

FAITH IN PRACTICE

The Circle of Care

IT BEGINS WHEN YOU LOOK IN THEIR EYES

Those big brown Guatemalan eyes.... That is what you notice first when you meet the patients. Those eyes are filled with hope and trust as they come to the clinics and hospital for their medical care.

What an honor it is to be able to live out your faith as you participate on a medical mission trip to Guatemala. What an awesome gift you give and receive when you are part of the circle of care.

Where does the circle of care begin?

It begins in the remote villages of Guatemala where Faith In Practice teams go to provide medical care, vitamins, dental care and to locate those with serious medical issues in need of surgical treatment.

Those needing surgery are identified by the village teams, and are referred to the Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro hospital in Antigua or to one of our Regional Surgery Centers located around Guatemala. Unfortunately, there are always long waiting lists and the patients may wait many weeks before they travel to the hospitals.

For these people, coming to the hospital is not easy. Many villages are remote and the only way out is on foot. Most would not attempt the trip without the help of our network of contacts in each village who speak their language and travel with them as their guides on their long trek to the hospital, which may take days. They are also encouraged to come because Faith In Practice pays all of their transportation expenses, which can be substantial, to people who often are subsistence farmers. The patients arrive at the Casa

de Fe tired and apprehensive about the coming days. There they will have hot water showers and indoor plumbing, a warm nutritious meal and a real bed to sleep in....these simple pleasures that we take for granted may be enjoyed by our visitors for the first time in their lives. On Sunday, those big brown Guatemalan eyes look to you for comfort and assurance as triage is done; they are examined by the visiting doctors and schedules are set for surgery in the coming week.

The circle of care continues.

Each team has a clergy member whose job it is to offer prayers as the patients and doctors go into the operating room. The spiritual advisor prays with the families and offers prayers of thanksgiving and comfort as patients wake up in the convalescents ward.

The circle of care continues.

The patients and their families return to the Casa de Fe for several days of recovery before they attempt the trip home. For them the Casa de Fe is a beautiful refuge where they are treated with dignity and respect. Here they are safe and they can enjoy our chapel where their spirits can be renewed and refreshed.

As they prepare to return home after their surgery, those big brown eyes are filled with appreciation and joy because the circle of care from Faith In Practice has given them hope, shown them love, and been a testament to the love of Jesus Christ.

For now....The circle of care is complete.

Sandra had hernia repair surgery. FIP Facilitators, Bob and Marilyn Ewing saw her Complete Circle of Care. (Story p. 2)



Where Does the Circle of Care Begin?

MISSION TEAM 141 PREPARES TO SERVE

Where did the circle of care begin in 2007 for Dr. David Chenault, leader for the Faith In Practice village medical team last January?

Dr. Chenault says, "I started with the Leadership Manual. I reread it and reread it to learn how to lead the group. It's all in there. If you follow the procedures in the book... it works!" Dr. Chenault also emphasized with his team how important reading the volunteer manual and the mission member fundraising packet is for a successful trip.

His new team was particularly successful with fundraising. From the beginning Dr. Chenault realized that volunteers would be uncertain about participating in mission member fundraising. They were hesitant to ask friends and family for money.

Dr. Chenault was aware that Faith In Practice spends \$1,100 for each mission team member that goes to Guatemala and that this money helps pay for medical supplies, equipment and transportation for the patients they would be seeing. He explained that to his team and they became eager to participate. He encouraged his team, and led by example. Team members sent letters & emails to friends to tell them about their trip and ask them for financial support for the mission and prayers to sustain them as they served in Guatemala. They discovered

that friends and family members were eager to support their trip.

When they realized that friends felt a part of the mission by giving a gift to support the trip, it no longer felt like "asking for money."

"Your friends want to be a part of mission trips even if they cannot go themselves. They know their gift helps to make an impact on the medical care for the poor in Guatemala," said Dr. Chenault.

The team traveled by boat to remote villages bringing many trunks filled with everything they needed to help the poor. The team brought solar powered hearing aids and distributed vitamins, and treated open wounds, infections, malnourishment, dental pain, parasites, and other serious health problems.

What was the secret of the team's success? According to Dr. Chenault "Everyone worked as a team, and stepped up to the plate to help in all areas. Doctors and nurses did whatever needed doing to work with patients. We were truly there to serve."

Randy Birkin, said this at the end of trip 141. "The 20th century American writer, Bernard Malamud said that life is a tragedy full of joy. In essence, that has been our week. Faith in our fellow man, faith in our higher power, faith in ourselves, and faith in practice—a full circle, a tapestry of life itself."

You can read the Team 141 trip log at www.FaithInPractice.org.



Dr. David Chenault examines a young boy, and his family, at the village clinic last January.

Sandra's Story

Sandra is a typical four year old, active and full of life. She has a beautiful smile that captures the hearts of all those who meet her. Sandra lives in a poor farming community in Northwest Guatemala not far from the Pacific Ocean.

Dr. Mickey Golbus and his team from California have traveled to this area of Guatemala for several years. Last March they met Sandra, who is the youngest in a family of only three children. Her father Juan works in the corn fields and her mother is the "Madre de Casa". The hernia was easy to diagnose...it popped out on her tiny abdomen when she laughed, coughed, or ran, and it hurt.

