

Impact Statement

2019



*Delivering compassionate
healthcare and the Gospel to the
most needy in the developing world*





HELPING HANDS Medical Missions Impact Statement 2019

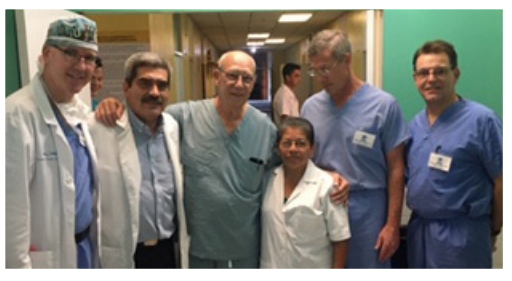


Table of Contents

Letter from the Foundress	2
Mission Site Updates	3
Ateos Mission and St. Anthony of Padua School	5
Uganda Fundraising Project – Thank you!	6
Statistics and Financials	Back page
2020/2021 Mission Schedule	Back page

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Letter from the Foundress



Lupita Assad

Dear Friends,

December 2019

This year has brought many blessings to all of us at Helping Hands Medical Missions. We completed nine successful missions on three different continents (South America, Africa, and Asia), which included our first mission to Patzún, Guatemala. Many of our teams are doing extraordinary work.

The energetic team from Wisconsin, led by Dr. Michael Kloess, continues to bring healing and compassionate care to the people of Ateos in El Salvador. This team also helps to bring clean water by providing water filters to hundreds of families, and is now working with local residents to build a Catholic school (see page 5 for full article). The team to Santa Maria de Jesus, Guatemala, continues to fundraise to purchase books and computers for the Parish School, Angelitos de Dios. Dr. Michael O'Donnell has taken the baton as the Medical Director for the San Salvador team and, by the grace of God, has been quite successful leading their fundraising efforts. The second El Salvador team also celebrated 20 years providing services to the most vulnerable population in the Santiago Texacuangos area of El Salvador. This team was able to ship medicines to El Salvador and, for the first time, a container with supplies and equipment to set up an operating room at Hospital Divina Providencia.

Despite all the wonderful work being carried out by our Helping Hands Missionaries, we cannot forget the many challenges that face faithful Catholics around the world. These challenges range from egregious and criminal scandal caused by some clergy and prelates; misguided and confusing teachings regarding faith and morals; and the relentless assault waged on human life, marriage, and the family. We must continue to pray and offer sacrifice for our own growth in virtue and holiness, and for the holiness of others. We ask that, by God's grace, we may overcome this present darkness.

I am reminded of a great quote from St. Augustine: "Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more." Despite the evil that is so present in our world today, there are so many signs of life and

holiness. I see this in young families struggling to raise virtuous children, in our young seminarians diligent in their studies and focused in their discernment, and I see this in you, our dear missionaries! Thank you for keeping my hope alive!

There is still so much to be done to 'bring Christ to the world and the world to Christ.' With God's grace I am confident we will continue to accomplish great feats for the Lord and his Holy Church. I hope you enjoy this year's annual report. May God continue to bless you and all those you impact with your words, deeds, and love.

Sincerely in Christ,

Lupita Assad, RN
International Missions Coordinator



Mission Site Updates



Tanauan-Batangas, Philippines

Tanauan-Batangas, Philippines – February 14-23, 2019

Praise God for another successful mission in Tanauan-Batangas this year. This team is led by Dr. Eddie Jimenez, DDS, from Cleveland, Ohio. Eddie and his teams have made a significant impact over the past 13 years. Many new missionaries have joined and the team is looking forward to another great mission in 2020. In 2019, the missionaries, which included four dentists, served 1,967 total patients, including 339 dental patients, and performed 89 surgeries.

Copainala, Chiapas, México – March 8-16, 2019

This small, but vibrant, mission was led by Lupita Assad. The primary care team treated over 560 patients during the weeklong mission. After the mission, the missionaries went on a two-hour boat ride through the natural marble of the Sumidero Canyon, and saw the sights at the street markets in Chiapa de Corzo and San Cristóbal de las Casas.



Copainala, Chiapas, México



Ateos, El Salvador

Ateos, El Salvador – March 15-23, 2019

Dr. Michael Kloess from the Madison Diocese in Wisconsin led an enthusiastic group of missionaries to Ateos in March. Bob and Ginny Joyes have also taken on the ambitious project of building more classrooms at St. Antonio de Padua Parish school. The primary care team served over 1,676 people during this weeklong mission.

Patzún, Guatemala – March 30 - April 7, 2019

This was the first HHMM trip to Patzún, Guatemala, in collaboration with the Franciscan Nuns. This mission was led by Lupita Assad with the support of Fr./Dr. Scott Binet from South Carolina. The primary care team was able to serve the needs of 462 patients at four makeshift clinics in Aldeas.



