

## Christian Dental Society News-Brief May 2024



The CDS Board and Advisory Council met for a Zoom meeting on Saturday, May 11, and the following items were discussed and voted upon.

The CDS is excited about the upcoming Great Commission Dental Conference (GCDC) on October 4-5 in Dallas, Texas. This will involve the CDS, CMDA, Residency Plus Program, and numerous other Christian dental mission organizations such as Samaritan's Purse, I-Tec, and mPower. This will be a conference specifically dedicated to Christian, Dental Missions. CDS leaders who will be presenting include Dr. Ryan Bowles, Dr. Gayle Cheatwood, Dr. T. Bob Davis, Dr. Bill Griffin, Dr. Van Haywood, Drs. Bob and Diane Meyer, Dr. Dave Moretz, Mrs. Glynna Reser, Dr. Bill Sasser, Dr. Jon Spenn, Dr. Blake Westra, and Dr. Jody Yarbrow. There are over 30 speakers, a website for registration, and a recommended hotel at <http://cmda.org/gcdc>. **The CDS Board voted during the January Zoom meeting to have the 2024 in-person CDS Board meeting**

**at the GCDC on Thursday evening, October 3, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Wyndham DFW Airport Hotel.** If interested in learning about the CDS, you are invited to attend. If planning on joining the CDS meeting, please let Dr. Bob Meyer know at [bdmeyer@comcast.net](mailto:bdmeyer@comcast.net). The CDS Board believes that you will be blessed by attending the inspiring and encouraging GCDC conference. Consider joining others who seek to transform the world for Christ through dentistry. CE credit will be available and the costs will be minimal.

The CDS is extremely grateful for Mrs. Susan Curtis who has been running the CDS website since the passing of Mr. Mark Curtis last year. Susan is no longer able to manage the CDS website, which is an essential link to our membership and is vital to fulfilling the CDS mission. The CDS Board has plans to thank Susan. It would be nice for some CDS leaders to express their gratitude to Susan and in remembrance of Mark for all they have done to help the CDS with the website support. Susan's e-mail is [suedarcurtis56@gmail.com](mailto:suedarcurtis56@gmail.com).

God has brought CDS another Christian web manager and organization to help with the website. Day One (whose name comes from Genesis 1:1) is a dental, marketing group who are Christian-owned and operated. This dental website is managed by Mr. Jamie DiBease who is a strong Christian, an Elder in his church, and who wants to use his talents to further God's Kingdom. They can upgrade the current operating system, which is outdated, making it more user-friendly. As Mark and Susan Curtis did, **Day One will run the site for free as a ministry to our Lord**, which is a huge blessing. Dr. Bob Meyer and Dr. Randy Sanders met them at the Denver Dental Conference and, with the go-ahead from the key leaders of the CDS, have allowed them to examine and analyze the CDS website. Jamie has proposed three options:

1. Stay with the current CDS website design and try to keep an outdated system going for the time being, which will only be a stop-gap solution—they will do that for free.
2. Clone the CDS website and bring it up to standard, with no attempts to change the site. This will not improve the site as far as marketing, membership lists, ease of use, etc. It will have a one-time cost of \$2,900 as it would take a designer to upgrade the basic system.
3. Not only bring the CDS website up-to-date but also offer a chance to develop and streamline the design and operation, with CDS approval, to make the site more user-friendly and efficient. This will cost a one-time fee of \$4,300 as it will require a designer and an operational developer.

The CDS Board is blessed that God brought a Christian web manager, at just the right time, to help with the CDS website. **The Board unanimously voted to approve Day**

**One and Jamie DiBease taking over the CDS website using option number three above. The CDS thanked Dr. Victor Bradford for donating \$1400 to upgrade the website from option two to option three above.**



*Thank you*



Mrs. Tina Wendel, the CDS Executive Secretary, who has **worked for 30 years for the CDS (May 24<sup>th</sup> is her 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary), has moved from Sumner, Iowa to Cedar Falls, Iowa** to be near her daughters and to live in a larger city. Tina, with the CDS Boards approval, is locating the CDS office in the basement of her new home. This will be more convenient and keep costs lower for the CDS. Only the CDS office mailing address will change to 1403 State Street #4 in Cedar Falls, Iowa 56613. The CDS sincerely thanks Tina for her 30 years of devoted service. Tina is the voice of the CDS when you call has been the consistent connection taking care of administrative details and coordinating mission trips, finances, taxes, and correspondence. Her numerous contributions and consistent attention to the mission of the CDS are invaluable to the CDS. Tina was assisted in her move by the CDS, was sent a plant for her new home, and will be a guest of the CDS at the Great Commission Dental Conference in October. Thank you, Tina!!!

