

Christian Dental Society News-Brief

September 2026



- **Trust in God's provision:** When desires align with His will, God's promises are sure.
- **Pray with sincerity:** God hears and answers those who call upon Him in truth.
- **Find comfort in His presence:** Knowing He is near and attentive brings peace in trials

In summary: Psalm 145:19 reassures believers that God is faithful to meet the needs of those who reverence Him, listens to their cries, and delivers them in both this life and the life to come

The CDS held their **2026 in-person Board Meeting on September 10th** in association with **the Great Commission Dental Conference, held on the 11-12th in Dallas, Texas**. This News-Brief will summarize those two events. The Board Meeting was encouraging, and filled with a close camaraderie of CDS Members who love God and missions. Dr. Chad and Sharyn Araki provided a delicious meal (at their own expense) for the Board Meeting attendees, and we had a wonderful time of fellowship. The CDS so appreciates the Araki's contribution.

The CDS Board Meeting opened with Prayer by Dr. Jon Spenn, CDS President. Those present at the Board meeting or on Zoom, from the Board included Dr. Chad Araki, Dr. Jim Carney, Dr. Diane Meyer, Dr. David Moretz, Mrs. Glynna Reser, Dr. Randy Sanders, Dr. Denny Scharine Dr. Jon Spenn, Dr. Jennina Townsend, Dr. Blake Westra, Dr. Michael Vaughn, and Dr. Jody Yarbrow. Others included Dr. Bob Meyer (Executive Director), Tina Land (CDS Executive Secretary), Dr. Bill Griffin, Dr. Josh Lachine (from the Advisory Council), and a few visitors.

The CDS Leadership seeks to discover how God is leading as we support the CDS. The CDS performs a vital function of encouraging, assisting, training, and equipping dental teams for His glory.



The CDS Board Meeting with Two Views

Old Business Minutes from September 11, 2025, CDS in-person Board Meeting minutes, and the Zoom Board Meetings, held on Saturday, February 14, 2026 and June 20, 2026, were reviewed. There were no issues concerning the Old Business, and **a motion, second, and vote approved the minutes.**

New Business

1. CDS Leadership Changes: The CDS organizational chart was noted.

a. The CDS President, Past-President, and President Elect: Traditionally, these remain in place for two years and will change at the end of the 2027 at the in-person Board meeting. Dr. Chad Araki will assume the role of President, and Dr. Jon Spenn will become the Past-President. Dr. Jim Wolf will join the Advisory Council and be eligible to come back on the Board after one year. We will be looking for the next CDS President-Elect in 2027.

b. Board of Directors Changes: The CDS currently has 12 Board Members, and the CDS is required to have 8-12, who generally serve for six years. This year, Dr. Jim Carney and Dr. Blake Westra have served six years as Board Members and they were heartily thanked for their leadership contributions to the CDS. The Board invited both to continue helping the CDS on the Advisory Council, and both Dr. Carney and Dr. Westra were willing to serve on the Advisory Board, and are eligible to come back on the Board in one year.

Nominations for CDS Board Members: Nominations are made by majority approval of the CDS Board and then voted on by the CDS membership before becoming Board Members.

Nominations and discussion for CDS Board members included:

Dr. Josh Lachine, DDS was nominated by Dr. Jim Carney: Dr. Josh Lachine surrendered his life to Jesus soon after dental school, is currently involved with Costal Community Church, has volunteered for years at the Mission of Mercy clinic, and has been participating and leading student trips to Jamaica since 2012 (often several times a year). He helped start a free family

medical/dental clinic in 2003, led as their first dental director, and has served there consistently along with his hygienist wife, Cathy. Married in 1990 with four Christian children, three grandchildren, and three more grandchildren due in October. **The CDS moved, seconded, and with a unanimous vote recommended that Dr. Josh Lachine's name go before the CDS membership for inclusion unto the CDS Board.**

Dr. Tanner Swanson, DDS was nominated by Dr. Randy Sanders: Dr. TJ Swanson is co-owner and operator of Soult & Swanson Family Dentistry in Aurora, CO (previously Dr. Randy Sanders' practice). He is passionate about glorifying God with all of the time, talent, and resources God has provided. In this season of life, his priorities include being the best husband and father he can be to his wife and three kids (all four and under), serving as an elder and worship leader at his church, contributing on the CDS Advisory Council, and supporting the CMDA Chapter at CU Anschutz as Campus Advisor. He has served in various leadership roles in the past, including President of the CMDA Chapter at the CU Anschutz School of Dental Medicine for three years and worship leader at several churches. For several years, he has provided dental care for those in desperate need through the Colorado Mission of Mercy and his office's biannual, free community treatment days. He desires to make third-world missions a regular part of his family's life (and plans to do so as soon as the kids are a little older)! What excites him most about dental missions is the opportunity to strengthen local churches and ministries in hard-to-reach areas of the world. He would consider it a great joy to serve on the CDS Board. **The CDS moved, seconded, and with a unanimous vote recommended that Dr. Tanner Swanson's name go before the CDS membership for inclusion to the CDS Board.**

