

Christian Dental Society News-Brief February 2024



The CDS is excited to announce the upcoming **Great Commission Dental Conference (GCDC)** to be held on **October 4-6, 2024 in Dallas, Texas**. This will involve the Christian Dental Society, the Christian Medical and Dental Associations, Residency Plus Program, Samaritan's Purse, and numerous other Christian dental mission organizations. This conference will be specifically dedicated to Christian Dental Missions and sharing the Gospel throughout the world.

Numerous, key, Christian dental leaders are diligently working on coordinating this event and include Dr. Jim Wolf, Dr. Bob Meyer, Dr. Bill Griffin, Dr. Jon Spenn, Dr. Katy Musser from the Dental Residency, Dr. Ryan Bowles a long-term missionary with Samaritan's Purse, Dr. Lee Bridgeman a pastor/dentist/missionary, and Dr. Jennifer Wade, Danielle Taylor, and Doug Lindberg from the CMDA. We are looking forward to how God will assist His servants in putting this conference together. "What then shall we say to these things. If God is for us, who is against us" Romans 8:31-35.

The yearly, in-person CDS Board meeting will be held at a local hotel close to the GCDC conference from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 3rd, in conjunction with dinner. This will allow time for people to arrive for the meeting and be available for the conference to be held on October 4th and 5th. The CDS Board meeting is open to anyone interested in the CDS.

There are numerous family activities in Dallas at that time of year including the Texas State Fair, a rodeo, museums, lakes, a zoo, and more, so we are hoping to have family members join in on this exciting conference. More information will follow, but the CDS wants to recommend that you put this event on your calendar and plan to attend the first annual Great Commission Dental Conference.



Advertisement for the GCDC coming out soon

The student trip to Guatemala on March 8-16 with Dr. T. Bob Davis and other CDS mentors is full with 57 American participants and a number of Guatemalan dental students planning on treating 1,000 patients in 25 dental chairs. Praise the Lord! Dr. Dylan Patrick, a pediatric dentist, is planning on providing operating room treatment to children who cannot be reasonably treated by the Guatemalan team during the week following. He is bringing two other pediatric dentists, an anesthetist, and his whole team. Dr. Blake Westra, a CDS Board Member from Illinois, just took his dental team to work in the Guatemalan dental clinic. The Iowa dental school is planning on leading a student trip to Guatemala in July using the clinic that CDS members have set up there.



Guatemalan team in 2023 will significantly grow this year in numbers

A student trip to El Salvador is being planned with Global Health Outreach (GHO) and CDS members on June 8-16, with an attempt to open up more schools and get GHO involved in student mission trips. GHO is offering \$1500 scholarships to each student and a one-time offer of \$1500 to new dentists going on a GHO mission trip. If interested contact Dr. Bill Griffin at bill.griffin@cmda.org.

Numerous student trips to Jamaica are planned for this year and for more information contact Dr. Jim Carney at jamescarney1sbc@gmail.com.

The CDS enjoys featuring mission trips which encourages others towards dental service, and if you are willing, please send your stories and pictures to Dr. Bob Meyer at bdmeyer@comcast.net.

This month we will feature an orthodontist husband and endodontist wife from Johnson City, TN on their mission trip to the Dominican Republic on Feb 8-11, 2024.



Sturgell Mission with Kids to Christ in the Dominican Republic

Drs. Jeremiah and Riley Sturgell along with their office's chief operating officer, Molly Muse, family, and friends joined *Kids to Christ*, www.kidsforchrist.org on a dental mission trip in the Dominican Republic to provide much needed dental care and support to underserved Dominican and Haitian children. Jaime Johnson, Riley's sister, and the Executive Director of *Kids to Christ* coordinated the trip while Molly Muse worked with the CDS to procure equipment, kits, and sterilization.

The team worked with *Kids to Christ*, a local ministry who helps with local churches, schools, families, and communities to help poor children know Christ through gifts of basic necessities, to include dental in this case, while sharing the love and knowledge of Jesus.



