

A Typical Day on a Medical Missions Trip

A team's day begins at 6:00 or 6:30 AM with breakfast followed by a group devotion led by team members. Typically a logistical update by the Host Missionary, the Trip Director, and the Clinic Director is provided. The team is then transported to the clinic site in order to begin work at 8:00 AM.

At the site, the medical team and the national workers gather for a time of prayer and giving out of the assignments for the team and interpreters. The crowds tend to grow throughout the week as word gets out that there is an American Medical Team providing care. We go to our assigned areas and the clinic starts.

Patients are registered and triaged according to their need - medical, dental, or optical. Patients are directed to the appropriate department waiting area and seen in the order they were triaged.

The Providers then address the physical needs of the patients. After examination, caring for their particular needs and writing out necessary medications for the pharmacy, they are sent to the Spiritual Clinic where spiritual needs are addressed.

The Spiritual Clinic is staffed by missionaries, pastors, and people from the local church who know how to pray and counsel people. This Clinic is as important as the medical, dental or optical clinics.

The final stop is the pharmacy where they are given their medications and sent on their way. A Family Photo Ministry may also be running concurrently with the Clinics. While people are awaiting care in the clinics, family photos are provided. These photos may be the only family photos some families will ever have. Our Photo-journal Leader heads this up.

The clinics run from 8:00 AM to noon, take a break for a quick lunch served at the site, and then work until 5:00 PM. The lunch hour is typically staggered so that the clinics can continue seeing patients. Registration people eat first, logistical people and providers take turns, and pharmacy usually goes last.

Toward the end of the afternoon, patient numbers are cut off so that the last patient is seen through the Spiritual Clinic and Pharmacy and wrapped up usually around 5:30 or 6:00 PM. At the end of the day all hands on deck at Pharmacy serve to get the last patients through. Depending on the location and distance from the hotel, the team will either go back and eat at the hotel or go out to a restaurant after changing clothes.

The nightly meeting after dinner is usually held at the hotel. Logistical improvements are discussed and pharmacy formulary is updated. Sharing "God sightings," and having prayer together as a team is a wonderful way to end the day.