

Christian Dental Society News-Brief June-July 2023



The CDS is grateful to God the Father, Jesus the Son, and God the Holy Spirit for creating, sustaining, and planning this amazingly, diverse world where we live, work, enjoy, and minister to others for the glory of God.

The CDS, in-person, **yearly Board Meeting (2-5 p.m.) and Mission Banquet (5:30-8:30 p.m.)** will be held on **Thursday, October 5th**, rather than on Friday during the ADA Convention. The location is close to the Convention Center at the Central Parkway Baptist Church, 5281 Central Parkway in Orlando, Florida. We appreciate and look forward to Dr. Jody Yarbrow and Dr. Randy Sanders as the keynote speakers.

Several CDS leaders are being inducted as Fellows into the International College of Dentists on Friday, October 6. Congratulations to Dr. Dan Hudson, Dr. Diane Meyer, Dr. Randy Sanders, Dr. Jonathan Spenn, and Dr. James Wolf.

After the CDS Board meeting in October, Dr. Michael Vaughn will hand the CDS Presidential leadership to Dr. James Wolf.

We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Accidents can happen on mission trips and here is an experience of a CDS member and team leader on a recent dental/medical trip to Vietnam.

What Better Place for an Accident to Occur **By Roger Lutz.**

Vietnam: The medical/dental group had just completed a hard week of seeing, treating, and providing support to over 3,850 needy Vietnamese. Each of the teams, Ob/Gyn, Primary Care, Pediatrics, Pharmacy, Dental Team, and the support sections had worked tirelessly, shed tears for the needy, and smiled as wheelchairs, crutches, medications, dental care, and various support items such as food staples and toys were distributed to people that in many cases had or have less than nothing.

NOW! For the closing ceremony and get-together that allowed for sharing memories, thanking all of those who worked as a team, and exchanging smiles, contact info, and hope that we would see each other again with the adventure of service.

The buses had arrived and we were on the way to the event. As usual, the streets were overcrowded and I commented to myself: “I am glad that I am not the bus driver trying to make it through these streets full to over-capacity with people, scooters, kids, and food outlets of snacks on wheels.”

Almost arriving at our destination, we all heard a scream as the bus turned too tightly and a woman on a scooter, with her grandchild hanging onto her waist, was caught between the curb and the rear, dual wheels of the bus.

The woman’s lower leg was mangled! Of course, the docs, medics, nurses, and support staff all exited the bus and performed emergency procedures—stopped the bleeding, treated for shock, splinted the leg, and arranged transport on a local truck to the hospital.

This was an accident. We had no control regarding the happening, but we did and do have control over the outcome. We, as a team, were not responsible, yet we each took a role in the outcome. Funds were provided by the group for local hospital, medical, and doctor fees. We assigned a person to check on the patient to make sure that the proper medical procedures, surgery, and orthopedic support was in place. On a personal level, I met, talked, and will continue to have a relationship with the woman and her family.

Perhaps the Bible in Esther 4:14 has a thought regarding situations such as this! “And who knows? Perhaps you have been (destined to be here) for such a time as this.”



The woman—a grandmother—is doing as well as can be expected. Her leg is healing and the grandchild is fine.

We, as a medical team, realize that at least the incident occurred at a time and a place that had a bus full of medical staff to deal with the medical emergency.

What was even more interesting is that, even though none of us was responsible, we all took on the responsibility of helping this woman and family.

Matt 22:37-40 applied and was followed by our team. “Love the Eternal One your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is nearly as important, **Love your neighbor as yourself.**”



Starfish Ministries needs another dentist for their dental mission trip to Peru. All you need is to just come, as this ministry has been going for years. You have an opportunity to see Machu Picchu and Lima. The trip is led by Glynn Reser, a dental hygienist and a CDS Advisory Council member.



Glynna Reser (center) at the CDS exhibit booth in San Antonio with two of her dental hygienists



Here is an excellent opportunity to experience the Holy Land and walk in the footsteps of Jesus in this Biblically historical and significant land with other Christian dental/medical professionals. Dr. Bill Griffin, the Vice President of dental ministries for the Christian Medical and Dental Associations, and a past president of the CDS, is leading a tour focusing on connecting Biblical history with various sites. More information can be found on <https://cmda.org/events/israel-tour-in-the-footsteps-of-jesus/>

CDS exhibit booths at major dental meetings continue to encourage and assist many people towards missions. After the ADA meeting on October 5-7 in Orlando, the next CDS exhibit booth will be at the **Greater New York Dental Meeting** in New York City on November 26-29, 2023. The CDS will also have booths at the **Rocky Mountain Dental Convention** in Denver on January 18-20 and the **Yankee Meeting** in Boston on January 25-27.

Please send your mission trip pictures and reports to Bob Meyer at bdmeyer@comcast.net so that the CDS can encourage others as you serve our Lord.

