


I was so excited about clinics. I was expecting to learn so much and I did. I even got homework from Dr. Gutierrez. I am supposed to look up ~~and~~ toxoplasmic gondii and coloboma Iris. This girl came in with a fever and looked like she had a lazy eye, so ~~beila~~ and I didn't think anything of it. Then, Dr. Gutierrez asked if we checked her eye and we said no. He showed us her normal eye and pointed out the shape of the iris and how the pupil dilates and contracts. The iris of her other ~~eye~~ ~~eye~~ was formed with a point, like . The doctor said it was a birth defect from a parasite. He told us the name of the disorder and the name of the parasite and told us to research it tonight and he was going to ask us about it tomorrow. My internet connection is awful and the pages won't load, so

hopefully they load by tonight or in the morning. I am going to try to wake up a little earlier so the connection is better since no one will be on it. That eye disorder was the coolest thing I've seen all day.

Yesterday at the house visits ~~the~~ an old man was so excited to see us. He pulled up chairs and made a circle while we were still at his neighbors house. He has had knee pain for about 2 years now, about how long, + has been since he retired. He said his knees hurt all day long and he was taking painkillers but didn't know what kind. When I took his blood pressure it was through the roof. I was around 200/100 to 220/100, I don't remember. I took his pressure on both arms and they were about the same. Dr. Gutierrez said that some painkillers can cause hypertension. For his knee pain, he diagnosed osteoarthritis because there was no inflammation. This poor man was one of the first people here and he was so excited and grateful. I felt bad because

Two of the medications prescribed to him we did not have. I hope he has the money and ability to go to a pharmacy. Most of the other patients just complained of aches and pains.

The hardest thing today was knowing what questions to ask. It was like we never asked enough and Dr. Gutierrez had to ask more. Hopefully by tomorrow I will get used to taking questions one step further. Also, another hard thing was using the bathroom. It was awful.

The restaurant we went to was really great and all natural. I got passion fruit cheesecake for dessert and it was great. I love tropical fruits.

When we got back to the hotel I tried to turn the air conditioner on and it didn't work. I am so mad because I already know I'm not going to

This morning I went to the hospital. I saw the end of two c-sections and also a uterus with a tumor that they took out during a hysterectomy. The hospital was very unsanitary, but I know they do the best they can with their limited resources. However, the surgeon was chewing gum and I'm not ok with that. Also, I saw a dog just walk into the hospital with no problem. On the sign outside it said open 24 hours 366 days a year. I don't know if they changed it for Leap Year, but there are only 365 days. I thought that was funny. Also, they have a plastic surgery unit. I didn't even think of people getting plastic surgery down here unless it was for an emergency. I wonder if plastic surgery is a thing all over the world.

~~When~~ We were watching
the baby from one of the
C-sections and it started to
pee. One of the girls said,
"oh my gosh what's
happening? It's leaking."
I almost died laughing.
I told her she was peeing.
Even though the hospital
trip was great, and I got
to watch my first surgery,
I wish I was at the clinic
instead. I learned something
at the clinic and nothing
at the hospital, and I
feel like I missed out. I
am actually upset that there
is no more clinic days. I
want and will do something
like this again even if it's
not in Nicaragua. This trip
confirmed that when I
become a doctor, I want to
go to Third world countries
to help. This was one of
the best experiences of my
life.

After the hospital, I went
to the clinics and saw two
patients. One had a UTI and
the other possibly had an inflamed
prostate. He had pain in the

hypogastric region of his abdomen. He said that his bowel movements were normal but he had a bubbling feeling sometimes. He also had very high blood pressure. London and I thought that he had gastritis but he didn't because his stomach (upper abdomen) didn't hurt. Dr. Gutierrez told him he needed an ultrasound to see if his prostate was ok.

At lunch, we made plates ~~of~~ extra food to give to the people waiting. I gave one to this little boy. He grabbed it from me so quickly and he was so happy. He thanked me and ran away. I felt so bad. I'm sure he probably hadn't ate any thing that day or at least hasn't had that type of food in awhile.

Tonight we celebrated ~~the~~ Patriado's birthday. It was great. They

had a live band and a piñata.
~~Patricio~~ Then we went to a
cultural night in Masaya,
and Massiel had the band
performing sing Happy Birthday
in Spanish and English
to Patricio. It was great. Also,
the cultural dances were
great. I love seeing ~~other~~
other cultures traditions. There
was this adorable baby boy
dancing upfront. He was the
cutest. He kept going up to
the girls dancing to dance
with them. I love babies.
They are so cute and
fun and innocent.

I can't wait to see
the fortress tomorrow and
for community day.

Also, Heidi told me I
look like I belong in
Nicaragua. It was so
funny.

to miss the most, I have
even gotten used to the
showers!!! Not really,
but today's was nice because
I was so hot. This is a
very sad night and I will
cherish the memory of this
trip for the rest of my life.

Hey Mia:

Great reflections on your trip to Nicaragua.
Your ability to provide much needed basic health care
is greatly appreciated by the locals and your passion in
doing so was clearly stated. While the chronicity of
health problems was quite evident, the happiness of
the locals, despite their poverty, came as a surprise to
most!

I am hopeful that you can continue to help
those that cannot help themselves, whether it is in
the US or around the world. I look forward to
helping you to access the resources needed to find
your future path in life.

Ray