Hilario Galindo was bustling. A pediatric surgical team primarily from Texas Children’s and Shriners hospitals in Houston was hard at work. The hospital medical and nursing staff were working beside the visiting volunteers, attending to every need. Father Flavio Bravo was praying with mothers, fathers, as they handed their tiny children to doctors, nurses. And the construction workers were busy placing stakes, digging trenches, as they prepared to begin the final phase of the hospital expansion, which will double the size of the facility.

All of this, and yet, they took a moment to give thanks for the miracle of this hospital and to dedicate the final construction phase. Dr. Nancy Glass, who has been volunteering with Faith In Practice for more than fifteen years, began. She said that without the dedicated Guatemalans who sacrificed much for their own people, she and the team could do nothing. She said she returned year after year because of them. She thanked those at Hilario Galindo who worked tirelessly to make it possible for her to serve.

Hilario Galindo board member Rafael Rivera thanked Faith In Practice. His message: thousands have received care, thousands more shall receive care, because of the gift of surgical teams, the gift of this new hospital. Rafa also gave God thanks for Faith In Practice.

Then, Sergio Paz, owner of the construction firm, spoke. He told his workers that this project was sacred. The work of their hands would witness healing, change lives. He asked them to give their very best, because they were a part of this miracle. The air was charged with wonder, gratitude, as they placed the first stone. Overflowing in appreciation for the sacrifice and the commitment of the other person, although none could see their own sacrifice, the part each was playing to make the dream a reality. Rather, each humbly gave thanks for the other, for the privilege of being a part of this work that was, and yet was not, of their hands. Those who otherwise would never have met, but for this miracle, were now bound together in humble gratitude.

A new community.

We asked you to build this hospital. To Be the Miracle. And you gave generously. The hospital is expected to be completed in December 2017. But through it all, I hope you know that something greater has been, and is, being built. Something greater and more important than the bricks and mortar. You are a part of the way God is building this new community. That is the miracle for
which everyone at the dedication was giving thanks. It was interwoven in their words, the miracle of witnessing how God was at work through the other person; the gift of how God was at work in their own hearts as they met others in the work. A new community.

In the halls of the hospital you have built, God will continue to build this new community where there is no Greek or Jew, no free or slave, no male or female, no rich or poor, no Guatemalan or American. That is what is happening within the walls that you have built. For within those walls, God is building upon the cornerstone which is Jesus, the building that shall endure forever. For that miracle, in which you have played such an important part, we give God humble thanks.

The Be The Miracle Campaign raised $2.7 million to significantly expand the hospital, upgrading and adding OR space, a pre- and post-op area, a wing of medical and specialty clinics, a patient guesthouse, and a new chapel.

For pictures of the facility and the ongoing construction, see www.faithinpractice.org/hilariogalindo.

Companions on the Journey

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” Hebrews 10:24

Maybe it is the Guatemalan volunteer leader who sleeps on the schoolroom floor to watch over the clinic medicines. Or the Obras priest who kneels with the family into the night, as a Faith In Practice staff member runs to find a new medicine. It might be the U.S. staff member who scrambles to find the last supplies for a surgical team. Or the Hilario Galindo board member who negotiates with the municipality.

Maybe it is the U.S. volunteer who fills out yet another customs form. Or the dentist or pediatrician who forgoes income to serve. It can also be an unexpected large gift from someone who does not have a lot of money. However it might present itself, the surprising generosity of spirit infused throughout this mission never fails to humble me. I am continuously humbled and “spurred on” to love better, to do more, because of these moments. Because of them. Because of you.

Therefore, I want to thank all of you for giving fully of your hearts to this mission. For spurring me, and others, on to love deeper, to do more.

Helen Keller said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” I could not agree more. I am so very grateful to God for calling us together to do much. A new community made up of those who would never have met were it not for this mission. Companions on the journey from across Guatemala and the U.S. encouraging each other, loving each other, spurring each other on toward good deeds. And through it all, our hearts overflowing with gratitude for what God has done with our meager individual gifts, weaving them together, so that when we stand back, we see the beautiful thing God has done.

In humble gratitude,

Rev. Linda L. McCarty
They Have Patty

Clara, Santos Concepción, Candelaria, to name a few. Each lives in deep poverty. Each has many children. Each has cervical cancer. But they also have Dr. Patty Baiza. And that makes all the difference.

