



December 2014-January/February 2015

Dear Friend,

Several of you have asked how the new sisters are doing in the Clinic and what those last weeks were like. We knew that ten sisters would be coming to officially start their new mission in the Department of San Marcos so this time we were almost ready. They forgot to count the driver but we were ready with a cot and had plenty of food. A tour of the clinic and grounds followed their arrival and a festive dinner for all ended the first day.

That Sunday after mass Sister Liz and I introduced the Provincial Sister Maura to the Catholic community and she in turned introduced the three sisters who would be the new directors of their clinic San Jose. She went on to read a letter from the Superior Sister Balvina that showered us with words of appreciation for the Sisters of the Presentation and the donors for the ministry that had been accomplished among the many people of Guatemala. She then presented us with a plaque. It was indeed a surprise to receive such accolades for our ministry.

The sisters left the following day and the challenging work of orientation began for the three sisters who were staying; Sisters Reyna and Blanca, both nurses and Sister Cruz Amelia a teacher. Again they received a more detailed tour of the facilities with maps and plans of the infrastructure: Clinic equipment most of which they were familiar with and medicine along with the Protocol of Treatment book that we had written. The staff each identified their areas of skill and responsibility and welcomed the sisters to the clinic. They also received instructions about the two mascots/guard-dogs, Noah an American Akita and Tekawitha the St. Bernard who were both bewildered and confused at all the hubbub. However, Sister Cruz Amelia was able to win them over with bones and we actually think she is a “Dog Whisperer.”

One of the many patients that came in during this time was Rosita and her mother Faustina who is a widow. Rosita was her only child and from childhood had convulsions that were never properly treated. During one of her seizures she fell into the fire and burned her right eye and face. They first came to us because her eye was chronically infected. We cured the deformed eye and she has been on our treatment for three years and has never had a convulsion. They are never charged for the medicines or food that we give them. Many times they bring us bananas.

When we told Rosita and Faustina that we were leaving and introduced them to the new sisters they began to weep. “NO! We’ve gotten to love you.” Then the translator got tears in her eyes, so Sister Reyna said, “Why don’t we take a photo of you with the sisters and then you will always be able to pray for them.” Liking that idea, we all gathered in the waiting room for the photo shoot. Many other patients waiting for their consult wanted the same photo-op, so Sister Reyna continued.

Now almost two months later, after a long ten days and a 3,000 mile trek north in the Jeep without cruise-control on bad roads we are still grateful for your prayers and best wishes. We had NO problems on the journey aside from stiffness. With the miracle of internet the sisters write often, many times with questions or just to see how we are doing. They have already asked their superior for a fourth sister to join them in the ministry. The staff (and the dogs) were having a hard time with the changes but are now settling in with their own transition and continuing their formal education with our scholarships.

With grateful hearts we thank you for your support and prayers. We could never have come to this grace-filled evolution without you.

Lenten and Easter Blessings,
Your Presentation Sisters

Elizabeth (Liz) Remily

Joanna (Annie) Bruno



Sister Joanna and Sister Liz with Rosita and Faustina



Sisters Blanca, Reyna, and Cruz Amelia – The new directors



New Sisters, Directors and Staff from the Clinic



Sisters Joanna and Liz with Sisters Reyna, Cruz Amelia and Blanca (with mascot Tekawitha)