

Faith In Practice

Life Changing Medical Mission

February 2014

Be the Miracle Update: A Cacophony of Joy



Hilario Galindo was alive with noise this past week. Bulldozers grunting, with the occasional crash of a tree coming down...[Read more.](#)

Rooted in God's Love: Minor Clinic Dedication



"It has always been a dream of mine to have a minor clinic at the Obras," said longtime Faith In Practice board member, Ray Maddox. In response, Dra. Hazel Quinonez, said, "Let's do it!"...[Read more.](#)

Open My Heart: Wilson's Story



Northwestern Memorial Hospital named Dr. Wilson Hartz III a recipient of the

Love Abides

He nearly knocked me over as he ran through the waiting room at Hilario Galindo Hospital. Overflowing with exuberant joy, he was on a mission. At nine years old, he was full of life and love and hugs to share. As I rounded the corner, I saw where he had been headed. He had leapt into Dr. Wilson Hartz's arms.



Joyously, Wilson cried out, "Manuel!" As Wilson put Manuel down, Manuel said, "Where's Ana?" Ana appeared and the hugs continued. Manuel's mother followed, adding her hugs to those of her son. It was then that I heard the full story.

In April 2011, Wilson and Ana, serving on the Coke surgical team at Hilario Galindo Hospital, met Manuel and his mom for the first time. The circumstances were very different, however. Manuel, then six years old, was screaming in pain and his mother was terrified and distraught. Manuel's foot had been caught in his bicycle wheel and the entire top of his foot had been ripped off. A serious injury, certainly. In Guatemala, to be sure. Wilson had taken a skin graft from Manuel's side and repaired his foot. That was in April, 2011.

The story does not end there, however. In the spring of 2012, Manuel and his mother visited the hospital to find out when the team would be returning and then arrived to say 'thank you.' In the spring of 2013, they did the same. And, now, here they were in February 2014, coming once again to bring their thanks and gratitude. Each year, they return for nothing more than to give thanks.

I asked Manuel's mother how she knew when the team would be at the hospital. She said, "Well, I knew there was a Faith In Practice medical clinic, so I came with pictures and asked everyone I could find if they knew the people in the pictures and when they were coming." She has not

35th Annual
Commemorative
Humanitarian Award for his
work with Faith In
Practice...[Read more.](#)

**A Woman of Faith:
Patty Baiza**



Whether Dr. Patty Baiza finds herself on a panel with Guatemala's Vice Minister of Health talking about Cervical Cancer Prevention, or before a group of students in a remote village...[Read more.](#)

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forgotten. She will go to great lengths to make sure that Wilson, Ana and the team never forget how grateful she and her son are for all they have done. Year after year.

Today is Valentine's Day. The day we celebrate love. Love, the greatest gift any of us has ever, or will ever, receive in our lives. The greatest gift we could ever possibly give. It comes in many forms and yet whatever form it takes, there is always something recognizable within. Gratitude. Deep and abiding gratitude which acknowledges the gift of another. And when that gratitude is shared, more love springs forth growing in our hearts in new and abundant ways.

Each year, when Manuel explodes into the hospital filled with his hugs and smiles, love abides. Each time a volunteer receives the blessing of a gentle hand of someone in the villages, love abides. Each time a volunteer reaches out in deep compassion to a hurting mother, love abides. Love abides.

I John tells us "...if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." That is why we go. That is why we return. For somehow, miraculously, when we receive that hug, when we shed that tear, we sense that God is somehow present in a new way. Somehow, miraculously, we see God's love made complete and we experience a deep and abiding gratitude for God's love that flows through this mission. All we can do is humbly receive it. The greatest gift any of us has ever, or will ever, receive in our lives.

With deep gratitude for all the loving blessings you bring to this mission, Happy Valentine's Day.

Rev. Linda L. McCarty
President and CEO

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