

# FAITH *In* PRACTICE



February 2006

LIFE CHANGING MEDICAL MISSION



**G**reetings from Faith In Practice Headquarters! With Valentine's Day on our hearts each February, our thoughts naturally turn to the topic of love. And Faith In Practice is all about showing God's love to others. We are reminded of God's deep, unconditional love for his people and the manifestation of that love in acts of kindness and charity.

Thank you again for your continued support of Faith In Practice. We appreciate your commitment to our organiza-

tion and our mission, and we intend to keep you well informed about our ongoing work to provide medical and dental care to the poor in Guatemala.

*I have loved you with  
an everlasting love.  
With unfailing love I  
have drawn you  
to myself.  
-Jeremiah 31:3*

## 2005 Mission Season Results

### ♥ Family Practice and Surgical Teams

2005 was a gratifying year for Faith In Practice, our volunteers and our patients. Our 7 family practice village teams treated 12,400 people throughout Guatemala and our 14 surgical teams performed 751 surgeries. In total, 554 volunteers participated in our mission trips to Guatemala. We were blessed by their efforts as well as the prayers and financial support of many others who enabled us to accomplish all that we did during 2005.

<b>SURGERY SPECIALTY</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>
GENERAL	289
GYNECOLOGY	194
ORTHOPEDIC	134
ENT	104
PLASTIC	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>751</b>

### ♥ Genetics Laboratory

In August 2005, GenLab, Guatemala's first genetics laboratory was opened in Guatemala City. The opening ceremony was attended by a delegation of doctors, nurses and other Faith In Practice supporters, marking the culmination of four years of research and planning. GenLab is located adjacent to UNICAR (the country's only heart hospital), and it is being managed by Dr. Gabriel Silva who trained at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. GenLab has been an in-country project of Faith In Practice, and it has received financial support from Faith In Practice, SeqWright DNA Sequencing, and the Glass-Belmont Foundation. GenLab will be dedicated to the research of heart defects, cleft palates, Down's Syndrome and other genetic disorders and the identification and treatment of genetic defects in patients who come to GenLab for consultation.

### ♥ Letter-Writing Campaign Results

Heartfelt thanks go to the many volunteers who helped raise funds for Faith In Practice through the mission team member letter-writing campaign. Showing their love for Faith In Practice and the people of Guatemala, these special volunteers helped to raise more than \$250,000 by writing fundraising letters to friends, relatives and professional associates. Grass roots fundraising continues to be the most cost effective way to share our mission with others and to fund our programs.

## 2006 Mission Update

### ♥ 22 Teams in 2006

The 2006 Faith In Practice mission season started at the end of January with our first family practice village team traveling to Rio Dulce where they worked with the first indigenous mayor serving the poor in this area of Guatemala near the Caribbean Coast. This year we are adding another surgical team specializing in children's orthopedics, which will result in 15 surgical and 7 family practice village teams. There are still openings on some teams, especially for CRNAs.

### ♥ New Operating Rooms at Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro

The heart of any hospital is the operating room and you should see our two new operating rooms furnished with donated lights, equipment and sterilizers that are now ready for surgeries! The final phase of the operating room construction began on January 3, 2006 with remodeling of the remaining two operating rooms, building the instrument scrub room, installing the new moisture-resistant floorings and epoxy coatings, and completing the air-conditioning and electrical work. The target date for completion is March 31, and the grand opening ceremonies are scheduled for June 24 at Hermano Pedro! Many thanks to Dr. Brian Parsley, our fundraising chair, and to all of you who helped us raise over \$599,000 for this project.

### ♥ We Have a Heart for Women - Exciting New Women's Health Initiative!

Everyone who has traveled to Guatemala realizes that the women carry the heaviest burden of poverty in Guatemala. The incidence of cervical cancer in Guatemala versus the United States is 5 times greater and the mortality rate is 8 times greater. Once the pre-cancerous cells become cancer, the poor have no affordable access to medical treatment. The disease becomes a death sentence.

As a result of a very successful pilot program in May 2005, led by Drs. Peter Thompson and Robert Burton, Faith In Practice is launching a pre-cancer cervical screening and treatment program called Prueba Rapido (Rapid Test) with four of our village teams in 2006. With this screening program, women with pre-cancerous lesions are treated on the spot, eliminating the need for further treatment which is usually unavailable. A training session for Guatemalan doctors and public health officials will be held at the Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro hospital on March 8, 2006. Our goal is to teach this technique and supply the equipment for detection and treatment to clinics and hospitals around the country. Life Changing Medical Mission is truly a Live Saving Medical Mission!

### ♥ Sweetheart of a Deal!

How about a month or a year in the Caribbean practicing family medicine? Ask us about our newest project in Sarstun located on the border of Guatemala and Belize at the mouth of the Sarstun River and accessible only by water. The thatched-roof medical clinic will be finished by Fall 2006 and will have living quarters! Our family practice village teams have been serving this remote area of Guatemala with a population of about 15,000 for three years. Any takers? If so, contact Joe Wiatt ([jwiatt@faithinpractice.org](mailto:jwiatt@faithinpractice.org)).



### ♥ Update Your Contact Information

Has any of your contact information changed? If so, please submit your current phone number, mailing address, email address and preferred method of communicating with you by mail to our office or by e-mail to [info@faithinpractice.org](mailto:info@faithinpractice.org).