

## Christian Dental Society News-Brief January-February 2025



The CDS recent Zoom Board meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup> reinforced how much the CDS is doing to encourage and assist others in Christian, dental missions as teams continue to open doors around the world to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Dr. David Moretz, our equipment manager, and Dr. Randy Sanders, our kit manager, have been busy loaning out equipment and kits in support of missions. The CDS recently rented out equipment locally for a stateside portable mission clinic that performed \$80,000 of dentistry. To keep up with demand, the CDS purchased four more Task Force portable units.

Dr. Gayle Cheatwood arranged to have 100 more blue, corrugated-plastic, portable chairs made. This 13-pound chair will hold a 500-pound patient and positions the patient comfortably, allowing the dentist to work ergonomically with the two-pound stool. The CDS can rent or sell the chair and stool. The CDS had 50 more pressure pot weights made which decreases sterilization time to 10 minutes.

## School-based Dental Sealant Program in Grande Saline, Haiti



Shows the CDS Portable Dental Chair

The CDS Board and Advisory Council members are serving in many places in different ways. Dr. Gayle Cheatwood recently returned from leading a large mission trip to Oaxaca, Mexico. Mrs. Glynn Reser is leading trips to Peru, Dr. Denny Scharine is getting ready to go to Belize, and Dr. Chad Araki is heading to Nepal. Dr. Katy Barlow, Dr. Loc Huyah, Dr. Tom Love, Dr. Bill Sasser, Dr. Michael Vaughn, and Dr. Jody Yarbrow have been working in their local, dental clinics serving under-resourced people. Dr. Carney, Dr. Davis, Dr. Griffin, Dr. Haddow, Dr. Lachine, Drs. Meyer, Dr. Sasser, Dr. Spenn, Dr. Townsend, Dr. Wolf, and Dr. Yarbrow have been participating in student mission trips. Dr. Ron and Tina Lamb continue to run World Dental Relief supplying numerous dental teams locally and overseas. Many other CDS members are involved with mission work and it is encouraging to connect with so many dedicated, Christian, mission leaders using their gifts to serve the Lord.

The Great Commission Dental Conference (GCDC) held last October will occur again on September 12-13 in Dallas. This was a great opportunity to connect with Christian mission dentists, hygienists, students, and others from around the world interested in using dentistry as a mission outreach. Last year the conference made \$11,000 which was given to dental students to defray their cost of attending. The conference also raised \$20,000 to be given out to dental students to support mission trip expenses. The website for the conference is [www.cmda.org/gcdc](http://www.cmda.org/gcdc)



The GCDC Speakers in 2024

Mr. Jamie DiBease and Day One are running the CDS website at no charge as a ministry, and the site continues to improve. They recently provided the CDS with a QR code which goes directly to the CDS website.



Student missions continue to expand as the CDS and the Christian Medical and Dental Associations are getting more student groups involved. The Christmas break trip to Jamaica took students from four different schools and Dr. Bill Griffin said it was the most spiritual, rewarding student trip he had ever been on. Dr. T. Bob Davis's large student trip to Guatemala next month is taking 33 dental/hygiene students with 14 dental/hygiene mentors to a 25-chair clinic and also work with Guatemalan students and their mentors. Both mission opportunities have links to their websites on the CDS website under student mission opportunities.



### Guatemalan Dental Students Trip in 2024

Concerning student trips, Dr. Annette Merlino DMD (phone: 412-401-6465) [annettedentist@gmail.com](mailto:annettedentist@gmail.com) has a student trip to Honduras on May 1-8. She is taking 19 dental students on her annual trip this year and needs two more mentor dentists. If willing, please contact Dr. Annette for details.

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. Upcoming conventions where the CDS will have exhibit booths include: Hinman in Atlanta on March 20-22, Star of the South in Houston on March 27-29, the Remedy East Conference (for the first time) at Liberty University on April 11-12 (where several CDS members will be speaking), 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.



CDS and CMDA Combined Booth at Chicago Midwinter Meeting. Left to Right: Dr. Jon Spenn, Dr. Tommy Harrison, and Drs. Diane and Bob Meyer

The CDS does not raise support and has not raised dues in over 10 years as God has blessed the CDS follows His mandate to spread the Gospel throughout the world. The CDS member dues support this ministry and the leadership thanks our loyal members for contributing. If you have not paid dues for 2025, please continue to support this unique ministry.



