August Clinic Report

Typically, August heat makes for a poorly attended clinic. However, this August saw Samaritan spirit rise above the 100+° degree temperatures as a total of six planes and 24 volunteers made the trip to Jesus Maria to care for over 100 patients!

Three planes departed on Friday. Two stopped at Alphonsina’s for an evening at the beach and an early start at clinic on Saturday morning. The third, Dr. Bill Bonney, carried supplies and headed straight to Jesus Maria to continue work on his demographics project (see page 2).

A nice surprise was waiting on Saturday. The previous week’s working trip gave us the benefits of a new door on the dental room and AIR CONDITIONING! Thank you to Jeff and his friend Will, Fernando and Dean. (see page 3)

Staffed was medical (including pediatrics), OB/GYN, dental, chiropractic, optometry and pharmacy. Our thanks to Jorge Chiquete, M.D, an ophthalmologist from Guerrero Negro who visited our clinic in July. Knowing we had no optometrist scheduled for August, he volunteered and spent the day giving eye exams and referring patients to an upcoming ophthalmology clinic in Buen Pastor. We hope he becomes a regular member of our team.

Arrangements were made to spend the night on the Pacific side of the peninsula at the La Pinta Hotel in San Quintin.

Aside from cooler weather and getting to visit with other Sam’s chapters (several of us took a tour of the Motherlode Clinic), the stay in San Quintin allowed us to visit the Buen Pastor Hospital on Sunday. We found the hospital to be clean, yet poorly equipped and lacking staff and patients. According to the nurse we spoke with, there is a possibility that the hospital will soon close, making the future of our specialty care referrals uncertain.

Thank you to all of our volunteers and to the Tucson chapter who provided transportation in San Quintin.

Pilots: Fernando Fernandez (translator), Dean Williams, Bill Bonney (MD), Bob Schumacher, Bill Allen, Randy Smith

Medical: Charles Silas (MD); Bob Chilcote (MD)
Ken Nisbet, (MD) Kim Burtle (NP); Zek Vasques (PA)

Dental: Don Wood (DDS), Kristine Wood (Asst), Debra Smith (Asst), Alfonso (Pasante)

Chiropractic: Jim Williamson, DC

Optical: Jorge Chiquete (MD), Janet Walker (Optician, Clinic Coordinator)

Pharmacy: Cynthia Hong, Joseph Chen

Support: Christy Evans, Jessica Chen

Translators: Ines Allen, Anne Marie Chevalier, Josie Scott, Shona Venus

Fishfarm Shangri-La

Growing up in Scotland, I always imagined myself living overseas, in the sun, but in Villa Jesus Maria?!

Travel came easily, first to university in Edinburgh (where I graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering), then to Cambridge, England for a job with an international water and sanitation consultancy. Work took me to Mozambique as a volunteer with a local water company where, having survived over two years of civil war, disaster relief work seemed the next logical step. Soon I was promised to Mark and relief work fast became addictive. For several years I worked through Africa and the Americas assessing the needs of disaster victims, installing water and sanitation systems, promoting hygienic behavior, evaluating projects and developing prevention schemes. Projects have merited visits from people such as ex-president Carter and earned me an invitation to Buckingham Palace.

Mark had added a degree in aquaculture to his ecology degree. Unable to find satisfactory work, we decided to travel in search of fishfarm Shangri-La. With not a word of Spanish between us, we arrived in Mexico in 1987. All too quickly it looked like Baja California was ideal both geographically and biologically for shellfish culture and the Mexican climate reasonably conducive to...
Demographics & Outcomes Project

This project is now up-and-running, by virtue of very positive help from clinic volunteers along with hours of background work with my co-investigator Shona McKenzie (Venus) during the July and August clinics.

Briefly, the goal is to document (1) the health circumstances and needs (demographics) of our patients, (2) the specific health care that we provide and (3) any available follow-up information about treatment results. This is a cross-sectional study, which involves all patients seen in the July-August clinics with capture of any follow-up visits by these same patients for several subsequent months.

We’re off to a promising but still incomplete start. The patient sample includes approximately 150 patients served by approximately 250 encounters with health care providers. The demographics data are missing for at least 25% of these patients and will hopefully be completed as they return to clinic. Almost all of the health care encounters are documented.

It is vitally important that everyone look closely to identify each of these study patients as they return to clinic. Check our central list of study patients. Look for a file folder (medical record) marked with name, birth date and a round orange sticker. (Charting is a real challenge, as Christina and the medical records group well know, because of multiple folders kept separately in the various specialty clinic rooms and filed by name and/or birth date. We have tried to consolidate.)

