

FAITH IN PRACTICE

The Heart of Hilario Galindo

A SYMBOL OF HOPE

Imagine a place far from your home, flanked by treacherous rivers, where people travel for miles over mountains and through the lowlands with a life threatening condition, only to come upon a hospital that cannot provide medical care. The town is called Retalhuleu. The place is Hilario Galindo Hospital.

In the early 1980's Guatemala was in the midst of a civil war, and guerilla warfare was rampant. Hilario Galindo came under attack, was abandoned, and was left for vandals to steal every piece of medical equipment they could find. Only for a short while in the 1990's, with the help of the Guatemalan Rotary

“The strength and presence of the Holy Spirit bound us together.”

Club and IRTRA, did Hilario Galindo fully function, since those dark days of war.

In 2007, Faith In Practice identified Hilario Galindo as a potential partner, because our village medical teams recognized that the hospital was in serious disrepair and desperately needed help. The newly appointed Hospital Administrator, Sergio Lopez, was on fire to keep the hospital open, but did not know how. A partnership, where our village teams could refer patients to our surgical teams at Hilario Galindo, made perfect sense.

With a generous donation by a friend of Faith In Practice and others, Faith In Practice renovated the hospital and the Hilario Galindo staff welcomed Team 199 with open arms on May 31, 2008. The hospital was re-dedicated June 1st with local dignitaries, the Hilario Galindo Board of Directors, and Joe and Vera Wiatt in attendance. During that week, the stigma of a civil war ridden facility disappeared and hope for medical care for the community was restored as patient after patient received much needed care.

Faith In Practice volunteers focused their week on training the hospital staff and volunteers to sustain the high quality of care needed, and to allow them to keep the hospital functioning throughout the year.

As a whole, Team 199 realized their impact and obligation to this hospital, and discovered that it takes hard work to bring everything together. “All the mission trips I have participated in have, of course, had [hard working] people. But this group, in particular, really was exceptional,” Dr. Pogo (Wisconsin) said. “One of the keys to these trips is teamwork,” said Catherine Craig (Texas). “All the work going on behind the scenes is a reminder that even here in the midst of all we see and do, we can take for granted all that has to happen to make a trip possible.”

“The strength and presence of the Holy Spirit bound us together



er as a team,” said Dr. Maddox (Georgia) when asked about the cohesiveness of the volunteers. “It was a collaborative learning experience because the volunteers and the hospital’s staff and Board of Directors worked side by side to make [the hospital] a functioning facility.”

Hilario Galindo is now a symbol of hope and help for the people of Retalhuleu, because Faith In Practice volunteers and supporters and the dedicated staff of Hilario Galindo came together as one, all with the same heart for mission.

For more on Trip 199 and Hilario Galindo, please visit the Trip Logs and Photo Gallery at www.faithinpractice.org.

Volunteers Listen to Their Hearts

SUGARLAND, TEXAS NURSING HOMES HEED THE CALL

An elderly Guatemalan woman walked into the pharmacy at Nuevo Pammersol using two withered sticks as canes. These two sticks were her only way to get around the rough and sometimes steep terrain of her village. Marilyn Ewing (Texas) and Toni Golbus (California), Faith In Practice volunteers, realized the need for canes and walkers at that moment. And so the story began.

Upon returning from her mission trip, Marilyn decided it was time to find the resources needed for these vibrant, yet physically limited, Guatemalans. With the help of local nursing homes in Sugarland, Texas, Faith In Practice volunteers gathered canes and walkers to help restore mobility to Guatemalans in need. On their next mission trip, Marilyn and Toni were ready to help the most unsteady walk again. Because they listened to their hearts, they have made a difference in the lives of many.

The story continued when an older gentleman in the village of Valencia wobbled into the pharmacy one morning with a piece of a metal pipe he used as a walking stick. He had trouble walking around the uneven pathways of his village and was

in desperate need of a more stable cane. The volunteers' hearts went out to this man and immediately fitted him with a new cane. Showing his gratitude, he flashed a rewarding smile and walked proudly as he showed his gift to his friends.



