The First Cross

In the United States, a building project begins with a 'ground-breaking'. In Guatemala, it begins with the placement of a 'first stone'. Yet, on November 16, we gathered for a different kind of ceremony to commemorate the beginning of the renovation and construction project at Hilario Galindo Hospital. On November 16, we placed the 'First Cross'.

With the unveiling of the First Cross, all those gathered acknowledged and publicly claimed that we dedicate the work of our hands to the One whose Spirit shall guide the building. We dedicate the work of our hands to the One whose Spirit shall guide the healing that will take place within the hospital's walls for years to come. Christ first, the rest shall follow.

The Hilario Galindo Board and Staff welcomed all in attendance with grace and hospitality. The entire program, down to every detail, was lovingly attended. Staff dressed in the traditional weavings of their heritage, ribbons braided in their hair. Gratitude, dedication and pride shone in their eyes.

Present were Faith In Practice board members, volunteers and supporters from the United States, board members of La Asociacion.
La Fe en Práctica, Guatemala, and representatives of Las Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro and friends. Also, in attendance were the governor and the three Senators from the Department (State) of Retalhuleu, as well as a representative of the Ministry of Health. The Mayor and his municipal counsel were also present, all of whom committed their ongoing support of the project.

Martín Mendizabal, Board Chair of Hilario Galindo Hospital, stood and thanked the Weekley Family and the Dr. Francisco Barrios Family for their vision and commitment. It was Weldon Weekley and Francisco ("Paco") Barrios’ vision that brought Hilario Galindo and Faith In Practice together in partnership in 2007. While both Weldon and Paco have since joined our cloud of witnesses, they were present in spirit. All those who knew Weldon and Paco felt particularly privileged to see their vision realized on this special day.

Notwithstanding the pomp and circumstance, the speeches given, the recognitions expressed, those present did not forget the Foundation upon which the hospital stands - - the Foundation which has and will always sustain. As Padre José Conran and Martín Mendizabal prepared to unveil the First Cross, Faith In Practice Guatemalan volunteer Dominga García sang the song she wrote especially for the occasion:

"This rock that we today place is a grand sign that we are placing Christ first. May Christ be the rock upon which we build." We could not have said it better. May it always be so.

Rev. Linda L. McCarty

Special thanks to Dr. Brian S. Parsley, our intrepid Campaign Chair. Thanks to his energetic and wise leadership, we are nearing our goal of $2.5 million. We only have $100,000 yet to raise. Please join us to finish the campaign by year’s end!

For more information on the project see faithinpractice.org/bethemiracle.

The record-breaking 2013 Gala, honoring the Weekley Family, raised more than $780,000. Learn more about the night filled with hope, laughter and tears.
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