

Dear Praying Friends:
2018

June

Victor my Honduran pastor co-worker let me know that on this trip we would be working in a penitentiary that housed 700 male inmates. I was glad for the 'heads up' because I had taken a team there two years ago and knew exactly the meds and equipment to take. Since we wouldn't be seeing women and children this time, I contacted my other co-worker Francisco who works in a pharmacy in Honduras to get the meds we needed since these men have different types of diseases that the country people don't have. He sent me the list with the prices and I sent him money to purchase what was needed.

I was blessed to have a team from my supporting church in Illinois to join me, Dr. Diane, Dr. Kyle, dentist, and Kris a policemen. That meant that along with my Honduran medical team I would have two docs, two dentists, a nurse, a pharmacist, Francisco and me, the newly self-appointed eye 'doctor'. With all of this help we would be able to see a lot more patients!

When we arrived, Victor had changed plan 'A' around bit and wanted us to spend our first day in a community where he had planted a church. He really felt we needed to encourage the pastor serving there. Well, we hadn't planned on this so hadn't requested any meds specific for women and children, but thought we'd let the Lord sort it out. On arrival and setting up the dental clinic, the power cord for my electric dental unit was missing. We looked everywhere and could not find it so had to tell the community that we were only going to be able to pull teeth as our dental unit was down. The nurse and Dr. Diane did their best with treating each female patient with the limited resources they had and Francisco improvised

with medications he had to work with. The verse that came to me at that moment was, 'In everything give thanks for this is the will of God concerning you.' So I thanked God because He knew what He is doing even if I didn't.

Kris was kept busy cleaning the instruments for the dentists and since I wasn't needed in that capacity, I fitted eyeglasses for ones who needed them. A year or so ago, you folks supplied money for me to purchase an eye glass machine so I could make reading glasses out of my garage for a fraction of the cost. The cool parts about my little machine were the things that came with it; a square basic exam card with the different strengths of glass to look through and a witnessing reading chart for the eye exams. Like all eye charts, it starts with large letters at the top, then coming down the chart you have to read a small sentence. "If you were to die today, where would you go? Then the next and smallest sentence reads, "If you died and stood before Jesus, what would you say to Him that would allow you to enter heaven?" It is a great witnessing tool and the pastor was there to help me with further conversations.

I had been making glasses and storing them for upcoming trips, when one of our supporters in Colorado let me know that they would be able to donate all the glasses I will ever need. What a blessing! I was asked at one point if I would now be transitioning from 'dentist' to eye doctor.....just learning that trade on the job as I had with 'dentistry'. Well, I'm not planning on any major eye surgeries any time soon, thinking I will probably stick to simple eye exams! ^

The pastor in this community was thrilled to be able to speak to each one who came for help, making sure to follow up with those who made any commitments. We were able to help 240 patients medically and with their teeth.

The next day we arrived at the penitentiary and told them that we were only going to be able to pull teeth as our dental unit was down. The director informed

us that the Red Cross had just donated a unit to the prison and we were welcome to use it, but they didn't have any dental materials. We told them we had materials but no unit! The Lord came through once again! Their prison dentist only works three days a week and wanted to help, so we had three dentists and they were incredibly busy removing and restoring a lot of teeth! This kept our team busy as well. I was able to help around two hundred people with reading glasses. The lights went out on our last day and so by candle light and flashlights the doctors finished seeing the last of the patients.

There have been so many converted prisoners turned pastors in this penitentiary that their changed lives have reduced their sentences. Asking some of them to give me their personal testimonies, though they were reluctant, truly blessed me. The power of God and His Word radiated when they shared, putting me to shame that I am not that bold! One of these pastors of the prison church was helping me with the glasses and asked if I would preach Thursday afternoon when they held a service. It was a joy to share the Word with about thirty or so prisoners as they filled the room of their little 'church' in that penitentiary. I truly wish you could hear these men praise the Lord in song. Their prayers are powerful and just listening to them would move you to tears.

Every time I make these mission trips it is my prayer that I will be a blessing to those we come in contact with but I always come away doubly blessed and humbled observing these poor Christian prisoners and their walk with God. I feel pretty small around them. God is building His Church and what a privilege to be a small part of it. We were able to help over 800 people. Each of these patients was presented with the Gospel and we don't know how many came to Christ but the seed was planted and we pray that Holy Spirit will do His work in each heart.

Thank you so much for your prayers. They were answered. We were safe in travel,

no one got sick and we returned home safe and sound. Thank you for being a part of my team.

Serving our King together,

Al and Connie

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