Faith In Practice volunteer encourages an elderly woman as she uses her walker for the first time.

In the village of Botadero an elderly woman walked into the pharmacy with frayed sticks she attempted to use as canes. She had seen the village team doctors last year and received vitamins and this year she wanted more, as they had made her feel better. But, the team had more for her than just vitamins this year. When they offered her a walker, she shyly told them "no" because she did not have the money to pay for one. They revealed they would provide the walker for free and she excitedly hugged anyone she could wrap her arms around, saying "thank you" with her sparkling brown eyes. She left in joyful tears, proudly using her new walker. Many others continue to be helped through these gifts.

Faith In Practice would like to thank Sugar Land Oaks, Silverado, Colonial Oaks and Greatwood Nursing Homes for their continued support and for their heart for mission.

One Heart for Mission

You come from different walks of life, different States, different theologies, different histories. So many differences, and yet, you come with one heart for mission. It is this heart that is the very life-blood of Faith In Practice. It never ceases to amaze me, this one heart, which is always the same and yet is ever-changing.

This one heart is evident in so many ways. The heart with which comedians from SpawMaxwell give of themselves, lending their talents to support a people they have never seen. The heart with which volunteers gather walkers or serve on our Gala Committee or work in the office. The heart with which our teams come from across the country to reach out to those who live in a different culture, who speak a different language. The heart with which so many write a check, because they see in the eyes of volunteers something intangible, and yet real, as our volunteers

speak of how Guatemala has touched them.

This heart for mission, too, is palpable in Guatemala: the dedication of Sergio Lopez and Dr. Barrios of Hilario Galindo, holding on by a thread and yet never losing hope; the dedicated Network Volunteers who tirelessly accompany our patients from their villages to Las Obras to receive their surgeries; the faithfulness of our own Casa de Fe employees, who work quietly in service to our patients.

All of you together, a new community, created by, supported by, and bound by, this common heart. Thank you all for reaching out and bringing each of your talents to Faith In Practice. Thank you for looking beyond yourself to the possibilities that become reality when we come together in a common purpose, with a common heart for mission.

LINDA MCCARTY, *Executive Director*



**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
CORNER**

www.faithinpractice.org

SpawMaxwell Raises Money with a Few Heartfelt Laughs

BUILDING HOPE ACROSS BORDERS

What does a successful construction and design company based in Houston have in common with a medical and dental mission organization working in Guatemala? A lot, as all of those attending SpawMaxwell's Night of Comedy could tell you!

Over the years, the managing partners and employees of SpawMaxwell have shown a true heart for the poor of Guatemala. As partners in mission since 1998, SpawMaxwell has held fishing tournaments, donated to our galas, remodeled our



SpawMaxwell Comedians

offices, and guided Faith In Practice through the design and construction of Casa de Fe and the four state-of-the art operating rooms at Las Obras in Antigua. Most recently, SpawMaxwell again chose Faith In Practice as the recipient of its Comedy Night charity fundraiser. Comedy Night is the brainchild of construction project manager Patrick Stanley. Each year, Pat recruits company employees to perform the stand-up routines and this year, these talented comedians kept the crowd laughing over two hours for two consecutive sold-out nights. After the event, the comedians and Fred Maxwell presented a \$60,000 check to Executive Director, Rev. Linda McCarty, in support of the mission in Guatemala.

In addition to fundraising help, SpawMaxwell employee and Faith In Practice volunteer Larry Barker has provided advice, counsel, and resources to renovate and build several other medical facilities throughout Guatemala including our regional surgery and clinic partnerships in Patzun, Sarstoon and Retalhuleu.

