

# WEB History Pages

## 2016

FEB

**Dr. Claire Gahm:** We had the pleasure of having Dr. Gahm, a third-year pediatric resident, here for a three-week rotation. Her enthusiasm was contagious as she volunteered to do anything besides seeing patients that would help us out. While here she also made a film of our water production plant and its processes.



**Zika:** The Monsoon season was upon us and the El Nino phenomenon of rain and flooding began that included over friendly mosquitos armed with making

malaria, dengue, chikungunya and the all new to Ecuador the virus Zika – these are all carried by the same infamous mosquito! Zika is especially harmful to pregnant ladies and young children/toddlers/ babies as it affects the brain.

## **APR**

**Earthquake:** Shortly after midnight on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit the Manabí province. Our clinic is located in Floron – a suburb of Portoviejo – which was hit the hardest. There were more than 500 confirmed dead, 200 plus missing, more than 1500 buildings destroyed and 20,000 homeless. If this occurred on a weekday, hundreds more would have been lost. The clinic received minimal damage, some cracks but compound and storage building walls had a lot of damage. The water production plant located on the roof of the clinic also was damaged.



Huge lines formed at the water plant distribution window – so much so that the military was used to help with crowd control.



Dra. Silvia (our medical director) coordinated and assisted the staff in making emergency kits filled with toothpaste, soap, small water bottles, shampoo, towel and canned goods.



**May**  
**Earthquake Photos: Downtown Portoviejo.**



The clinic continued to prepare kits with rice and tuna to give to the needy patients.



Tent city on the old Portoviejo airport property.



**Floron 8:** The part of Floron where our day guard Meza lives. He is also a pastor and his little church was destroyed. Richard and I, along with the Youth Group and Pastors surprised Pastor Mesa and ascended on this little church that lost all of one wall and most of the other three plus adjoining Sunday school rooms that also lost portions of their walls. We removed all the debris down to the frame in preparation for future rebuilding.



... which began in late May.



May 18<sup>th</sup> saw two more earthquakes hit this region – a 6.7 that woke everyone up and a 6.8 that occurred at noon. So much destruction was already done due to the April 16<sup>th</sup> earthquake that very damage occurred except another bank in Portoviejo collapsed but people made it out in time.

## Aug

**Construction:** The clinic compound street wall was taken down and rebuilt.



Because of the earthquake Pastor Gruezo's home was condemned and rebuilt by the congregation. He is the pastor of the church located next to our clinic.



**Dra. Karolina:** We began our first Dental Clinic outreach to the public elementary school.



**Peacemakers:** We had the most enjoyable opportunity to host three international Peacemaker instructors. Candy McCune was from our church; Claudia Schneider was from Switzerland and Marcela Perez was from Chile. The four-day seminar was held at the Metropolitana Alianza Templo (church) in Portoviejo. In case you are not familiar, Peacemakers International is founded on Biblical principles in resolving conflicts.



Candy, Claudia and Marsela

## Dec

**Construction:** Our storage building wall had to be replaced due to the April earthquake. Thanks for the outpouring of financial support the was rebuilt and a water delivery truck was purchased.



Would you believe that all four of the adult workers first name is Jose? But you guessed it – they all use a different first name.

Thanks to Pastor Gruezo’s congregation his home was completed. Here’s a view of its completion and Pastor Gruezo with wife Jacqueline (lovingly known to the locals as “salt and pepper”).



**Christmas Toys:** Our medical director, Dra. Silvia - who has been with us for the past 11 years, asked to distribute all the wonderful used (but looking new) toys along with a small bag of candy. This year 350 children from the Florón, the Municipal Dump, Loma del Viento, El Rodeo, Canuto received a toy and a melting of candies.

