



June 2006

Contact Us

www.faithinpractice.org
info@faithinpractice.org

In This Issue:

- Eber Receives the Gift of Hearing
- Faith In Practice Dentists are Making a Difference
- Faith In Practice Volunteers in the News
- “Postcards from Guatemala” – 5th annual Faith In Practice Dinner and Auction
- Preventing and Treating Cervical Cancer in Guatemala
- Four Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro Employees Receive Nursing Scholarships
- Linda McCarty Volunteers with Faith In Practice as Director of Spiritual Development and Outreach
- Faith In Practice Fishing Tournament is Coming Soon

Board of Directors

G. Gary Card, MD – Chairman

Robert G. Croyle
Rafael Espada, MD
Robert Ewing
Rev. Dr. Gary Ferbet
Steve Ferguson
Barbara Forbes
Larry Haas
Tom Inglesby, CLU, CHFC

Becky McGraw-Wall, MD
Cary Moorhead, MD
Brian S. Parsley, MD
A.J. Phipps, Jr.
Gerald A. Teel
Gay Van Osdall
David Walker, MD
Joe Wiatt



Eber Receives the Gift of Hearing

When Faith In Practice’s village teams go to remote villages in Guatemala, they never know what transformations will result. While in Victoria El Salto last month, Village Team 130 discovered a young boy, Eber, who had profound hearing loss and could only communicate with his family through some signing and gestures.

Eber was referred to Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro because Surgical Team 131 had Becky Vrba, an audiologist, with them providing solar-powered hearing aids purchased with generous donations to Faith In Practice. Eber and his family traveled over two hours to meet with Becky. He was fitted with a hearing aid and for the first time in his life he received the gift of hearing. The broad smile on his face and the hope in his eyes brought tears to the eyes of the audiologist and volunteers. With the help of Speech Pathologist Tracy Peters, he was able to make some elementary sounds and for the first time his mother was able to speak to him and heard him say, “Mama.” He delighted in hearing his own voice on a tape recorder and was extremely vocal. Our hopes and prayers are that Eber continues to progress in his speech and is able to express himself more and more clearly and confidently.

Faith In Practice Dentists are Making a Difference

It's still early morning when Dr. Kirk Petersen and the village dental team arrive at the school where they will work that day. Their 'office' is a school classroom where school has been suspended for the day. By the time the team has set up, the patients have lined up outside and the dental team brings them in, asks where they feel pain, numbs the area and begins extracting teeth. They will see 50-60 people by the end of the day. While all of our dentists are interested in preventative dentistry and saving teeth, unfortunately in this village setting, extractions are the only method of relieving the tremendous pain from tooth decay.



In contrast, Faith In Practice's dental work at the Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro is much like you would see in the states. The office, equipped and maintained by Faith In Practice, has state-of-the-art equipment to allow dentists such as Dr. Robert Bosque to practice preventative and restorative dentistry, cleanings, and root canals. Dr. Bosque hopes to see this technology spread to more rural communities.

"I think the future of dentistry with Faith In Practice lies in developing satellite sites in the villages where dentists can stay overnight and

not lose time to travel and set-up," Dr. Bosque said.

The dental problems in Guatemala have been exacerbated in recent years as American junk foods have found their way into the Guatemalan diet without the American concern for and availability of dental hygiene. As a result, many Guatemalans live in excruciating pain from dental problems. "It's not uncommon to see adults and children who require the removal of most of their teeth," Dr. Bosque said.

There is always a need for more dentists on the teams, as many teams have only one dentist and the need in Guatemala is great. "A multiple dentist team can take out 300-400 teeth in a day, but there are always too many people to treat in the amount of time you have," said Bosque. Please contact teams@faithinpractice.org if you would like to volunteer for 2007.

There is no dentistry available in smaller villages and the dental work available in cities is not a financial possibility for most Guatemalans. Faith In Practice's dentists are likely the only contact the people will have with a dentist in their lifetime, and they are very grateful for the care they receive. "The hope we bring to these people to relieve suffering and the hope they give us that we are able to make a difference and that God is active in all of our lives is what brings us back each year," Dr. Bosque said.

Faith In Practice Volunteers in the News

- Dr. Paul Preston, a long time Faith In Practice volunteer, was featured in the January 23, 2006 edition of US News and World Report for developing a safety program that allows medical staff to train on robots for emergencies that may occur during child birth.
- Dr. Robert Burton, Dr. Peter Hinkle, Dr. Scott Olcott, Dr. Cosimo Storniolo, and Wendy Robinson will be traveling to the Embaqweni Mission in Malawi, Africa for the month of September on a medical mission trip.

Faith In Practice is truly blessed to be associated with such talented and innovative professionals! If you are or know of a volunteer in the news or involved in an exciting project, we'd love to hear about it! Please contact Faith In Practice at development@faithinpractice.org

"Postcards from Guatemala"

The 5th annual Faith In Practice dinner and auction will be held November 14, 2006 at the Westin Galleria in Houston, Texas. This year's theme, "Postcards from Guatemala," will spotlight patient stories demonstrating life-changing medical mission. We will also honor Dr. Brian Strake Parsley and celebrate the completion of the operating room renovation and expansion at the Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro in Antigua, Guatemala.

