

Christian Dental Society News-Brief November-December 2023



A Short Christmas Prayer of Thanks

Thank you, God, for sending Your Son on one glorious night to be born a virgin, to live a perfect life and to die on [the cross](#) for my sins. Thank you that Jesus rose from the dead three days later and that this Christmas and every Christmas we can celebrate the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Christmas Dinner Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather around this table on this special Christmas day, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude. We thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate today. Bless this food before us, and may it nourish our bodies and fill our hearts with joy. We are thankful for the love and warmth of family and friends gathered here.

As we share this meal, help us remember the true reason for this season—the love, hope, and [salvation](#) that Jesus brings into our lives.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Put Jesus First

Dear God, help us to keep our focus first on Christ this season. Please forgive us for giving too much time and attention to other things. Help us to reflect again, on what [Christmas](#) is really all about. Thank you that you came to give new life, peace, hope, and joy. Thank you that your power

is made perfect in our weakness. Help us to remember that the gift of Christ, Immanuel, is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas, but for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you are still with us. For you never leave us.

The CDS wishes everyone a blessed Christmas season as we reflect upon the last year and look forward to the future, knowing that we have Jesus, who through His grace assures us of salvation. No matter what happens in this broken world, He is in ultimately in control and this provides the Christian with a joy, peace, and hope which transcends all.

The CDS continues to give Christian hope to a hurting world as our members encourage, assist, educate, and equip dental missions around the world. CDS members are using their dental skills to open doors not only to physical healing, but to spiritual healing at home and afar as they bless others and receive the blessings associated with service.



The Cameroon Team

The CDS thanks Dr. Becky Prescott's family of six (young adults ages 15, 12, 12, 10) who recently returned from their first dental mission trip to Cameroon, Africa, hosted by Bread for Life, www.breadforlife.org.

The CDS helped with the patient chair, stool, dental unit, instruments, sterilization system, technical assistance, and encouragement. Dr. Becky put together a portable dental set-up and

transported it so many Cameroonians received consultations and dental treatment for the first time in their life. The Christian outreach started at the customs consultant in Yaounde and concluded in Dimako at Beulahland agricultural ministry. While at the farm, Bread for Life staff received dental care from Dr. Becky's team, pineapples were planted, and crops prayed for at the Baka pygmy village.



Dr. Becky Treating Patient in Cameroon



Becky's adopted 12-year-old

Dr. Becky reported, "The four kids did great and they all returned home healthy and happy. Two of my children are adopted and it was very neat to take them to a place where the majority of people were not white! It was an amazing time of building relationships and helping people."



Dr. Becky's kids playing and interacting with the local children.

As with any memorable trip, glitches did not discourage or prevent this brave family from following God's leading to serve. The devil never wants Christians to use dentistry or anything else to further the Gospel message. One example occurred when Delta changed the plane tickets, making it almost impossible to go on the mission. In answer to prayer, United came through with great tickets which saved them \$1500. Visas came through and all fell into place. Seven hours of jet lag and 30 hours of travel each way became an adventure to be talked about, but did not prove to be an obstacle. A power surge burned out the ultrasonic and the generator brought by the missionaries was only 1.5 KW, which was too small to run the dental operating unit or the heating element for the sterilizer out in the bush. Many instruments and supplies were taken. These were all relatively easy fixes and just motivated the Prescott family to "more effectively provide dental care" as they plan to return to Cameroon this coming Summer.

Mother Teresa said, "We can do not great thing, only small things with great love." And Edward Everett Hale said, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do."

May God bless Dr. Becky and the Prescott family. May their example of service to our Lord be an encouragement for others to step out of their comfort zones to serve others in Jesus' name.

The CDS would love to share your mission trip experience with others and if you are willing, please send your stories and pictures to Dr. Bob Meyer at bdmeyer@comcast.net.

Exhibiting at major dental conventions continues to be an extremely valuable opportunity to encourage, assist, and connect dental professionals to missions. During the last month the CDS exhibited at the American Academy of Periodontology convention in Austin, TX, the Colorado Dental Hygiene convention in Beaver Creek, CO, Dr. Jon (the CDS President-Elect) and Amy Spenn exhibited at the Greater New York meeting representing

both the CDS and the CMDA, and Drs. Bob and Diane Meyer just presented on missions and showed a portable clinic to the Academy of Dentistry International meeting in San Antonio. They sold the pressure pot, chair, and stool to a new CDS life member. For years, Dr. Katy To has wanted to go back to help her family in Vietnam with her dental skills, but had no idea how to do it until she met the CDS who will help her realize her God-inspired dreams. The CDS will be exhibiting at the Rocky Mountain meeting in Denver and the Yankee meeting in Boston in January.

The CDS thanks Dr. Gayle Cheatwood and Mr. Jawn Swan for making more pressure pot rings for the portable Presto pot sterilizer. The person making rings for us in the past is fighting cancer and can no longer provide the CDS with rings and Dr. Gayle's friend, has produced them for us as the demand for the rings continues, Praise the Lord!

The CDS thanks its members for their support during 2023 and looks forward to continue serving as a volunteer organization for our Lord through dental missions. May God bless your Christmas and your lives in 2024.



The greatest Christmas gift

ever given

wasn't placed under the tree,

He was placed

on the Tree

and His name is

Jesus