

Spirit, Soul and Body

Story and Photos
by Tom Price

*Several small
Calvary Chapels unify
to create a powerful
outreach in
Guatemala...*



"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35

Laying the Foundation in Guatemala

"Lord, we ask You to consecrate Israel as the pastor of Calvary Chapel Maguey and to affirm his leadership of this church," prayed Greg Hill, pastor of CC North Charleston in South Carolina. "We ask You, Heavenly Father, to open up the Scriptures to Israel and communicate Your truth through him to Your people. We also ask You to surround him with men of integrity."

Four bare light bulbs, strung like Christmas lights across the front of the building, swayed in the desert breeze. Pastor Greg, also the leader of the American mission team, gently placed his hand on Israel Velasquez's forehead and prayed for God's blessings to flow onto this new Guatemalan church. Team members



Pastor Greg anoints Pastor Israel Velasquez and prays for his ministry. Calvary Chapel Maguey began that night.

Children wait outside the barbed wire fence with their families as they wait to be seen at the clinic in Maguey.

joined in to lay hands on the Guatemalan pastor and to ask for the Lord to equip him for the tribulations ahead. Villagers ventured down the dirt roads to witness the dedication ceremony. A natural leader, Israel had been introducing people to Christ for many years.

“Most people here in Guatemala do not understand forgiveness and salvation as it is presented in the Gospel,” stated Greg. Due to the high rate of illiteracy, many Guatemalans are unaware of the importance of a personal relationship with Christ. “We feel that it is very important to bring the Calvary Chapel style of ministry here and make it easy to understand.”

Only a year had passed since Greg and a team of thirty laborers had arrived in Guatemala to lay the foundation for a Calvary Chapel in Zacapa. The missionaries now number fifty-two. In one year they have channeled their skills and resources into the construction of two churches, Bible and clothing ministries, children’s ministries, and evening evangelical services.

Ministering to the Body

Guatemalan natives gathered en masse outside the free clinic to wait their turn



Dr. Alley queries a father about his son’s health needs in the Maguey clinic.

Left: Two brothers wait together at the Maguey clinic to be seen by the doctors.

Right: Dr. Terry Shipe treats a girl after she lacerated her head falling on a sharp root. Cynthia Church tries to comfort and help keep her still.



to see an American doctor. From stomach ailments to toothaches to head lice, the missionary doctors and staff ministered to the medical and dental needs of the people with medicines and the healing love of Jesus Christ.

One team member, Dr. John Alley from CC Stroh, Indiana, who had previously accompanied Pastor Greg on a mission trip to Nicaragua, persuaded his office partner, Dr. Terry Shipe, to join him on the Guatemala trip. “Mission work is addictive,” explained Dr. John Alley.



At the clinic Dr. Shipe examined a seven-year-old Guatemalan girl who complained of terrible headaches and nausea. He discovered a dangerous swelling on her optic nerve, indicating a rare brain tumor. He knew that, even under the best medical circumstances, this condition is usually fatal. The entire missions team joined Dr. Shipe in prayer to ask God for a miracle that would heal the child. They advised the mother to seek the care of a specialist in the capital, Guatemala City, with the financial assistance that they would provide. When the mother and child left, Dr. Shipe broke down and wept.

Guatemalans came from near and far to receive medical attention from the

Elisabeth VanOrder giving Hi-5 to “Mayor Carlos” who has a smile and handshake for everyone.



