

MT-2 Dental Mission Trip Blog – March 24–31, 2018

Day 1 – March 24th, 2018

The second part of our dental mission trip arrived safely – Cindy, Jessica, Danielle, Dr. Patty, Ben & Sarah. We had a late lunch after arrival in Quimistan, after which the new team members joined right in as we took 7 of the Honduras Agape children shopping, mostly for school supplies & shoes. One also got a bag full of rice & beans for his very poor family.



The new team members are very tired from their very long day of traveling, but are in high spirits and are ready for a good mission week here in Honduras.

God has been so great to us today.

Day 2 – March 25th, 2018

We awoke this morning to birds singing loudly and beautifully to us. It was almost as if the birds' singing was God's way of reminding us of the way Christ was welcomed on Palm Sunday when the crowds sang & shouted "[Hosanna!](#)" "[Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!](#)" ([John 12:13](#)).

After devotions & breakfast, we were off to Tejeras for Sunday School. We were welcomed there with beautiful and very lively singing by the many young children that attended from this extremely poor community. Both the children and the adult leaders were full of energy as they worshiped this morning. No palms in the worship service but we knew without a doubt that the Holy Spirit was with the children there this morning!



After the worship service, the Tejas children were fed a nourishing meal, which our team helped to deliver and serve. Following the meal, one Tejas mother presented her sick child, who we prayed for and laid hands on. Pastor Wilmer, Sandra Rojas, and Cindy led the prayers. We surely hope he is feeling much better soon.

We then had a super treat later this morning at the AP youth group meeting. These young people had prepared a wonderful program for us. One of the group, Genesis, led us in the Lord's Prayer in English! Then we had a reading from Psalms and a prayer.



Then the youth showed us two traditional Honduran dances. In the first one they wore traditional Honduras dance costumes – just wonderful. Towards the end of the second dance, they invited several of our mission team to dance with them – we were not as good as them, but we at least tried!



The festivities were concluded with homemade doughnuts and soda, financed by Trinity UMC's Circle of Light.

After lunch, our team started preparations for the visits to the mountain villages/schools that begin tomorrow. Danielle (who is taking Spanish in High School) practiced telling the Bible story of **Daniel in the Lions' Den** which she will present in Spanish to the children in five villages over the next two days. Our Honduran translator congratulated her on her Spanish for the Bible story.



This afternoon the team made a brief visit to the hospital where the dental clinic room is located so the new members of our team this week could look at the way the dental equipment & supplies were set up. Just before leaving the hospital area, our team looked at some of the fruit/nut tree on the hospital grounds. We got a good picture of our 3 teenagers along with one of the AP students that will be helping our team for the next two days.

On our way from the hospital area back to our home for the week, we stopped at a small souvenir shop along the highway. We took more great photos of the teenagers that will be part of our team tomorrow.



We now look forward to a good night's rest, and another busy day tomorrow!

Day 3 – March 26th, 2018

This morning Cindy began a series of Holy Week devotions – a great way to start the day today. After devotions & breakfast, we were off to the **Los Hornos School**. The children were all lined up with a wonderful sign welcoming us. That was a real blessing. We then set up for our hygiene clinic for the children – hand washing, de-worming pill, tooth brushing, & fluoride brushing.



At the conclusion of the hygiene clinic, we began the mini-Vacation Bible School. Danielle (the 16-year-old on our mission team) told the Bible story of Daniel in the Lions Den in Spanish to the 3rd grade students. She said she was a bit nervous this first time telling the story to the Honduras children in Spanish but she did a marvelous job! Danielle, using a guitar, then lead the children in a song about Daniel in the lion's den. Then came the Bible story craft where each student put together a mask of a lion's head – with some help from our mission team members, the students did a great job with the craft.



While the 3rd graders were doing their lion's head craft, the other students in the school were either playing soccer with Ben (a youth on our mission team) or were playing a game trying to bounce a beach ball on a small round "parachute". All the children had a great time.



Near the end of the visit, Dr. Patty with help from Jessica, did a screening of the older children to determine which ones needed to come to our dental clinic later this week.

After we finished with our activities with the children at Los Hornos, the team had some PB&J sandwiches and a banana for lunch.

Just after noon, we departed for **Milpa Arada School** which was a relatively short drive away. There we repeated the activities of the morning.

After finishing at Milpa Arada School, we traveled a short but very bumpy road in dire need of improvements to the very small village of El Jicaro, with a one-room school for grades 1-6 combined. When we arrived in El Jicaro, we saw that the bridge over a small stream had been washed out, so our van had to ford the stream – a bit difficult but we made it safely. There are only 30 students in this school, but they were wonderful children. There we again had a hygiene clinic and VBS.



