

2007 Guatemala Mission Team Daily News

Ron Amberg, Communications

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Spring Valley United Methodist Church

The Team's work comes to a close. Nick Anderson tells us about the construction advances made during the week. Jan Andersen relates her observations at the Clinic. Dr. Frank Andersen shares his final medical notes for the 2007 mission trip.



DAY SIX, THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2007 SPRING VALLEY GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM

Fourth and final work day in Cunun

Nick Anderson:



Mark Jacobson and Nick Anderson survey roof formwork.

Today the construction crew made good progress, completing the largest room and covering it with wooden planks.

At the construction sight we started painting our mission emblem on the side of the construction van where two previous groups have painted theirs. However we were

unable to finish it because it did not dry in time for us to sign our names or recognize our churches.



Susan Hanchey stacking concrete blocks

While the construction yard was fun, the high point of today was



Liz Gross and Jerry Malone nailing roof forms
Robert Gross is in the background.

the waterfall that Adolfo took us to. Falling approximately 150 feet. it was quite a sight, and probably one of the most beautiful sights on this year's mission.

- Nicholas Anderson

Jan Andersen:

Beloved friends and family,

It is 5:30 A.M. Friday morning and we are getting ready to start our journey into Panajachel. It has not been difficult to get up in the morning because we have had a chorus of roosters to awaken us every morning... starting around 2 A.M. Our last supper here at the hotel was fried chicken (wishing it was rooster) and it was delicious. The meals have been very flavorful. However I am sure our construction team could have



Jerry Malone nailing roof forms

eaten about twice the serving size. They are not used to cooking for the “big folks” from the North. No one starved and it probably was good for all of us to learn what real moderation is.



Robert Gross nailing roof forms

Our last day at the clinic was very busy. We saw about 60 patients. We saw a lot of skin problems... mostly scabies ... We saw a baby who was just covered with them. In my teaching I really wanted to scold the mother



Tom Purcell and Nick Anderson nailing shores

for letting it get so bad but then the better part of me realized it is probably not very loving to scold someone for their ignorance!! It was a day of extremes. We had a lady with a blood sugar of



Aurelio inspects shoring

440 and another woman with a blood pressure of 164/110... literally a “walking stroke”. We really would have liked to have given every family a health kit but by the second day we realized that was not possible so we had to limit them to the persons with skin problems.

We have seen so much dysentery this year... and although we have done a lot of teaching, the best thing we could do for the community of Cunen is to dig a well so they could have clean water to drink. It seems almost moronic for me to tell people to put on antibiotic cream when the water they use to clean with is filled with bacterial!

We thank all of you for the support you have given us to make this trip possible. I feel we have really made a difference in the lives of those people we have served and we are looking forward to making this journey again next year.

In Christ's Amazing Love and Grace,

- Jan Andersen

PS: Our first experience of eating out was quite an adventure. We had hard rains that took out the power about five minutes after we got at the restaurant... where we had made reservations, but they were totally unprepared for us and electrical losing power did not help them cope with this situation. Truly was an adventure!!



The construction gang
The motley crew says goodbye
(front row, left to right) Tom Purcell, Jerry Malone, Edgar, Aurelio
(back row, left to right) Robert Gross, Mark Jacobson, Adolfo, Nick Anderson

Frank Andersen:

The Thursday Medical Report, August 16, 2007

A final medical note for the 2007 Cunen mission trip

We're finally finished. We saw 61 patients today, thanks to the efforts of the best team I've been privileged to work with in the four years that I've come to Guatemala with this team. Our day today was like each of the last three – many cases of dysentery and today, many cases of scabies, which was especially distressing. Almost as distressing was the realization that several cases of unusual rashes that I saw Monday through Wednesday may have been scabies that I misdiagnosed.



Judy Kline entertaining the children while they wait to be seen in the medical clinic.

We also saw several cases that need surgery or ongoing medical follow-up for diabetes and hypertension. Unfortunately, the services for these people are often far away and difficult to reach. Pastor Alejandro of the local Methodist church was with us all week and clearly works very hard to help these people get the additional care that they need. He is working to arrange for some to go to the Salud y Paz clinic in Camanchaj in October for eye surgery.

A particularly sad case was a young girl with Down Syndrome. Apparently no one had ever explained to her mother what the long term outlook was for this girl. It is unfortunate that even a portion of the many resources available to us in the states are not even remotely available here. But a happy case was a woman with a simple sprained ankle. After simply wrapping her ankle she said it was the first time she could stand on her foot without much pain for more than a week. I felt especially good when an elderly woman I treated yesterday for conjunctivitis returned and asked for a second bottle of the eye drops because her eye felt so much better in one day and she knew that she couldn't get the medication anywhere else around here.

For the week we saw 219 patients. Right now I don't really want to think about how many cases of dysentery we saw, but I know we made many people feel better. I estimate that our pharmacy team filled over 600 prescriptions. I could not have done this without a wonderful team – two nurses, several helpers, two translators and a pharmacy team that just never stopped running. And the team could not have done this without the support you gave us with your prayers and your contributions. Our team and the people of Guatemala owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the people of



Treating a particularly bad case of scabies (an infestation with small mites).

of Spring Valley UMC and Everett First UMC. But I know that your support came because of your desire to share God's love and blessings as far and wide as possible.

Thank you all!! God bless you!! We look forward to returning next year.

- Frank Andersen, MD



A particularly concerning mole on a young boy's forehead