



## Leonel Arriaga

Ministering in El Salvador,  
Central America

*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

*Ephesians 4:15- 16*

**Once again the Lord has surprised us.**

*Last year, I was put in contact with Roger Sansom from Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Maryland for a possible short term team of dentists to come serve in El Salvador. We received the team on the last day of November and for almost two weeks we served God together. The first weekend we purchased some supplies we needed and the team visited with us in Familia de La Fe. Monday we were ready for serving among the communities. This type of team is new for us. Up until that moment I had no idea what pediatric forceps, probes, files and rasps were. Personally, I just go to the dentist and open my mouth! The Lord opened doors so we could take some relief to many people in need. We visited four communities during the first week in December. People were so happy, especially the people needing extractions. Well... in the moment of having their teeth pulled out they may not have been so happy! There were two specific stories that filled me with joy.*

*One young man had two days without working the land and had abandoned his crops because of the pain in his mouth. He couldn't even sleep. He insisted that they pull the tooth but the doctor kept telling him they could rescue the tooth. He was so young the doctor did not want him to lose a tooth. After much discussion they were able to keep the tooth. The young man cried like a baby and thanked God for His mercy.*



*An older gentleman, about 70 years old had a double row of teeth and no local dentists wanted to touch it. The dentists told him it was not worth it because he was so old and about to die. Why even try? What a change in his smile when the doctors pulled the extra teeth. What a blessing to serve in that way!!*

*Love is shown, lived out. And that is what we saw that week with the team of dentists. They were so professional and filled with such love. The people of Familia de La Fe that served alongside the team were so blessed to experience this new kind of ministry. Glory to God. We share the love of God to all people.*



*Roger Sansom testimony*

*Pastor Leo,*

*On behalf of our Maryland dental-medical team we wish to say Thank You for welcoming us in December as we served along with The Family of Faith Church; we truly feel that we do have an extended family in El Salvador.*

*Though our weather back home is very cold our hearts are warmed as we think of working alongside your church members to help in the communities around Santa Anna. There are no words to describe the blessings that we felt every moment that we were able to work together with you, your staff and the church members. We were able to see so many good things happen and it has been such an inspiration getting to know your church family.*



*May God richly bless all of the work that you are doing!  
Romans 8:28*

*Roger, Celeste, Olha, Chris, Mike & Liz*

*Thank you guys for coming and for serving the Lord through your professional skills. God will bless you.*



### **Inspiration for others**

*As I met with Gabriel Chicas, a young man from our church, he shared with me that he was about to start the first class in the university. He wants to be a doctor. As he applied for the university, he was asked to take a psychological test as well as be interviewed several times. One of the psychologists asked him why he wanted to study medicine. His answer was, "Many American doctors come to my church to serve God and I want to do the same. They have motivated me through their example." The testimony of the medical team has served to motivate one of ours to become a doctor. God works in ways that we cannot understand.*

## **Our Trip to Guatemala**

*With the purpose of fellowshiping together as a church family we took a trip to our neighboring country of Guatemala. It was a great adventure. Many of the church members have never left El Salvador. Personally I like being a part of an experience like this. I could enjoy through them the trip and see how their lives were filled with joy as they experienced a new country. Just trying to change money was an adventure. To experience different food and to help each other was so good. The communion was great. We are still talking about the trip. The Lord is faithful in His provision and in His care. The objective was reached, Glory to God.*

*Thank you for your prayers and for being a part of everything that has been happening here.*

## **Prayer Requests**

- *May the Lord open doors so we can continue to evangelize in our neighborhood.*
- *Pray for health and protection.*
- *Pray that people will give their lives to Jesus. And that those who gave their lives to Jesus will grow in Him each day.*
- *Pray for a new place to live.*

*Leonel Arriaga*

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### **Questions?**

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