As a member of the CDS, you are given the opportunity to agree or disagree with the CDS Board's recommendation to add Dr. Josh Lachine and Dr. Tanner Swanson to the CDS Board. If you have any concerns with these individuals serving as your representatives on the CDS Board, you have until the end of September to respond to Dr. Bob Meyer at rdmeyer7@gmail.com. No response signifies your approval of the Board recommendations.

Next year, Dr. Denny Scharine and Dr. Jim Wolf will come off the CDS Board to the Advisory Council, opening up two more slots for Board Members.

c. Advisory Council Elections: Nominees to the Advisory Council must be a CDS member with the desire to help the CDS, have been briefed about the CDS, and nominated by a CDS member. Advisory Council Information Questionnaires are sent to nominees and are voted in by the Board. There were no nominations at this point for the Advisory Council.

d. CDS Executive Secretary: The CDS sincerely thanks Tina Land for her 33 years of admirable devotion to dental missions as she continues to serve as the CDS Executive Secretary. Tina continues to have the CDS office in her house, and the CDS rents space for \$300/month. **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.**

Tina has not had a raise in the past three years, although she has been receiving Employment Credit Retention (ERA) government payments for working during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2025, 2026, and once more in 2027. The Board discussed Tina's situation, how much she accomplishes for the CDS, and how valuable she is to the CDS. **The CDS Board motioned, seconded, and with a unanimous vote, gave Tina a \$2/hour raise this year**, with plans to revisit her benefits each year.

2. Surgical, Restorative, Hygiene, and Portable Handpiece Report:

- a. Dr. Randy Sanders' detailed report showed that the CDS continues to increase the number of missions and kits that are going out since COVID-19.
- b. The CDS has purchased additional hygiene ultrasonics and suction units to replace old ones recently.
- c. The CDS is upgrading some of the surgical and restorative kits with new instruments.
- d. The CDS has two battery-operated handpieces and has purchased additional suction machines for those doing only surgery on missions. This is an additional resource on a trial basis.
- e. Dr. Randy reports that the \$50/hour fee charged, has helped for kits that come back trashed and need extra time to clean, sterilize, organize, and package has helped the problem.
- f. Dr. Randy and the CDS thanks the office of Dr. Swanson and Dr. McKinley (who took over Dr. Sanders' office) for allowing the CDS to store the kits and maintain the kits in their office.
- g. The CDS Board **motioned, second, and with a unanimous vote approved the Kit Report.**
- h. Wholehearted appreciation was 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.

3. Equipment, Chairs, and Dental Operating Units Report by Dr. David Moretz and Dr. Bob Meyer: See the attached report.

- a. Dr. David Moretz was delayed in coming to the Board meeting by plane engine problems, and Dr. Bob Meyer gave the majority of his report about 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. **Aseptico is now marketing a newly-modified Task Force model using a more durable, molded, plastic case.** Two of the older CDS Task Force cases are damaged beyond repair (Aseptico can no longer repair old units whose cases are damaged), and the CDS has purchased two of the newly modified Task Force units at a 30% discount. **The CDS thanks Dr. Tom Love, who donated \$6000 to purchase the two units.** As the older Task Force units become unusable, the CDS will need to purchase more of the modified models in the future. **Dr. Jim Carney, after the meeting, in discussion with Dr. Bob Meyer, agreed to donate \$10,000 towards the purchase of more Aseptico Task Force Deluxe units.** Dr. Bob then called Aseptico, and received a 30% discount on three more dental units (they normally give CDS a 20% discount). The CDS is so blessed to have such generous supporters, and the CDS heartily thanks Dr. Jim Carney and Dr. Tom Love.

c. Discussion of the CDS's future ability to purchase, sell, and distribute the blue corrugated dental chair and stool.

Dr. Gayle Cheatwood initiated, designed, and arranged (with four different manufactures of Coroplast over the last 20 years) to manufacture the inexpensive, blue, portable, lightweight, corrugated plastic, patient dental chair, the storage box which holds the chair and converts into a table, and a waste container. The storage box, chair, and waste container only weigh 21 pounds, and the box was intentionally made large enough to hold an additional 29 pounds of supplies to meet the 50-pound weight and size limit of an airline checked bag. Initially, Gayle made a plastic dental stool. Later, he found a much more comfortable, Camptime stool that had back support, and was inexpensive, lightweight, and easily transportable within the chair storage box. Gayle arranged, with the CDS, to purchase these items to loan out for mission trips and to sell to individuals who wanted to purchase them. The CDS has purchased and rented out or sold hundreds of these chairs for a nominal fee and made a small profit from the chairs. Dr. Bob Meyer says, "I have personally used this lightweight, portable dental chair and stool, setting it up hundreds of times for over 20 years. and it has saved my back, allowing me to continue to do portable dentistry in austere settings."

