

2008 Guatemala Mission Team Daily News

Ron Amberg, Communications

Number 5, July 22, 2008

Spring Valley United Methodist Church



Work day two in Cunuen.

Dr. Frank Andersen imparts his second medical report. ... Lucy Hemming tells of her experiences thus far. ... Susan Hanchey rejoins the Team.

DAY FOUR, TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2008

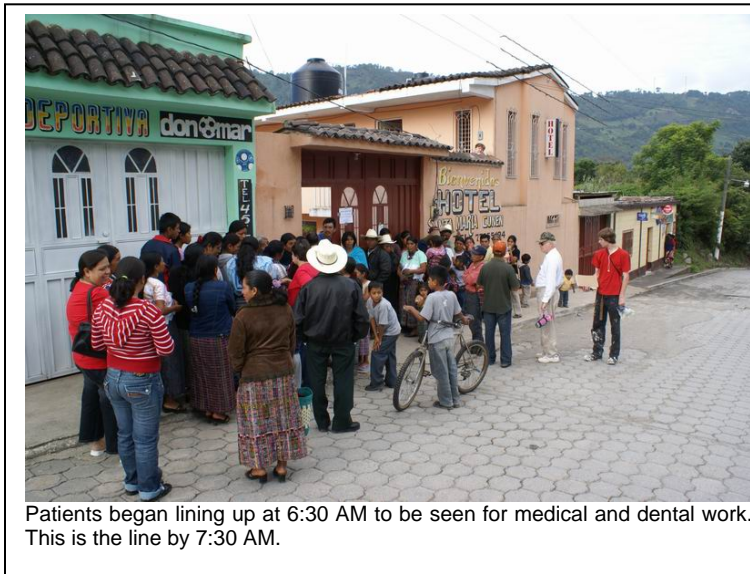
SPRING VALLEY / EVERETT GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM

Frank Andersen:

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

A Medical Note

Patients were lining up for medical and dental care when we got up at 6:30 this morning. We were able to start a bit earlier today so we could see more patients (41 medical patients and 5 ultrasound exams; 17 dental patients). Our patients ranged from 2 years old to 87 years old today. We did two ultrasound exams for pregnant women and I expected two more to return, but didn't – perhaps tomorrow.



Patients began lining up at 6:30 AM to be seen for medical and dental work. This is the line by 7:30 AM.

As always, our interpreters, Daniel, Raoul and Raoul (we call him Raoul-two), are invaluable. We keep them busy in both dental and medical.

Our dentist, Kay [Eubanks], was busy with extractions, but also a number of patients who will return next week for fillings or other restorative work. We have already nearly filled all of the dental slots for the team next week. The need is enormous!

My saddest experience this afternoon was a family that unfortunately typifies too many here – the father and mother came with two of their 13 children. They cook on a fire in the house with no chimney. Both children (4 and 9) have respiratory problems – the 9 year old has full-blown asthma. Because they don't boil their water regularly (often a problem because open fires consume a lot of wood with minimal heat) three of the four had dysentery. It is a reminder that we have a lot of work to do here.

Many patients have come from a long distance or have taken time from work or school to be seen. It is hard to say "no" but some patients have to be turned away because we only have so much time and supplies.

Frank Andersen, MD



Not all of our patients are happy to see us despite Joan Andersen's best efforts.

Lucy Hemming:

It has been an enjoyable trip so far in spite of landslides, and almost having my camera taken away from me in the supermarket in ChiChi. We were buying food & supplies to take to our hotel in Cunen, and I took photos in the checkout line. I'm not sure why, but it is not allowed.

I have really enjoyed spending arts & crafts time with the Mayan children waiting at the clinic on Monday and Tuesday morning. Even the smaller children color in the lines & the older ones have been very creative. It is a pleasure to be with the children and their parents.

Tuesday afternoon, I painted some walls & ceiling at the new medical clinic. I managed not to step in the paint tray, and get too much paint on me. Now I am eagerly awaiting the evening meal. Last night, we had rice milk with cinnamon.



Peggy Gilbert worked with children before and after medical and dental appointments.



This little one was trying out a toothbrush before he went home.

Blessings to all.....
Lucy Hemming

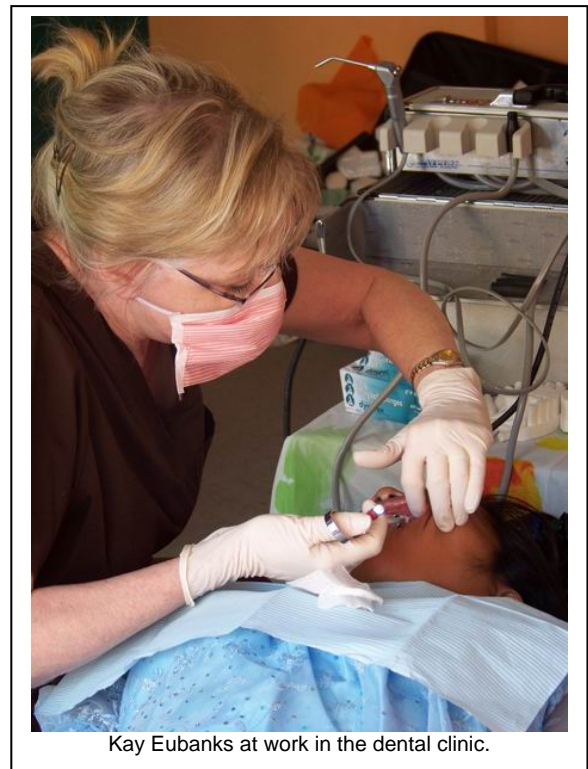
Susan Hanchey:

Susan's Saga – believe me it was a saga. By now everyone knows that I lost my passport – or someone with magic fingers unzipped my “belly” pack and made it be theirs. Either way, at the market in ChiChi on Sunday, I realized that my passport was missing – double yuck!!!!

