Serving the Lord in Rural Panama

Here in Virginia, we don’t usually think of medical/dental personnel riding in the backs of pickup trucks, sleeping in cots and hammocks, and having no electricity or running water. But those are the conditions a recent medical/dental missions team experienced on their recent trip to Panama. As part of the BGAV’s five-year partnership with the Panama Baptist Convention, Virginia Baptists often travel to remote areas to serve alongside our Panamanian brothers and sisters.

In January 2015, a medical/dental team from churches in Richmond and Fredericksburg served with the Fundación Cristiana Médico Social, a Panamanian non-profit foundation that makes regular monthly trips to rural areas to do healthcare ministry. Virginia Baptists try specifically to help them minister in areas that are difficult to reach because of distance and limited access.

Dr. Andy Moore, DDS from Fredericksburg, was stretched beyond his comfort zone this year, as he was the only dentist on the team. On past trips he has been accompanied by another dentist who was unable to go this year, so Moore led a small team of two other dental professionals.

The medical/dental mission team consisted of 11 people representing 8 Virginia churches, plus 7 team members from Panama.

Dr. Andy Moore worked in the dental clinic with Panamanian dental students Zahilyn and Jhonathan. They saw over 180 patients in 3 days, offering extractions, fillings, and cleanings.
second-year Panamanian dental students and some able volunteers. They became a great team as they worked together and witnessed how God provided for their every need. God’s providence became evident to them tangibly when one of the members, Jhonattan, had the challenging opportunity to work with Diego, a patient who has cerebral palsy; they learned that Jhonattan was equipped in a special way to care for him because he himself has a brother who also has cerebral palsy. The team members saw firsthand how God equips those who willingly answer the call to serve others in His name.

Ministering to the Emberá people in the town of Cucunatí, in the Darien Province of Panama, is one of many adventures you can have as a Virginia Baptist. To learn more about BGAV’s Partnership Missions and how you might become involved, visit BGAV.org/Partnership.

For more information about how you and your church can be involved with Partnership Missions, contact:

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