Donaldson before, Dr. Sturgill with hugs and tears, after treatment

One of the most memorable and touching stories from the trip is this young man who had broken his front tooth which needed a root canal and composite build-up. Donaldson greeted the team when they arrived, held hands as they walked up the hill, and was so happy to get his hurting, broken tooth fixed. He and the team hugged, shed tears, sang, and rejoiced at the difference they could make in this young man's life.



Working with, sharing with, and ministering to children is a blessing.

Were you aware that there are around 85 Bible verses about Jesus loving little children? Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven” Matt 19:14.

There are also about 50 verses in the Bible concerning the poor. When we help the poor, we are not only helping them, but we are also honoring God. “Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed” Proverbs 19:17. “In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” Acts 20:35.

This wonderful team served and was blessed as a dental team. The CDS was honored to guide and help equip them and was encouraged by their spirit. They are planning to go again and the CDS hopes to help others to step out and be blessed through the use of dentistry and God’s guiding hand.

The CDS conducts exhibit booths at major dental meetings which continue to encourage and assist many toward missions. Upcoming conferences include the Hinman meeting in Atlanta with Dr. Randy Sanders and Dr. Dave Moretz on March 21-23. Drs. Bob and Diane Meyer will be at the Portland, Oregon conference on April 4-6 and the Star of the North conference in St. Paul, MN on April 25-27. Mrs. Glynn Reser (hygienist on the CDS Advisory Council) will run the CDS booth at the Texas Dental Association meeting in San Antonio on May 16-18. The CDS will also be exhibiting at the Global Dental Missions conference in Irving, CA on June 28-29, the Star of the South conference in Houston on July 26-27, the International College of Dentists conference in Nashville on Sept 6-7, the ADA meeting in New Orleans on October 17-19, and the Greater New York meeting in New York City on Dec 1-4.



Hinman Exhibit booth with Dr. Randy Sanders (right) and Dr. Dave Moretz (center) connecting with Larry about eyeglasses and dentistry.

Many of the major dental conferences at which the CDS participates provide the CDS with a free, complimentary exhibit booth. The CDS is extremely grateful for their support as we are a non-profit organization encouraging, assisting, and equipping dental humanitarian volunteerism. With conference support of the CDS mission, by waving

expensive exhibit fees, the CDS is able to exhibit at these very productive conferences. Over the last several years some conferences have starting charging reduced fees for complimentary exhibit booths to offset costs. The CDS thanks Dr. Tom Love, who has helped the CDS offset these fees which ranges from \$150 to \$500 at numerous conferences. A couple of conferences like the Chicago Midwinter and the AGD charge a high fee to exhibit and the CDS is not participating with an exhibit booth at those conferences at this time.

The Greater New York Meeting (GNYDM) started charging \$1,000 for a complimentary exhibit booth which CDS wants to attend in December. The CDS felt that this fee was too high for a non-profit organization that does not raise money to support exhibit fees. The CDS asked if this booth fee could be reduced, thus showing GNYDM's support of dental humanitarian volunteerism and, hopefully, working as a recruiting tool for the conference. An agreement was worked out between the CDS and GNYDM. It was decided that if the CDS would mention in their News-Briefs and at other conferences about the GNYDM support for the CDS mission, this would suffice for the provision of a free booth at the GNYDM, which is the largest, most international dental conference in the nation with over 50,000 attendees. The amazing exhibit booth displays at the GNYDM generally overshadow any exhibit hall in the nation in size and diversity. New York City is also a fascinating city worth visiting.

The CDS is extremely grateful for the generosity of the GNYDM in providing CDS with a free, complimentary booth in 2024 along with the Rocky Mountain conference in Denver, the Yankee meeting in Boston, the Hinman meeting in Atlanta, the Oregon meeting in Portland, the Pacific meeting in Seattle, and the ADA meeting in New Orleans.

The CDS truly appreciates all members for their support and looks forward to continued service as a volunteer organization for our Lord through dental missions. May God bless your lives.

**I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,
neither present nor the future, nor powers, neither height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from
the love of God that is ours in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

- Romans 8:38-39 -

