

## 2008 Guatemala Mission Team Daily News

Ron Amberg, Communications

Number 6, July 23, 2008

Spring Valley United Methodist Church



The team progresses into their third day of work in Cunun.

Dentist Kay Eubanks gives us a dental overview. ... Painter / artist Andrew Horton-Loup relates techniques used with the brush. ... Norma Warner shares her know-how in educational methods.

### DAY FIVE, WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2008

#### SPRING VALLEY / EVERETT GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM

#### Kay Eubanks:

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

#### **A Dental Overview**

When Bekki [Beverly] asked me to come on this mission trip, she said that she didn't know how much dentistry was needed. She thought that I would probably spend most of my time giving oral hygiene instructions. I planned on seeing about 20 people all week. Well, 41 people and 87 teeth later, I am quite sure that I will not be needed next year. I've already extracted everyone's teeth in this entire village!! And I still have one more day to go!



Frank Andersen interviews a patient with Daniel's translation help.

So many people have been praying for me and my stamina

without pain. Thank you all, as your prayers have been answered! Thank you, Lord! I've been able to see so many more people than I ever thought I could.



Raoul explains the importance of taking boiled water to school so the kids don't drink from the school tap. This is a common cause of dysentery. We brought over 200 water bottles for the children and families to use. [In the background are Jan Andersen (left) and Sue Metzler (right)].

I brought 20 Spanish New Testament bibles (for my 20 patients that I would be seeing), but it never occurred to me that they would not know how to read. Most people have only 1 year of education. I don't know what they learned but it wasn't how to read or what a toothbrush is. I understand that with the civil war that occurred here for most of the 80's and 90's, it left a generation who has had no one to teach them the basics of the importance of brushing their teeth or even how to bathe their babies.

They are lovely, small people. I, am 5 feet 3 inches, and taller than almost all of the Mayan people here. I am touched by the beauty of this area, and also by the extreme poverty everywhere. It has been a wonderful experience; I am grateful to God for leading me here in order to share His gifts where they are obviously needed.

See you soon,  
Kay

**Andrew Horton-Loup**



23 July 2008

Today the construction crew got nearly done painting the clinic. We finished up painting the walls and ceiling beige, and



have started putting an 8 inch green stripe around the base of all the walls. The latter has been much slower going than expected though, because the tape we use to mark off the 8-inch line doesn't stick to the wall very well, so a lot of the time is spent just putting tape back up. But once you actually start painting it isn't too bad. Everyone keeps saying that they've come to dislike the color green after painting it all day, but it still remains to be my favorite color. I just hope that we finish quickly tomorrow; I'm starting to run out of songs to listen to on my mp3 player.



Earlier today I painted a team marker on the side of the shipping container that we keep all our supplies in. At first I only planned to put the symbol in the center, but when I finished that it looked too empty, so I put in all the scrolling to fill the space. In the end I think it turned out pretty well.



After having experienced painting for 8 hours a day, even for only a few days, I have a whole new motivation to do well in school.

~Andrew Horton-Loup

**Norma Warner**

The Maya people starred in disbelief as I demonstrated washing my tongue and they bent over in laughter when I told them that if they do it, they will give sweet kisses to their spouses and children. Educating the Maya about boiling water, washing their vegetables, how to properly use nail clippers, etc., has been both inspiring and a gift. The look of "I got it" is its own reward, as one after another, they nod their head. Their questions reveal they understand why Dr. Frank Anderson and Dr. Kay Eubanks are so concerned about prevention.



Being the gate keeper is the opposite of being the educator. The job requires that the people who show up as early as 6:30 a.m., hoping to be seen at 9:00 a.m., be given a number to see a doctor. The lines are long, and often, several are told we cannot see them that day. Some people walk for an hour and one half with children in tow. On Tuesday I had that situation and only one patient could be seen because all the numbers for that day were already given out. I asked the woman who was next in line if she lived locally in Cunén. When I asked her if she would cede

her place in line in exchange for a number to be seen on Wednesday, she agreed. The woman with a sick child was so relieved because her son was in pain and she had walked over an hour to our clinic.



The Maya people are generous and gracious. They are kind to one another and to us. We are so blessed.

*Norma Warner*