

# Faith In Practice

Life Changing Medical Mission

## A Rich Harvest: Miriam and Claudia



**Miriam and Claudia in Antigua - August 2015**

"I have eight children. Claudia is my second to last child. When she was born it was like a lightning bolt, because she looked like me. All my other children looked like my husband, but Claudia looked like me. She was a marvelous gift from God and she has always been a blessing. I gave God thanks, because I have learned to give God thanks for everything, both the joys and sadnesses. I only asked God to give me the love and strength that Claudia would need and I committed to fight for her just as my mother always fought for me."

Miriam and her daughter Claudia have Crouzon's syndrome. Miriam explains that she never thought she would find assistance for Claudia. So when she brought her young daughter, then 12, to the Dr. David Chenault medical clinic in El Petén, a remote and very poor area of Guatemala, she was seeking help for Claudia's hernia, which had been causing fevers and severe pain for months. At the clinic, Miriam received a date for her daughter to travel to Antigua for

### From the CEO: Like Coming Home



God has showered early and late rains upon Faith In Practice and we have been blessed beyond measure for it. An abundant harvest that none of us could have anticipated.

[Read more.](#)

### The Ties That Bind: The McClanahans



Three generations of McClanahans have served in Guatemala. Interwoven into their family stories is Guatemala drawing them closer as family, deepening their faith.

[Read more.](#)

surgery by the Dr. Peter Thompson surgical team. But when the time came, she hesitated, not believing that something like Faith In Practice existed.

But, our energetic and committed Guatemalan volunteer, Juan de la Cruz, would not take 'no' for an answer. Miriam laughs, saying "Juanito showed up at our door and said 'Let's go. It doesn't matter that you have no money. We're going!'" Throughout our conversation, Miriam breaks down only once when she shares, "I arrived here (the Casa de Fe patient guesthouse) without one 'centavo' in my pocket and I was embraced with love as if I were someone who mattered."

Claudia received her hernia repair under the care of Dr. George Tuchsén. But there were more good things to come. Serving on the Thompson team were plastic and ocular surgeons Dr. Sean Boutros and Dr. Marc Longo. They sat with Claudia and Miriam telling them that the surgeries to reshape Claudia's face would be significant, hard, but they could help her. Claudia shares, "From the moment I saw them, I was filled with such a joy that they would change me, my face, and take away all I had suffered as a young girl."

Over the next few years, Claudia underwent several surgeries, the largest of which required her to stay at the Casa de Fe for three months. The transformation is dramatic. Claudia, now 18, is confident, she laughs easily, is strong. She is no longer the little girl who struggled under the weight of being made fun of, of being bullied. She speaks of how a new world has been opened for her. The people she has met, what she has seen. She glows when speaking of her dream to become a nurse, so that she might care for others as she has been cared for.



**Claudia with her mother, Miriam**

For Miriam, she says she has seen things even more marvelous than the surgeries. She has seen God's love, saying, "As the word of God says, you will experience great things and difficult things, but I will be there beside you. I have gone through these difficult things, and God was with me, together with so many good people." She tells the story of two volunteers who walked beside her as they were rolling her precious daughter into the operating room for her largest

## **Boundless Energy: Ana Garcia**



Seven years ago, a young woman began volunteering with Faith In Practice. Her childhood had been tragic involving an abusive step-father and 7 step-siblings to care for. As an adult, she earned her living by selling home-cooked food.

[Read more.](#)



## **New Heights: Hilario Galindo**



Construction at Hilario Galindo Hospital is in full swing! Much has been done and there is much yet to do. Through it all, we are blessed by the gracious, patient and kind Larry Barker who shepherds the construction.

[Follow the progress.](#)

surgery. Miriam places her hand on Claudia's knee to show us exactly how the woman laid her hand upon Claudia and how she then touched Miriam's shoulder. Miriam said, "They prayed for us. When they did, all the fear and anxiety left my body and it did not return. I will never forget it." The Moorhead team's Nancy Fontaine and Rev. George Bement had no idea what their prayers meant to this family, but as we show Miriam pictures from the team, Miriam does not hesitate. She quickly points out Nancy and George, for her, signs of God journeying beside her when she needed it most.

Miriam and Claudia Alvarez will be present at the [Gala: A Rich Harvest](#) in Houston. When we shared with them the name of the Gala, Miriam quickly says, "From the beginning of our journey until this day, the harvest of Faith In Practice is love!" Friendships formed, lives transformed, interwoven and blessed across the years. God's healing spirit moving among us, creating family. Truly, a rich harvest of love.

Please consider joining us to hear Miriam and Claudia speak at the [gala](#), as they reunite with so many of our volunteers who have journeyed with them across the years.

*See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.*

-James 5:7



## 2015 Night of Comedy



Pat Stanley and his crew of comedians have done it again! The Balfour Beatty Night of Comedy raised **\$76,000** for Faith In Practice and Memorial Hermann Medical Missions.

[Read more.](#)

## 2016 Aim To Heal Shooting Tournament



Please join us at the 2016 Aim to Heal Shooting Tournament. The event will take place on Saturday, February 20, 2016.

[Register today.](#)

## 2015 Gala: A Rich Harvest



Unable to attend the Gala? Please consider making a gift in honor or in memory of a special person before October 9 and your name will be included in the program.

[Get your tickets or donate now.](#)