Dear CERT Family,

When we do home visits in medical missions abroad, it’s usually a senior who can’t “climb” to the clinic. But Sandi is 17 years old! As her mom led us into her room, Sandi lay motionless on the bed, no eye contact, her head cocked to the side, a blank stare to the ceiling. As CERT doctors interviewed mom, I stood at the foot of the bed … distraught by this lifeless teenager, wondering “where is she Lord” … still glued to the ceiling. Does she even know we are here? As the doctors became hands on, she never moved her head or eyes until one finally asked her too. She slowly lifted her arms and moved her head to make eye contact. I saw that her hands were drawn up, her fingertips pulled into the palms of her hands; ulnar deviation. (photo right) Her knees swollen, too painful to walk, Sandi’s mom says she has been in the bed for the last 16 days. 17 years old …

Without blood test and such, the doctors concurred that Sandi has Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis. Easily treated and managed in developing nations, but Sandi has not been to a doctor in two years. Extremely remote, an impoverished culture, desperate for treatment that seems “worlds away”. Unless you have been there and have seen the difference … words can not portray this great divide. Us and them!

Before we left, with help Sandi sat up (photo right) as we gathered to perform the greatest work; fervent prayer, hands laid on mom and Sandi. Crying out to Jesus, not a dry eye in this circle, mom broken, we were broken, Pastor Gabriel broken … much heartache and compassion for this precious child without the means to get the care she so desperately needs.

**But God … sent a medical team from another land to show His great Love.** Our team and many others have been praying for Sandi since. Proper medicines were prescribed, monies were left to seek out additional tests and care. I received an email yesterday stating that, “Sandi is doing better. She has much less pain and is taking slow steps from her bed at times.” Thanks be to God and you … CERT was there, and continues to bring physical and spiritual healing to Sandi and her family.

*PRAYER IS THE ANSWER*

January 25, 2020

When we work, we work, **WHEN WE PRAY … GOD WORKS!**
There was something truly “magical” about this trip, this team, the power and mystery of the Gospel manifested … unlike ever before! It began early Friday morning departing Guatemala City for Camotan as I prayed over the team in the bus. The Lord encouraged me to challenge this “most experienced” team to pray … unlike ever before. God answered our steadfast asking, seeking and knocking … MIGHTILY!!!

Shortly after praying, CERT Team Member, Peg, gave me a small devotional book titled, “PRAYER IS THE ANSWER”. She brought it specifically for me! It contains 30 classic writings on prayer, taken from three mighty prayer authors; E.M. Bounds, Andrew Murray and John Wesley. GOD ANSWERING IMMEDIATELY, reminding us that “apart from Him we can do nothing.” (John 15:5.) God would use this little power filled book daily, referencing His Word on prayer in order to take us deeper and higher than ever before. Thank you Father … Thank you Peg!

With God leading this team to pray … unlike ever before, they followed unswervingly. Some gathered nightly to pray much before bed. The triage team prayed over every single patient. The providers and pharmacy also prayed with them more as God led. Tuesday while waiting on patients to show up, God led us to circle up and pray with some locals and Pastor Gabriel. Many weeping as they poured their hearts out to God.

Multiple team members testified to that morning being one of the most powerful moments they had ever experienced in the mission field.

TEAM MEMBER TESTIMONIES

“I appreciated all the times we took to earnestly pray as a team and with the nationals. IT WAS POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE! We sought the Lord and He heard our prayers. We hit a new high in the spiritual realm and broke through into the heavenly realm. I appreciated the hearts of our team members to be so open and hungry; seeking in a humble way.”  

Marsha S.

I appreciated so many things about this trip! CERT has an incredible focus on evangelism!! We experienced a level of witnessing and sharing with people that I have never experienced with any other mission trip or organization before. I had the opportunity to personally witness and minister to people and pray with them to receive Christ, which was awesome! I also appreciated our amazing team leader. He has an incredible passion for Jesus and seeing lost souls come to Him and boundless energy! He made prayer a priority for our team and we witnessed the Lord working in some powerful ways!!  

Beth D.

Thanks be to God for His indescribable Gift! Thanks be to God for faithful and obedient team members. Thanks be to God for you, steadfast prayer warriors and faithful supporters … ensuring CERT is there, pouring Jesus’s love out on the least of these.

Always praying,

Bruce Rainwater
CERT Staff

PS … We want to help Sandi more! Your prayers and financial investments today will make that happen. Please pray and give as the Lord leads so we can be there for the countless Sandi’s in this broken world! Thank you …