

OSA Mission Trip – Fall 2011

This is a special edition of OSA's newsletter "Heartbeat Collique" with a report on the mission trip that took place October 10-14. Hopefully these two pages are sufficient to present the amazing things that happened in Collique.

The people of Collique had been waiting for the campaign, as some had already knocked on the door of the OSA house in September. "When are the doctors coming?" was the question. Two days of registration were scheduled the week before the campaign, but all available spots had been filled before noon on the second day. There was going to be plenty of work for the 7 doctors, 10 nurses, 2 dentists, a dental hygienist, a pharmacist, and a host of volunteers.

Following are citations taken from the notes that were posted on blogs during the week.

"I am seeing a large number of patients with Diabetes and Hypertension and all sorts of general medical patients. We have a great triage team of three nurses who get the patient in-take information, blood pressure, and blood glucose when indicated. There are three workers in the pharmacy. We have seven doctors. So far in two days we have seen over 700 medical patients! The Dental team also works constantly. There is a construction team and a Bible School team for the OSA kids. Our new missionary couple is great. They are mature and strong Christians with a major emphasis on



evangelism! The lady, Elizabett, is Peruvian and her husband, Kees, is Dutch. After doing my medical thing, I try to talk to each patient, a captive audience, about spiritual things. Then I send interested ones to talk to Elizabett for counseling and follow-up. This trip seems to be the best yet for me. Our team of 50 and all the local OSA workers accomplish so much. The Medical and Dental teams have established continuity of treatment. We provide loving care, free medications, much-needed glasses and a promise to return in six months. Lasting relationships are established. Spiritual needs are addressed!"—Ray Verm



"**A face, no name.** Her hat was as tall as her head and her skirt had yards and yards of Peruvian fabric. She was about 80 years old and had not seen a doctor in a long time. She immediately began to tell Dr Ray her problem and we were able to provide medication to help. Dr Ray is very patient and kind to each person. He speaks the language and it is a blessing that he communicates directly and not through an interpreter. The lady smiled as Dr Ray talked with her. You could tell that God was in the room. What a blessing it is to be here in Peru with people who smile and come to us for help. We share our compassion and our faith and by serving the people of Collique, we get a tremendous blessing. Every year is better than the last and each patient gives us the chance to be God's hands and feet." —Joanne Owens



Eye Clinic

"I work in eyes or "ojos" as we say here in Peru. That is the eye clinic set up by Operación San Andrés. Is it the most important ministry here? Probably not, but for me it is, because perhaps my life can make a difference there. Each morning I get up, the song, "Make me a Blessing" is going through my head. Can the people see God's love through me? Can I connect with the people? Can I love them and their children? Can I embrace them both emotionally and physically? Can I laugh with them and joke with them so they will know I truly care for them? Sometimes God uses me and we succeed together. I know it by their softened faces when they are not afraid. I know it when they smile when they have their new glasses and kiss me on the cheek. I know it by their embrace and when they say they will see me again. They are my brothers and sisters.

Let me not forget that when I am home. "
—Susan Young



VBS

"Children are children are children. Laughter is universal. And balls may be the best toys ever invented! We have played soccer and volleyball until our wrists are bruised and our feet hurt. Yet the kiddos play on...they never seem to get tired. No nets? No problem. All the balls are almost flat? Oh well. The concrete slab that serves as the playground is covered with puddles in the morning and a not so shallow layer of dust in the afternoon. But nothing interferes with the fun. And through it all we mangle the Spanish language and teach a word or two of English while we laugh and giggle and sweat and hug. And how could I forget the sidewalk chalk! Every outdoor surface is covered in drawings of names—ours and theirs—pictures, tic tac toe boards. We erase with our hands for more space. We lie down on the slab and trace each other then draw clothes and jewelry and of course smiling faces."—Kris Kaiser Olson



"For the first graders, this is their first year in the OSA program. We quickly learned that the first graders, both boys and girls alike, also just want to be held and hugged. They plop down in our laps for story time, listening attentively to Dolores and the translator (although with Dolores' wonderful expressions, a translator is almost not necessary), and quietly repeat the prayer in unison after the Bible story. My other favorite image this week was when Seongae, one of our former SMILE friends from South Korea, was singing to the kids in Korean. Finally, the kids joined in singing in Spanish, the other adults in English, and you had a pretty amazing experience in 3 languages with lots of smiles.

The kids make it easy to understand, despite the language barriers, they just want to love and be loved."

—Elizabeth Schorman



Construction

"The team will never meet Pablo but even still his name will trigger the memory of building an enclosed bathroom for a family of five. His story is a familiar one in Collique. Someone with ambition and drive moves towards Lima from the Andes Mountains in hopes of making a better life finds themselves in Collique, a temporary home, hopefully. However, that temporary home may last longer than ever planned while they try to earn a living that makes enough to move on to a better life. Pablo is away from home working right now for a security firm for two weeks trying to do just that. Even though he is gone, he still needs a bathroom. Why? Because he is worried about the safety and privacy of his wife, and children. An enclosed bathroom will help keep them safe. It will keep his 13 year old daughter from making the trek to the community bathroom stall nearby. It will allow them to shower with privacy in the back corner of their property. Maybe enclosed bathroom is too luxurious of a title for this project. In fact, it is four walls and a roof surrounding a shower plumbed by a water hose and a commode hovering over a hole in the ground plumbed by nothing. This team is honored to have been a part of this project for Pablo and his family, whether or not we've ever seen his face."

—Devon and Jerry



SPRING MISSION TRIP

April 20-28, 2012

Excited after reading this bulletin?
You can be part of it the next trip!

Contact Ruth Campos for more details.

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For more stories and photos
visit our website

<http://operacionsanandres.org/>

Thank God for
this great week

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