An Opportunity to Be the Miracle

“No, we cannot come.” We consistently hear ourselves saying this to community leaders from all across Guatemala who make formal, well-thought-out requests to Faith In Practice to bring medical care to their communities. They offer to volunteer with us so that we may bring care to their neighbors. But we cannot come.

“No, we do not have enough capacity.” This is our answer to medical professionals who ask to lead their own teams. They wish to serve because Faith In Practice is highly organized and provides a spiritual enriching experience which calls them to do more. Yet, our answer to them is still “no”.

It has been hard saying “no” when the need is obvious and when Guatemalans from poor villages want to volunteer, taking on leadership roles. It has been difficult to say “no” when US volunteers want to serve and there is no space. Faith In Practice has always listened for God’s call. This time the call has come through hearing ourselves say “no” one too many times. It has become clear that it is time to say “yes”.

The “yes” is a major renovation and expansion of Hilario Galindo Hospital in Retalhuleu, Guatemala. This project will allow us to grow both our medical clinic and surgical programs. And, it will allow Hilario Galindo to expand its general clinic and health services to serve its surrounding areas. New ORs, pre- and post-operative areas, medical clinic space, increased and improved hospital wards and much more.

The following pages are filled with information about the “nuts and bolts” of the project. But, what cannot be encapsulated in the blueprints and business plans, in the fund raising strategies and the medical equipment procurement needs, are the miracles.

For the past twenty years, we have seen miracles unfold as we have listened for, and to, God’s call. Blessed to be a part of someone’s miracle when we see Claudia walk again, or Fredy say the pain is gone. To greet Transito, who travels hours just to say “thank you for my surgery that you did last year.” Or hear Maria-Elena say, “Thank you for giving us our lives back.” Blessed to watch a miracle grow in our own hearts as Margarita hugs us and says she will pray for us or when baby José Antonio says our name. None of us could have imagined the miracles that would unfold through Faith In Practice when we first came to Guatemala.

Now we have a new opportunity to be a miracle in someone’s life – in thousands’ lives. All those who will pass through the halls of Hilario Galindo Hospital for years to come. We have the opportunity to see the miracles unfold in our own lives anew because we said “yes” to God’s call. We hope that you will join us and Be the Miracle yet once again.
Realizing the Dream

It is hard to believe that it has been nine years since the last campaign to build new operating rooms at Las Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro in Antigua. The expansion increased the capacity of the OR suites by 40% and increased the ability to do more complex surgeries, particularly in my specialty, orthopedics. Because of your support, which made that expansion possible, thousands receive life-changing surgeries. It was my privilege to serve as Campaign Chair during that time and I still appreciate all the support you gave to make the renovation a reality. You have made a difference in the lives of many.

Faith in Practice has continued to grow and expand its outreach and there is so much more that we can do. This time, we are increasing our capacity to care for patients by renovating Hospital Hilario Galindo. It is an ambitious project, but we are ready. The Faith In Practice Board of Directors is committed. Many long-time supporters including the Weekley Family Foundation, the Strake Foundation, the Parsley Family and the Hildebrand Foundation are committed. We are more than halfway to our goal of $2.5 million. Now, the Campaign Committee and I are asking you to join us to make this dream a reality. We are asking you to Be the Miracle in someone’s life.

In 2014, Faith In Practice will celebrate its 20th anniversary. We will be celebrating 20 years of serving the poor of Guatemala together and 20 years of seeing changes in our own lives, because of this mission. What better way to celebrate than by being a part of the next 20 years.

— Dr. Brian Parsley

A Hope and A Future

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans …to give you hope and a future.”

—Jeremiah 29:11

I have been thinking about this scripture a great deal as we work through the blueprints for Hilario Galindo. Where will the new hospital ward be? What about the waiting room for the surgery patients? How will the clinic patients access ultrasound? There are so many details to adjust, and adjust again as we talk to architects, board members, nurses and physicians.

Throughout it all, I keep thinking of God’s plans for Faith In Practice, for you, for me. For the patients who have never heard of Hilario Galindo but who will receive care there one day. The volunteers who will one day serve there.

As I stare at the plans, I wonder, how will God bring us together? All of our stories interwoven in some way yet to be revealed, to become a part of God’s greater plan. I wonder how God shall work through us, in us, for a brighter future.

It is so exciting, to watch it come together. Someone calls out of the blue saying, “I want to make a donation to the project.” Just the right person arrives to give advice about legal agreements in Guatemala. So many ways in which the right people are stepping out in surprising ways, each being called to be a part of this particular plan of hope and a future.

I have no idea if God is calling you to become a part of this particular plan in a surprising way. I hope so. I hope you will be enfolded into this greater plan, this miracle that God is creating right before our eyes. Amazing hope, a bright future, God’s promise fulfilled.

— Rev. Linda L. McCarty
Architect Pelayo Llareno and construction project manager Larry Barker are a dynamic duo. Both are donating their considerable experience, talent and heart to this project. This is not the first time these two have worked together, having collaborated on the building of the Casa de Fe (the patient guesthouse in Antigua), the OR suite expansion at the Obras hospital also, in Antigua, the medical clinic in Sarstoon, and the initial OR renovations at Corpus Christi and Hilario Galindo.

Pelayo is an extremely well respected architect in Guatemala City, working not only across Guatemala, but across the world. Equally esteemed, Larry Barker has been a construction professional in Houston for more than 40 years, having been a partner at SpawMaxwell and most recently a consultant with Balfour Beatty Construction. Both Pelayo and Larry have extensive experience in working with large, complex projects both in the United States and Guatemala.

