is God's way of reminding me of my limitations and that our medicine can only do so much

– at some point we have to turn it over to God. I saw an elderly man with what I suspect is a lung cancer, a woman with an advanced skin cancer on her face, three children with rashes that I couldn't figure out, and a one year old that I suspect has a congenital hip dislocation, but can't confirm without an X-ray (and that reminded me that I haven't examined a baby with hip dislocation in more than



Joan Copeland cheering up an unhappy boy

20 years).

I was reminded about mid-day of Joan's poem about looking into the faces of the people we meet. I was moving so fast that I didn't look at their faces and I didn't recognize a father who I had treated

earlier when he brought his daughter back (it actually happened several times today). I am especially thankful for our team – Jan, Joan, Sue, Kathryn [Beverly], Meghann [Beverly] and Bekki [Beverly] – who do talk to them and look at their faces as they take a history and more importantly explain their prescriptions and important health information before the patients leave. These folks really show God's love in their attention and concern for the people we are seeing.



Susan Hanchey, Judy Kline and Liz Gross on their way to the work site

- Frank Andersen, MD