So, then Daniel our guide/friend/translator took me under his wing. We searched through my bags, he took me back to the hotel where we checked my room and with the front desk, then back to recheck my bags. No passport. Then, my angel Daniel took me back to the market to get money from the ATM's – after three tries we were successful. Then, on to the police station to file a police report. (Meanwhile the whole team is waiting on me – and not one of them worried about themselves – only me and helping me.)

Finally, back to the bus for the team to leave (two hours later) and then I was on my own – well kinda, God and all my friends were with me praying and helping me to not feel anxious, etc. The lady at the hotel felt so sorry for me she gave me a great room at a much discounted rate.

Carla [Gonzales] from Salud y Paz went to work and arranged for a driver/interpreter to meet me in ChiChi the following day to get a new passport and tourist stamp. Enter one of my new most favorite friends – Juan [Toj]. He picked me up at 5:00 a.m. (*good grief, Charlie Brown*) at my hotel in ChiChi and drove me to Guatemala City. We had to wait one hour for a mud slide to be cleared on the road and arrived in Guatemala City around 9:00 a.m. Had



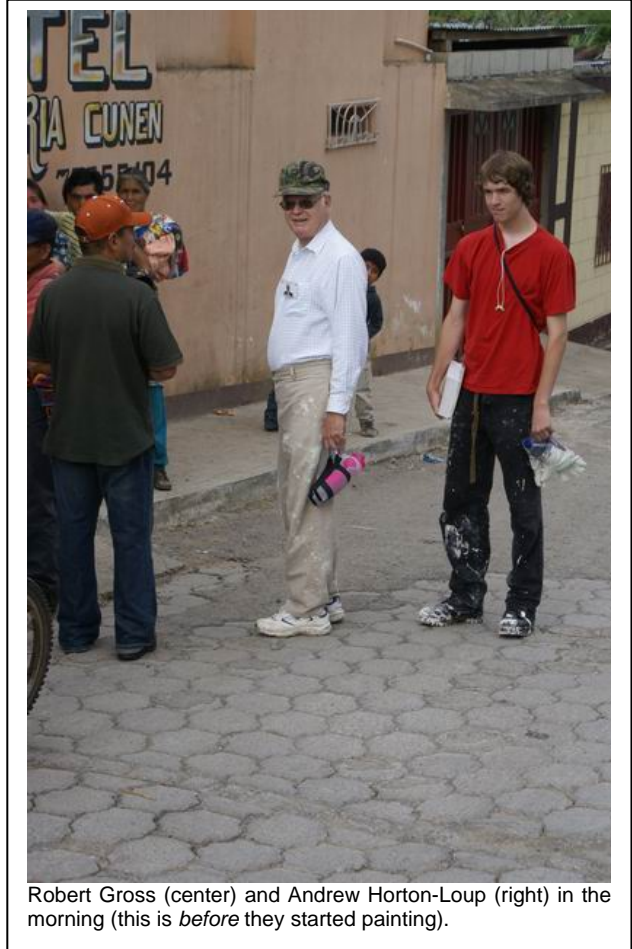
Kay Eubanks at work in the dental clinic.

breakfast at McDonald's and then onto passport fotos and the embassy. We were out of the Embassy with a new passport around 12:30. Pretty good so far – Juan helped me with everything – I just love that man.

Then on to the immigration office to get a stamp – the computer was down so if we came back right before they closed the computer would definitely be up. You already know that, of course, the computer was not up. Bad news – if I didn't get the stamp I'd have to drive back to ChiChi and do the whole thing again the next morning. Anyway, there were some really nice Guatemalan employees that helped me and gave me the stamp without being able to actually check my arrival in the country. (Juan and I had a great lunch in between— couldn't miss a meal don't you know.)

Then, back to ChiChi around 4:30 – we ran into a cloud bank with a lot of rain in the mix. Couldn't see 5 feet in front of us; we made it due to Juan's really knowing the road. We got back into ChiChi around 8:00 – the dining room was closed – they opened it up for me, fed me a three course dinner (with two glasses of wine, of course), and off to bed.

Juan picked me up the next morning at 7:00 a.m. and off we went. Of course, we had to wait to have another mud slide cleared off the road. We ate breakfast on the road and got into Cunen around 10:00 a.m. Back safe with my mission family – God is definitely good.



Robert Gross (center) and Andrew Horton-Loup (right) in the morning (this is before they started painting).



Jerry Malone painting. I don't think this is approved by OSHA.

This experience has been amazing for me in a lot of ways – Will I ever lose my passport again??? Never!!!! Most interesting was I came to Guatemala to take care of the Guatemalans; the reverse has happened. They have taken care of me—Daniel and Juan were angels sent to make sure I was OK. Every Guatemalan person I met or needed help from was there for me. So, I'll end my saga by saying, "Thank you God for your care and love, and thank you God for all your Guatemalan children who have taken care of me."

I'm safe now and so glad to be back with my mission family – each one of them is special to me.

Susan Hanchey