Dr. Gayle also arranged or personally transported these chairs to his home and stored them. He has packaged them and taken them to UPS, which is an hour from their home, all at no cost to the CDS. These chairs have helped countless dental professionals provide dental care to patients comfortably in rugged settings around the world for decades. The CDS is exceedingly grateful for his hours of service and many sacrifices to make these chairs available to benefit innumerable people!

Dr. Gayle has asked if he could be relieved from ordering, storing, packaging, and shipping these chairs. The CDS sells about 25 chairs a year and now has 23 of the chairs left. Dr. Meyer has checked into paying someone (like Amazon or Walmart) to take over the storage and distribution, yet because the volume is so low, the chairs are fairly large, and they would be stored and shipped from multiple geographical locations, the expenses are not cost-effective.

After discussing the alternatives, recognizing that the CDS is not in the business of producing, storing, and selling chairs, and that the CDS has no one willing to do everything Dr. Cheatwood has done with the chairs, it was decided that the CDS would rent out the chairs, but not sell them.

The CDS, in discussions with Dr. Cheatwood, have decided to send nine chairs to Dr. Moretz to rent, five chairs to Dr. Meyer to sell at conventions, and Dr. Cheatwood will sell the remaining nine chairs.

If you want to own a CDS, blue chair, please order now, by contacting the CDS office to purchase one of the few remaining chairs.

The Board had a **motion, second, and with a unanimous vote agreed to no longer sell chairs, but to continue renting them.**

d. The CDS tripod dental units and individual compressors are no longer being rented out and take up storage space. Dr. Jim Carney can use them in Jamaica and agreed to donate

\$10,000 to the CDS. The CDS is sincerely grateful that Dr. Jim can use these older units in a productive way in Jamaica and agrees to ship them to him at no cost.

e. The CDS Board **motioned, seconded, and with a unanimous vote approved the Equipment Report.**

f. Wholehearted appreciation was 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.

4. Financial Report by Dr. Robert Meyer and Dr. Jody Yarbrow:

a. The CDS continues to equip teams by selling and renting portable chairs, stools, and pressure pot weights. Mission trips continue to increase, 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.

b. The CDS is financially sound and has not raised membership fees for many years. Our operating costs have remained low, due primarily to volunteer support and low operating costs. Rental fees for kits were increased last year.

c. The Ballad Fund of \$100,000 is earning 10% interest, which is being paid out each May, and helps cover CDS expenses.

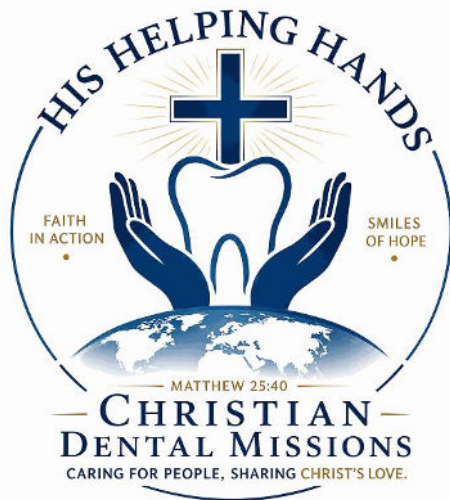
d. The CDS thanks Dr. Jody, the CDS Treasurer, and Tina, the CDS Executive Secretary, for their exceptional financial diligence.

e. The CDS Board received a **motion, second, and received a unanimous vote to accept the financial report.**

5. 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.

Dr. Jim Carney discussed Jamaica, the plans to expand the clinic, and the new name of the clinic, "His Helping Hands Christian Dental Clinic." There is a renewed emphasis on the Christian aspect of the clinic and taking more CMDA student chapters.



The New Jamaican Clinic Logo and Recent Picture of Dr. Jim Carney in Center Back
Dr. Jody Yarbrow reported on his Jamaica student trip and next year's Dr. T. Bob Guatemala student trip.

Dr. Jon Spenn reported on his work as regional director of CMDA students, with trips to Guatemala and Nicaragua. He is opening a CMDA Dental Student Chapter in Florida, rather than having a CDS chapter, as the CDS has not had any oversight of that ministry.

