

2008



February 2008

We said good-bye to Dr. Henry Loor and his wife as he found it necessary to move on to get his advanced medical degree. We were blessed to have Dr. Carolina join our staff as his replacement.

A farewell to Dr. Loor

Church “Damas” receive fabric for their sewing micro-business. They sew clothes for the poor children in the church. We bring down scrape pieces of material and sewing notions whenever we can for their project.



April 2008

Our laboratory has finally arrived! The clinic kitchen was converted into a laboratory and small room manned by Nurse Angelita (left side) for blood draws along with height/weight/temperature of incoming patients. Lab equipment was secured and lab technicians Miguel and Geomara were contracted to provide services every Monday thru Friday. A staff break area was relocated to the adjacent x-ray/dental rooms area.



Dra. Geomara-Clinic lab



Dr. Miguel-Clinic lab



Our new lab arrived!



View of the clinic back yard and the dental/apartment building—yes, you do see banana trees!

Apartment (2nd floor) preparation had its beginning—tiled, freshly painted and some furnishings were provided by the Del Hierros. When finished, it will be used by missionaries Richard and Elizabeth along with other visiting missionaries, medical personnel, medical teams and any other special team members.



Some things in life are simple....

...and some things are not!





Isabella Intriago

July 2008

Hallelujah! We finalized our formulation of our Ecuadorian foundation—Fundación El Buen Samaritano (the Good Samaritan) which also happens to be the name of our clinic. This foundation requires an Ecuadorian president—we have appointed Amy’s husband Cleoffe to fill that position. This foundation, being a legal entity of Ecuador, allows us to write contracts for our clinic staff. Pictured with Amy and Cliff is Isabella born Jan 31st.

July 18th, 2008

On the 18th, our 4th shipment to Ecuador (our 3rd Denton Program—USAID shipment) arrived in Guayaquil on a USAF C-5. From there we used a semi-truck (barely got everything on it!) to haul the shipment to El Floron where many hands were quickly assembled for the off-load and storage.



Shipment arrived via C-5



Unloading shipment at Clinic

September 2008

Our second VOSH team from Ohio. A 40-member ophthalmology team from Ohio State University (VOSH) ran eye clinics at 5 different Del Hierro project sites Sep 1-5. They saw over 300 patients/day checking for eye problems as well as writing and filling prescriptions (they brought all the eyeglasses they needed and had a ton left over which they donated to our clinic). They also gave each patient a pair of sunglasses.



2008 ophthalmology medical team

Our annual fall medical mission (19th thru 28th) consisted of 15 team members from the US and our faithful Consuelo from Quito (6 medical personnel, 2 interpreters and 6 assistants/construction/teaching). They held clinics at 4 different del Hierro project sites as well as two half days at our clinic in El Floron. Over 900 patients were seen over the 5 equivalent days.



Ophthalmology Exam



Dr. Jim Shira

The construction and assistants did an incredible job too—to name a few—two partial walls in the clinic were completed and painted, optical room and admin room were switched, clinic was scrapped and painted a light green with dark green trim, English classes continued in afternoons and storage building (bodega) was reorganized by Nancy McClanahan and Lynn Simon.



Painting is so fun!



Pete Beusch and Dean Markham

November 2008

In July of 2008, our night guard Pepe began having what was thought to be appendicitis. By fall, doctors had diagnosed him with the rare neuroendocrine cancer and found that he had several tumors. This month he underwent his 1st chemotherapy. To everyone's amazement he shaved his head beforehand. Pepe was the local church's Youth Pastor and led the Saturday night church service. A long journey begins for both he and his wife Myra.



Pepe and Myra



Pepe, our night guard

December 2008

After months of legal paperwork and preparation, contracts were provided through our Ecuadorian foundation—Fundación El Buen Samaritano. The doctors were put under Professional contracts and everyone else had “normal” contracts. The normal contracts provided them with social security benefits (medical and retirement) after the contracts have been in effect for 6 months.