Guests will enjoy dinner and a live auction as well as Faith In Practice's famous Guatemalan Mission Market – El Mercado. To allow participation from all of our wonderful supporters throughout the U.S., this year Faith In Practice is introducing an online auction, which may be accessed through the Internet. Auction items will be available for viewing and bidding at <http://faithinpractice.cmarket.com>.

If you are interested in donating the use of a vacation home, tickets to special events, getaway

packages, or other items, please contact specialprograms@faithinpractice.org.

Preventing and Treating Cervical Cancer in Guatemala



As a middle-aged woman in rural Guatemala, Maria's family income is roughly \$150 each month. After third grade, she had to drop out of school; she cannot read or write. Despite the prevalence of cervical cancer in Guatemala, Maria has no awareness of its deadliness when left untreated or even that she should be tested for it. What she knows is that the multiple days off from work and several bus trips back and forth to the clinic that a traditional PAP smear test requires will cost more in time and money than her family can afford, so she simply does not get tested. Unfortunately, if she is one of the approximately 15% of Guatemalan women with

the HPV virus, the primary trigger of cervical cancer, her virus, left untreated will continue to evolve into cervical cancer, which will eventually kill her. This tragic reality is why cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death among women of reproductive age in Guatemala.

Faith In Practice is applying new research on "see and treat" methods of preventing cervical cancer death in low-resource settings to patients in Guatemalan clinics. This method, using an acetic acid wash to observe irregularities in cervix cells, allows Guatemalan women to get tested and receive results immediately. Women needing cryotherapy treatment will be able to receive it that day, free of charge through Faith In Practice's partnerships with several clinics in Guatemala. Through the Women's Health Initiative supported by donors in the U.S., and led by Faith In Practice volunteers Dr. Peter Thompson and his wife Nancy, Faith In Practice is offering equipment grants to qualifying facilities in return for an agreement to use the VIA/CRYO detection and treatment equipment to serve the poor on a regular basis. These new testing methods will make cervical cancer screening a possibility for thousands more Guatemalan women at each clinic every year and reduce the number of Guatemalan women's deaths caused by this detectable and treatable cancer.

Four Obras Employees Receive Nursing Scholarships

Faith In Practice is helping four Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro employees to develop the skills necessary to better themselves and improve the care available to their patients. The four students are currently attending la Escuela de Enfermería (nursing school) in Antigua on the weekends, on a scholarship from Faith In Practice's Carol King Nurse Education Scholarship Fund. After Faith In Practice announced that it would sponsor an auxiliary nurse education program in December 2005, Frey Francisco interviewed candidates and selected Luis Ernesto Ramírez Rodríguez, Benito Genaro Say, Ericka Socorec, and María de la Cruz García.

We send a special thank you to all who have donated to our Carol King Nurse Scholarship Education Fund. The nursing school has agreed to offer the course for half the usual cost, allowing Faith In Practice to send four students for the price of two. Through this scholarship program, Faith In Practice is helping Guatemalans to develop the skills necessary to obtain quality jobs and improve the healthcare available in their country.



From L to R: Ericka Socorec, Luis Ernesto Ramírez, Benito Genaro Say, and María de la Cruz García

Linda McCarty Volunteers as Director of Spiritual Development and Outreach



For Linda McCarty of Chicago, joining the Faith In Practice staff as a volunteer is the next exciting step in her relationship with Guatemala. While interning for divinity school at a church in Arlington in 2003, McCarty heard about a Faith In Practice trip that needed a pastor and volunteered to go. The Arlington church paid for her trip, and while standing in front of the church receiving their gift, McCarty knew that Guatemala would somehow be a part of her future. Over the past several years she has been excited by how God has guided and opened doors for her to serve Guatemala.

As the Director of Spiritual Development and Outreach, her responsibilities are three-fold. First, she is

responsible for developing medical teams and equipment supplier relationships in Chicago. She will also work with Joe Wiatt to develop satellite surgery sites modeled after the Obras facility. She looks forward to their first project in Patzun at Corpus Christi Hospital and Clinic. "I am thrilled to be working with these Franciscan nuns who are so committed to their mission in Patzun," McCarty said. Finally, she will coordinate with each Faith In Practice team's care provider to help them stay on target with the spiritual principles of Faith In Practice.

McCarty currently splits her time working part-time at the McCullough, Campbell and Lane law firm and volunteering with Faith In Practice. She attended DePaul School of Law and University of Chicago Divinity School and spent three months studying Spanish in Quezaltenango, Guatemala.

Fishing Tournament is Coming Soon!

You're invited to join Faith In Practice for our annual charity fishing tournament on July 21-22, 2006 in Port O'Connor, Texas. A Calcutta will be held July 18th, 2006 at the Cadillac Bar in Houston at 6 p.m.

For more information e-mail specialprograms@faithinpractice.org or visit *Events* on our web site. Please let us know if you will be attending the Calcutta.



Have a friend on a mission trip? Visit www.faithinpractice.org for trip logs, mission trip photos, and online giving opportunities.

If you do not wish to receive future emails, please e-mail info@faithinpractice.org with unsubscribe as the subject.

