

TRIP REPORT FOR GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP April 2 – 12, 2009
PRAYER PARTNERS

We left the home of the missionaries Michael and Kambria Robertson with Michael, Kirk Devenney, head of Open Doors Ministry International, and Bill Nostz and started on the 6 hour drive to Nebaj, a small city of 25,000 in the Cuchumatanes Mountains. The following morning we



drove to Chajul and began a 5 to 5 ½ hour mule ride with equipment to Chaxa. We rode over 2 mountain ranges and 2 fingers of other mountain ranges going as high as about 8,500 feet and descending to Chaxa at about 7,500 feet. There had been 2 white women to come to Chaxa before our team arrived. The children brought us honey, but we saw few adults at first. The women set up camp in the church which had been built 3 weeks before. Michael and Bill set up tents just outside and Jim & Kirk set

up in the house used for a kitchen.

Every morning we had devotions led by one of the team members and spent time in prayer. The prayer, yours and ours, was crucial to the success of the mission. We could feel the spiritual presence in the area. The primary purpose of the mission trip was to help build relationships with the people and help the 3 Christian families, led by Pastor Chamai, to plant a Christian church. This has been difficult as the Ixil people are very cautious of any outsiders partly because of the 36 year civil war which ended in 1996 during which many of the Mayan people were massacred by both sides of the conflict. In fact Pastor Chamai said the next village (30 minutes further on the trail) would not be ready for outsiders...

For the next four days we conducted a dental clinic in the church with the equipment we packed in. We discovered that much of the equipment had somehow been left behind so we did not have a machine to mix the filling material and ended up doing all the fillings in composite (tooth colored fillings) which takes more time. We only had 2 forceps (pliers-like tools for pulling teeth) and they were exactly the same. We only had 3 elevators (tools to loosen the teeth) and they were all the same. We had a few other instruments for extractions and normally we need a large variety of instruments. In spite of this every tooth we attempted to remove came out. Multiple times as we prayed over a tooth that wouldn't move, it popped out when we finished the prayer. So God

had the situation in hand. Below are some pictures of the team at work. In the first one Michael and Jim are



discussing a patient. In the second one Tracey prepares to numb up a patient. In the third one Jen and Naomi are assisting Dr. Jim as a cloud goes in one window and out another (the picture looks smoky but it is a cloud). Hannah and Patricia handled patient

registration with Francisco. Patricia would speak Spanish to Francisco and he would speak Ixil to the patients. They also gave instructions to the patients and prayed over them after getting their consent. Because of the distrust toward outsiders Pastor Chamai



and Baltasar, a local Christian, would often have to go and find patients for us to treat. We treated 68 patients doing 64 fillings, 55 extractions, 6 surgeries, 9 cleanings & fluoride treatments, as well as oral hygiene instructions. In addition we treated one mule bite and one deep machete cut in a hand, and two general health checkups.

One of the highlights of the trip was providing Pastor Chamai and the local Christians with "Proclaimer"

units, which contain the entire New Testament in the Ixil language. These are small black boxes that run on a battery charged by solar power, or a hand crank or by an electrical plug. The local Christians are very excited because they have had no materials to share their faith and even without electricity in Chaxa they will be able to study God's Word! In the picture on the right Dr. Jim presents a Proclaimer Unit to Pastor Chamai. Even though Pastor Chamai is only there 3 days every other week, the local Christians will have units to study and hold services.



The first movies ever shown in the village of Chaxa were the Jesus film and the Book of Acts in Ixil .

To the left is a picture of the missionaries and the local Christians praying for people to come to the Lord. They had just completed discussing each team member's role. We also attended the first church service in the new church and showed some films again.

At first the group of villagers was small but when the Jesus film came on the church filled up, with more men standing outside looking in. The next day we packed up and began the



mule train journey back to Chajul. The mules seemed to move faster because we made it out in just 4 ½ hours. Friday we traveled back to San Lucas. Saturday was shopping and Sunday we flew home.

Col. 1: 13-14 God sent us there so He could begin His rescue mission. 1 Cor. 12:7 everyone was able to use their gifts. John 17:20-23 We could feel united as a team and united in Christ! Ephesians 6:10 We could feel the spiritual warfare going on. Rev.5:8 The Lord treasures your prayers and so did we.

Thank you! Jim, Hannah, Jennifer, Naomi, Patricia and Tracey.