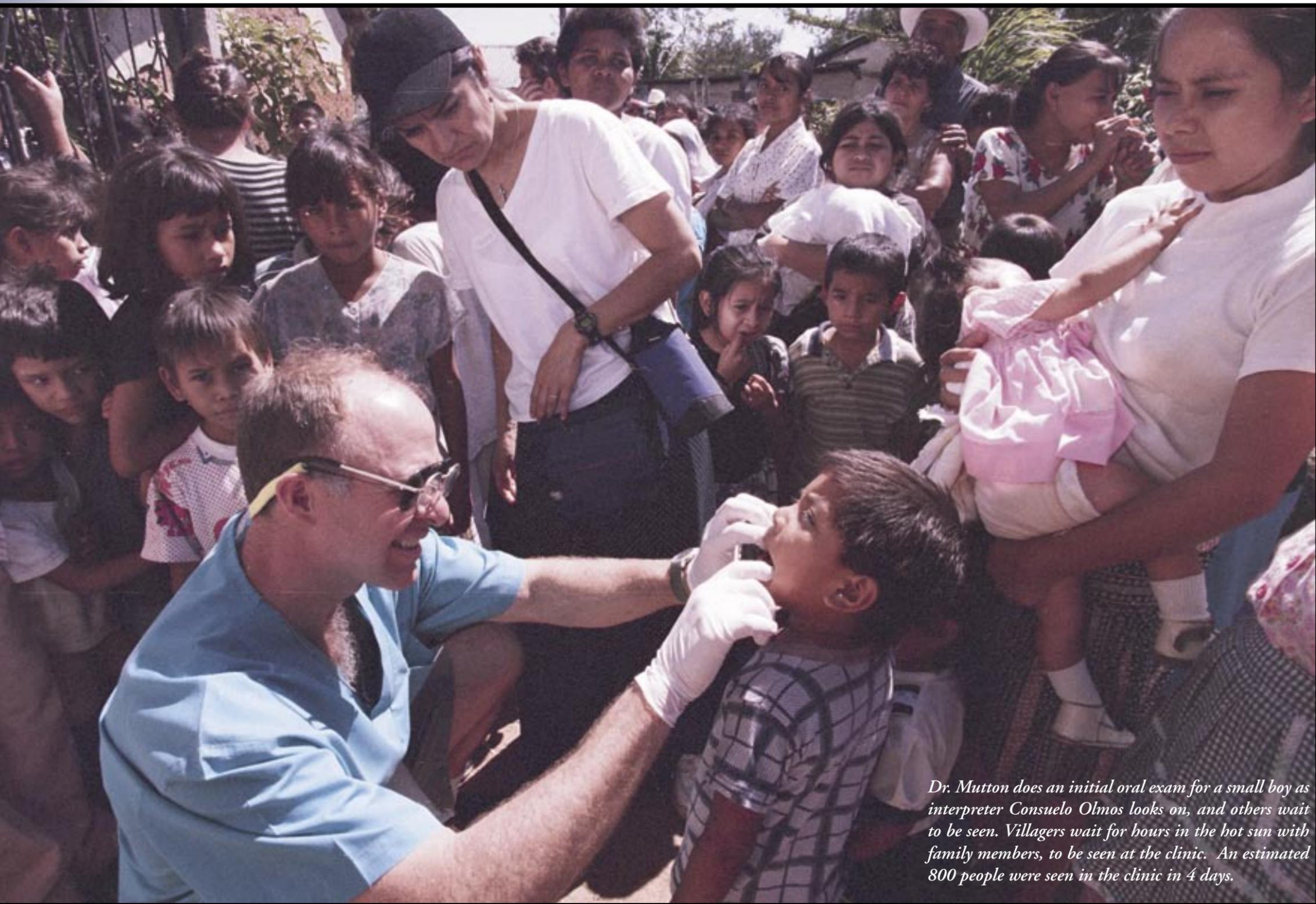
missionary doctors. The Jumike family left home on foot early in the morning for the five-mile trek to the clinic. Wilver Jumike’s father heard that the American medical group had arrived, and he hoped to find an answer for his son’s condition there. The affliction that had handicapped the eldest of his two children was by now a curiosity in his village. He had watched his son suffer taunts and ridicule from the other children.

When Cynthia Church, also from CC Stroh, saw Wilver Jumike, she immediately understood her purpose in Guatemala. Her 13-year old son, Paul, is autistic, and she knew instinctively that Wilver suffered from the same disability.



Cynthia Church walks with Wilver and his family back to their home to encourage him and his parents.