Patzún, Guatemala



San Cristóbal, Chiapas, México
Bishop Rodrigo Aguilar Martínez

San Cristóbal, Chiapas, México – May 31 - June 8, 2019

This late spring mission is an opportunity for medical students to be introduced to the needs of our poorest brothers and sisters in the region. Led by Dr. Angela Maupin-Kristan from Pittsford, New York, and attended by pre-med, pre-nursing, and Physician Assistant students, they treated 504 patients. They served people who have limited access to health care and many of the basic necessities of life, which so many of us take for granted in the US.

Mission Site Updates - Continued



Katikamu, Uganda

Katikamu, Uganda (East Africa) – August 14-24, 2019

This was another amazing mission led by Dr. Liz Sem, the medical director from Canada, and Lupita Assad, with the collaboration of the Kolbe Center. HHMM would like to thank all the generous benefactors who made this mission possible and provided funding for the ongoing operation of the local clinic for 2020. Many missionaries experienced the gratitude and generosity of the local people. One missionary recalls meeting an older woman who materially has little but in her generosity has adopted five children so they could live in a loving home. During the mission, HHMM's primary care team with the support of five local physicians served 1,498 patients, and with the support of two local dentists from Kampala served 144 dental patients.

Santa Maria de Jesus, Guatemala – October 18-26, 2019

This team has been led by Dr. Michael Brezinsky from Montrose, Colorado, since 2006, assisted by Dr. Jeff Thewes. The team of 19 provided primary care and dental care at the makeshift clinic in San Miguel Arcángel Parish. Mary Staudt and Ellen Miller, RN, continue fundraising for the Parish School Angelitos de Dios. This is a colorful town in a mountainous region of the country near the city of Antigua. The primary care team treated 1,297 patients and 233 dental patients.



Santa Maria de Jesus, Guatemala



San Salvador, El Salvador

San Salvador, El Salvador – October 25 - November 2, 2019

The team of 39 was led by Dr. Michael O'Donnell, from Lincoln, Nebraska, with the assistance of Christine Hunter, RN, and Diana Janssens from Houston, Texas. This mission team celebrated its 20th anniversary of serving the poor in El Salvador. The primary care team treated a total of 2,183 patients, 74 dental patients and the surgical team performed 50 surgeries.

Santiago Texacuangos, El Salvador – November 1-9, 2019

Since 2001, the Santiago Texacuangos team has been led by Dr. Peter Danis from St. Louis, Missouri. The team's fundraising event was a great success. As a result, the team was able to send a container with surgical supplies and equipment to the Hospital Divina Providencia's operating room. This mission team is comprised of 42 missionaries and traditionally has been the largest team. The team celebrated its 20th anniversary of serving the poor in El Salvador. The missionaries provided services at primary care clinics in various towns, as well as general surgeries and specialized orthopedic hand surgeries. The primary care team treated 2,500 patients and the surgical team performed 60 surgeries.



Santiago Texacuangos, El Salvador

Ateos Mission and St. Anthony of Padua School

by Ginny Joyes

While working in Ateos, El Salvador, there have been many opportunities to share greetings and smiles with the children who attend St. Anthony of Padua School. I am always struck by the similarities between the children of this impoverished area and the small-town community where I live, as well as the many children I have worked with as a teacher. They smile readily; they love recess and play with enthusiasm; they are respectful; they need and like to be affirmed. But the differences in opportunity are simply undeniable.

During the mission trip in March of 2018, Padre Mauricio of St. Anthony of Padua Parish approached our missionary group and told us of the dire need to improve and enlarge the educational space of the parish school. Lots of financial help was needed to make this possible. So, in the summer of 2018, a fundraising effort successfully raised \$20,000 for the school building project. Padre Mauricio was also able to raise approximately \$10,000 locally, and thus the building project began!

Upon returning to El Salvador in March of 2019, we saw first-hand the progress that was being made on the school. We observed laborers working in 90+ degree heat—digging postholes for the foundation, pushing wheelbarrows, and mixing cement. All of the work was being done manually to keep the cost of construction as low as possible.

Also, during this mission trip, my husband, Bob, and I had the opportunity to visit and speak to the students in each of the classrooms of St. Anthony School. We brought along a check for nearly \$2,000 that had been raised by the school children of our local home parish, St. Ann Church, in Stoughton, Wisconsin. The respect and attentiveness, joy and gratitude expressed by the students during our visits to the classrooms were astounding. Padre Mauricio expressed his profound gratitude for the financial help. He emphasized that there is a whole new level of hope among the students, staff, and the whole parish community.

By the summer of 2019, the building process virtually came to a halt as all the funds procured up to that point had been used. We felt the need to do more and thus another fundraising effort was launched. After one of our conversations with friends (and potential benefactors) around our kitchen table about the need to raise more funds for St. Anthony School, a very generous couple, filled with the love of Christ, offered to match any contributions received, up to \$10,000. \$8,962 in donations have been received thus far and the match has been given.

