

## Christian Dental Society News-Brief March-April 2025



CDS members are very involved with student trips, especially to Guatemala and Jamaica recently. You can find information about the Guatemalan and Jamaican student trips on the CDS website by clicking on “Mission Opportunities” and look under student trips.



This group photo is from Antigua, Guatemala on the March 2025 student mission trip. It includes over 30 dental and hygiene students mentored by 14 dentists and hygienists at the 22-chair dental clinic in San Raymundo, led by CDS members Dr. T. Bob Davis, Dr. Jody Yarbrow, Drs. Bob and Diane Meyer, and the CDS President, Dr. Jim Wolf, where over 900 patients were seen.

This large team screened over 100 pediatric patients who needed specialty care and were followed up two weeks later with a pediatric team led by Dr. Dylan Patrick. Utilizing the hospital clinic at the facility, they treated many pediatric patients in the operating rooms and in the dental clinic located upstairs.

Two weeks later another team of dental students from Kentucky worked in the same clinic led by Dr. Jon Spenn, CDS President-Elect, and Dr. Emily Winfrey.



Praying with patients in Guatemala. That is what it is all about!

Numerous student dental trips have gone to Jamaica every year for decades in the 18-chair clinic Drs. Jim and Sue Carney continue to manage. A recent Spring break trip was completed in March led by Dr. Mike Haddow, a CDS Advisory Council member, and students Emily Barnhart and Joseph Henein from Minnesota. The students treated 448 patients in four days and reported, “We learned the value of giving back to the community and the importance of using our skills to improve the health of others . . . the trip was a pivotal moment in our education and personal growth.”



March 2025 Jamaican dental student mission trip

Dr. Bill Sasser, the 2024 ADA Humanitarian Award recipient and CDS Advisory Council member, currently leads four student mission trips a year with 15-70 team members to Ecuador, Honduras, and Costa Rica, primarily with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) students. His website is [www.dentalcommunityfellowship.net](http://www.dentalcommunityfellowship.net)

An upcoming student trip on May 1-8 from the Pittsburgh dental school is taking 19 students to Honduras, and is led by Dr. Annette Merlino. Although there is another trip from Pittsburgh going, 19 students chose the Christian trip and this is encouraging news.

It is exciting to see how many Christian student trips are being planned by CDS and Christian Medical and Dental Associations (CMDA) dentists. When Christians can mentor students towards service and influence them spiritually, we are foundationally impacting young lives towards Godly values.

The Great Commission Dental Conference (GCDC) is organized and run by the CDS and CMDA and was successfully held for the first time last October. The CDS and CMDA are excited to announce that it will occur again on September 12-13 at the Bent Tree Bible Fellowship Church near Dallas, Texas located at 4141 International Pkwy in Carrollton, TX. This amazing, Christian, dental, mission conference provides an opportunity to connect with Christian mission dentists, hygienists, students, and others from around the world interested in using dentistry as a mission outreach.

The venue site has been changed this year to accommodate an even larger audience than last year. The break-out sessions have increased from 24 to 32 Spirit-filled, educational,

encouraging topics. The GCDC will have a professional worship leader, missional exhibit booths, fascinating plenary topics, and great food served on site.



Bent Tree Bible Fellowship Church near Dallas, Texas

Two suggested hotels close to the church are Marriott properties. We have secured reduced, block rates. The Courtyard Dallas Plano Parkway at Preston Road located at 4901 West Plano Parkway, Plano TX for \$106 per night and the Fairfield Inn and Suites Dallas Plano at 4712 West Plano Parkway, Plano TX for \$84 a night. The link to book lodging will shortly be available on the Great Commission Dental Conference website [www.cmda.org/gcdc](http://www.cmda.org/gcdc)

### **The 2025 In-Person CDS Board Meeting**

The annual CDS Board Meeting is scheduled to be held in conjunction with the GCDC conference at the Fairfield Inn and Suites, Dallas, Plano conference room from 5:30-9 p.m. on Thursday evening, Sept 11<sup>th</sup>. A catered dinner will be served during the meeting. In addition to the CDS Board and Advisory Council Members, any others interested in attending and learning about the CDS leadership are free to attend.



CDS Board Meeting in October 2024

The CDS continues to exhibit and speak at dental conferences to share the joy of service, present the gospel message, and open opportunities for service. This year the CDS has already exhibited in Denver and Boston. In Chicago, the CDS and CMDA joined forces and shared a booth. The CDS exhibited at the Hinman in Atlanta on March 20-22, Star of the South in Houston on March 27-29, and the Remedy East Conference (for the first time) at Liberty University on April 11-12 (where several CDS members spoke). Upcoming conventions where the CDS will have exhibit booths include: Pacific NW in Seattle on May 8-10 where CDS members will be speaking, Texas Dental Association meeting in San Antonio on May 8-10, and the California Dental Association meeting in Anaheim on May 15-17. The CDS is exhibiting and speaking (for the first time) at the National Dental Association in Kansas City on July 11-12 and the Kentucky Convention in Louisville on August 14-16.



An Exhibit Booth in Houston (Students and Assistant from Guatemalan Trip)

# Why is Easter considered the most important Christian holiday?

Easter stands as the cornerstone of our faith, the most sacred celebration in the Christian calendar. Without the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, Christianity would be merely a collection of wise teachings rather than the living faith that has transformed billions of lives across two millennia. Easter celebrations in Christian faith serve as a profound reminder of the hope and renewal that spring from the Resurrection. As believers gather to commemorate this pivotal event, they reaffirm their commitment to the principles of love, grace, and redemption embodied by Christ. In doing so, they not only honor the incredible sacrifice Jesus made for humanity but also embrace the promise of eternal life that it symbolizes, inspiring countless acts of compassion and kindness in the world.

The Apostle Paul articulates this truth with powerful clarity in his first letter to the Corinthians: “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile” (1 Corinthians 15:17). This statement reveals the absolute centrality of Easter to our faith. Unlike other religious holidays that commemorate important events, Easter celebrates the very foundation upon which all Christian hope rests.

Easter’s preeminence emerges from its unique position as the fulfillment of God’s redemptive plan. In the Resurrection, we witness the divine validation of Christ’s sacrifice on Good Friday. The empty tomb proclaims that death—humanity’s final enemy—has been conquered. This victory transforms our understanding of human existence, infusing our mortal journey with eternal significance.