“My husband, Mori, started praying that I would accompany him on this mission trip. I wasn’t convinced at first. But as we prayed about it, I felt the Lord confirming that I should come,” Cynthia said. During their time of prayer and consideration, their church received a letter from Pastor Israel thanking them for their involvement the year before. This moved Mori and Cynthia’s hearts and sealed their commitment to come. When Wilver’s father struggled to control his son’s outbursts of energy,



Dr. Mutton does an initial oral exam for a small boy as interpreter Consuelo Olmos looks on, and others wait to be seen. Villagers wait for hours in the hot sun with family members, to be seen at the clinic. An estimated 800 people were seen in the clinic in 4 days.

Cynthia jumped in and took charge. She understood that new surroundings make it difficult for autistic children to adjust. She soothed Wilver as she would her own son, Paul, and he grew increasingly more calm under her gentle touch. The doctors gave Wilver a year's supply of medicine that would help him focus and begin to learn. Cynthia spoke to the Jumikes from her years of experience, telling them what to expect and how to react. The missionaries

also collected financial support so the family could afford to have a follow-up visit with a doctor in Guatemala City. Then they gathered around the Jumike family and prayed for a miraculous healing for Wilver. Tears streamed down the faces of both mothers as they reached through two different cultures to comfort one another and bear each other's pain. Brent Mutton, a dentist from the Midwest, is another team member

who was encouraged to go on the Guatemalan trip by his coworkers, who attend Harvest Christian Fellowship in Fort Wayne, Indiana. In Guatemala dental care is non-existent, and the extent of tooth decay is heightened by a custom of sucking on sugar cane. The teeth that Dr. Mutton examined were beyond repair and crumbled out with a strong push, twist, and pull. While Dr. Mutton's assistants administered anesthesia, Frances Barker,

his hygienist, stroked the patients' hands, tenderly communicating God's comfort in the face of their fears.

A Labor of Love

"We experienced the Lord's presence the entire day. The Lord will never allow Himself to be indebted to us. The more we give, the more the Lord gives back."

Words of truth spoken by Pastor Rit Varriale of CC Greenville, South Carolina, who was part of a nine-member construction crew that completed the work on Pastor Israel's church. The construction

Right: Team members walking to the mission site at Sun Supporte.