Farming a small plot of land and selling the corn only provided

an average income of about \$25 a month. This family, like many others in Guatemala, barely gets by and paying for surgery was out of the question.

An important part of this circle of care is Rosa Rivera, the Village Network Coordinator, who did her part by bringing Sandra and her mother to Antigua to see our surgeon,

Dr. David Harrell. Her surgery was scheduled and completed and in two days Sandra and her mother were on their way home grateful that the team had made a return visit to their village this year. The Circle of Care was complete for Sandra.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Vera Wiatt Executive Director

Story contributed by Marilyn Ewing.

Delores Travels to Antigua

HER SURGERY IS LIFE CHANGING!

Over the centuries the Church has always brought Good News to the poor...usually it is the Good News of Christ, but often in Guatemala it is the good news that help is on the way with a Faith In Practice medical team! Faith In Practice has been working with a group of committed Catholic women in the Jutiapa area for several years who have taken on the job of organizing the rural villages in this dry, desert part of Guatemala to bring the sick to our clinics. Dolores had been suffering for years with the need for a hysterectomy as she had survived several difficult deliveries; her uterus was simply worn out from many child-births! She came early, walking several hours from her simple home built of corn stalks and tin, and was one of the first in line.

Faith alone brought Dolores to our clinic. Wide eyed and trembling, she timidly arranged herself on our make shift exam table set up in a school. As is the custom, the doctor carefully examined her in the presence of another woman and decided that her surgery should be done as soon as possible. Several weeks later, accompanied by one of the women from the Catholic Pastoral group, Delores and her family came to Antigua, a long trip of about 4 hours. She was frightened, but hopeful, when she arrived at the Casa de Fe. She could not believe that this nice place was where she and her family would stay. The surgery was performed and while the surgeons considered it routine, Dolores and her family considered it nothing less than a miracle. After a couple of days at the Casa to recuperate, Dolores and her family returned to her village in a van paid for by Faith In Practice. For Dolores.....The circle of care is complete.



Cervical Cancer Screening

580 PATIENTS SERVED AT THE VIA/CRYOTHERAPY CLINIC

Led by Dr. Peter and Nancy Thompson, Faith in Practice sponsored another 6 day VIA-CRYO course at Obras Sociales Hospital in Antigua, Guatemala in July. Thanks go to Sarah Schwaller and Drs. Patty Baiza and Sandra Oviedo for pre-seminar planning. 580 patients were screened and 30 treated for precancerous lesions while twelve doctors and nurses were trained. Unfortunately, 4 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer and referred for more extensive treatment.

A future VIA-CRYO course will be offered to doctors and nurses of the Peten region in February, 2008 to expand our network of facilities around the country offering this important service.



ANNUAL GALA

Honorees

Dr. Gary and Mary Card

When

October 30, 2007, 6 P.M.

Where

Westin Galleria, Houston, TX

Event Chairs

Curt and Sharon Webb

Get on board and see how we put Faith into Practice! Join us for dinner and see your friends and team members. We are looking for people to host a table, provide an auction item, or support FIP by purchasing Mercado items below. The Mercado supports Guatemalan medical programs:

- \$50 Visit to the village dentist or family doctor
- \$100 Room and board for patient at the Casa
- \$200 Medical Trunk filled with surgical supplies or village medicines
- \$400 Plastic Surgery—cleft lip and palate
- \$600 Gynecology or orthopedic surgery
- \$800 VIA / Cryotherapy, cervical cancer screening for 80 women
- \$1000 Equipment for new Regional Surgery and Clinic site

GALA ONLINE AUCTION

Looking for trips, art work, hunting trips, sports memorabilia or airline tickets? You will find fun packages to choose from at online auction: <http://faithinpractice.cmarket.com>



7500 Beechnut Street
Suite 208
Houston, TX 77074-4310

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Houston, TX
Permit No. 11088

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith In Practice received Charity Navigator's highest rating for the third year in a row.

Thanks to YOU!!! The 2007 Mission Season Was A Record Breaking Year!!

Access to the expanded operating rooms at the Obras and Patzun regional center this year allowed surgical teams to perform over 43% more surgeries in 2007. Dental services were up 18% and volunteer participation was up 27%.
What a blessing!! Thank you for making healthcare in Guatemala possible!!

FAITH IN PRACTICE MISSION STATISTICS



	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Patients Treated in Villages	9,000+	9,800+	12,400+	9,111	11,387
Dental Patients Treated	1,500+	1,500+	2,800+	1,952	2,312
Surgeries Performed	708	722	750	713	1,020
Mission Trip Volunteers	429	534	554	614	786
Rural & Other Medical Clinics	24	28	28	28	36
Mission Trips to Guatemala	18	20	21	22	28

Is God calling you to serve on a mission trip to Guatemala in 2008?

Now is the time to apply online at <https://www.faithinpractice.org/application.php>

Trip dates for 2008: <http://www.faithinpractice.org/tripdatelist.php>

Vera Wiatt, Executive Director: vwiatt@faithinpractice.org • Alice Chernov, Team Director: teams@faithinpractice.org

Cathy Moore, Director of Development: cmoore@faithinpractice.org

Ellen Peterson, Director of communication & Special Events: epeterson@faithinpractice.org