

To those interested in an El Salvador Medical Trip,

If you are reading this letter, there is something that is drawing you to learn more about our El Salvador Mission Trips. Perhaps someone who has gone in the past has shared their experiences with you. Perhaps someone has invited you to participate in an upcoming trip. Perhaps you have had a desire for many years to find new ways to live out your faith, learn about new cultures, and serve others. Whatever the reason, we are happy to share a little bit more information about the trips so that you can decide whether this is something that God is calling you to do.

We are fortunate to have many talented members of the medical profession as part of our St. Dominic community. One way in which we attempt to strengthen our connection with the people of Chilitupan, El Salvador is to offer some of our medical expertise to the community. The medical services provided during the Medical Trip, obviously meets an acute need. However, the broader goal of the trip is to continually deepen the relationship between us and the people in Chilitupan.

During the time in El Salvador we will be traveling to a variety of the small, poverty stricken, rural communities around Chilitupan to provide much needed medical services. Dr. William, the physician at the clinic in Chilitupan, will organize patients whose medical problems match the areas of specialization of the medical professionals from St. Dominic. Many people have received little or no medical attention for their health issues, so any time with a medical professional can be of enormous benefit. People with a variety of medical skills (e.g. surgeons, dentists, cardiologists, OB-GYN's, RN's, LPN's) can provide valuable care to the people in El Salvador that is typically not available to them. Translators are also very important for the medical trips to help ensure that each patient receives the best medical care possible.

Much of the time we are in El Salvador will be focused on meeting the medical needs of the community. However, this is not the only purpose of the trip. A second purpose is to continue to help Dr. William develop his ability to provide medical care to those in the community and to help develop the clinic itself. The third, and most important goal, of the trip is to help all of us see Christ in our brothers and sisters in El Salvador and also to allow them to see Christ in us.

Each person's experience in El Salvador is different. Most people experience a mix of emotions during the trip: joy with meeting the people, pride at using their talents and education in such direct service, intrigue at the cultural differences, anger at the poverty of the people, excitement with the new connections that are forged, indignation at the injustice in the area, and gratitude for the gift of time spent with the incredible people of El Salvador. Whatever the emotions of the individual, each person has a powerful experience that can change their lives and an opportunity to grow closer to God in ways they had never imagined. We hope you can join us to serve the medical needs of the people in Chilitupan and to continue the mission of building our connection with Santo Domingo parish in El Salvador.

For more information about the trip contact Nick Borchers at borchersn@gmail.com or 216-991-1444 ext. 111.

Sincerely,
The St. Dominic Mission Team