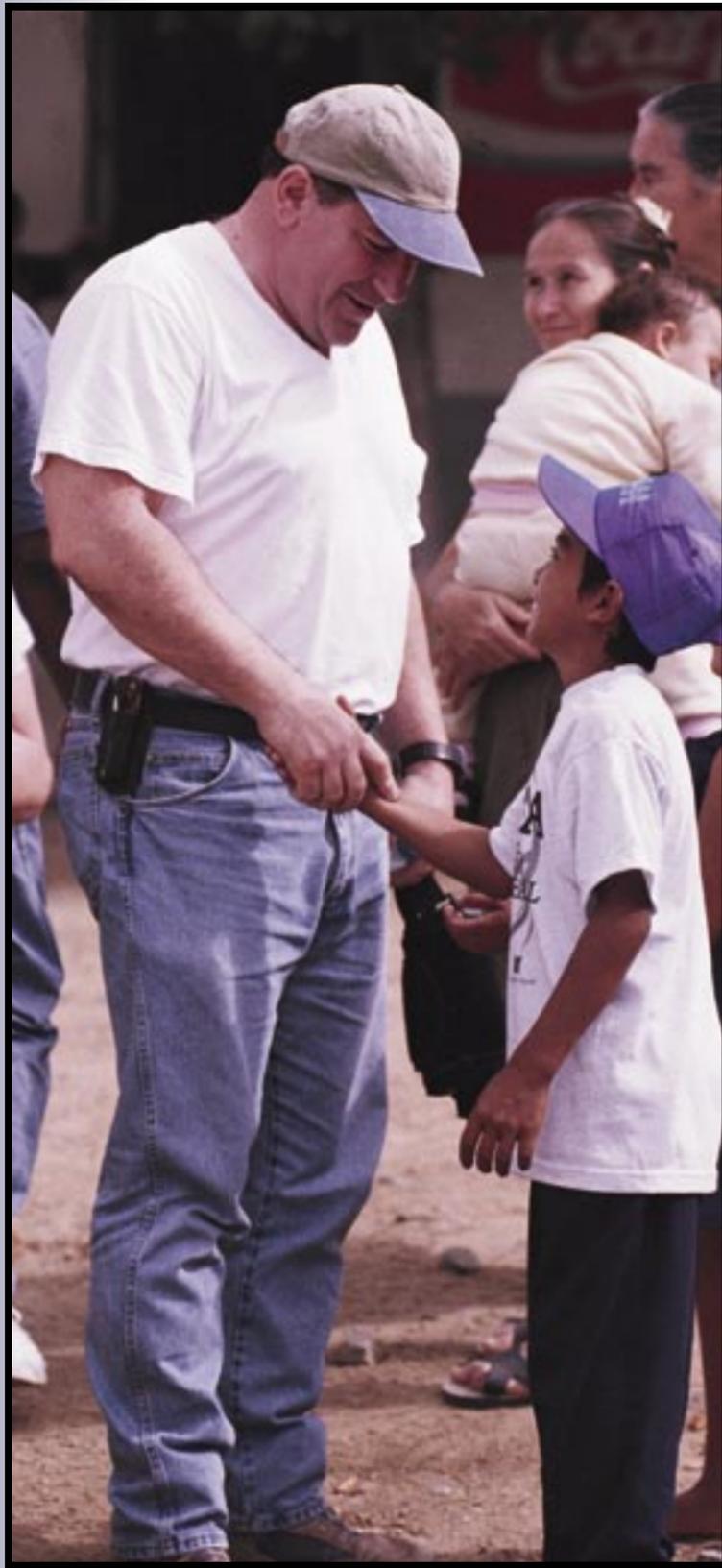


Left: Guatemalan woman carries baskets of Platonos (sweetbread) and fried plantain (bananas) to the market.

crew, dirty and covered with cement dust, could be heard singing and praising God as they returned to camp on the final day.

"The Lord multiplied our time," he continued. We got far more done than we could ever have imagined. We sang hymns, laughed, and prayed as we completed the final touches on the church."

"Jesus said it is more blessed



Below: Construction teams work to complete the interior and exterior of Pastor Israel's church building. The team completed 2 buildings: exterior rafeo and roof, interior wiring and concrete floors in 4 days.



to give than it is to receive," said Pastor Rit. "After a day like today, that spiritual truth is very relevant."

At the end of the project, the construction team presented Pastor Israel with a keyboard. His family was overcome with gratitude. They had prayed for a keyboard to lead their worship service.

Divine Appointments

"When a pastor has a heart to do mission work and the Lord's will is sought in prayer, the Holy Spirit will orchestrate divine appointments," concluded Pastor Greg Hill.

"The mission team members have given of their resources and energy to come here," he continued. "As a leader, you need to be organized and continually pray that the Lord will anoint their time. After every trip, the missionaries are so humbled by the blessings they have received for their faithfulness." 🙏

The team consisted of several churches, including seven Calvary Chapels. Pastor Paul Mowery led a group from Harvest Christian Fellowship in Indiana; Pastor Rit Varriale led his team from CC Greenville,

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Pastor Rit Varriale is greeted by "Mayor Carlos" as he steps off the bus. The purple caps were a highly desired commodity, donated in bulk by an American business.

South Carolina; Pastor Norm Mathison led several from CC Hendersonville, North Carolina; and Pastor Greg Hill led the trip and his team from CC North Charleston, South Carolina. A group from CC Stroh, Indiana, was led by Mori Church. Pastor Dwayne Spearman from Texas, a former CC missionary in Guatemala, also joined the group. His knowledge of the area was a tremendous asset to the outreach.



Right: Missionaries pray for a woman whose granddaughter is very ill.



While the team waits for lunch to arrive, Dr. Alley picks up a guitar and plays some worship songs. Jim Gaboriault uses a bucket for percussion.



Pastors Greg and Israel.



52 team members from 10 churches, including 7 Calvary Chapels, and 5 Pastors.