Patty is well known in the maze that is INCAN, the semi-governmental cancer hospital in Guatemala City. This is the only cancer hospital available in the entire country for the vast majority of people. It is overwhelmed and overwhelming. Patty seems to be everywhere, shepherding the women she has taken on, helping them obtain their exams, paying for tests, navigating the system, greeting people along the way.

Maybe the woman came through one of the Faith In Practice village medical clinics. Or through one of our cervical cancer screening clinics. Or was referred through either Hilario Galindo or Las Obras Hospital. No matter how she came to Patty, Patty gathers her in as her own. Patty checks in on her patients, helps them with testing, fights for them, encourages them to continue with treatment, listens to them, prays with them, loves them like family.

Some will get better. Some will not. But through it all, they and their families will never forget Patty Baiza and how she loved them. And we will never forget Patty’s persistent and deep compassion for the women of Guatemala.

Dr. Patty Baiza is Faith In Practice’s Women’s Health Program Clinical Coordinator.

Faith In Practice seeks to build long-term relationships with local and international organizations when possible. Its relationship with INCAN is strong due to Patty’s creative and tireless efforts. Recently, the president of the Board of The National League Against Cancer publicly recognized Patty on International Cancer Prevention Day. In addition, the director of INCAN has asked Faith In Practice to increase efforts in early detection and treatment of pre-cancerous cervical cells so that INCAN can focus its limited resources on other cancers.

A Beautiful Gift

“Can you hear me, Papá?”

Herculano, a 63-year-old patient, had fallen ill with typhoid in his early fifties and was left unable to hear. When he and his two daughters arrived at our audiology clinic, one of his daughters told our volunteers, “He has been in silence for ten years.” After Herculano was fitted with a hearing aid, she asked him anxiously, “Can you hear me?” Herculano started to cry. For the first time in ten years, he could hear his daughters’ voices. In gratitude, he kissed the hands that had fitted him with the device that changed his life.

“Thank you,” he said with tears in his eyes. “Thank you, and thank God.”

For our Guatemalan patients who are deaf or struggling with hearing loss, there is no easy solution. Hearing aids are hard to come by, and the ones that are available are often too expensive for the patients and their families.

Dr. Paula Schwartz, long-term Faith In Practice volunteer, recently connected us to Hearing Help Express, an Intricon company, who is donating 300 devices a year to us for the next three years, allowing us to more than double the number of hearing aids we distribute. Because of their generous gift, we are able to offer more patients the gift of hearing.

Faith In Practice relies on in-kind and financial donations to provide the medicines and supplies, as well as the hearing aids, that our patients desperately need. We are grateful for our partnership with Intricon and Hearing Help Express. If you can assist us in acquiring equipment and supplies, email inventory@faithinpractice.org.
**Eternal Life**

“Eternal life is not just about what happens when you die. Eternal life is here, now, every time you serve in Jesus’ name.”

Padre German Tax’s words filled the small chapel. “There are miracles within the walls of Las Obras every day. Jesus is here. Life is here.”

Padre Tax, the president of the Obras Sociales Board of Directors, preached these words on Good Friday. His words called all of us to action in the name of the One who suffered, who died. The One who rose and who can now be found in the halls of the Obras, bringing healing to those who suffer.

There is something in this charismatic priest that tells us that his life is a sermon, as he seeks to follow Jesus with his whole mind, heart, and spirit. This past year, Padre Tax has been everywhere. Praying with patients, working with Padre Jesús Gómez, the hospital’s director, as together they restructure Las Obras. As he has shown up at the Faith In Practice offices and the Casa de Fe, getting to know our staff. Spending time with us at the medical clinic team in Totonicapán. Listening to stories of those who received a surgery.

His energy and passion is contagious. His preaching draws us in, encouraging us to meet Jesus in the work. Calling us to be better servants, better people, so that we too might experience eternal life not only when we die, but now, today.

Faith In Practice has been in partnership with Las Obras for nearly 25 years. First, under Fray Guillermo Bonilla, then Padre José Contran. Both Fray Guillermo and Padre José now live in Antigua. They are witnesses to what God has done through the Obras. Now Padre Tax and Padre Jesús witness to what God will do through the Obras in the future.

Faith In Practice is humbly grateful for their leadership, for the promise of these faithful priests, as we look forward to the next 25 years. Called together to Eternal Life.