Today's highlight mission story features a community service day to encourage and demonstrate that we do not have to go overseas to be blessed through providing dental care to under-served people.



The Office Staff of Dr. Randy Sanders in blue and Dr. McKinley Soult, lower left.

Dr. Sanders describes this event: “In April, Dr. McKinley Soult and Dr. Randy Sanders opened their office for a Community Service Day, a day of free dental care for people in need. It had been a dream of Dr. Soult for many years, while he was in the Air Force, to one day have a day of ministering to local people out of his own dental office. When he entered private practice with Dr. Sanders, it was with the intent of having annual service days where their entire office was given over to serving others.

Between the two dentists and their three hygienists, twenty-nine people were treated with cleanings, restorations, and extractions. There were four military veteran patients and about two dozen recent immigrants from Venezuela who received care. The primary intent was not to simply fix teeth but to be the hands of Jesus in meeting their physical and spiritual needs. One of the blessings for the day was the pastor that Dr. Sanders worked with in the early 90s on his first mission trips to Venezuela. Fabian Perea had moved to Denver and was now coordinating the Southern Baptist Spanish-speaking churches. He came and translated so that the patients could share their stories and the dental staff could hear their hearts. The patients were prayed for in their language so that they would know they were being helped by Christians. There were two other Christian translators plus one of the office’s regular patients who immigrated from Venezuela about 20 years ago. Pastor Fabian has followed up with four of the families, helping them become involved in Christian churches as well as helping some of them find jobs. The ultimate goal is to lead them to Jesus.

Dr. Soult knew a missionary who works locally with underserved people through a local food bank. A flyer was drawn up informing them about where and when the services would be provided and all of the patients were scheduled. To avoid stress during this first event, all patients were scheduled for an hour and each patient received as much dental work as possible in that hour appointment.

As with any first-time endeavor, there were many unknowns and unnecessary concerns about things that never happened. Probably one of the most important preparations was to set a date 6-9 months in advance to find an entire day with no patients scheduled, and then look forward to that day.

Most of the CDS members are doing or have done mission trips all over the world to share the Good News of Jesus through dentistry, but now God is bringing those same patients to our communities and we can minister to them in our own offices. Jesus embraced the outcasts, and we can too.

Overall, it was a wonderful day. It was very humbling to talk to parents who had gone through so much to try and have an opportunity to provide food and safety for their families. The entire office looks forward to another opportunity to serve others and we would encourage other dentists to have their service day. Dr. Soult ([mdsoult@gmail.com](mailto:mdsoult@gmail.com)) and Dr. Sanders ([randy@randsand.com](mailto:randy@randsand.com)) would welcome any questions about setting up your service day.”



Glynn Reser with Julie Hamilton on the left and Diedra Smith on the right (all dental hygienists) at the Texas Dental Association Meeting

CDS exhibit booths at major dental meetings continue to encourage and assist many toward missions. This year, CDS has exhibited in Denver, CO, Boston, MA, Atlanta, GA, Portland, OR, and St. Paul, MN, and most recently in San Antonio, TX. CDS thanks Mrs. Glynn Reser, a dental hygienist who is the founder and leader of Star Fish Ministries (a 501©3 non-profit dental mission organization), for running the San Antonio booth. Upcoming exhibits include the Global Medical Mission Alliance in CA, Houston, TX, the International College of Dentists in Nashville, TN, the GCDC in Dallas, TX, the ADA meeting in LA, and the GNYDM in NY.

The CDS continues to regularly help many dental teams with missions. The CDS leadership truly appreciates all members for their support and looks forward to continued

service as a volunteer organization for our Lord through dental missions. The CDS hopes to see everyone at the Great Commission Dental Conference on October 4-5 in Dallas.

