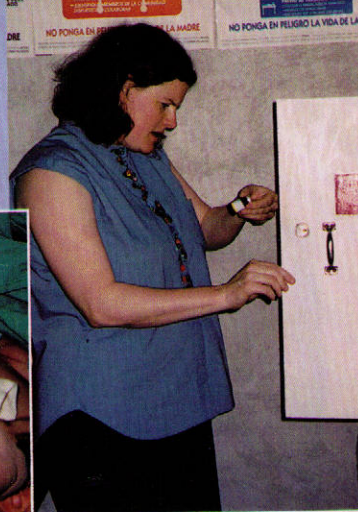


Uncommon Courage



Dr. Anne Foster-Rosales examines Isabela Pamquim Chox and her infant girl in Nahnala, Guatemala. The doctor's other visits include villages, birthing centers and hospitals in Guatemala and El Salvador.



To Save the One Doctor's Mission Is a

Light filters through the canopy of the tropical forest that surrounds the mountain village of Nahnala, Guatemala. The lush foliage offers welcome shade from the noontime heat. Barefooted children play noisily in the dusty road. Off to the side, a young Mayan woman sits on a flat rock against a shack, holding an infant on her lap. Her husband stands protectively nearby as a tall, big-boned American woman kneels beside her.

Jan Goodwin, an award-winning journalist who often writes on international issues, was also the photographer for this report.

Isabela Pamquim Chox, 31, gave birth to her daughter, Blanca, seven weeks ago. She and her husband, Lorenzo Perechi Guarchaj, have six other children. Slumped against the wall, the brilliant colors of her traditional blouse contrasting with her pallor, Isabela seems barely strong enough to hold her baby. "She should have recovered from the delivery by now, but obviously she hasn't," says the woman kneeling next to her. "She looks very weak—not a good sign."

The woman talking is Anne Foster-Rosales, M.D., M.P.H., an ob-gyn and an assistant clinical professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences at the Uni-

“When an expectant mother dies in this region,