

DCs on Mercy Flight to Baja

Gregory White, DC

In the region of central Baja, California, called the Vizcaino Desert, there is a clinic. It started as a relief effort for victims of the 1976 flood. Many were left homeless and some children were orphaned. Missionaries began the compassionate work of taking care of these children and laying the foundation for an orphanage. Today, I am told, the clinic is the largest free outpatient clinic in all of Mexico. It now offers cataract and corneal transplant surgery, chiropractic, general medicine, lacrimology, ophthalmology, and dentistry. All services are volunteered. Doctors fly into Mexico in small private aircraft and work, with few interruptions, on hundreds of patients who flock to the clinic. Some of these patients have traveled 500 miles to get an adjustment.

The "flying doctors" bring in medical supplies that have been donated. A new orphanage building is being constructed, all with donated materials and labor to house another 50 children.

All of the volunteers are committed to a deep sense of purpose, and work into the late hours of the night and offer help wherever it is needed. A chiropractor assists in an eye operation, a dental assistant helps in fitting eye glasses. The patients' needs come first. The resident missionaries also take every opportunity to share the message of new life in Christ, so that spiritual healing takes place as well.

Dr. Cliff Mattson and I, working side-by-side, provided care to 378 patients in the space of 20 hours. The value of services rendered was approximately \$14,000. The people here cannot possibly afford the care given to them, so they are most grateful and show their appreciation in their warm, loving smiles and grateful attitude toward us. Reward enough!

I see the urgent need for vitamins, orthopedic supports, and physical therapy equipment. If you cannot spare the time to be in Baja, please consider donating supplies and equipment or send a contribution.

It's a privilege to share our knowledge and skills in a ministry and cause that transcends the profession and all its distinctions. A special acknowledge goes to Dr. Andre Knust Graichen, who served in the missions to Baja. He a member of the Christian Chiropractors Association and is in private practice in San Diego, California.

For more information, contact Rev. Jim Weber, Missions' Director of the Christian Chiropractors Association. If you are a Christian chiropractor, I invite you to join the association and welcome the challenge to short-term missions.

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