



## *Soyapango Clinic – Opening Soon!!*

Last October we wrote about the need for a clinic in Soyapango, an area at the edge of San Salvador. San Salvador is plagued by severe gang activity, threatening the lives of many that cross over established gang territorial lines. As a result, things like school programs, youth programs and medical programs are limited by the safety of where one must travel in order to participate. That is unless the area is an agreed upon gang neutral zone. Soyapango, a densely populated area on the edge of San Salvador with a population in excess of 250,000, is such a zone.

For the people living in Soyapango, there is some safety from the gang violence. However, this safety comes at the expense of everyday necessities such as health care. It is for the communities such as these that Total Health works to provide one of life's basic needs, quality health care.

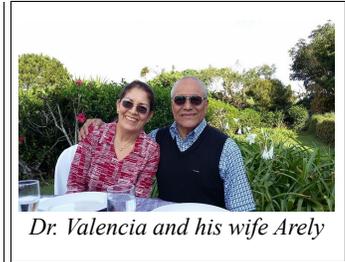
It always amazes me that when the Lord's timing is right, all the pieces of the plan seem to simply fall into place. Accordingly, we are thrilled to announce that starting in October the fourth Total Health clinic will begin operating half-time in Soyapango.

This clinic could not be possible without a generous partner that has stepped up to make it a reality. We are very pleased that **Bethel Presbyterian Church** in Columbus, Ohio has chosen to expand its partnership with Total Health. By committing to half of the cost of the clinic, Bethel is bringing this clinic from vision to reality.

Bethel is not new to Total Health, having been a loyal partner for several years. In addition to supporting us financially, they have participated in two mission trips that resulted in 3 new homes through the Total Home program in Honduras. Catch the story of a Bethel missionary, Joy Voorhees, on page two of this newsletter.

As in our other clinic areas, we are also blessed to be partnering with a vibrant in-country church, **Iglesia Gran Comision**, that will provide the facility to house the clinic. Pastor Victor Turcios has a true passion for helping those in need in his local community.

Similar to the model of our existing clinics, the Soyapango clinic is situated adjacent to other established facilities constructed as part of a larger plan to help those in need in the surrounding areas. Total Health will



*Dr. Valencia and his wife Arelly*

provide the basic primary medical care in partnership with programs that help provide nutrition, education and spiritual care. Partnering with each other, these programs empower those we serve to improve their lives and their futures.

The clinic will open half-time in October. A local doctor, Dr. Valencia, has been hired and the first medication order is in process. We continue to strive to secure the second half of the required funding in order to have the clinic in full-time operation. If you or your organization would like to partner with Bethel, IGC and Total Health in building this community, we would love to hear from you.

This is a very exciting time for Total Health and our partners. We sincerely thank all of you that have made our vision possible. With your support, we believe that the lives of thousands of people in desperate need are being changed for the better.

## Joy Voorhees - A Veterinarian on a Mission



Joy treating the memorable puppy

If you have ever taken a trip to Central America, one of the things that you most certainly notice is all of the dogs roaming through the neighborhood streets. But while many dogs do indeed roam wild, there are also many that are household pets. These pets likewise live in the same conditions of their owners, many of whom are the people we serve through Total Health.

In 2015, Joy Voorhees felt called to join her church, Bethel Presbyterian, on its Total Health mission trip to La Ceiba, Honduras. Joy joined a large team of people with varied mission experience

planning to build homes.

Joy has her own unique experience helping those in need. Having been a veterinarian for over 25 years, Joy has a real passion for serving the needs of homeless animals and helping those who might not be able to afford regular veterinary care for their pets. Upon hearing of the plight of the people in La Ceiba, she wondered if there might also be a need for their pets. Accordingly, she has carried this compassion for what she calls the “undeserved pet population” to the mission fields, traveling with Bethel and Total Health the past two years.

She found that many people that live in the small homes and even the make-shift shacks have pet dogs. Many of these dogs become infested with fleas, ticks and develop skin problems. There are only two veterinaries in La Ceiba, and many

people cannot afford this type of care.

In preparation for these mission trips, Joy secured donated medicines and supplies used to treat common dog issues such as fleas, ticks, worms and mange. She carried these medicines and supplies to La Ceiba as part of her luggage for the trip. Once in La Ceiba, Joy took a break from the construction crew to hold a dog clinic in a local park. In 2015 she dewormed and applied flea and tick medicine to 80 dogs. This year the number treated reached close to 100. She was also able to bring along several doses of a newly approved medicine that treat mange in a single dose.

Joy treated many dogs over the past two years, but there is one case that she especially remembers. She talks about the small puppy that was brought to her in a grocery sack (see the top left picture). The

puppy was about 3 months old, very thin with generalized hair loss. She treated the puppy for mange, intestinal parasites and fleas, which she says “should make a big difference for that puppy.”



Joy's heart for these pets and their families is the same heart that drives us at Total Health to continue to serve in this area. Joy commented that the people of La Ceiba are so very appreciative for the little care that she was able to provide. As with all of us, she wishes she could do more, but is thankful that she can help in whatever way she can. We certainly thank Joy for all she has done!

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