

Typical Clinic Environment

Health care clinics will be set up at a central location in a town or village. A clinic may be in a different village every day or may stay in one village for 2-3 days, depending on the number of people and the needs identified by the local missionary or pastor. Patients will be seen beginning at around 9 a.m. and continue until past 5 p.m. depending on how many are still waiting and when it gets dark. The number of patients cared for will vary depending on the number of doctors, dentists, nurses, and hygienists available. An example is: one dentist can typically see anywhere from 15-25 patients in one day, depending on the complexity of cases.

While the center of activity in any dental clinic would appear to be the clinic work itself, the real work is in presenting the Gospel to those who wait to see the dentist and family members who accompany the patients. Dental clinics serve as a magnet to draw people out to hear the Gospel. In some countries the crowds are large and there are many opportunities for local believers to speak one-on-one and in short Bible classes for adults and children. Sometimes the evangelism is done by local Bible Institute students and sometimes by local believers. In all cases, our objective is for the Gospel to be preached and Jesus Christ to be glorified.

Following a day of clinic activity there are often special evangelistic services held in a village or local church nearby for those who came to the clinic that day. This is an opportunity for team participants to give their personal testimonies of faith in Christ and to express their love for the people to whom they ministered that day. The personal application of the Good News of the Gospel is a powerful way to tell others how they too can be sure of going to Heaven. Special music by team members will be offered, if possible. The evening may end with a meal and fellowship with local believers and others in attendance.