Children from Across the World

SAVANNAH COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL PROVIDES HYGIENE PACKAGES

In a small classroom in Retalhuleu, a young Guatemalan boy sat among his peers. He was also among Faith In Practice volunteers who traveled thousands of miles to bring him, and his friends, a gift. In his hands he held a zip-locked bag that contained a few simple items; a toothbrush, some toothpaste, a washcloth to clean his face.

Within seconds of opening his bag he triumphantly held up his washcloth, shouting “Amigo! Amigo! Mira! Siempre he querido mi toallita! (Friend! Friend! Look! I have always wanted my own washcloth!).” The young boy, delighted to receive his very own washcloth, was unaware that thousands of miles away, in another school, children his own age helped bring him that washcloth.

Beth Palmer (Savannah, GA), had felt something weighing on her heart, a yearning to become more involved with her team. She asked her Team Administrator, Bill West (Savannah, GA), if there were any projects to which she could contribute. When Bill told her of how local churches had donated items for hygiene packages to Faith In Practice, she jumped at the opportunity to take this project to the next level.

Beth’s first thought was of her children’s school and service program. The Palmer children attend Savannah Country Day School, a private school with a heart for service. In late 2008, the school’s administration and its parents decided to strengthen this program. Beth stepped in and proposed the hygiene pack service project.

Planting that small seed was all it took to help the project grow. It became a fun and educational mission for the SCDS students. They learned about Guatemala in their classes. In Literature they explored Guatemalan folklore, in Science, learned about the coffee bean and in Art made cards to give to the Guatemalan children, reminding them to brush their teeth or wash their hands daily.

In September of 2008 the Faith In Practice Dental Team arrived laden with 120 hygiene packs for the children of Piedad II Elementary School and their parents. “These children’s parents are committed to teaching their children good hygiene, helping them live better and healthier lives,” said Bill.

As part of the Faith In Practice Dental Program, the teachers also agree to take 15 minutes of every school day to teach the children about hygiene. The children would brush their teeth and wash their faces every day. When Beth explained to the Guatemalan children that these packs were from children in the United States, they squealed with delight.

“God worked through me to make this project happen, and it has given me a platform to share with my community something that is dear to my heart,” said Beth. “I’ve been given the opportunity to share the Faith In Practice mission and the plight of the Guatemalan people. This project makes me feel that I am actually making a difference.” Thank you, Beth and the Administration and Children of SCDS, for reaching out and making a difference in the lives of Guatemalan children.

To learn more about Team 200, please go to http://www.faithinpractice.org/triplog.php?tripid=200.
I still remember the last moment of the last clinic in Uganda in 2006. This was my first mission and like any doctor, I had done my best to help the patients, utilizing the limited resources available.

In 2007, my wife, Christine, began researching mission trips. Repeatedly, Faith In Practice kept appearing in her searches. I absolutely believe God led us to Faith In Practice, and in 2008 we began serving in Guatemala. (I am an ENT and Christine, a dentist.)

During my most recent trip, there was a 10 year old boy named Ulysses. He had fallen from his crib as an infant and had fractured his skull. He survived the fall, but was left with severe hearing loss. He had never said a word...not one.

Our hearing test placed him 70% below normal, severe but aid-able. Ulysses was fortunate. We had a ComCare solar powered hearing aid for him. We fitted the hearing aid and suddenly he looked around wide-eyed as a smile crept over his face. Our audiologist, Jodi Bova (Syracuse, NY), introduced him to some rudimentary sounds. After only 30 minutes Ulysses could say "Hola!"

As we loaded our bus that evening, I saw him playing soccer with the other boys, proudly sporting his new hearing aid. He ran up to me, touched my arm and said "Hola!"

My hope for Ulysses, and for all of our patients, is that they are better because of our efforts; that they have good and peaceful lives and that they appreciate what the Holy Spirit has done for them.

The Spirit has touched us both, so

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DR. MARK HOEPLINGER

we are forever linked by this common experience...even if we never see each other again. I know I shall never forget Ulysses, and I believe he shall never forget me or the faces of all of us on the mission.

To learn more about Team 205, please go to http://www.faithinpractice.org/triplog.php?tripid=205.

It is March as I sit on the plane leaving Guatemala and it has been a whirlwind four days. Once again, I find myself in humble awe of what God has done through Faith In Practice. How God has brought so many unique individuals together as one in ministry.

