

FAITH IN PRACTICE

A Family of Service TWO GENERATIONS WITH ONE GOAL

The McCartney Family is a missionary family if there ever was one. Every four to six weeks, Dr. Don McCartney, Savannah Orthopedic Surgeon, and his wife Monica travel to Guatemala to bring healing to children born with club feet using the Ponseti Method, and healing to the parents whose hearts ache for their babies and toddlers. The Ponseti Method requires months of treatment to correct club feet. It begins with casting and recasting to mold the child's feet, minor surgery to cut the Achilles tendon, and more casting and bracing for months before the day finally arrives when the last brace is removed and the child runs into their parents' arms.

Don and Monica are often accompanied by their children, Ronald, a Physician Assistant, and William, an Orthotist, along with their wives Karen, a doctor, and Alicia, a Spanish translator. Recently, the entire family gathered around one Guatemalan child after another, gently placing casts, hugging parents and coloring with a young brother or sister. As they worked, they were surrounded by other families who waited patiently for their child's turn. One woman stood in the colorful traditional weaving of Nabaj with her baby swaddled on her back. The only thing visible of this little one was the small leg cast sticking out of the bright green bundle.

The word of the McCartneys' work is spreading. Families are coming from greater distances because they have heard about the program. Some are coming from neighboring Honduras hoping that the

McCartneys will help their children walk.

This family's commitment is extraordinary and outmatched only by their faith and humility. Not only are the McCartneys healing these children, they are teaching surgeons and residents at the National Hospital of San Felipe the Ponseti Method so that they too may help the children of Guatemala.

Don and Monica attribute their heart for this mission to the examples set by their parents and to their faith in God. Don's father, a physician, would fly his family to Mexico to treat the poor when Don was young. Monica grew up in Peru, a child of missionary parents. For the McCartneys, the foundation of their life has been, and always will be, their love of God and their desire to

humbly serve in God's name. This legacy lives on in the lives of their children.

The McCartneys say they are the ones who are blessed. "You can't out-give God," said Monica. "Yes, we are giving, but God has more than tripled in our lives the blessings that we have given." She went on to describe the joy that comes in watching a father's face as he sees his child run, and the joy when she receives blessings from parents who have become their friends.

You can support the McCartneys and this program by funding braces needed for these children. Please note "McCartney Braces" in either the check note field or online. Faith In Practice continues to be blessed by the McCartneys' service and their life changing program.



Dr. Don McCartney examines a club foot patient this past February

"You can't out-give God...God has more than tripled in our lives the blessings that we have given."

MONICA MCCARTNEY

Another Faith In Practice Opportunity

A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE

For the past six years, I have served Faith In Practice on surgery teams in Antigua, Guatemala. This past summer, however, things changed when I heard I would be assigned to go to Retalhuleu, Guatemala with Team 244. I immediately thought, "What about Antigua and the Obras? What about the relationships I had formed and, of course, the 'lemonade con soda' at Café Condessa?"

The more I heard about Reu, the more afraid I became. I heard of the long travel, heat and humidity and the small staff at the hospital. As I processed and prayed about these stresses, I became aware that I did not know where Antigua was on my first Faith In Practice mission trip, and I found a real peace in knowing that the Lord had directed me to this mission. I could trust that He would be with me in Reu just as He had been with me during my six previous trips to Antigua.

On my trip this year, I was touched most by those I met serving in Reu. Maria Forstner, one of Team 244's RNs, and I went to Reu a day early to teach. As we turned off the highway down the dusty

road with corrugated tin homes lining the side of the hill, I could see Hilario Galindo Hospital. There, I met Lucrecia, an absolutely incredible nurse who is dedicated to her people and runs the clinical side of the hospital. The other nurses we taught were experienced three to fifteen years. They were eager to learn and gave excellent care to their patients.

I also met a wonderful Guatemalan doctor named Dr. Barrios. I was very touched by his commitment to his job and his joy in serving his people. His care and concern for each life he touched was a reminder of why I am a doctor and why I love to go to

"I found a real peace in knowing that the Lord had directed me to this mission."

DR. MURRAY FOX

Guatemala.

Once again my trip with Faith In Practice was a life changing experience as I came in contact with people who will forever remain in my heart, and learned of ways I can serve other areas of Guatemala.

- DR. MURRAY FOX, OB/GYN

Volunteers That Lead

I was struck by the truth of Monica McCartney's words, "You can't out-give God." They echo what so many of our volunteers say time after time, they come to Guatemala to serve but receive many more blessings in return. You can't out-give God. At the same time, it seems as if so many of our volunteers are trying to do just that; they continue to give more and more each and every year. They are always coming to us with new ideas, new commitments and new ways to serve.

This newsletter contains articles about Dr. Don and Monica McCartney, Dr. Murray Fox and Dr. Peter and Nancy Thompson, Faith In Practice volunteers who not only serve on teams, but have also pioneered new Faith In Practice programs. They have expanded their reach and ours.

