

Christian Dental Society News-Brief October 2023



The CDS held its yearly, in-person Board Meeting and Mission Banquet on Thursday, October 5, 2023 at the Central Parkway Baptist Church in Orlando, Florida. The CDS also ran an exhibit booth at the ADA convention from Thursday-Saturday. The following is a summary of the Board Meeting.



The CDS Board Meeting Photo with Zoom participants shown on the TV

Dr. Michael Vaughan, the CDS President, opened the meeting with prayer. Eleven of the twelve Board Members were present plus Advisory Council members and others.

Old Business consisted of reviewing and approving the minutes of the last, in-person Board Meeting held on October 14, 2022 and three Zoom meetings held on January 14, 2023, May 13, 2023, and August 12, 2023.

New Business began with leadership changes:

- A. The current CDS President, Dr. Michael Vaughan, who has been the CDS President for three years through the COVID-19 pandemic, turned over his position to Dr. Jim Wolf, the current President-Elect, at the conclusion of the Mission Banquet. Dr. Vaughan will now become the CDS Past-President for two years. The CDS thanks Dr. Vaughan for his leadership and service to the CDS along with his wife, Carla.

The CDS is honored to have Dr. Jim Wolf as the next CDS President after serving many years on the CDS Board and Advisory Council. Jim graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelor's degree in Nursing in 1979, received his DDS from the University of Detroit in 1986, and completed a hospital dental residency at the University of Chicago Hospital. He is a Master in the AGD, has received the Rotary Governor's Service Award, and a merit award from the Boy Scouts. Jim has held numerous positions of leadership in the Immanuel Lutheran church for many years and has a Master's degree in Christian Apologetics from Biola University. Jim has participated on dental missions to many countries with numerous Christian organizations and Jim has a heart for serving and a gift for leadership. The CDS also appreciates the support of Jim's wife, Barbara.



Dr. Michael Vaughan turning the CDS Presidency over to Dr. Jim Wolf



Dr Jim Wolf and Dr. Bob Meyer decorating for the Banquet

- B. The current Past-President, Dr. David Moretz, will now, move off the Board onto the Advisory Council and be eligible to be voted back onto the Board next year. The CDS thanks Dr. David for serving in CDS leadership for many years, as well as his continuing efforts to run the Large Equipment rental as a volunteer, along with the support of his wife, Gail.
- C. The Board nominated and unanimously voted in Dr. Jonathan Spenn to be the President-Elect who will become the CDS President in two years.



Dr. Jonathan Spenn on the left dining at the CDS Mission Banquet

Dr. Jon Spenn has been an active CDS Board Member for years and has traveled the world teaching dentist and indigenous people about dentistry. He graduated from Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine in 2008, joined the Army, and completed an AEGD-1-year program at Fort Benning, Georgia. During eight years in the Army, he deployed for a year to Afghanistan and earned numerous awards and badges. God directed him to give up a promising military career to pursue a calling to serve mankind as a dental humanitarian. In 2016, he accepted a part-time role with the Indigenous People’s Technology and Education Center (I-TEC) as a dental advisor and instructed indigenous people around the world. Jon recently accepted a part-time job with the CMDA student ministries to mentor dental students towards God and dental service. God has blessed the CDS with another outstanding Christian leader in Dr. Jonathan Spenn, whose wife, Amy, actively supports mission and Christian endeavors.

D. The CDS Board voted in two new Advisory Council members, Dr. Michael Haddow and Dr. Jennina Townsend.

Dr. Michael Haddow from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan has been on over 30 overseas mission trips and is on the faculty of the University of Detroit Dental School where he has been mentoring and taking dental students on dental mission trips for many years. Dr. Haddow is active in his church, his local dental society, administration of the Detroit Dental School, and the American Academy of Periodontology. He has a heart, based on the Bible, for serving people and is interested in recruiting and leading dental student trips and helping at the CDS Exhibit booths.

Dr. Jennina Townsend from Denver, Colorado has been a Christian since a young age, currently works in the Colorado Dental School, and would like to use her skills as a dentist to spread the gospel and share God's love. She has been involved with dental mission work overseas since 1997 in four countries and with the Colorado Mission of Mercy Clinics. She is interested in, "helping the CDS plan, execute, and promote short-term missions for dentists and dental students to cultivate hearts for service in dentistry." Dr Jennina has a supportive husband, Ryan, and they have two children.

The CDS Kit report (Surgical, Restorative, and Hygiene) was given by Dr. Randy Sanders and the Equipment report (Chairs, and Dental Operating Units) was given by Dr. David Moretz. Rental of equipment and kits is increasing after COVID-19 as the CDS continues to equip worldwide dental missions to many countries. Much appreciation was given to Dr. Sanders and Dr. Moretz for their volunteer efforts to run these two valuable ministries of the CDS.

The Financial report was given by Dr. Bob Meyer. The CDS has not raised their dues for decades and continues to do well financially. The CDS executive secretary, Tina, who has been with us as the only paid staff member for 29 years, was given a raise and profusely thanked for her service to the CDS with comments like: "Tina is invaluable to the CDS;" "She loves it as her ministry and the CDS is blessed to have her;" and more.

