

## August 2010 Guatemala Mission

Trip Report from Larry and Bego Meeker

Thank you again for the wonderful prayers and support for the mission work in Guatemala. It was a trip full of wonderful work and blessings. We conducted medical and dental clinics for three days, seeing approximately 300 patients of all ages. We also conducted two conferences:

- Three day leadership conference for pastors
- Two day conference for pastors' wives and women leaders of the church.

From Guatemala City, our team of nine traveled four hours by van to the town of Panajachel at the edge of Lake Atitlán. This was the rainy season. Travel each day was challenging due to mud/rock slides that often block the roads.

The medical clinics were in the small rural town of Chuacruz. The conferences were in Panajachel. Pastors and women arrived by boat each day from other small communities around the lake.



The clinic work was in conjunction with an excellent ministry group in Guatemala, La Misión, founded and directed by Dr. Tito Palacios. The team for this week's work included four local doctors and two dentists. A team of high school students and college interns participated throughout the operations, too.

The process was similar to our past medical mission work. The location was in a community school's health center.

Registration began as soon as our team arrived each morning.

A nurse from our church interviewed patients to determine the proper routing for each. Stations were in place to take vital signs and to do lab work as required. The lab station was limited in this remote setting, but we had capability of checking things such as blood sugar levels and urinalysis.



Pharmacy operations were performed by the SCC team, monitored by one of the doctors on staff.



As always, dispensing of medicines received careful attention. It is critical that parents understood how each medication was to be taken, and by which family member. Communication was complex, as not all patients could speak Spanish. Guatemala has over 20 native dialects rooted in Mayan culture.

As patients waited for prescriptions to be filled in the pharmacy, we prayed with each family and shared the Gospel. The conversations conveyed the love of Christ, often

accompanied by tears of family members as they shared their stories with us.

Conference attendance peaked at over 30 pastors and church leaders. Some churches included young men just preparing for potential leadership roles. It was great to have the diversity of age and experience in the discussions. The leadership topics were taught by Pastor Les Fleetwood, Pastor Carlos Zazueta, and Larry Meeker.



A number of different small churches participated. One consequence of the conference was the formation of a new Pastor's alliance which will facilitate these men continuing to meet and encourage each other on a regular basis.

The women's conference focused on the book of Ruth. It was a time of great encouragement for the nine women who attended.

Instruction was by Nidelvia Fleetwood, Soraya Marin, Michele Eastin and Bego Meeker. They included drama and sharing of testimonies along with the lessons.

Thank you again for your prayers and support.

Love and blessings,

*Bego and Larry*

