



FAITH IN PRACTICE

Life Changing Medical Mission

Salvador's Smile

A MOTHER'S FAITH

On Sunday morning, Teresa and her baby boy Salvador were among the crowd of patients waiting to see the first Inglesby surgical team during triage. Quietly and patiently they waited, Salvador swaddled on Teresa's back. Her face showed no emotion; yet, her eyes spoke of struggle and endurance.



Salvador Before Surgery

healing for her baby boy.

When it was her turn, Teresa explained through a translator, how she noticed Salvador's tumor when he was only three months old. She described Salvador as a happy baby, yet she feared for him as the tumor continued to grow. As she relayed her story, Salvador's large brown eyes looked at Faith In Practice's Surgeon Dr. Neil Wangstrom. The news was good. Although a bout of bronchitis would delay Salvador's surgery for another week, Dr. Wangstrom determined that Salvador's tumor could be safely removed. But for Teresa, the waiting continued.

The following Sunday, Teresa and Salvador wandered through the lines of patients during triage. She was

no longer stoic. Not knowing what was to become of Salvador, the waiting frightened her. Rev. Ed Ayers, Jr., noticing Teresa's fear, gently placed his hand on her shoulder offering a prayer for Salvador. Teresa covered her face and cried. Though he spoke English and she Quiche, the prayer transcended all barriers.

Fortunately, when Salvador's health improved, Dr. Manish Wani, serving on Dr. Huebner's team, was there to perform the surgery. Teresa was speechless as she saw Salvador's little face. The tumor was gone. She held him in her arms and turned to the volunteers smiling, transformed from the stoic woman who arrived in Antigua, only three short weeks before.

After many months of uncertainty and three weeks far from home, Teresa's journey was at an end. Salvador's future was bright. Shortly after surgery, Salvador spoke his first words – words that had been silenced by the tumor.

Two Faith In Practice surgical teams from Savannah and one from Houston together with the staff of *Casa de Fe* and *Las Obras* embraced Salvador and Teresa during this journey -- the Faith In Practice family, all working together to bring hope and healing for this child and his mother -- the Faith In Practice family that includes all of you who make it possible with your prayers, your support and your love.



Salvador After Surgery

Blessing Upon Blessing

She walked slowly through the crowd of waiting patients clustered around the schoolroom door. She entered the schoolroom that had been converted into a temporary clinic and said in a soft and quiet voice that she needed nothing. She was not in pain or ill in spite of her advanced age. She did, however, have a humble request. She wanted to offer a prayer for Robin Hardwicke and the volunteers in the gyn clinic. She wanted to thank God and the volunteers for coming to treat her people.

She gently touched Robin and blessed her, offering a prayer for Robin and for Robin's mother who was hospitalized in the States. Robin had been conflicted about coming on this medical trip, worried for her mother. And, yet, Robin chose to travel to Guatemala to care for others who did not have available to them the care that her own mother was receiving. And, here, standing before her, was an elderly Guatemalan woman offering a prayer for her - - offering a prayer for her mother. Healing comes in many forms.

And, that day, there was healing not only for the patients that waited patiently to see a physician. There was healing for Robin and for each volunteer in the clinic who received this gentle soul's blessing.



Dr. Robin Hardwicke (left) and Dr. Allyson McKenney (right) receiving the blessing.

This elderly woman, who stood no more than 4' 6", proceeded to the next schoolroom, blessing each volunteer present, and then the next, and the next, until she had blessed each and every one of the 44 volunteers on the Johnson team. In the midst of the flurry of activity of the clinic, this tiny woman brought calm and peace and a reminder of what the mission of Faith In Practice is all about. A reminder of the healing presence of the living God that is palpably present on Faith In Practice teams for those who serve and for those who are served. A reminder that oftentimes those lines are blurred

and volunteer after volunteer finds that in their service it is they who are served, they who are blessed and healed by the gentle people of Guatemala just as they seek to serve and heal.

God's Love Shared

I am always the last to submit the article for the Newsletter. Always the last, because I look to see what emerges from the articles that will soon show up in your mailbox or on your kitchen table. You see, rather than choosing a theme, we typically let the theme arise from the pages. So, when I sit down to write my little corner, I think, what will you see in these pages? Will you glimpse something of the lives our patients lead, their grace, their struggle? Will you sense something of what this ministry means to our volunteers? And, as I read each word, the theme begins to emerge. This time, it is healing that comes with a touch. Rev. Ayers bringing healing when he gently laid his hand upon a worried mother's shoulder, offering a prayer. A strong and faithful Guatemalan woman, bringing healing with her touch and her blessing.