Of those additional funds, \$15,000 was sent to St. Anthony School in September to allow the work on the school addition to continue. We look forward with great anticipation to the next mission trip to Ateos in March 2020 to see the progress that has been made on the building—and the beautiful smiles of the students! Our hope and our prayer is that the nearly \$50,000 remaining to complete the school building project will be supplied! For truly, education has the greatest potential to bring about positive long-term effects for the children of Ateos, economically and socially. This project has the power to impact the minds and hearts of many children for generations.

Helping Hands Medical Missionaries, Bob and Ginny Joyes, have attended the mission to Ateos four times since 2016. They are impressed by the resilience, graciousness, warmth, and openness of the people of Ateos, El Salvador.



Bob and Ginny with students at St. Anthony of Padua School

Uganda Fundraising Project – Thank You!

This is a beautiful story of God leading his faithful servants

In May of 2018, the St. Mary Health Clinic of Emmaus Centre in Katikamu, Uganda, was partially constructed when Mr. Hugh Owen, director of the Kolbe Center for the Study of Creation, approached Fr. Jonathan Opio, director of Human Life International in Kampala, to offer the health services of HHMM. Fr. Opio knew the Emmaus Centre's clinic would be the perfect location and challenged the director, Joseph Aonu, to finish construction in order to host the medical team in August. Joseph, Dr. Monica Etima-Kizito, and their team accepted the challenge and with many prayers and sacrifices, construction of the clinic was finished in less than three months.

The St. Mary Health Clinic of Emmaus Centre opened officially on August 27, 2018. The inauguration, led by His Excellency, Paul Ssemogerere, Bishop of Kasana-Luweero Diocese, took place during our first medical mission at this location.

In June of 2019, Joseph Aonu sent a letter to his contacts in Holland asking for assistance to run the clinic for a full year. The need included medicine, supplies, equipment, and staff salaries. Unfortunately, the contacts in Holland were unable to help at the time.

HHMM decided to seek funding to support the needs of the St. Mary Health Clinic of Emmaus Centre for a year. By August 10th, just before the missionaries traveled to Katikamu, thanks to the generous HHMM benefactors, HHMM was able to wire \$25,000 USD. Praise God!

The St. Mary Health Clinic of Emmaus Centre has been able to continue providing services to the poorest and sick in this area thanks to the generosity of many missionaries. Medication, supplies, equipment, and salaries have all been funded for 2020.

The missionaries encountered many virtuous people in Uganda. On Saturday, during the door-to-door visits, Dr.



HHMM Missions and Bishop Paul Ssemogerere

Mark Knabel met an older woman who has generously adopted five children. This woman does not have much materially, but she is able to provide a loving home.

The Emmaus community worked effectively and efficiently this year. They provided a more organized environment to both patients and missionaries. The HHMM primary care team, with the support of five local physicians, served 1,498 patients. In addition, two local dentists from Kampala treated 144 dental patients during this 10-day mission.

It has been an honor working with the dedicated, loving, and fun HHMM team and the local Emmaus Centre team!

Statistics and Financials

2019 Missions (Totals)

9 Missions
241 Missionaries
14,291 Patients Served
854 Dental Patients Served
216 Surgeries

23 Years of Missions

155 Missions
4,718 Missionaries
259,758 Patients Served
20,366 Dental Patients Served
3,902 Surgeries

IN KIND DONATIONS	2016-17
Medical & Dental Vol. Services	\$1,110,040
OPERATING REVENUE	2016-17
Mission Fees	\$126,632
Donations	\$161,499
Total Operating	\$1,307,541
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Program Services	\$1,194,487
Administrative and General	\$17,982
Fundraising	\$23,055
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,235,524

*Audited Financials by Carlos J. Reynoso, CPA PC

HELPING HANDS Medical Missions 2020/2021 Mission Schedule

LOCATION	DATE
Philippines: Tanauan-Batangas	February 13 - 22, 2020
El Salvador: Ateos	February 28 - March 7, 2020
México, Chiapas: Copainalá	March 6 - 14, 2020
México, Chiapas: San Cristóbal	May 29 - June 6, 2020
Africa, Ghana: Butre	June 25 - July 5, 2020
East Africa, Uganda: Katikamu	August 12 - 22, 2020
El Salvador:	
•San Salvador	October 23 - 31, 2020
•Santiago Texacuangos	October 30 - November 7, 2020
Guatemala: Santa María de Jesús	November 6 - 14, 2020
Philippines: Tanauan-Batangas	February 11 - 20, 2021

If would you like additional information on dates and locations please contact:
 Gloria Madrigal, **National Secretary 972-253-1800**
 or visit us at **www.hhmm.org**