

Dear Faithful Friends and Prayer Warriors:

August 2017

August was a great month for us in spite of a few problems and as a result of many prayers. The Panama trip was amazing and very much a success for us and for the newly started church we were working with. The Lord blessed us no doubt in response to many prayers. Our team size for this trip was nearly perfect with 19 total (we only have 6 total for our next trip to Cambodia.) As always we need more volunteers for nearly every trip. More volunteers means more patients and since each will hear the gospel, in the end more souls saved and lives changed. Please pray for more volunteers for every trip.

"Open this bag," the customs official asked after passing all our bags through x ray. We did not have anything we were not supposed to have, but sometimes looking through a bag can be a hassle and very time consuming and it was already quite late. As I went to comply, the bag had a TSA combination lock. The numbers were small, the light was poor, and I am getting older...so I needed my reading glasses. As I went to pull them out of my shirt pocket, they became hopelessly entangled in some loose threads at the bottom of my pocket. After a few struggles trying to get them loose the customs agent said, "Oh, just go on" and sent us out the door. First time I ever thanked God for presbyopia (poor vision of old age).

"Sorry, we only have 2 vans," the attendant told us at the car rental desk. We had reserved 3 vans and had 3 confirmation numbers, but one of them was "not in the computer." In the end they gave us a high capacity SUV for the same rate. The problem was not passengers, but cargo. We had over 50 pieces of luggage (many very big and heavy) to transport also. At least we had 2 vans so we did fine. When we returned, the SUV had some heat crazing on the headlight glass which is normal wear and was present when we got it, but they charged us \$200 for it anyway. Nothing we could do, that's just the price of doing business in a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country.

When we arrived on the first clinic day, there was a huge mass of people in a disorganized jam around the gate waiting for us. I have never had such an issue with crowd control! All day the people were crowding and pushing to get ahead. At last some police (who had come for glasses) got involved and organized things. The rest of the week they showed up and by the last day we arrived to a neat line (over a block long). This shows how needed the services were which we had to offer.

The pastor of the church plant we were helping is blind. He has been a key member of Missionary Byron Willis' church and a teacher in the Bible Institute there and now has set out to start a church in Puerte Armuelles. The clinics should be a great start to growing this new work. Young men from the Bible Institute take turns helping this pastor and will follow up on those we treated. Please pray for this new ministry.

In all, we treated 1551 patients, 929 for glasses and 622 for medicine. Linda and her pharmacy helpers filled 1881 prescriptions. Our soul winning team reported 464 who accepted the Lord during our 4 clinic days. Praise the Lord for a bountiful harvest of souls and pray that more great decisions would be yet to come as follow up continues.

There is a first time for everything. I had never preached in Spanish without a completely typed and prepared sermon I could read. Most of my Spanish practice has been in medicine which is all present tense, while preaching involves past and future conjugations. My friend, Bro. Willis, told the pastor he was sure I could do it, and so I did (with about an hour notice). No doubt there were many errors of grammar, but I am told it was clear and understood. I am working to improve my impromptu preaching ability in Spanish.

Every trip must have a few problems and this one was no exception. Before leaving we paid \$45 to program our GPS to give us directions in Panama. Several team members also had driving directions on their phones but all of them failed us. We got lost (only briefly) several times, even got 1 van stuck in the mud, but always made it to where we were going (thanks again for many prayers!).

Please continue to pray for my health. Although I went to Panama only 3 days after finishing my treatments, I had almost no side effects on the trip (praise the Lord!) but I did have a few after our return. Hopefully, I am past that now, but I still need your prayers!

Although still weeks away, we need much prayer for the Cambodia trip. As always thanks for each prayer said on our behalf.

In Christ,  
The Wallers  
Unworthy but Willing