"Because of SpawMaxwell, our surgeons have a place to safely serve the poor of Guatemala and our patients have a haven in which to rest after their surgeries," said McCarty. "SpawMaxwell has been a constant support for many years and we continue to be so very grateful for their generosity and their humble service. The work they help us do represents hope to the poor. We are truly blessed by their partnership."

A Heart for Mission

FAITH IN PRACTICE 2008 GALA CELEBRATION

Join us Tuesday October 14th, 2008 as we honor Dr. Rafael Espada, Vice President of Guatemala and former Houston cardiac surgeon and listen to the heartwarming words of Faith In Practice volunteer and former Obras



Dr. Rafael Espada

Patient, Armando Najera. Go to www.faithinpractice.org/news.php to purchase tickets and find out more about the event. Don't miss our famous El Mercado, supporting the life changing medical mission in Guatemala!

Support the Mission Through Our Mercado

- Visit a medical village doctor or dentist **\$50**
- Room & board for a recovering patient at Casa de Fe **\$100**
- Medical trunk filled with surgical supplies or medicines **\$200**
- Cleft lip and palate surgery **\$400**
- Gynecology or orthopedic surgery **\$600**
- VIA/Cryotherapy: cervical cancer screening/80 women **\$800**
- Equipment for new Regional Surgery and Clinic site **\$1,000**

DID YOU KNOW...

FAITH IN PRACTICE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Faith In Practice is seeking interns for our Houston and Antigua offices.

Communications Intern – Antigua

- Help manage communications, marketing and fundraising efforts
 - Previous fundraising and public relations experience preferred
 - 8 month minimum commitment
 - Unpaid, but meals are provided during the work week
- Submit your resume and cover letter to Sarah Schwaller at sschwaller@faithinpractice.org.

Office Intern – Houston

- Help manage communications, marketing and fundraising efforts
 - Interest in fundraising and public relations
 - Unpaid
- Submit your resume and cover letter to info@faithinpractice.org.

YOUR GIFT TO FAITH IN PRACTICE... DOUBLED!

Faith In Practice qualifies for matching gift and volunteer gift programs that benefit organizations like ours. Some companies make donations just because you volunteer for Faith In Practice. If your company has a program, please let us know.

A few companies that participate in matching gift and volunteer gift programs include:

- Bank of America
- BP Oil
- Chevron
- Conoco Phillips
- Johnson & Johnson
- ExxonMobil
- Merrill Lynch
- Nike
- Oracle
- Pfizer
- Pitney Bowes
- Prudential
- Shell
- Starbucks
- State Farm
- Tenet Healthcare



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

Thanks to You the 2008 Mission Season was a Banner Year!

Not only did Faith In Practice volunteers see thousands of patients, we also grew our regional partnerships in Guatemala sending surgical teams to Hospital Corpus Christi, Patzun; Shalom Hospital, San Benito; and Hilario Galindo Hospital, Retalhueu. We also saw the dedication of the Sarstoon Clinic. Through your dedication, the Guatemalan people continue to receive the care they so desperately need.



Calling All Volunteers for the 2008-2009 Mission Season!

Is God calling you to serve on a mission trip to Guatemala in 2009?

Now is the time to apply online at www.faithinpractice.org/application.php

Trip dates for 2009: www.faithinpractice.org/tripdatelist.php

Mission Statistics	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Patients Treated in Villages	9,800+	12,400+	9,111	11,387	13,434
Dental Patients Treated	1,500+	2,800+	1,952	2,312	3,041
Surgeries Performed	722	750	713	1,020	1,126
Mission Trip Volunteers	534	554	614	786	885
Remote Medical Clinics Held	28	28	28	36	47
Mission Trips to Guatemala	20	21	22	28	28
Beds Filled at Casa de Fe	7,335	5,433	8,284	9,125	14,599
Women's Health Initiative VIA/CRYO Program			2005-2006	2007	2008
Cervical Cancer Screenings			1,399	1,405	1,412*

* Does not include patients seen by our former Guatemalan students

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