Faith In Practice and Hilario Galindo are in good hands with these two, not only because of all the experience they bring, but because of their energy and commitment to the mission of Faith In Practice. Quality work and committed heart. It doesn’t get any better than that.

For more details, visit www.faithinpractice.org/bethemiracle
Breaking Bread

There is a great deal of energy at Hilario Galindo Hospital as they prepare for the expansion. The Board of Directors is strengthening relationships with the Mayor and Town Council of San Felipe. Hospital Administrator Sergio Lopez is implementing recommendations made by an independent consultant. Head Nurse Gladys Morales is developing a relationship with a nursing school. Dr. Tecun continues to prepare for the next visiting surgical team and follow up with patients from the last visiting team. The staff is excited.

This excitement was palpable on May 22 when the Board of Directors, Faith In Practice, and the Mayor invited local leaders from the surrounding villages to an event, the purpose of which was to give the local community information about the project and to give them the opportunity to ask questions. These volunteer leaders are not political, but rather simply seek to better the lives of their communities. After several Board members spoke about various aspects of the hospital, and the mayor gave his support, these community leaders stood. They asked insightful questions and made valuable suggestions related to things like road access and how the hospital might interact with local clinics that currently have no resources. Several stood and said, “We do not have money, but we are strong. If you need hands to help build the hospital, you can count on us.”

The event began with prayer, and it ended with breaking bread, or rather tortillas. It was evident that so much more is being built than simply hospital wards, operating rooms and clinics. For that, we give thanks.

Hilario Galindo Through the Years

1971 Hilario Galindo Hospital opens to serve the poor.
1991 The hospital closes due to mismanagement and disrepair.
1998 At the request of the municipality, four local Rotarians form a Board of Directors and reopen the hospital.
2002 The hospital loses funding and struggles.
2007 Rotarian Juan Forster introduces Faith In Practice to Hilario Galindo Hospital.
2008 Faith In Practice renovates three operating rooms. The first surgical team serves at Hilario Galindo.
2012 Nearly 1,000 surgeries are performed. Faith In Practice and the Hilario Galindo Board begin plan for expansion.
2013 Community leaders lend their support. Ground breaking scheduled for the month of November.
2014 Ribbon Cutting!

4 | Summer 2013
Making a Difference

These are the words of those who have seen Hilario Galindo Hospital’s potential.

“I’m glad that we are expanding. The Hilario Galindo staff and board have been great to work with. We are all on the same page with the same mission.”

—Dr. Wilson Hartz

“...[supporting the expansion] is a great way to make a tangible difference and leave a legacy in a place one can be proud of for years to come.”

—Edward Coke

“I keep coming back to Hilario Galindo because of the great interaction with the staff. They are so eager to learn and are so appreciative of us being there.”

—Stacey Clark

“I love that when you walk inside the hospital in the morning all the people in the waiting area applaud. It’s a wonderful feeling.”

—Dr. Peter Driscoll

With Respect and Dignity

We are absolutely thrilled that the Board of Directors of Faith In Practice has decided to step out in faith and pursue the dream of enlarging and remodeling Hospital Hilario Galindo. Although Hilario Galindo has history of many trials and tribulations throughout the years, a small remnant of dedicated Guatemalans kept the hospital open. Their faith and dedication to serve the poor was an inspiration to us and encouraged us to make our original commitment to remodel and refurbish the operating rooms in 2008. That work brought the hospital up to the level where our teams could safely operate on certain types of cases, but we knew all along that we could do even more, helping even more people in this strategically located facility.

The plans to enlarge and remodel Hilario Galindo are a dream come true and will make this hospital one of the best in all of Guatemala. Here Faith In Practice surgical teams and other teams from around the world will be able to offer first-class medical care to many who have been neglected and never been treated with respect or dignity. We are so very pleased to see Faith In Practice grow in this important way so that we can continue to live out the original vision and mission that we had for Faith In Practice.

— Joe and Vera Wiatt, Founding Directors

Faith In Practice Through the Years

1994 Faith In Practice is incorporated. First official surgical team serves in Guatemala.

1998 First medical clinic added to the surgery teams.

2001 First Gala underwritten by David Weekley.

2003 Faith In Practice patient guest house, Casa de Fe, opens.

2006 ORs at the Obras hospital dedicated and opened, increasing capacity by 40%.

2008 Renovation of ORs and new Dental Clinic built at Hilario Galindo. First team serves at Hilario Galindo.

2012 Initial plans for expanding Hilario Galindo drawn.

2013 Public Campaign for Expansion launched. 1,100 US and 700 Guatemalans serve 24,000 patients.

2014 Ribbon Cutting for Hilario Galindo Hospital!

“Whatever you did for the least of these, you did it for me.”

Matthew 25:40
Be the Miracle. Make a Life Changing Gift.

Giving Opportunities

- $25,000* X-Ray Unit and Digital Developer
- $15,000 Surgical Instruments
- $10,000 Anesthesia Machine
- $7,500 Ultrasound Machine
- $5,000 ENT Microscope
- $2,500 OR Lights
- $1,000 10 Beds

No gift is too small. Visit us at www.faithinpractice.org/bethemiracle.

*All donations of $25,000 and above will be recognized on the donor wall at Hilario Galindo Hospital.

This is a guide. All contributions will benefit Hilario Galindo Hospital.

Faith In Practice has earned Charity Navigator’s 4-star rating for 8 years in a row. This honor places Faith In Practice in the Top 1% of all charities rated throughout the nation.

A mother prays for a miracle at Hilario Galindo Hospital.