Because of the commitment, vision and faith of Don and Monica, Faith In Practice is funding the braces and prosthetics needed for children treated using the Ponseti Method and supporting the McCartneys' work in teaching local Guatemalan practitioners in this method. Because of the commitment, vision and faith of Murray,

life changing surgeries are performed in small, remote hospitals in Guatemala bringing healing to many. Because of the commitment, vision and faith of Peter and Nancy, Faith In Practice now has the VIA/Cryo Program which screens and treats pre-cancerous cervical cells and teaches local Guatemalans to do the same. Each year, these volunteers spend more and more time in Guatemala spreading the news, imparting knowledge and saving lives.

We are constantly humbled and inspired by all of our volunteers who are always asking us to do more, asking us to out-give God. And, of course, when we follow their lead, we too receive many more blessings than we gave.

We are honored to share with you the stories of the McCartneys, Dr. Fox and the Thompsons. We are honored to call them our own.

-REV. LINDA L. MCCARTY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
CORNER**

www.faithinpractice.org

Promises Kept

A MOTHER'S LAST WISH

Through the crowds of patients waiting to see a doctor, a woman emerged, carried on a lawn chair by her husband and children. She had come for medication to treat the pain caused by her advanced cancer. We gave her the strongest pain medication available which, unfortunately, was only Tylenol. The team gathered to pray with her and over her, as there was nothing else the doctors of Team 236 could do to help her. She was 36-years-old with nine children.



The family's photo

The Johnson Team, however, was able to provide something beyond medicine and beyond words to this woman and her family. When asked if there was anything else Faith In Practice could do for her, she simply asked for a family photograph to be taken. There in the clinic the team photographer, Charles Rushton, took the family's photo and promised that Faith In Practice would find a way to get a copy to them.

Upon returning to Texas, I received 10 copies of the family's portrait—nine small copies for the children and one larger copy for the husband. Remembering the promise we made, the photos were sent to the Faith In Practice staff in Guatemala. Soon thereafter, the family received the photo—a tangible reminder of their strong, brave and faithful mother long after she was gone.

Every year, Faith In Practice leads life changing medical missions. However, sometimes we are able to do more than treat the sick, we are blessed to be able to give hope with small gestures like smiles and photographs.

-HILARY DUFFY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENTS

VIA/Cryo Update

CONTINUING THE PROGRAM

Dr. Peter and Nancy Thompson have pioneered the VIA/Cryo program for Faith In Practice with insurmountable dedication and passion. Their mission has been to provide education to local Guatemalan doctors and nurses in Cryotherapy. Dr. Peter Thompson says, "By teaching Guatemalans to carry on this work, we will lower the incidence of cervical cancer in Guatemala."

Since 2006, 10 VIA/Cryo courses have been held, and of the 140 course participants, 85 were accredited in VIA to treat and screen cervical cancer. The Thompsons are changing the future of women in Guatemala.



Peter and Nancy serving in Guatemala, March 2010

This year, our annual Women's Luncheon is chaired by Nancy Thompson and Donna Lewis, with Dr. Peter Thompson speaking on women's health issues in Guatemala. We hope you will join us on April 29, 2010 for the Women's Luncheon. For more information visit www.faithinpractice.org and click on events.

UPCOMING EVENTS



3RD ANNUAL WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

April 29, 2010

The Briar Club

2603 Timmons Lane

Houston, TX 77027

Make Your Reservations Online:

Faithinpractice.org/news.php



CENTER COURT PIZZA AND BREW GOLF TOURNAMENT

April 19, 2010

Benefiting Faith In Practice

Southwyck Golf Club

For registration call

713-436-3927



I HEARD YOU CALLING FAITH IN PRACTICE 2010 GALA

November 6, 2010

This year Faith In Practice is honoring Vera and Joe Wiatt for their compassionate conviction and care in providing a continuity of medical care to the poorest of Guatemala over the past 18 years. Mark your calendars and join us in celebrating their hard work and dedication.



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Faith In Practice received Charity Navigator's highest rating for the fifth year in a row.



Celebrate Mother's Day GIVE A GIFT OF MEANING

As Mother's Day approaches and we celebrate the special women in our lives, give the gift that continues to give by making a donation to Faith In Practice in honor of a woman you love. We will send a personalized Mother's Day card to notify her of your gift.

Simply go to www.faithinpractice.org, click on "Donate," then click "Mother's Day Alternative Gift Market." Please make sure to include the recipient's full name and address in the note field.

Faith In Practice would like to thank you and all the exceptional women in your life this Mother's Day.

Gift Giving Guide

Equipment for New Regional Surgery & Clinic Sites	\$ 1,000
Gynecology or Orthopedic Surgery	\$ 500
Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery	\$ 350
Trunk of Medical Supplies or Village Medicines	\$ 200
VIA/Cryotherapy: Cervical Cancer Screening	\$ 100
Dental Care: 10 Extractions	\$ 75
Visit to a Medical Village Doctor or Dentist	\$ 50
Antibiotics for 5 Patients	\$ 25

* This is a guide; all contributions received will be unrestricted.



"A mother's love for her child is like nothing else in the world. It knows no law, no pity; it dares all things and crushes down remorselessly all that stands in its path." - AGATHA CHRISTIE

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