

Faith In Practice

Life Changing Medical Mission



IT'S NOT ABOUT US

It's not about us. That is the theme interwoven throughout our conversation. Sprinkled throughout the memories across more than twenty years, throughout the tears of gratitude: It's not about us.

Bob and Marilyn Ewing just celebrated the completion of their one-hundredth Faith In Practice trip. But as Bob said, it's not about the number, it's about the experiences, all the friends they have made across the United States and Guatemala, that matters. It's all about the mission.

Bob and Marilyn were in Guatemala in Spanish school following their 100th trip when we spoke. Of course, they were. Eighty-two- and eighty-one-years young, they have never stopped learning, never stopped serving, never stopped loving.

They have never stopped pouring out their hearts for this mission. They truly embody what it is to be servant leaders. Their first trip was in 1999 and they have seen many, many changes. They tell me that in addition to those they have met through the mission, what has kept them coming back time and time again is that the mission is forever changing, growing, getting better and yet it has not lost its heart. It is as if the mission has mirrored them. For they are forever changing, growing, and getting better. And their heart just keeps getting stronger.

We all have memories of the Ewings, do we not? Bob, El Blanco, standing on the top of a bus to hang a tarp to lend shade to patients in some remote medical clinic. Marilyn blowing bubbles with the kids at Hilario Galindo Hospital. The two gliding across the dance floor at a Celebration Dinner in Jutiapa.

We all have memories of them in the field, their inexhaustible energy, and positivity. What many of you have not seen, however, is Marilyn coming to the Houston office every single week to volunteer and to bring banana pudding, or brownies. Or Bob's service for many years on the Faith In Practice Board and still serving on the Guatemalan Association Board. Or of the thousands of quiet, unassuming, yet crucial and life-giving ways in which they have supported this mission. Always acknowledging and thanking staff and volunteers for the quiet ways in which others serve.

The phrase, "It's not about us," was interwoven throughout our conversation. And as we laughed and as the tears came, it dawned on me that the Ewings themselves are interwoven throughout our lives. So many memories. The helicopter, army planes, and canoe rides in choppy water. The buses breaking down left and right from the early days. The patients, those we had to tell that they were dying, or the gratitude in the faces of mothers who saw their babies' repaired cleft lips for the first time. Interwoven into our lives.

Bob and Marilyn spoke of how faithful, humble, creative, present, and loving the people of Guatemala are. How this mission has changed their lives, made them better, and strengthened their faith.

As I listened, as I saw the wonder in their faces as they gave God thanks for this mission, I realized that their words were spoken about this mission actually described them. For me, and for many of us, we know ourselves to be blessed, changed, made better, and have a strengthened faith, because the Ewings are a part of our lives. Because they are interwoven in our lives and memories.

Bob shared with me how in 1997 he almost died due to a torn esophagus. He spoke of how when it was unclear whether he would survive, he reflected on his life, wondering whether he had made a difference, and used his life well. Shortly thereafter he and Marilyn took a leap of faith to serve on a Faith In Practice team. I think we can all say to Bob and Marilyn both, they have made a difference, they are using their lives well. And they are doing so, not because of all of the time spent. They are doing so, because through every single moment of it, every gift they have given of themselves, they have always said, "It's not about us." For me, it is *that* witness, the ways their actions have always pointed toward the mission, and God's love that has made all the difference.

Bob and Marilyn, here's to many more trips to come. We love you.

Rev. Linda L. McCarty
President & CEO

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After fifteen years, Linda is leaving Faith In Practice. Relocating to Madison, Wisconsin with her new puppy Xela, Linda is looking forward to what God has in store for her future.

Seeking someone who has a strong sense of call, the Board of Directors is busy interviewing for Linda's replacement and anticipates the new CEO will be in place in the fall.

Please pray for the Board as it listens for God's voice through the process to find the perfect person to lead this mission, which is God's own, into the future.



Save the Date



FRIDAY
OCTOBER 21, 2022

MARRIOTT MARQUIS
1777 Walker Street Houston, TX 77010

HONORING
Rev. Linda L. McCarty

HONORARY CHAIRS
Mr. David and
Mrs. Bonnie Weekley

CHAIRS
Dr. Eric and
Mrs. Abigail Berkman
Mr. Steven and
Rev. Barbara Retzloff

Register or Donate



2023 Mission Dates

Check out our website for the 2023 dates and stay tuned for the Invitation to Apply expected to hit your emails in early July. Forty teams filled with hope. Come join us!

To learn more about serving in 2023,
please read our [Volunteer FAQs](#).



Our mailing address is:

Faith In Practice
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