The Call Continues

You know it, don’t you? That aroma as you leave the plane and step out onto the turquoise jetway? That unique bouquet that tells you that you have arrived in Guatemala. The moment you recognize that even though you have traveled long distances, you have somehow come home.

That first scent seems to open the door to one memory, then the next, even as your heart beats a little faster in anticipation of the memories that lie just on the other side of Customs.

This is our first Volunteer Only eNews, written just for you, because we know you are missing Guatemala as much as we are. You, who understand how we need her wisdom and grace just as much as she needs our care and compassion. You, who have loved her so well across the years.

Send a Message to Our Volunteers in Guatemala

As we continue to provide food support to our faithful Guatemalan volunteers, we invite you to send a message of encouragement to be included in next month's care packages.

Read more about our food deliveries

Serving Our Wheelchair Patients

We just received 500 wheelchairs from Free Wheelchair Mission! Even without teams in country, we will continue to serve our patients through small, local wheelchair distributions. Watch Facebook for more!
With this eNews, we will be bringing you stories of the mission that continues, stories of the people you are concerned for, and news of our plans to return as we all await the moment when we will step once again onto that jetway and sigh, “Home.”

We hope you will send us questions or requests for information, so we can better tailor these eNewses for you. This initial email, however, will focus on a general update, which many of you have requested.

**Guatemala Update**
As many of you know, Guatemala closed her borders in mid-March. Since that time, President Giammattei, a physician, has worked diligently to contain this virus, recognizing what Guatemala, already severely under-resourced, would face if strict preventative measures were not employed. Guatemala’s borders remain closed, travel is restricted between states, all public transportation is suspended, all are required to wear masks at all times, and there is a 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew in place. As of yesterday, Guatemala has 10,706 confirmed cases, with 418 deaths. That said, they are reporting only 35,000+ tests conducted. Therefore, it is unclear as to the extent the disease itself is impacting Guatemala.

Of equal import, however, is that there is basically no medical care currently happening in the country. No non-emergency surgeries. Few if any medical consults. An overburdened national healthcare system that could not manage to provide care for the population generally has ground to a halt. And, the hunger is rising. Reports are noting concerns related to an impending famine. There is no real indicator as to when the intranational or international borders will reopen, although some unofficial reports are indicating that the airport may reopen in September, but under what conditions remains unknown.

It is difficult for us to be on this side of the border, watching from afar, as our Guatemalan brothers and sisters suffer more each day. And, yet we are doing what we can in the short term, and to plan for the time when we will be able to return to our

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**Honor Your Father**
Pay tribute to a special father in your life with a donation on Father’s Day! Make a gift and send an e-card to celebrate.

**Make a gift today**

**Birthday Blessings**
Thanks to your generosity, we raised $63,000 for our birthday, including the special matching gift! We’re so grateful for your support. If you missed it, you can watch the Team Leader video along with messages from Linda and founders Joe and Vera.

**Enjoy the celebration videos**

**Shop and Give**
Did you know you can support our mission while you shop online? Make Faith In Practice your designated charity on Amazon and they’ll donate .5% of your purchases to us! Log on to smile.amazon.com, and select us from the options on the bottom of the page.
beloved Guatemala.

**The Mission Continues**

*Food and Healthcare Baskets.* In May, Felipe led the first monthly distributions of food baskets for our Guatemalan volunteers. This month, we are including health-related pamphlets in the baskets. Next month, we will be including vitamins for our volunteers, both for their families and for them to distribute in their communities. Each month, we intend to include more in the baskets.

*Mobility Clinics.* On June 24, we will begin mobility clinics at the Casa de Fe with Josh, Gaetan, and Patty. Lorena is unable to travel across borders to Antigua, but we will be providing PT consults through a local practitioner. Distributions will be limited due to governmental restrictions related to travel and size of gatherings, but we are committed to assisting those in need of a wheelchair and medical visit. These clinics will be ongoing at the Casa and we hope to expand them to Hilario Galindo Hospital in late July contingent upon the ability to travel and required permissions. We just received a full container of wheelchairs and have canes and walkers in the warehouse. So, we are ready to go! Stay tuned for a video of our first distribution.

*Symposium.* In collaboration with Providence St. Joseph and Hilario Galindo Hospital, we will be holding a symposium for healthcare providers working in the national hospitals near Hilario Galindo related to sharing learnings and challenges associated to COVID-19. Providence St. Joseph, based in Seattle, Washington has been on the front lines for months now and will be sharing their learnings and listening to the challenges of those in Guatemala who are trying to respond to this crisis as best they can.

*Telemedicine.* We will be starting, when internal travel restrictions ease, small clinics, led by Dra. Patty Baiza, in the more rural areas of Guatemala. Our plan is to contract with some Guatemalan practitioners and will also add some telemedicine with U.S. volunteers as we pilot how this model might work in
The Call Continues
Our Guatemalan brothers and sisters are suffering. The Call is stronger now than ever before.

Our plans over these next few months, in addition to doing what we can each day to ease the suffering, is to take advantage of this time to explore ways we can serve better than before. A major focus will be exploring and testing ways to use telemedicine, both in a teaching as well as in a patient care capacity, with an eye toward scalability. We have always been focused on continuity of care, but these initiatives will allow us to take this commitment to an entirely new level.

We are also committed to being a leader in setting the standard for all medical mission in Guatemala. We are committed to working with local authorities and hospitals to develop an effective way of returning to the mission, assisting with setting protocol in hospitals and clinics, and establishing the standard that will allow other mission groups to follow us more easily as they look for ways to return to Guatemala. Guatemala will need as much help as she can get and we are committed not only to our return, but to lead the way making it easier for others to return safely as well.

The need is growing with each passing day as is our desire to meet that need. We are more committed than ever before to follow Christ to Guatemala. To meet him there. To watch him work miracles in the lives of our patients, to work miracles in our own.

Prayers and Trust
Before all else, we are asking for your prayers. You understand better than anyone the challenges our patients, our Guatemalan volunteers, and our friends at the hospitals deal with daily when there is no pandemic. They need to know you are praying for them and supporting them in this difficult time. Please see the opportunity to send a message to our Guatemalan volunteers here.
We are asking for your prayers for those of our team who are no longer currently working for Faith In Practice. We have laid off 65% of our staff as we navigate these seas. We are trusting that as we return, we will be able to bring some back, but this time is very difficult for them.

We are asking for prayers for this mission. This mission has served thousands upon thousands and together we shall serve thousands more. For Guatemala needs us more than ever before and we fully intend to rise to this new challenge.

Faith In Practice was created by, and has been led by, the Holy Spirit for each of its twenty-six years. We trust that the Spirit that has drawn us more closely into the heart of God than any of us could have imagined will continue to do so and in doing so using our hearts, minds, and spirits in extraordinary ways as together we look to the future.

Even as we ask for your prayers, know we are praying for each of you, your families, your loved ones.

It is a mighty family that God has created in and through Faith In Practice and together, with God’s help, we shall fulfill the call that God has placed on each of our hearts to serve. Together. All to God’s honor, glory, and praise.

Blessings,

Rev. Linda L. McCarty
President & CEO

This is the first eNewsletter just for our volunteers, which we will send every other month. Look for the next one in August!

Know someone who might want to subscribe? You can Forward to a Friend and they can subscribe by clicking here.
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