The CDS thanks their members who recognize that the CDS does not raise support and who use their time or energy towards serving and sharing God's message to others. Without CDS member dues, CDS could not function. Please continue to support YOUR Christian Dental Society.

The CDS continues to encourage dental students to participate on short-term missions with active sites in Jamaica and Guatemala. The CDS and the CMDA offer free student membership to students participating on a Christian mission trip.

Exhibiting at major dental conventions has been an extremely valuable opportunity to encourage, assist, and connect dental professionals to missions. CDS Members have participated at exhibit booths in 13 conventions during the last year and spoke at seven of the conventions. In the upcoming year, CDS members are currently scheduled to attend 14 conventions. These conventions do not cost the CDS, as Members continue to pay all costs associated with exhibiting. Most conventions are giving the CDS a complimentary booth so our organization does not have to pay the \$4-5,000 booth fee. If the CDS had to pay the high booth fee costs, CDS could not afford to attend.

Here is an example of how God provides and opens doors. Dr. Michael Haddow, a periodontist, who just joined the CDS Advisory Board, recommended at the Board meeting that we look into exhibiting at the American Association of Periodontists (AAP) this coming November in Austin, Tx. The CDS had never exhibited there, so Dr. Bob Meyer contacted the AAP upon returning home. The AAP had never offered a complimentary booth to a non-profit organization before, but said they could offer a reduced fee of \$2,900 for a booth space. Dr. Meyer then e-mailed the AAP concerning how the CDS helps the profession with humanitarian volunteerism, were unique in the services the CDS offered, did not raise support as the CDS concentrates on helping the needy, and that we could not afford the booth fee. Within hours, the AAP exhibit manager called Dr. Meyer saying, “You will not believe it, but the AAP has offered the CDS a free booth space!” Dr. Meyer responded, “Small miracles still happen and God wants the CDS at the AAP meeting.”

The CDS Mission Banquet was a huge success!!!



Decorating Banquet Room (L to R) Araki Family Serving the Banquet Dinner (L to R)
Sharyn, John, Arleen and Chad Sarah, Shai, Sharyn (Mom), and Clara Araki

The CDS hosted its annual Mission Banquet at the Central Parkway Baptist Church in Orlando, Florida. The Dr. Chad and Sharyn Araki family (daughters Shai, Sarah, and Clara), along with friends from Indiana, John and Arleen Alejado, and Pastor Peter and Rhonda Kamakawiwoole from St. Cloud, Florida, prepared a delicious, home-cooked, banquet dinner complete with hors d'oeuvres, clam chowder, prime beef, Caesar salad, potatoes, cheesecake desserts, cookies, and drinks. They also provided fancy snacks for the Board Meeting. The CDS appreciates Mrs. Gail Moretz assisting at the greeting table.



Dr. T. Bob Davis on Piano



Dr. Randy Sanders Presenting on Dental Missions

Beautiful music, on the grand piano was provided by Dr. T. Bob Davis. Attendees had an opportunity to sing along with T. Bob on several inspirational Christian songs.

Mission speakers included Dr. Randy Sanders and Dr. Jody Yarbro.



The Dr. Ron Lamb Mission Award Presented to
Dr. Jody and Nancie Yarbros for Outstanding Missionary Service

Dr. Jody Yarbros graduated from Baylor College in 1977 and has been active with the CDS for over 25 years, holding the position of Advisory Council Member, Board Member, President (twice) and currently, the CDS Treasurer. Jody has participated on mission trips since high school and has led dental mission trips since 1979. Nancie has served with him on short term missions for over 20 years. Twice each year, the Yarbros travel to Copper Canyon, Chihuahua, Mexico on dental/medical/eyeglass mission trips treating Tarahumara Indians. Jody has traveled to Guatemala each March with dental students for the past eight years and, prior to that, traveled to Mexico with Dr. T. Bob Davis for the past 20 years. He also leads student trips to Jamaica and has set up a local mission, dental clinic in his community. The Yarbros are active in their church and Nancie has been a leader for Bible Study Fellowship. The CDS is very grateful for Dr. Jody and Nancie's sacrifices of service to help the needy, to mentor students, and share the good news of Jesus Christ. Their lifetime of contributions have significantly impacted the Christian Dental Society, dental

missions, their local community, and their church through immeasurable service towards further God's kingdom.

Several **CDS leaders were 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. Drs. Bob and Diane Meyer received the ICD's Humanitarian Award.

CDS exhibit booths at major dental meetings continue to encourage and assist many people towards missions. The next CDS exhibit booth will be at the **Colorado State Dental Hygiene Association's meeting** in Beaver Creek, Colorado on November 2-4, followed by the **American Association of Periodontists meeting** in Austin, Texas on November 10-12, and then the **Greater New York Dental Meeting** in New York City on November 26-29, 2023. The CDS will also be speaking and showing portable equipment at the **Academy of Dentistry International meeting** in San Antonio, Texas on December 9th, and 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.