Amy Nappa said, "... there's a healing of the spirit that takes place when we touch others ... a comfort

that can't be found anywhere else but in a touch or a hug. Somehow, God's love is shared with others through the simplicity of our physical touch."



I think she is right. It happens on every team. The mother that collapses in the arms of a surgeon in relief, because the surgery went well. The volunteer whose life is changed as she holds the old man when he is told that there is nothing that can be done. The power of touch that transcends language, that says everything, when nothing can be said.

I hope that in these pages you, too, will sense lives forever changed, because of God's love found in a touch.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
CORNER

Our 2011 Season

From the high mountains of Totonicapán to the desert of El Progreso, from the Pacific coast of Retalhuleu to the tropical forest of Petén, Faith In Practice volunteers journey long distances to reach the forgotten of Guatemala. With over 900 US and over 400 Guatemalan volunteers, the 2011 season will bring healing to thousands in Guatemala.



21 Surgical Teams Serving in 3 Guatemalan Departments

- Antigua (*Las Obras Hospital*)
- Patzún (*Corpus Christi Hospital*)
- Retalhuleu (*Hilario Galindo Hospital*)



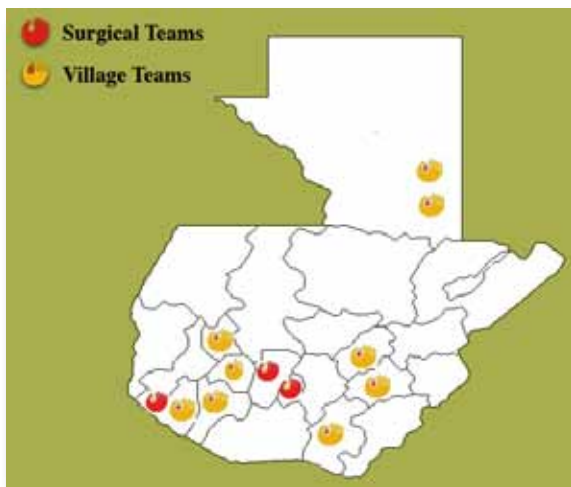
8 Village Teams Serving in 7 Guatemalan Departments

- El Progreso (*Puerta de Golpe & San Agustin*)
- Jalapa (*San Carlos Alzatate & Monjas*)
- Mazatenango (*San Rafael & Canton*)
- Petén (*San Luis & Machaquila*)
- Retalhuleu (*Las Maria, San Marcos, Jesus La Bomba & Grandos*)
- Santa Rosa (*La Canoa & Las Minas*)
- Totonicapán (*Tacajalve & Jutacaj*)



Teaching and Preventative Program Teams Serving Throughout Guatemala

- Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment
- Preventative and Restorative Dentistry
- Pharmacy
- Maintenance



4th ANNUAL WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

MISSION *Meaningful*

Wednesday, April 27th

Featured Speaker

Vera Wiatt, Founding Director

Guest Speakers

Dr. Nancy Glass
Linda Johnson
Dr. Becky McGraw-Wall

Hotel ZaZa

5701 Main Street | Houston

Make Reservations Online:
faithinpractice.org click events

BBB AND ICA

The Better Business Bureau and Independent Charities of America have now endorsed Faith In Practice.



COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

Faith In Practice is now part of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) which is the largest annual workplace charity campaign that enables federal employees to pledge gifts through pre-tax payroll deductions.

Our CFC number is 19656.





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

The Gift of Easter

This Easter, we celebrate the Light that no darkness shall ever overcome. We celebrate Life arising out of death. We celebrate Wholeness where once there was nothing but brokenness. In gratitude for the miracle of God's infinite love expressed in the Risen Christ, please consider a gift that brings light, life and wholeness to the poor of Guatemala in the Name of the Risen One, our Wounded Healer.

Should you wish to honor someone through an Easter gift, go to www.faithinpractice.org, click on "Donate" and then "Alternative Gifts." Once you submit your online payment information, we will send a card to the recipient you designate in the "Optional Note" field. Please be sure to include the recipient's full name and complete mailing address.

*¡Feliz Pascua y Que Dios los Bendiga!
Happy Easter and May God Bless You!*



Dedicated to the memory of **Dr. Jim Bonnet 1954-2011**. We give thanks for the gift of eternal life.

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