In the folder, search for the yellow (or earlier white) paper Demographics Tracking Sheet. Are we missing the demographics information? If so, refer the patient to a Spanish-language receptionist. Was the patient counseled or treated for one or more health problems at the July or August clinics? If so, please be sure that appropriate health care providers fill out the follow-up section(s) of the yellow Tracking Sheet.

Please glance through the yellow Demographics Tracking Sheet enclosed in this newsletter, to be familiar with the demographics and follow-up data entry sections. And thanks again for your help. This is a tricky and challenging project, with a lot of hard work required. The results will hopefully be a guide to future improvements, a help in the quest for funding sources, and a source of satisfaction for our volunteer efforts.
New dental clinic door, ceiling fans and air conditioners installed in clinic!

During our July clinic Dean Williams discussed with me the possibility of installing ceiling fans and air conditioners along with a new door to the dental clinic. Flying all this heavy stuff down to Jesus Maria seemed to be quite a task to me, but not so to Dean. If you’ve spent any time with Dean Williams you know he’s a guy who knows how to get things done. We enlisted the help of Fernando Fernandez as translator/handyman/electrician and my friend Will Eklund as contractor/finish carpenter and all around good guy.

After purchasing all the necessary material it became apparent that the 75-pound door for the dental clinic was not going to fit in any one of our airplanes. Luckily, Mark & Shona offered to drive the door to Jesus Maria if we could get it to Tijuana. We did just that and when we all arrived in Jesus Maria on Friday the door was waiting for us.

Long story short (too late for that) we now have a new door to the dental clinic, ceiling fans in a few rooms and air conditioning in the optometry clinic and dental area. Next up for air conditioning is the pharmacy area. Many thanks to Dean Williams, Fernando Fernandez and Will Eklund for all their help and hard work.

Editor’s Note: Love you guys!

Fellow Samaritan

It was about 10 years ago that my friend, Huguette Wilson, introduced me to the Flying Samaritans. My first pilot was Gordon Gray, a colorful, no-nonsense man. I decided I would join as an interpreter. What attracted me to the Flying Samaritans specifically was the down-to-earth, unassuming attitude of the group. It was like there is a job to be done, these people need us, let’s go to work! And when that was accomplished it was time to enjoy the natural gifts of Baja in a relaxing company, no one trying to impress each other.

The people of Jesus Maria are truly poor, not in spirit but in ability to provide themselves with the most basic health care. They are the forgotten ones. Fishermen in the majority, direct or indirect descendants of the local Indian tribes, many barely able to read or write, are considered in the social order as practically useless, who cares if they live or die? Well, we do. Why? Because in spite of anything, they are members of the human family. In showing up every month, we are saying: “You count. You are not forgotten”. In an unspoken way they get the message of the brotherhood of men stranded on ship-Earth, for better or for worse.

Clinic Coordinators and Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
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www.flyingsamaritans.org for a complete list of board members and contact information

September 2003
Meeting Locations/Times

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE MONDAY BEFORE CLINIC!

General Membership and Board Meetings:
Held the Monday prior to the clinic weekend, unless otherwise announced, meetings are at:
Children’s Hospital Orange County (CHOC) Clinic, 455 S. Main in Orange; parking located off Providence Street
Board Meeting: 6:30pm Conf Rm 2 (1st level); General Membership Meeting: 8:00pm Conf Rm 1 (1st level); arrive early, doors are locked at 8:00pm.

Clinic Boarding Area:
Planes for Clinic depart at 6:30 am Saturday morning from Newport Jet Center (unless otherwise specified by your pilot) and return late Sunday afternoon.
Newport Jet Center, John Wayne Airport, 19711 Campus Drive, (949) 851-5061, corner of Campus and Quail
Arrive Saturday morning at 6:00am SHARP. Be sure to obtain an overnight parking permit from the Newport Jet Center staff. Vehicles not displaying a permit are subject to tow-away.

Published by: Flying Samaritans, Inc., Orange County Chapter, 25422 Trabuco Rd #105–305, Lake Forest, CA 92630
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Newsletter printing and distribution generously donated by: Printing and Promotions (909) 370-0860. Please support the Flying Samaritans. Contact Jon at Printing and Promotions for all of your printing needs.

There is a destiny that makes us brothers...none goes his way alone.
All that we send into the lives of others...comes back into our own. - Edwin Markham

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