

Greetings in the name of Christ and His marvelous grace!

I am writing to tell you about the work God made possible on my trip with Fundación La Misión in Guatemala this June.

From first learning about the opportunity in late April, it was clear that God orchestrated every detail. Many of you know God gave me the desire to serve a Spanish speaking culture in the Caribbean, Central America or South America. Guatemala is in Central America but has a Caribbean border as well! Divided into five geographical areas, our mission took us to “The Highlands,” a region of volcanic mountains. We stayed in Panajachel, the largest city on Lake Atitlan, a volcanic crater lake bordered by three volcanoes. We “commuted” one hour across the lake by boat to San Pedro because mudslides had closed the access by road.

Meeting in the rooms of a sponsor church, we conducted medical, vision and dental clinics. We also did women’s outreach ministries and vacation Bible school. The men on our team, Toby and my son Peyton, continued on-going construction by building doors for the second story of the church.

Fundación La Misión’s Dr. Palacios (Tito) has an amazing organization. Bringing all the equipment and supplies in large waterproof crates, we would go from cinderblock rooms to operating clinic and pharmacy in about an hour. We worked with such simple tools with the medical space divided into “exam rooms” by stringing white sheets. In the poor mountain community of Cipersales, we saw patients in a health clinic that had no running water.

I struggled with feeling effective – especially by my American standards. I saw many types of skin infections and rashes and constantly had to ask for help from the Guatemalan doctors on the team. Tito reassured me that we were bringing hope and even if all I could put in the patient’s hands was vitamins and soap, we had given them something far greater!

The greatest challenge put to me that first day was one that truly struck fear in my heart. I was told that I was to lead the Bible story for VBS! My story was on Gideon and I struggled to see how I could tell the story in a simple but meaningful way but through translation as well! As the group met the night before, I read from the notes in my Bible about how Gideon was afraid and felt ill-prepared for the job. We decided the Gideon story was for me, not the kids! We needed a story about an angel to go with the craft and someone suggested Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego. It was perfect for these children who are raised in the shadow of volcanoes and pressured to worship idols of Mayan gods. Peyton played the angel in the furnace and towering over the little children he looked like an angel indeed! My heart nearly burst with joy, but not fear, as I knelt on the floor and told the story to the children’s wide eyed wonder.

My business came under spiritual attack while I was in Guatemala and I spent the second day of missions fasting and praying. God told me to pray with each of my patients. I was seeing patients with double translation, English to Spanish to the local language of Kaqchikel. I started concluding each visit by laying my hands on the patient and praying without any translation at all. I could feel the Holy Spirit flow through me and knew that the patient could understand me, especially when they would begin to cry.

I cannot tell you how much my heart and life was changed by this trip. What a privilege to go and serve these sweet people in Jesus’ name! Peyton said it well when he expressed his thoughts to our group, “I have lived such a privileged life and these people have so little and they are so happy.” The people of San Pedro and Cipersales touched our hearts with their joy and gratitude. Jesus be praised for the joy He set before us!

Be encouraged His voice is still heard and He is still moving in us to take the Gospel into the world. Jesus be praised for the support we received of your prayers, donations and financial support. We raised our support in just two weeks! I thank you for whatever role you played through God’s glorious work. If you have ever considered going on a mission trip or supporting others to go, I highly recommend it! Step out in faith, for He is faithful! Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this, He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Michelle Mulder



San Pedro, Guatemala C.A.



A boat taxi on Lake Atitlan.



Ready to see patients in San Pedro!



A beautiful baby in Cipersales.



Michelle and Peyton above Lake Atitlan with Volcan Fuego in the background.



Toby and Peyton ready to build doors in San Pedro.



The children of Cipersales were sad to see us go.



A sweet girl that attended our dental hygiene talk.