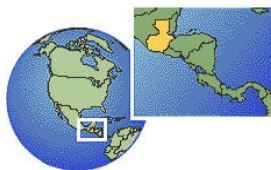


2008 Guatemala Mission Team Daily News

Ron Amberg, Communications

Number 4, July 21, 2008

Spring Valley United Methodist Church



Work begins in Cunén. A make shift clinic is set up. Patients arrive. The construction crew spends the day painting.

Dr. Frank Andersen provides the first medical report. We also hear from Shelly Johnson and Peggy Gilbert.

DAY THREE, MONDAY, JULY 21, 2008

SPRING VALLEY / EVERETT GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM

Frank Andersen:

Monday, July 21, 2008

Medical Notes

We got right to work today. Patients were lining up by 7 AM.

We toured the clinic building which is close to completion but not quite close enough.



Everyone pitched in to put the clinic(s) together. Jan Andersen and Liz Gross put up shower curtains to divide our spaces.



The first job for the dental clinic was to assemble the dental chairs. After a lot of trial and error there were only three pieces left over (Then they found the instructions in another suitcase!). Robert Gross (left), Mark Jacobson (middle) and Jerry Malone (right) work on the assembly.

There still is no electricity at the clinic and the work crew was painting (fumes!) so we decided to run our clinic out of the carports at the hotel again this year. Two hours of hanging shower curtains and sorting equipment out of suitcases and we were ready to go.

We saw 38 patients on the medical side.

Once again pain in many forms (arthritis, headache, and just plain musculoskeletal pain) is our most common issue and dysentery is a close second (11 cases).

The problem of clean water and good sanitation continues to be a good problem.

The most interesting cases were 2 pregnant women – we have an ultrasound machine this year, so we were able to do scans – and one man who has symptoms of tuberculosis. I have to send him to the government hospital in Usphantan and hope that he goes there.



The chairs are assembled and the clinic is ready for patients.

The dental team was busy as well on the other side of the curtain. They saw 12 patients and extracted 23 teeth. Many people will feel much better as a result of Kay's [Eubanks] work.

Bekki [Beverly] did her usual amazing job of organizing a pharmacy in two hours and filling all of our pharmacy needs. 108 prescriptions filled today – and all of those medications come from your generosity to the people of Guatemala.

Thank you!

Frank Andersen, MD



By 9 AM patients were lined up waiting to be seen. Jan Andersen (left) and Raoul (interpreter, right) interview a patient before she is seen in the medical clinic.

Shelly Johnson:

From Shelly



Shelly Johnson (left) was drafted as a dental assistant; Raoul is interpreting; Kay Eubanks (right) is performing extractions.

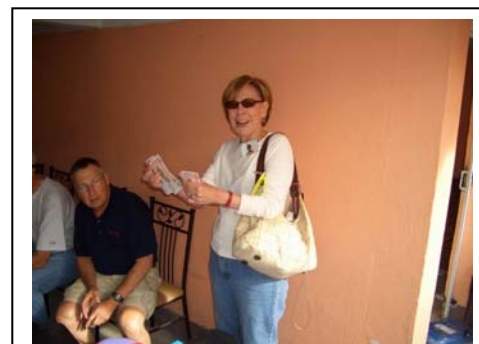
Being my first year here in Cunen I was not sure who I was going to be working with or what I would be working on. A group of us new gals were discussing what needed to be worked on, when asked who doesn't get queasy at the sight of blood I raised my hand. Now I find myself to be Kay's [Eubanks] dental assistant. It only took me until after lunch to figure out that I could bend the suction tube. Raoul the interpreter working with us has been very helpful even cleaning tools and helping to get them into the sterilization bath.

This week we are only able to pull teeth for people, if their teeth may be able to be saved they are being given appointments for next week when another team arrives. We hope that they will return so that it will not be necessary to pull their teeth next time a dentist is in town.

It is hard when the children cry before you even start removing any of their teeth, but their smiles when they are through makes it worth it.

I am looking forward to working with Kay for the rest of the week and who knows I may have found my next venture... returning to school to become a dental assistant.

Shelly Johnson



Liz Gross is our power shopper. She found all of the little things that we forgot to bring.

Peggy Gilbert:

Dear Friends,

What a beautiful day in Cunen. The sun was bright and beautiful, the clouds a GOD send. After a 6:30 call to breakfast, the team took a walk to the new clinic. It is a wonderful building, roomy and bright with a classy tile floor. Due to a lack of electricity Frank [Andersen] and Kay [Eubanks] checked things out and decided to return to the hotel to do their work.



Peggy Gilbert (in pink, standing) and Lucy Hemming (in blue) work with children before and after they're seen in the clinics.

The medical centers were quickly assembled as the line of patients grew outside the doors. Watching the team work together was truly amazing. The drug laden suitcases were moved and emptied.

Tables and dental chairs (cheap IKEA furniture) were put together. Drugs and supplies were sorted.

By 10:00 the clinic was up and running. The patients and their children sat quietly waiting their turn to see Kay and Frank. It was great watching Josephina enroll, Jan [Andersen] triage, Sue [Metzler] run drugs, Norma [Warner] teach health and dental hygiene, Shelly [Johnson] and Joni [Copeland] assist Kay and Frank, Bekki [Beverly] fill prescriptions, and Meghann [Beverly] running around taking pictures.



Norma Warner (to the right, standing) teaching health and hygiene care to patients waiting to be seen.

Meanwhile, Elizabeth [Gross] coordinated (ran errands, made sandwiches, answered the phone, and made sure we all had what we needed), Robert [Gross], Jerry [Malone], Mark [Jacobson], Michael [Johnson], and Andrew [Horton-Loup] showed their talent by painting the walls of the new clinic. By looking at them I'm not sure that if they had more paint on them or the walls.



Andrew Horton-Loup (left), Jerry Malone (at the back) and Robert Gross (right) painting in the clinic.

While everyone else worked diligently Lucy [Hemming] and I watched the beautiful Guatemala children color and make

pictures with stickers. They are so quiet and respectful.

Truly, every teacher's DREAM.

My best to all,
Peg



Mark Jacobson (left) and Jerry Malone (right) cleaning up after a day of painting.