I was blessed to celebrate with Dr. Stempel’s team as they completed a full week of surgeries, and Dr. Chenault’s team as they embarked upon a Medical Clinic Team in El Petén. I had the privilege of watching the Dr. Ted Peters’ team as they triaged patients on Sunday morning at Las Obras in Antigua.

The patients sitting quietly waiting to be seen by Ted’s team represented so many more of you. The woman quietly said she was from St. Augustine and I immediately thought, “Ah, the Wells Medical team.” And then the woman from Jalapa and I thought, “I remember when the Johnsons and their team returned from the mountains of Jalapa.” Marilyn Ewing, our wonderful Facilitator, mentioned a little boy, Luis, who had a cardiac surgery consult the next day. We found Luis on John Tysee’s team in Santa Rosa in January. Luis had held my hand as we gave him a referral date.

I am in the privileged position of seeing how all of our volunteers and supporters come together to make a difference in the world. How our Medical Village teams rely upon our Surgical teams. How our Surgical teams rely upon our Medical teams. How our VIA/Cryo and Dental teams work to bring healing and health. How our Guatemalan volunteers support all of our teams. How our wonderful donors give of their hearts to make it all possible. While you may not see each other, or know each other, I hope you have a sense of how incredibly connected you all are. How you all are a part of God’s work to make all things new. All I can do is stand in awe and give thanks for every one of you and give thanks for this blessed ministry called Faith In Practice.

REV. LINDA L. McCARTY, Executive Director

www.faithinpractice.org
He greeted us with hugs. Her dream was coming true—a Medical Team was coming to Santa Rosa. I was overwhelmed by her energy and heart. And, by her tears.

She told me about the poor in the villages surrounding Oratorio, where our clinic would be held. How she had traveled personally to each little village, telling the people that Faith In Practice was coming. How she had organized them so that certain villages would come on certain days, to make things easier on the patients, who would stand in line for hours each day. Her volunteers, she said, were placing the finishing touches on the school where our Clinic would be. They had spent days cleaning and painting the school just for us. Floridalma Quintanilla, our wonderful Volunteer Network Director and her volunteers, serving faithfully. Each day they would work beside us, volunteering their time to ensure that the Clinic ran smoothly.

As we sat over lunch, I asked her why. Why do you do this work, give of yourself like this? Tears stood in her eyes. She said, “I do this in gratitude to God.” She spoke of a life marked by violence and abuse. And, then she said, “To help the people, to give to them, it is my salvation.” May we all give thanks to God for the gift of Floridalma and her faith which she truly places into practice as one of Faith In Practice’s Volunteer Network Directors. We are blessed to call her our own.

Leadership Conference ’09
A UNIQUE COMMUNITY

With a wonderful sense of community, Faith In Practice Leadership came together for our Annual Leadership Conference in January 2009. Over three days, our Leadership imparted their invaluable experience and learned about the improvements made to various Faith In Practice Programs, as we all prepared for the 2009 Mission Season. Leadership also shared stories about patients and volunteers—about lives changed through this mission—a blessing to all who attended. Thank you again, Leadership, for all that you are, and all that you do, to make the Faith In Practice family so very unique.
Faith In Practice received Charity Navigator’s highest rating for the fourth year in a row.

The Gift of Easter

Easter is a time to celebrate God’s love anew. It is a time to ponder the mystery of Jesus’s Crucifixion and Resurrection and breathe in once again, the wonderful and humbling knowledge that God’s love can conquer even death itself. A time to remember that God’s love can bring new life to every circumstance. As we remember God’s love, the promise of new life through Jesus, and in gratitude for what God has done through Jesus, let us bring new life and hope to those in the greatest need in Guatemala.

How does it work? Go to www.faithinpractice.org. Click on “Giving” then “Alternative Giving.” Once you enter your online payment information, we will send a card to the recipient you designate in the “Notes” field. Please be sure to include their full name and complete address.

Feliz Pascua / Happy Easter!

“Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.” Proverbs 22:9

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Suggested Easter Giving Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor a Mission Team</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment for New Regional Surgery &amp; Clinic Sites</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gynecology or Orthopedic Surgery</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery</td>
<td>$350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trunk of Medical Supplies or Village Medicines</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Via/Cryotherapy: Cervical Cancer Screening</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dental Care: 10 Extractions</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visit to a Medical Village Doctor or Dentist</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antibiotics for 5 Patients</td>
<td>$25</td>
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* This is a guide; all contributions received will be unrestricted.