

## Summary of trip to Guatemala Feb, 2008

### Meeting with Dr. Alfonso Ayala

Works with health ministry on the border of Belize and Guatemala and also works with Project XL, a combined program with the Canadian International Development Fund. He was the original founder of the Peten Rotary which was started 4 years ago.

Belize is a much more stable nation because:

- a. history with Great Britain
- b. 90% speak English
- c. stable government for many years
- d. no large indigenous population
- e. strong relations with Venezuela and Cuba

2 pathologists in all of Belize (population 300,000)

There are 200,000 people in Peten - no pathologists

350 medical students graduate in Guatemala each year but there are only <100 residency spots. Possibility open for using a resident in San Benito clinic for one year. They would need occasional supervision from instructor from med school. Dr. Ayala worked for one year as resident in Huehuetenango after med school.

Discussion of blood availability for surgery.

Presently, when someone is having surgery, family members donate blood and if blood is needed for surgery, then other blood that has already been cross matched and checked for Hepatitis, leishmaniasis and HIV is used.

AS far as dialysis, Belize has good donated dialysis equipment but it is never used because they don't know how to upkeep equipment and supplies are too expensive.

Discussion with Dr. Jack Page about needs for Good Samaritan Clinic

Most important, needs a doctor on a regular basis. It would be better to find an American because Guatemalan doctors are often inadequate. He gave us list of what else he thought was needed for clinic to be meaningful.

Typically, doctor makes about 5000Q per month for part time work (4 hours a day)

Insights from Bio and Derida:

Be careful what you say and who you trust! Don't ever assume you can give information to anyone that you don't know well.

Focus of vocational training is to use Christian biblical principles - eg. To be punctual and honest. "When you are faithful, the Lord is faithful to you".

Consider "sponsorships" for boys in Vocational Center. They go through the program from Feb to November. For the first 6 months, Bio prefers that they don't do any actual building of the woodwork so as not to waste materials. During that time, Bio would not want to pay them for products but made but money could help with such things as money for bus travel, lunches, celebration at end of training. They thought cost of sponsorship could be total expenses divided by number of boys.

Goals of vocational center:

Affect the community

Teach the boys biblical principles of life and business (honesty, punctuality)

They view the clinic as a place to:

Serve the poor

Uplift the community

Share the love of God

Provide outreach opportunities to poorer communities and allow the people of Colonia Colonia Tikal to serve those worse off than them.

Demonstrate to the community what good, compassionate medical care is really about since their concept of adequate is so unrealistic.

Expenses for vocational center (annual)

\$2000 - tools

\$2000 - materials and office furniture and equipment

\$3000 - utilities

\$1000 - guard

Send any money to:

Global Dev. Services

PO Box 398

Spicer MN

56288

Phone: 320-796-0121

"GDservices@tds.net"

Meeting with AGROS (Mario Morales) - "mariom@agros.org"

Agros was started by an American in 1982. "Skip Lee". He was originally from Taiwan and was the son of the ambassador of Taiwan. He lived in Guatemala for a while and then went to the US where he became a lawyer. Mario has been with AGros since 2001.

They are now working in Quiche and Huehuetenango.

It takes 10 years to build an AGROS community and the first 5 years require the greatest investment.

They help the people buy the land and develop it. They teach them how to grow fruit, keep animals, build houses, get a water supply and install latrines, build schools (though govt. sends teachers). They help the people to work with a municipality (KOKO) and train a community leader to be the link with the municipality. They form a BANKO COMMUNAL for the women to get microenterprise loans. They ask

the women of the community what their dreams and their talents are in helping them work toward developing a business. They try to give them a vision. First loan is usually \$80 for 6 months. If paid back, then they get \$100 for the next 6 months. Interest is 24% (half goes to Agros and half back to the community).

Agros supplies the basic material to construct a house but the people build it. They use bamboo, cement, adobe. House costs about 15,000Q.

Agros buys 100 acres and divides it into

- Area for animals
- Area for trees
- Area for vegs, fruit
- Land for corn, beans
- Area for houses

Usually, 15-30 families live in one of these regions. Each family has title to specific area of land. There are different options for dividing the space.

They use organic latrines with 2 holes. Use one "hole" for 6 months and then use the other one. Latrine is made of cement so there is no ground contamination. Apply ashes or lime.

Agros donates stove (low fuel use)

Usually, 10 acres per family. Financing for 10-15 years (10% interest in Q's).

The communities they serve are 95% indigenous Mayan and only 50% speak Spanish.

"Journey With A Village". An organization or church can work with community to build the village. Cost is about \$240,000. Right now they need help starting 3 communities. People from the organization often visit 2x a year. Because the first year is so hard, American volunteers often help with the physical work. They help them build their values and write their past, present and dream of a future.

Meeting with HELPS GUATEMALA

Arturo Melville - executive director 502-2428-6600 "amelville@helpsinternational.com"

They send 10 medical teams per year to Guat.

Teams can have as many as 100 people. They usually do a clinic and a surgical team. All the logistics are worked out by HELPS. They have warehouses in Huehuetenango, Tejutla, Quiche, Uspanta. They often use old military bases to run hospital. A "type A hospital" uses USAID money. There is a meeting in May of all the team leaders for education.

Discussion about water filtration systems. Clay pot doesn't work for the long term.

They also teach agricultural concepts - contour planting, no till, no burning. In Peten, they might teach soil conservation, incorporating stalks, growth cover.

We talked about role of Cuban doctors. In Cuba, they graduate too many doctors (800) each year. They send them around the world for training purposes. They go for 2 years. In Guatemala, they go to more remote areas where there is need. They can go home 3x in 2 years. The Cuban government watches their family in Cuba. They prefer to send married doctors. They have no operating budget so no supplies. They use "natural medicine". They are paid well. They work in San Marcos and San Cristobal. They do a lot of needless surgery so they can say there is need.

It costs \$1700 to go on a HELPS trip. You have to bring your own instruments and meds.