

Christian Dental Society

INSPIRES SMILES WORLDWIDE

BY WILLIAM T. GRIFFIN, D.D.S.

✘ Christian Dental Society ✘

The Christian Dental Society (CDS) equips and inspires American dentists, students and auxiliaries to treat the needy around the globe, including places where dental care is almost nonexistent.

Formally organized during the 1963 ADA convention, the Christian Dental Society has welcomed Christian dentists of all denominations who are interested in offering their skills to help our international brethren.

The primary purpose of the CDS is to publicize and facilitate dental mission trips for its members and others. CDS member services include inexpensive rental of equipment and instruments, information regarding upcoming trips, and mentoring of dental students and new dentists in the exciting field of missionary dentistry. 52 mission trips during the past year have included CDS equipment, and hundreds of additional trips around the world involved its members.



Conditions can vary greatly from one mission trip location to another. At some mission sites, teams utilize established clinics that have access to electricity and running water. Other trips to less developed areas require participants to carry their

equipment and supplies on their backs from village to village. To meet these challenges, CDS has an inventory of efficient, lightweight portable dental equipment, including chairs, headlights, handpieces and sterilization systems.

In addition to facilitating mission trip opportunities, the CDS hosts an annual

conference for its members and their families. Past speakers at these conferences have included Jim and Naomi Rhode, Dr. Van Haywood and Dr. Pascal Magne, as well as a host of highly experienced missionary dentists with some amazing stories to tell. Following are three snapshots of CDS efforts around the globe: