

Christian Dental Society News-Brief September 2025



Ephesians 2:8-10 goes along so well with what Matthew is saying about works of service, “For by grace you have been saved, through faith; and that not of yourself, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For **we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”



Biblical teaching by Pastor Stan Key at the GCDC

The most exciting, annual event that the CDS helps coordinate is the Great Commission Dental Conference (GCDC), which occurred on September 12-13 at the Bent Tree Fellowship

Church near Dallas, Texas. This amazing, Christian, dental mission conference connects dentists, hygienists, students, and others from around the world who are interested in using dentistry as an evangelistic outreach.



Dr. Gayle Cheatwood taught about CDS equipment and mission lessons learned.

The GCDC featured two days of Bible teaching, singing, fascinating plenary sessions, 32 break-out classes on various, spiritually-inspired, dental mission topics with eight hours of CE credit available, fellowship over delicious meals, and missional exhibit booths. Amazing CDS speakers contributed throughout the conference, including Dr. Gayle Cheatwood, Dr. T. Bob Davis, Dr. Bill Griffin, Drs. Bob and Diane Meyer, Dr. David Moretz, Dr. Randy Sanders, Dr. Bill Sasser, Dr. Jon Spenn, Dr. Tanner Swanson, Dr. Van Haywood, Dr. John Ward, and Dr. Jody Yarbrow.



A room full of instruments and supplies donated and distributed for missions.

CDS members and others brought \$150,000 of instruments, equipment, supplies, etc. to donate, and it was all distributed to help missions around the world. If you have unused dental items sitting around that you would like to get back into circulation, please bring them to the

next GCDC. The CDS will feature a donation room to redistribute dental items towards missions.

You do not want to miss next year's GCDC conference which will be held in Dallas, Texas on September 11-12, 2026 at a local church venue to be announced later.



Register for next year's GCDC at: www.cmda.org/gcdc

The CDS held their yearly in-person Board Meeting at the GCDC Fairfield Inn and Suites hotel conference room at no cost to the CDS on Thursday evening, prior to the GCDC conference, with food provided by the CDS. Dr. Chad and Shary Araki gave us delicious snacks from Hawaii and we thank them. The Board Meeting was Zoomed with the help of Dr. Denny Scharine (Thank you, Denny!) and opened with prayer by Dr. James Wolf and called to order at 5:30 p.m. The Board agenda, old minutes, and organizational reports were emailed to the Board and the Advisory Council members ahead of time and were available at the meeting.



These were the CDS Board Meeting members present in person and on Zoom.

As the CDS Board, we seek to discover how God is leading and guiding our decisions. The CDS performs a vital function of encouraging, assisting, training, and equipping dental teams for His glory. A review of the CDS Board Meeting follows:

CDS leadership changes include a new President, President-Elect and Past-President:



The new CDS President, Dr. Jon Spenn (right) replaced Dr. Jim Wolf (holding the appreciation plaque, next to Jon). Dr. Michael Vaughan (left) was the Past-President. Dr. Chad Araki (sitting at the table) become the President-Elect, and will take over as President in two years. Dr. Bob Meyer (standing in the white shirt) is the CDS Executive Director.

Dr. Michael Vaughan, according to the CDS By-laws, has to step off the Board for at least a year and has moved to the Advisory Council which opened the door for someone new to join the CDS Board. Dr. Jeninna Townsend was nominated, and unanimously recommended by the Board to represent the CDS membership as a Board Member. Before coming on the Board, Dr. Townsend must meet a majority approval of the CDS membership.

Dr. Jennina has been a Christian since a young age and uses her skills as a dentist to spread the gospel and share God's love. She has been involved in short-term, dental mission work overseas since 1997, including trips to Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Peru, Guatemala, Jamaica, and Cambodia. She has also volunteered within the United States. She has been teaching at the University of Colorado Dental School and is involved with the CMDA Student Chapter and with student trips to Guatemala and Jamaica. Dr. Jennina has a wide range of experience in rural and community health settings, including involvement with the Colorado Mission of Mercy clinic on a yearly basis. Dr. Jennina says she would, "Help the CDS plan, execute, and promote short-term missions for dentists and dental students to cultivate hearts for service in dentistry." She has two children, who have participated on a dental mission, and a supportive husband who assists her on dental missions. **A motion, a second, and a unanimous vote of the Board were made to bring Dr. Jennina Townsend onto the CDS Board.**

The Board is now **asking the CDS membership to affirm their recommendation.** Not replying gives your affirmation that Dr. Jennina Townsend has your vote to come on the CDS Board. Submit a non-affirmation by contacting Dr. Bob Meyer at rdmeyer7@gmail.com by the end of September.



Dr. Jennina Townsend and her husband working in Kenya

CDS Executive Secretary: The CDS sincerely thanked Tina Land for her 31+ years of admirable devotion to dental missions as she continues to serve as the CDS Executive Secretary. She recently moved from an apartment to owning a house in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Tina continues to have the CDS office in her house, and the CDS rents space. **The CDS post office box has been moved to P.O. Box 1005 in Cedar Falls, IA 50613. The shipping address for the CDS is Tina's home at 2335 Terrace Drive in Cedar Falls, IA 50613.**

The Surgical, Restorative, Hygiene, and Sterilization Report was given by Dr. Randy Sanders.

- a. There was a discussion on charging for clean-up and sterilization when necessary. **A motion, second, and unanimous vote occurred that verified a \$50 charge for the return of unclean items and disorganized kits that require labor for our volunteers.**
- b. **Concerning Supplies in Kits.** The discussion noted that rental fees had not been increased for over 12 years and that the cost of materials continues to increase. This resulted in a motion, second, and unanimous vote to **change the rental amounts on kits rented per trip: Restorative kits increased to \$150, Surgical kits increased to \$125, and Hygiene kits increased to \$100.**
- c. **Discussion on handpieces.** The Board decided **not to loan out handpieces** with the dental operating units, but will inform teams about where to purchase inexpensive handpieces.
- d. The Board will continue its policy of **not renting out pressure pots** for sterilization. They will sell the six, new pressure pots currently in the inventory with a ring weight for \$120. This is because it costs as much to rent and ship a pressure pot as it does to buy one. Due to the increased cost of making and shipping pressure pot rings, the **Board moved, seconded, and voted to charge \$50 for each pressure pot ring, which includes shipping.**
- e. Wholehearted appreciation is expressed to Dr. Randy Sanders for the ongoing work he does to provide clean, well-equipped kits and supplies to members who rent through the CDS.

Equipment, Chairs, and Dental Operating Units Report was given by Dr. David Moretz.

- a. Dr. David Moretz discussed the CDS equipment, countries impacted, praises, as well as other issues and concerns.
- b. Aseptico has discontinued producing the Task Force unit, as they could not get anyone to create an appropriate case. CDS bought the last unit for a 30% discount. Aseptico is adapting a molded, plastic case for an air-driven, lightweight, portable unit to replace the Task Force unit, which should be available in the near future.
- c. Discussion about the CDS renting out a battery-operated handpiece and portable DeVilbiss suction unit to assist with surgical treatment. Dr. Bob will give further information as he evaluates battery units from Aseptico and China.
- d. Wholehearted appreciation is expressed to Dr. David Moretz for his ongoing dedication to CDS in storing, shipping, repairing, and coordinating equipment rentals to our members who rent them through the CDS.

Financial Report was given by Dr. Robert Meyer and Dr. Jody Yarbro.

- a. The CDS continues to equip teams by selling portable chairs, stools, and pressure pot weights. Mission trips are increasing, which brings moderate income to the CDS. The CDS is always glad to accept donations, yet spends no resources trying to raise support at this time. As Dr. Bob says, “We are a service organization and are not focused on raising money.”

- b. Discussion on the Financial Report by Dr. Bob Meyer and Dr. Jody Yarbrow discussed the new Ballard Global fund that the CDS recently purchased. Dr. Jody vouched for the good results he has seen with this investment over several years, with recommendations by other dentists.
- c. The CDS is financially sound and has not raised membership fees for over 12 years. Our operating costs have remained low, due primarily to volunteer support and low operating costs. The Board raised rental fees as noted above. It was decided that membership fees do not need to be raised.
- d. The CDS thanks Dr. Jody Yarbrow, the CDS Treasurer, and Tina Land, the CDS Executive Secretary, for their exceptional financial diligence.

Efforts and Discussion on Membership, Missions, and the CDS.

- a. Renewal letters from the CDS President are sent out by mail, and reminders are sent by email to the CDS membership each year.
- b. CDS members are speaking, holding exhibit booths, renting equipment, and more.
- c. The CDS continues to increase membership through contacting past members, recruiting students, presenting convention booths, and is always open to new ideas. Students will be recruited at the GCDC with a free student membership incentive. Other professionals received a free book with a new membership in the CDS during the GCDC. At the GCDC, nine dental students and numerous other dentists and hygienists joined the CDS.



Dr. Diane Meyer is with Grace McAvoy, who joined the CDS at the GCDC.

Student Mission Trip Opportunities:

The Free Student Membership handout for the CDS and the CMDA was reviewed. Dental and Hygiene Students who participate on a mission trip with CDS or CMDA Members are eligible for a free Student Membership into the CDS and the CMDA through the calendar year of their graduation. This requires their signed agreement with the combined CDS/CMDA Statement of Faith. Several members shared about their student trip experiences.

Dr. Bill Sasser often leads student trips and was awarded the “**ADA Humanitarian Award for 2024.**”

Dr. Jim Carney and Dr. Jody Yarbrow reported on Jamaica student trips. Nine student mission trips have occurred so far this year. Numerous CDS Members are running trips to Jamaica, including Drs. Carney, Dr. Yarbrow, Dr. Haddow, Dr. Griffin, Dr. Lachine, Dr. Wolf, Dr. Townsend, and others.

Dr. Bob Meyer reported on the Guatemala student trip that included one large trip of 70 participants with **Dr. Jody Yarbrow, Dr. T. Bob Davis, Dr. Jim Wolf, Drs. Bob and Diane Meyer and numerous other hygiene and dental mentors.**

Dr. Jon Spenn reported on his work as regional director of CMDA students and trips to Guatemala (three trips) and Nicaragua.

Dr. Mike Haddow reported on his mission trips with 27 students to Jamaica and one scheduled to Vietnam in October.

Dr. Jennina Townsend reported on her mission trips with students to Jamaica and another family/church trip to Cambodia.

Dr. Gayle Cheatwood had several trips to Oaxaca, Mexico, and on his recent trip, 162 people came to a decision to trust the Lord. He is planning a trip to Guatemala with a team that includes **Dr. Tanner Swanson.**

The Dr. Ron Lamb Mission Award.

a. Dr. Ron Lamb’s World Dental Relief continues helping dental teams with supplies and surgical kits, yet is soon dissolving. Dr. Ron has supported the Dr. Ron Lamb Missionary Award with a contribution of \$5,000, which was placed in a CDS-designated fund, “Dr. Ron Lamb Missionary Award,” to support the award with an annual \$500 cash prize for the next 10 years. CDS again thanks Dr. Ron and WDR.



The Dr. Ron Lamb Award was presented to Dr. Gayle and Nita Cheatwood (on right) by CDS President, Dr. Jon Spenn (next to Nita) and Dr. Bob Meyer (left).

b. The Dr. Ron Lamb award this year was presented to Dr. Gayle and Nita Cheatwood at the GCDC Plenary Session at which Dr. Gayle spoke on evangelism. He also shared about mission equipment and experiences in a break-out session. Congratulations and well-deserved, Dr. Gayle and Nita, who have served on 200 short-term missions since 1962.

c. **Please think about a nomination** for next year's Mission Award. CDS Board Members are not considered. If you have someone in mind, contact Dr. Bob Meyer at rdmeyer7@gmail.com.

The CDS Website:

a. The CDS praises the Lord that Mr. Jamie DiBease, who has been battling Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, has had successful treatment and is gaining back his energy. His organization actually grew during this time, to the glory of God. Jamie and Day One are operating and improving the CDS website at no charge, and we thank Jamie for his wonderful generosity in using his talents and team to further Christ's Kingdom. The CDS continues to work with Jamie and Day One, and any input concerning the website is welcome.

b. The CDS website allows members to sign up for automatic dues renewal either on the website, through the mail by check, or by calling Tina with a credit card. The best deal is to join as a one-time, life member if you plan to support the CDS for more than seven years.

c. The CDS News-Brief is a great place for CDS members to share stories and pictures that encourage missions, and they are posted on the CDS website under "About Us." Please send your stories to Dr. Bob at rdmeyer7@gmail.com.

d. The CDS is now using a 2-inch by 3.5-inch card with a QR code and CDS contact information to hand out at CDS exhibit booths, and are not printing expensive, tri-fold handouts.

The CDS Exhibit Booths at Major Dental Conventions have been an extremely valuable opportunity to encourage, assist, and connect. Thank you to those who have participated in various conferences.

a. **Dental Conference/Exhibit Booths and Speaking Engagements since the last in-person Board Meeting:** Most conferences in the past have not charged a complimentary exhibit fee, but more are now charging a minimal amount and are not providing a table, chairs, or rug. During the past two years, Dr. Tom Love has helped the CDS with exhibit hall fees, and the CDS greatly appreciates Dr. Tom's contributions. Transportation, lodging, food, and miscellaneous fees are covered by those CDS members who exhibit at the various booths, and the CDS thanks them all.

1. Oct 4-5, 2024, **Great Commission Dental Conference** in Dallas, TX, with numerous CDS members speaking, running the CDS exhibit booth, and leading in the planning, organizing, and running of the conference.

2. October 17-19, 2024, **ADA meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana** with Drs. Meyer.

3. December 1-4, 2024, **Greater New York Dental Meeting** in NYC with Dr. Victor Bradford helping Drs. Meyer.

4. January 23-25, 2025, **Rocky Mountain Dental Conference**, in Denver, CO, with Dr. Randy Sanders and Dr. Bob Meyer.

5. January 30-February 1, 2025, **Yankee Dental Meeting** in Boston, MA with Drs. Meyer.
6. February 20-22, 2025, **Midwinter Meeting** in Chicago, IL, shared by Dr. Jon Spenn with the CMDA and Drs. Meyer with CDS.
7. March 21-23, 2025, **Hinman Dental Meeting** in Atlanta, GA, with Dr. David Moretz and Dr. Randy Sanders.
8. March 27-29, 2025, **Star of the South Dental meeting** in Houston, TX with Drs. Meyer.
9. April 10-11, 2025, **Remedy East Medical/Dental Conference** at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA, where Drs. Meyer also presented twice.
10. May 8-10, 2025, **Texas Dental Association** meeting in San Antonio, TX, with Mrs. Glynn Reser running the CDS booth.
11. May 8-10, 2025, **Pacific Northwest Dental Conference** in Seattle, WA, where Drs. Meyer presented on missions.
12. May 15-17, 2025, **California Dental Meeting** in **Anaheim**, CA, with Dr. Frank and Tina Cho and Drs. Meyer.
13. July 11-12, 2025, **National Dental Association** meeting in Kansas City, where Drs. Meyer spoke on missions.
14. August 22-24, 2025, **Kentucky Dental Conference**, in Louisville, KY, with Dr. Jon Spenn and Drs. Meyer.

b. Upcoming CDS Dental Conference/Exhibit Booths and Speaking Engagements Planned to date (Drs. Bob and Diane Meyer will represent the CDS at the booth unless others are noted):

1. September 12-13, 2025, **Great Commission Dental Conference**, in Dallas, TX, with numerous CDS members participating.
2. September 25-27, 2025, **Ohio Dental Conference** in Columbus, OH, with Dr. Jon Spenn and Drs. Meyer,
3. October 17-19, 2025, **ADA Meeting in Washington DC**.
4. January 8, 2026, **Remedy Chicago**, where Dr. Jon Spenn and Drs. Meyer will speak.
5. January 22-24, 2026, **Rocky Mountain Dental Conference**, in Denver, CO, with Dr. Randy Sanders, Dr. Bob Meyer, and Dr. Jennina Townsend.
6. January 29-31, 2026, **Yankee Dental Meeting** in Boston, MA.
7. March 12-14, 2026, **Hinman Dental Meeting** in Atlanta, GA, with Dr. David Moretz and Dr. Randy Sanders.
8. April 8-11, 2026, **Oregon Dental Meeting** in Portland, OR.

9. April 23-26, 2026, **CMDA National Convention** in Loveland, CO.

10. May 7-9, 2026, **Texas Dental Association** meeting in San Antonio, TX, with Mrs. Glynn Reser.

12. May 14-16, 2026, **California Dental Association Meeting** in Anaheim, CA, with Dr. Gayle and Nita Cheatwood and Drs. Meyer.

13. June 28-29, 2026, **GMMA conference** in Irvine, California, with Dr. Frank and Tina Cho, where Drs. Meyer will speak on missions.

14. Sept 11-12, 2026, **GCDC** in Dallas, TX.

Board Meetings, may be called as needed. The CDS will schedule Zoom meeting calls with times to be arranged by the CDS President. **The next CDS in-person Board Meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at the GCDC hotel conference room.** All Board Members and Advisory Council Members are strongly encouraged to attend next year's in-person **CDS Board Meeting**, along with the Great Commission Dental Conference on September 11-12, 2026. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend the CDS Board Meetings to connect with CDS leaders and learn about the CDS.

Prayer Requests for the CDS, our members, and others were led by Dr. Michael Vaughan.

Dr. Bob Meyer and Dr. Michael Vaughan transferred the leadership of the CDS President from Dr. Jim Wolf to Dr. Jon Spenn. The CDS thanked Dr. Wolf for his servant's heart and for leading the CDS well during the past two years. Dr. Michael Vaughan was also thanked, as he moves off the Board for his service as President and Past-President. Beautiful plaques were presented to Dr. Wolf and Dr. Vaughan.

The Meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Dr. Jon Spenn, CDS President.