In El Jicaro, we also gave each young girl in the school a hand-made dress. These wonderful dresses were made by ladies at St. John's UMC in Aiken, SC. The girls loved the dresses! The last thing we did before leaving was give a soccer ball to the school.

When we left El Jicaro, we decided to board the van **after** it crossed the stream, just to be on the safe side. 😊

While our team is tired this evening, everyone on our team felt we had a great day working with the people in Honduras and serving the children here – the children are so full of love. GOD IS GREAT!

Day 4 – March 27th, 2018

This morning Cindy presented the second in her series of Holy Week devotions – thank you Cindy!

After devotions & breakfast, we went high up the mountains to the remote village of Teo – about an hour and half drive on a winding & bumpy road but it was wonderful looking a God's creation in these Honduras mountains.





At Teo, we set up and performed our hygiene clinic for the children. At these clinics, we often notice how the older kids look after their younger siblings.



After the clinic, we began the mini-Vacation Bible School with the Bible story & song led by Danielle followed by the lion's head craft project for the children. We again played the "keep the ball on the parachute" game with the children before we departed for our second village of the day, which was La Montanita, about a 2-hour drive through the mountains to get there.

Just before boarding the van for the ride, we changed the traditional way we have been saying grace before meals when Danielle taught us and then led us in "The Superman Grace" – I think it may have put a smile on God's face. We ate our PB&J sandwiches and some snacks for lunch as we were on our way.

In La Montanita, we again had the VBS with some games for the children. Patty & Jessica then screened the older children to determine which needed to come to the dental clinic we will hold for the next three days.

Over the past 2 days and 5 presentations, over 150 children have participated in the VBS. We want to thank Danielle for leading the Bible story and song in Spanish. She, with the help of her Spanish teacher in the Williston, SC school, did a lot of work preparing for this activity for our mission trip. We also are



deeply thankful for all the effort Jessica and her mother put forth in preparing for the Bible story craft – there were well over a thousand construction paper pieces that needed to be pre-cut and then sorted before we left on the mission trip so the children here could complete the lion's head masks so beautifully! Thanks again for all the preparatory work done by these dedicated folks! Many thanks also to the 2 AP students, Fabiola and Joselyn, who went to all 5 villages with us, and were a great help in both the clinics and in the VBS presentations.

Late this afternoon, the mission team visited the TRANQUILIDAD ORPHANAGE just a few minutes away from where we are staying here. Tranquilidad was founded 3 years ago by Roxanne & Sam Turnipseed who came here from Aiken, SC. Patty & Jessica did a dental exam on the children while we were there.

You may learn more about this wonderful Christian foundation by visiting their web site at <http://tranquilidadfd.com/> , or their Facebook page at: [TranquilidadFoundation](#) .

God has been so good to us today as we traveled up and down the mountain roads here in the beautiful country of Honduras. THANK YOU GOD!

Day 5 – March 28th, 2018

This morning we started the day with Cindy leading the third in her series of Holy Week devotions. Then, following breakfast and a special prayer for our two dental professionals, our team was off to the clinic for the first dental day of this week. When we arrived, there were already several children from Los Hornos waiting for their treatments, so Joselyn got right to work logging them in.



The first patient treated was the star patient of the day – a young boy 10 or 11 years old had 6 cavities in 4 of his teeth. Although he had never been treated by a dentist before and thus was a bit nervous, he was the perfect patient – no crying, squirming, or complaining. He just laid in the dentist's chair for an hour and half letting Dr. Patty & Jessica (a long-time dental assistant) work on his 6 cavities.



During much of the day, our 3 teenagers on the mission team entertained the children waiting for their dental treatment. This included helping the children color in a coloring book, blowing up balloons and twisting them into animal and other unique shapes for them, playing soccer, playing “keep the beach ball on the parachute”, etc.



Besides the 2 dental professionals on this mission trip, other mission team members assisted them, including our 3 teenagers, by holding a flashlight to illuminate the mouth, getting supplies for the dentist, etc.



This morning, we took Luis shopping. Luis is an absolutely wonderful Agape Promise student. His family living in the Tejeras area is one of the poorest families here. Luis got a new bicycle, some new shoes and a few much needed clothing items. Below is a photo of Luis with his new bike wearing a “balloon crown” made for him by the teenagers on our team.



