

Trip Report – March 6-13, 2011

Participants:

1. Dr. Coral Matus
2. Dr. Gary Collins
3. Dr. Dave Mallory
4. Dr. Anne Ruch
5. Sharla Cook – nutritionist
6. Andrew Riemer
7. Erin Fenton
8. Beth Mallory
9. Katherine Mallory
10. Ryan Mallory – med student – 1st year
11. Deena Ellis
12. Miranda Hillard – med student – 4th year
13. Brooke Guerrero – med student – 1st year
14. Rev. Julian Davies – pastor
15. Colleen Perry – nurse
16. Iris Schell - translator

Child Health Week

1. Dental fluoride treatments and deworming medicine.
2. Stool samples done to document worm problem.
3. 25-30 children seen in clinic per day. Many had typical winter illnesses such as gripe (flu), ear infections and asthma. We also saw plenty of skin infections, both fungal and bacterial. Many had dental pain and abscesses to treat. Signs and symptoms of roundworm infestation were frequent, which was confirmed by our limited number of stool specimens which were virtually all positive. We might have tested more except for the long distance of over an hour that many came to see us. Many walked, some came by horse. We worked hard to try to ensure that everyone who made that effort to see us was given the medical attention that they needed. With each visit, we tried to explain the root causes of their ailments. This was often improved hygiene, clean food and water, avoiding sweets, avoiding indoor air pollution, wearing shoes, etc.
4. Height and weight measurements and hematocrits were done.
5. The children enjoyed coloring, drawing, jumping rope, watching health related videos. The Saturday health fair went quite well. The mothers and children there were eager to learn how to improve their health, and the program was simple, actionable and interactive. I think that we planted lots of seeds to nurture with future visits.
6. Education throughout the week regarding breastfeeding, sanitation, handwashing, transmission of worms

Women's Health clinic – 100 women seen including: prenatal care, cervical cancer screening, cautery of cervical dysplasia, Jobst stockings for varicose veins, IUD placement, pelvic pain, bacterial vaginosis, Urinary Tract infections

Family Practice clinic – Dr. Coral Matus saw patients of all ages throughout each day.

Tibursia presented with presumed pneumonia. Treated with IV fluids, IV Rocephin, aerosol treatment, oral antibiotics. Due to recent family crisis (2 sons left home for U.S. and one possibly murdered), Tibursia spent time with Pastor Julian and others from group. On the day we left, her son called and she was reassured that he was alive. She soon became much better and was able to walk.

Wound vac for Daniel. Remarkable improvement in just 5 days.

Katherina (baby with VSD) did not present to clinic

Flori was evaluated and pap smear done. Biopsies had been done at last visit in January which were normal. She is doing well with no complaints.

Numerous meetings with Community leaders:

a. They feel High School Sponsorship Program is outstanding. We had a meeting with all the parents who expressed deep gratitude. They were told the name of their children's sponsors and shows photos of the sponsors. We promised to bring pictures during the next trip. They feel the teens are learning a great deal and are benefitting from their exposure to a somewhat better lifestyle in Santa Ana. One of the girls in the program, Elida, has not been following the rules. At times, she does not wear her uniform. She has missed days in school with no excuse. She has not taken any of the assessment exams and is not coming for the volunteer work that the others are doing. After discussion with the education committee and her mother and her, it was decided that she should not remain in the program. She did not seem to mind and indicated that the rules were too extreme for her.

b. The education committee feels that it would be great to have after-school tutoring available for the high school students and ultimately for all the students. Mario could potentially fill in in this role. They are extremely dissatisfied with the current teachers and would love to see a new school. For now, they are patrolling the school

c. Lengthy discussion about the Community Center. The community leaders agree that it would be best for the building to be owned by SewHope with rules and management established by and carried through with the leaders in conjunction with members from SewHope. Land is available for sale across from the current school. Estimate \$2000-\$4000 for the land. Will apply for grant from "Hug It Forward" to build it. The leaders feel this land is on the main road and it will be

easier to guard it and to use it in conjunction with the present school for education. They would like to see it used as a place for:

- i. future jornadas/first aid station/
- ii. kindergarten
- iii. After-school enrichment
- iv. a "feeding station" to serve the KAH food to the children and pregnant women. We would like to expand the food program to pre-school children
- v. Adult education in literacy, sewing and possibly other projects
- vi. Kitchen
- vii. Dining area
- viii. Computer lab
- ix. Possibly a private school in the future
- x. storage room

D-lights; These were shown to the parents of the high school students. They feel these would be extremely useful in helping their children read at night. They are willing to pay \$20 for them. 35 D-lights were brought on this trip and Ismael and Orfe will determine their distribution during a meeting next week.

Water testing done by Julian Davies and Dave Mallory. Contamination was proven in the water collected from the rain as well as in the pond. Agar plates were "clean" in water treated by water filter. Leaders and many community members were shown the results and were extremely interested in obtaining one of the filters. They are willing to pay \$40 for them. Julian demonstrated the process to the education committee. We plan to send them with the June trip.

The children and parents were also shown the video regarding the SODIS system of water purification using plastic bottles and this process was demonstrated.

13. We had a meeting with **Mario** regarding his working for us. His duties would include:

- i. working with Orfe in adult education
- ii. tutoring students after school
- iii. Ensuring completion of latrine program. Determining what needs to be changed in current latrines.

iv. Working with Ismael in construction of Community Center
He would be willing to work for Q2000 per month for the next 3 months and then we would reevaluate this position.

v. He is currently working on getting 10 typewriters and wants to teach the children how to use a keyboard.

14. Photos were taken of at least 4 women with very severe varicose veins. Dr. Steven Gale is considering a trip to Guatemala next year to treat these women with CLOSURE. At his request, photos were taken and will be sent to him. He is hoping to get a grant from one of the companies.

Meeting with Blanca – She is recently married and not interested in working in Pueblo Nuevo but would be happy to work with anyone that we might send to that school for further training. She will be given the books for the first grade.

Pastor from the Assembly of God and women from his church prepared a **meal** for us each day. Although the meals were excellent, it was inconvenient having to go so far to eat the food. There was quite a bit of waste and many trip members would have preferred no meat at that meal. Cost was Q3500 - \$6.00 per meal.

Julian Davies (a United Methodist pastor) met with the pastors of the Nazarene Church, the Assemblies of God Church and the Prophecy Church in what was humorously described as the First Annual Interdenominational Pastor's Conference at Pueblo Nuevo.

With the invaluable help of Ismael, the group discussed ways in which the churches could work together to provide leadership in bringing about positive change in Pueblo Nuevo while maintaining their own unique and distinctive emphases on ministry.

The issue of public health, especially with regard to the importance of clean drinking water, came to the forefront in the conversation and the local pastors agreed in principle to selecting a specific Sunday after the Easter season and on that Sunday preaching on the issue at each of the churches. The intent is that the villagers all hear a message about the importance of clean water no matter which church they attend and that the combined message from all three pastors would show unity, solidarity and emphasize the importance of the issue.

Ismael was subsequently provided with materials in Spanish to print and distribute to the pastors that will be helpful in providing a focused message and he agreed to follow up and lead in selecting a date and guiding this plan forward. If successful, the idea is to follow up with a series of topics which the pastors could agree upon for such combined messages on a regular basis.