

I was blessed to travel in June of 2022 to serve with Matthew 25:40 in Guatemala. Our family had originally planned to join the mission in 2020, but due to the pandemic and God's perfect timing we have just recently returned from what I can only describe as the most beautiful and impactful trip our family has ever taken. Prior to leaving we understood we would be joining a medical team that would operate several medical clinics at a school, La Promesa in Chimaltenango, Guatemala. I am a nurse and therefore was excited for the opportunity. My husband and daughter were not yet medical (this would change during the trip), but they trusted that God would use their gifts to His glory.

And so our journey began.... We were greeted at La Promesa with hugs from every student and staff member, "Buenos dias!" "Bienvenidos!" I didn't expect so much excitement surrounding our arrival, but would soon learn that was just the first glimpse of an outpouring of hospitality and graciousness that would envelop our entire trip. We swiftly moved that first day to doing dental screenings and fluoride treatments. The team was taught how to apply the fluoride and asked to note any cavities. We soon realized that the children did not receive dental care and most had mouths full of cavities and decay. All were overjoyed to receive dental kits of toothbrushes and toothpaste. As my daughter described, "it's hard to believe that we spend over \$5000.00/child in the U.S. for our kids to have perfect teeth (braces), and these kids never have the opportunity to see a dentist".

The next several days we operated medical clinics at La Promesa and in a remote Mayan village in Tecpan. With a team of two amazing doctors and numerous other support personnel, including a Spanish speaking family that helped us translate, we saw a constant stream of patients. We noted that those coming to the clinic were dressed beautifully, waited joyfully, and thanked us repeatedly. I would often have the interpreters translate back to me what a patient was saying and invariably it was a blessing or words of thanks. I was humbled by the spirit of thankfulness that seemed to flow so naturally from these beautiful people. There was no entitlement. Just pure gratitude for doing what medical people do every day of our professional careers. It was an honor to serve in such an environment.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Our friends in Guatemala are living out this scripture. They reminded us that though their living situations and resources are drastically different than those in our country, their hearts and love for those they encounter is genuine and true. I was humbled by such Christ-like love. And though we may have "served" the people of Guatemala by bringing medical care and providing support for the school, they returned the blessing by reflecting Jesus' love back to us in all that they do. We travelled to Guatemala hoping to be the hands and feet of our Lord and it was there that we met His heart.

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

A special thank you to Pastor Ericka for welcoming us and for working every day to answer God's call. You are an encouragement to all of us. May God bless you and all the beautiful people of La Promesa and Chimaltenango.

In Christ,  
Lisa Haas  
Matthew 25:40, June 2022