

2014

February 2014

It is with deep sadness to announce that the little Christian school in El Floron, Ecuador, closed at the end of February. Increased government regulations and large minimum wage hikes (7% this year) have made it very hard for private schools to operate and find the funding they need to pay expenses. Faithful donors have been very instrumental in keeping this school open for much longer than expected and have given so many children a Christian education and a safe place to learn and grow. Donors helped to provide teachers' salaries and benefits, equipment for the classrooms, a new assembly room for school gatherings which is also used by the church for many functions, new classrooms and the refurbishment of old ones, and a quality education to help students climb out of poverty and enter the workforce.

We can't thank the many donors enough for the difference they made in the children's lives over the years. Please know that the school facilities will continue to be used for Sunday school, church gatherings, youth group, and by Compassion International's after school program. The blessings go on and on. Please continue to pray that the children will adjust to their new public-school environment and that God will protect them from the dangers and temptations of the world. Please pray also that the teachers will all find employment elsewhere or that they will be able to continue their education as needed.



Women's Bible Study

Our four short weeks included the start of a Women's Bible Study at the clinic. The first two meetings were encouraging, especially when we had a lady from the community join others from the compound's church. I am hoping the ladies can focus on Jesus (and less on who goes to which church) and unite to change the atmosphere of crime and violence in El Floron.

February 4-10, 2014

How special! Elders from our church, Doris and David VanValkenburg, came to visit us and investigate what we actually do at Clinic Buen Samaritano. This was really a blessing and pleasure to us and also the clinic staff. David spent some time helping in the water production which Jipson and Carlos enjoyed . . . Doris helped Mayra with filing in the office and attended our first Women's Bible Study with me. Special thanks for their visit to our part of the World.



David helping with the water production



Doris and David Van Valkenburg, Elders from our church, came for a working visit



The teen addiction group that visits the church each Sunday was our guest again for lunch on this trip. First, I shared my experience as a psychiatric nurse and working with teens having addictive problems in the USA. Then, I asked Pastor Gruezo to talk with them both on his past experience with drugs and how his life has changed since he turned his life over to the Lord who called him into a 'Pastorate Mission' in El Floron.

Pastor Gruezo shares with the teen addiction group about his past drug experiences and how God had changed his life



The signed agreement for our final shipment from the USAID office

May 2014

The necessary convenio (agreement) for our 4th and final Denton Program shipment through the USAID office in Washington, DC has been signed by Colonel Marcel Gonzalez, Chief of Police by the efforts of Dr. Nathalia, our former clinic dentist. We now need clearance from customs in Guayaquil before sending the paperwork to Washington.

June 2014

As many of you know, the Christian school next to our clinic closed the end of February this year after 19 years of operation. Some of the facilities continue to be used by the adjacent church for multiple events and youth group meetings while the playing field is used by many including soccer camp that is held daily. Community outreach continues!



Community outreach continues on the soccer field!



Our new afternoon physician, Dr. Xavier Gonzalez

The government has mandated that all government physicians work a full eight-hour day. Unfortunately, this forced our afternoon physician to resign. Yes, this position has been a revolving door; but EVERY TIME we have been blessed with another capable replacement! Dr. Xavier Gonzalez is a medical professor from the private university in Portoviejo.

Pastor Gruezo also works as a professor at the Technological University of Portoviejo. He asked Richard and Elizabeth to accompany him to talk to 12 of his fellow professors regarding “The Messenger” which is the handheld recorder that contains 32 sermons and the New Testament. (Previously, we did this at a park, and he did all the talking but not this time!)



Well— such joy!! The professors were so engaging and eager to know about ‘The Messenger’ and they all wanted one. In the afternoon Elizabeth returned and we did the same . . . The head of the department (pictured with Pastor Gruezo and Elizabeth) told us about a little girl that was having chemo . . . asked if she thought the parents would also like a “Messenger” knowing they could use all available support in a situation like this. She was thrilled and when we offered to pray for the child, she said she would get her name for me.

July 2014

It was the first trip to the US for Jose and the second for Flori who was a Rotary Exchange Student — both are lawyers and did legal paperwork for us. It was fun to take our visitors sightseeing and watch their reaction to Colorado Mountains and wildlife. It had been so long since we had treated ourselves to Estes Park, the Trail Ridge Road, and the Cog Railroad that it was a treat for us, also.



Jose is a young lawyer who started out as a custodian until Flori noticed his aptitude...Jose is one of 8 children born to a deaf and mute mother. His father is normal.



Flori is the Christian lawyer who has blessed FYTA for a decade-writing contracts and guiding us all in legal matters

August 2014

A construction team came to help Pastor Meza build his home on property that an American – Gary Waack – helped him to legally purchase. Part of the team had been on several previous mission trips to Buen Samaritano. They had become well acquainted with our day guard – Pastor Meza – his family and the dirt floor/bamboo walled home he and his family of 7 live in. The team of 5 surprised Pastor Meza and put in 7 days of serious building. Below are the pics of when they started and their last day in which the family served us a humble meal and read a page long ‘thank you’ which brought tears to everyone. This was a precious labor of love by the ‘fabulous five’ that cannot be thanked enough.



September 2014

Dra. Silvia had initiated a “Women’s Clinic” in collaboration with a local Floron church. Though Ecuador’s government now offer’s health care to all, appointments are months down the road and sometimes in towns 3 or more hours away. Thus, this local church and Dra. Silvia organized a “Women’s Clinic” which included a mini seminar on women’s health and a PAP . . . The basis was that the body is the temple of the Lord . . . SO, take care of it! 45 women were seen over 3 clinic days . . . Hats off to Dra. Silvia!! The same church is now considering children’s physicals.



Dra. Silvia held a mini seminar on Women’s Health

We would like to introduce you to our two new staff members:



Dolores (Loly) Meza-administration



Dra. Estafana Maria Garcia



October 2014 Medical Team

Richard went to Quito to meet the midnight flight of the medical team he later called me to say they had safely arrived except for Dr. Allmon! (His passport was just shy of the six months expiration required by Ecuador upon entry) “Untangle” this? I don’t think so!

The next evening the team – minus Dr. Allmon – arrived at Buen Samaritano Clínica. What ensued were fervent prayers, multiple phone calls, more prayer . . . Dr. Allmon’s efforts to get from the USA to Ecuador would make an excellent movie! He actually arrived 15 minutes after our first clinic began! We are talking about a new passport, flying from Houston to Quito and Quito to Manta . . . all in less than 24 hours! Dr. Allmon’s persistence was incredible; God’s path nothing short of miraculous.



Additional photos of the October Medical Mission:

Shelly Hare cleaned our large storage building at the back of our clinic lot



Dave Hare helped scrub our water bottles in our water sales plant



Dentists Natalia, Dra. Carolina and dental colleague



*Consuelo Donoso interrupted for nurse Karolina.
Terri Howard and Dr Alan Allmon at one of our four mission clinic projects.*