The highlight of Tommy's day was when Sonia, the last patient of the day, came in with her younger 2 sisters. In the nearly 11 years that he & Mandy have sponsored her, she has gone from a shy 5th grader to a college student, who is also holding down a job. It is always great to catch up with Sonia and her family!



This evening we had a “mucho delicioso” (extremely delicious) dinner prepared for us by our host cooks. It was “Honduran tocos”, chimol (Honduran salsa), slaw, fried potatoes, and fresh mango & melon. It was so tasty that we all applauded the cooks when we finished dinner.

And now, we look forward to a good night's rest to help prepare us for another rewarding day tomorrow.

Day 6 – March 29th, 2018

This morning we started the day with Pastor Cindy leading the fourth in her series of Holy Week devotions and focused our minds and hearts on Maundy Thursday and Christ's Last Supper with his disciples and then his betrayal.



Today our dental team had a very special Honduran member added to our combined mission team – Dr. Laura. About 12-15 years ago when Laura was still in elementary school here in Quimistan, she was sponsored as a new Agape Promise (AP) student (i.e., when she was about 10-12 years old). Growing up in a very poor family, the Honduras Agape Foundation (HAF) AP program was really her only way to continue beyond elementary school. With HAF sponsor support, she not only remained in school through high school (which is not that common in Honduras) but also completed university and dental school. She received her dental license a year ago and has been serving this past year doing social service dentistry here in Quimistan (a requirement in Honduras). Dr. Laura helped Dr. Patty and Jessica throughout the day today during our dental clinic for the children here.



Our dental team treated 12 patients today (mostly children). This included our translator Daniel's 2 children, Isabella (9) and Ezra (6). Isabella seems to be thinking of changing her career goal to dentistry.



children, Josè (12th grade) and Andrea (6th grade) were also at the clinic. Josè plans to be a doctor like his father.

One of the adult patients treated today was Dr. Tino's wife Fatima. Dr. Tino is a medical doctor here that helps our Honduras Agape Foundation with monthly visits to poor, remote mountain villages to provide medical exams and treatments for these people who rarely have an opportunity to see a real doctor. Dr. Tino also provides extensive first aid training to a few women in each village so they will be able to do some basic medical procedures in case of an emergency (take blood pressure, suture cuts, etc.) Dr. Tino's



While the dental team was doing dentistry, our teenage team members continued to entertain the children that came to the clinic.

We complete this day with our thoughts going back to the events of Christ over 2,000 years ago on this Maundy Thursday and look towards Good Friday. May God bless you; may God bless the wonderful people here in Honduras, and may God bless our combined US & Honduras mission team members.

Day 7 – March 30th, 2018

This morning we started the day with Pastor Cindy leading the fifth in her series of Holy Week devotions and focused our minds and hearts on the event of Good Friday and Christ's crucifixion.



Most of the patients were children from the remote village of La Montanita. This was the village our team visited on Tuesday afternoon. The children and a few moms arrived in a small pickup with most standing in the bed of the pickup for the ride over the bumpy roads. Our dental team treated 12 patients today, mostly children. Dr. Laura, the young Honduras dentist that went through the Agape Promise program, helped with several dental procedures again today.



While the dental team was doing dentistry, our teenage team members continued to entertain the children that came to the clinic. Today was mostly Balloon Day!



Tonight for dinner, we had several very special guests including Gary & Martha Thomsen; Gloria Castillo; Sandra Rojas; Maynor, Jessy & Arleth; Joselyn, David & Douglas; Isaac & Carlos (Suyapa's children); Daniel; and our driver Mario.



For dessert, we had a delicious *Tres Leches* cake, made by Gloria. Thank you, Gloria! Unfortunately, it was so good, it was about gone before we could get a picture of it.

At the end of the meal, Tommy had a surprise visit from our long-time sponsoree, Sonia, who came to say good-bye, and drop off a parting gift.



We complete this day thinking back to the crucifixion of Christ over 2,000 years ago on this Good Friday and think about what He went through that day for us to redeem us from our sins. What a wonderful and gracious God that He would do this for me!

Tonight we pray for safe, smooth travels home for our team tomorrow. We also ask for prayers for the next mission team that will arrive tomorrow as we depart. The next mission team is a youth/adult team with 10 members from St. John's United Methodist

in Aiken, SC and 5 members from McDonough Presbyterian in McDonough, GA (just south of Atlanta). Stay tuned for more blog entries from that team.

May God bless you; may God bless the wonderful people here in Honduras, and may God bless our combined US & Honduras mission team members.

Buenas noches y adios de Honduras!

