

MEDICAL MISSION UPDATE

JUNE 2018

Wait. Stand in line. Sit. Wait. Stand in line. Sit. Wait. RUN. Stand in line. Sit. What am I describing? Air-plane travel, of course! Long security lines, packed airplanes, overnight flights, delays that give little time to make a connection, all make international travel tiring, even though most of the time we are sitting.

However, then comes the reward of working with a great team when we arrive. This spring we enjoyed the comradery of two teams, first in Paraguay and then in Moldova. In **March** in **Paraguay** we worked with a highly organized team of about 20 nationals, with 5 clinics helping as many churches. Our national colleagues have worked out a system of contacting the local school just blocks from the church we are helping. They give us 4 to 5 class rooms, and the students meet outside under the trees. We are free to conduct our medical evangelism in the name of that church.



This little boy can see much better now to read the tract and do his homework

For one church, the only local school was a Parochial school. They formally petitioned the head priest, who gave his permission, allowing us to freely conduct our clinics. Of course, in each location we saw a number of teachers, students, and parents of students, as well as local residents.

Bible school students help us with the history taking and giving of effective testimony to the Gospel. We saw 726 patients, with 120 professions of faith. This organized national team had follow up ready for discipleship and Bible study. Our little USA team of 5 just saw patients and ran the pharmacy.

In **April** we participated in a team trip from our home church in **Haiti**. This was a combination of surveying new ministries and contacting some of my old ministry partners. I appears that the door is open for us to lead teams again to Haiti, but we are still uncertain as to when.

In **May** our plane trip to and from **Moldova** was even more interesting. LONG security lines, missed connections, delayed flights all made travel "interesting" in a negative sense. Josiah's plane touched another (wing tip to wing tip) causing enough damage to delay his flight another day. I missed a connection in Frankfurt, Germany, and was re-routed through Istanbul, Turkey. On the return, chaos at the security check point left me running to my connection, where they closed the plane door behind me when I boarded. But again, we ended up working with a wonderful team in this little Eastern European country.

Moldova is the poorest country in that region. So many of the young people have left and are working in Western Europe or Russia. Unlike South America where we see mostly children and young families, our Moldovan patients average over 60 years old! This also means that we need to spend more time with each person. I can treat 3-4 children in the time it takes to review the history and treat one 70 year old, so we treat many fewer patients. Moreover, this elderly population lives in tight-knit established villages. A tough group to reach. In our week of ministry in three locations, we saw 263 patients. The astounding part was that 28 made professions of faith. Praise the Lord. Year by year (this is our 7th team trip) the medical evangelism has shown itself as one of the most effective ways to reach this population.

June is a busy month with a family reunion around our wedding **anniversary**. June 15 Sandy and I will celebrate 50 years of marriage. Later in June we will have an important meeting of our ABWE Healthcare Ministries group, grappling with emerging issues in medical missions. In September, after most of the vacationers have gone home, we are planning on driving around the western states, retracing some of

our first trip together.

July we will finish preparations for a medical team trip to **Uganda** in **August**. This will be a first time for one of my teams to that African nation. Please pray for all our preparations, completion of necessary documentation for the government, and preparation of hearts for our medical evangelism.

As I mentioned above, we will spend a couple of weeks in September on a trip celebrating our anniversary. We will also attend the Medical Mission Summit sponsored by the Christian Medical Association. Then we will be going back to **India** in **October**. We still need another doctor, Nurse Practitioner, or PA to go with us on that trip. For both Uganda and India, pray that God will lead us to the locations and people with open hearts, giving much fruit.

Sandy and I are in basic good health, just a little slower. Matthew has a good part-time job, which has helped immensely. Both Jennifer with her 2 boys and Sue with her 3 girls are home schooling, having given up on public education. Elizabeth is an active surgical tech in the operating room of Emory Midtown Hospital, and busy in her local church. We are thankful for God's grace, blessing, and open doors. Thank you for your prayers and support.



This is the outdoor classroom (above) while the ministry team was in the school classroom in Paraguay.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Your Medical Missionaries to the World in Need,
Jack and Sandy Sorg





Above, Just 5 Americans are in the entire team that numbered 25 nationals to help the clinic in Paraguay.



Right: Modern transportation has upgraded to using old car wheels.





Above, the pharmacy was on the school veranda beside the playground.



Left, Praying with patients in Paraguay.

Bottom, Jeff sees patients. You can see the condition of the classroom wall in the background.





David shares his testimony to a woman who is touched by it.
(above)



This man can finally see to read the Bible with his new reading glasses.