Dr. Jennina Townsend reported on her mission trips with students.

6. The Dr. Ron Lamb Mission Award:

a. Dr. Ron Lamb's World Dental Relief still helps dental teams with supplies and surgical kits, but continues to draw down. 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 recipient with a \$500 cash prize for the next 10 years. CDS again thanks Dr. Ron and WDR.



Tina Land Receiving the Dr. Ron Lamb Mission Award with CDS president Dr. Jon Spenn on the Left and Dr. Bob Meyer on the Right at the GCDC Conference

b. The Dr. Ron Lamb award this year was presented to Tina Land, CDS's Executive Secretary for the past 33 years. We are not only recognizing Tina, but are demonstrating the invaluable contributions of all those who support and serve frontline missionaries. Tina Land will receive the award at the GCDC Plenary Session on Saturday. Tina is planning on leaving her \$500 prize in the fund for a future award winner. Congratulations, and well deserved, Tina.

7. The CDS Website:

a. The CDS praises the Lord that Mr. Jamie DiBease has successfully overcome Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. His organization actually grew during his illness, to the glory of God. Jamie and Day One at www.marketingfromdayone.com, 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 will continue to work with Jamie and Day One to improve the website, and the CDS welcomes any input.

b. At exhibit booths and other places, the CDS is now using a 2-inch by 3.5-inch card with the QR code and contact information and not printing expensive, tri-fold handouts to convey information.

8. The CDS thanks Mrs. Robbi Jan who runs a successful dental social media organization, www.brightsmilesdigital.org. She was led by God to the CDS booth in Washington, DC to help with social media (Instagram, Facebook, etc.) She hired a dental videographer, Aidan (aidan@aquaproductions.com), a strong Christian from Denver, and interviewed several CDS members at the Rocky Mountain meeting in Denver, and came to Bob and Diane's home to make more videos to help Robbi increase the CDS's social media presence. All this is at no cost to the CDS. If you have not checked out the CDS's social media, Facebook and Instagram, there have been numerous positive changes.

9. The CDS Exhibit Booths at Major Dental Conventions: Exhibiting at dental conventions has 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 and 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 exhibiting at the various booths, and the CDS thanks them all.

1. September 12-13, 2025, **Great Commission Dental Conference**, in Dallas, TX, with numerous CDS members participating as speakers and helping at the booth.

2. September 25-27, 2025, **Ohio Dental Conference** in Columbus, OH, with Dr. Jon Spenn and Drs. Bob and Diane Meyer.

3. October 23-25, 2025, **ADA Meeting in Washington, DC.**

4. January 22-24, 2026, **Rocky Mountain** Dental Conference, in Denver, CO, with Dr. Randy Sanders, Dr. Jennina Townsend, and Drs. Bob and Diane Meyer.

5. March 12-14, 2026, **Hinman** Dental Meeting in Atlanta, GA with Dr. David Moretz and Dr. Randy Sanders.

7. April 8-11, 2026, **Oregon Dental Meeting** in Portland, OR, with Drs. Bob and Diane Meyer.

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

10. May 14-16, 2026, **California Dental Association Meeting** in Anaheim, CA, with Dr. Gayle and Nita Cheatwood and Dr. Chad and Sharyn Araki.

11. May 28-29, 2026, **Montana Dental Meeting** in Missoula, MO with Drs. Bob and Diane Meyer.

12. June 28-29, 2026, **GMMA conference** in Irvine, California, with Dr. Jon Spenn speaking.

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 11-12, 2026, **The Great Commission Dental Conference** in Dallas, Texas, with numerous CDS members speaking and helping at the CDS Booth.

2. November 29-December 1, 2026, **The Greater New York Dental Meeting** in New York City, NY, with Dr. Victor Bradford and Drs. Meyer.

3. January 21-23, 2027, **Rocky Mountain Dental Convention** in Denver, CO with Dr. Randy Sanders, Dr. Jennina Townsend, and Dr. Bob Meyer.

4. January 28-31, 2027, **Yankee Dental Meeting** in Boston, MA.

5. March 18-20, 2027, **Hinman Dental Meeting** in Atlanta, GA with Dr. Randy Sanders and Dr. Dave Moretz.

6. April 1-3, 2027, **Pacific Northwest Dental Meeting** in Seattle, Washington.

7. April 29-May 1, 2027, **Tennessee Dental Meeting** in Nashville, TN.

8. May 13-15, 2027, **Texas Dental Association Meeting** in San Antonio, TX with Mrs. Glynn Reser.

9. June 24-26, 2027, **Florida Dental Convention** in Kissimmee, FL.

10. September 10-11, 2027, **Great Commission Dental Conference** in Dallas, TX.

11. Possibly more TBD.

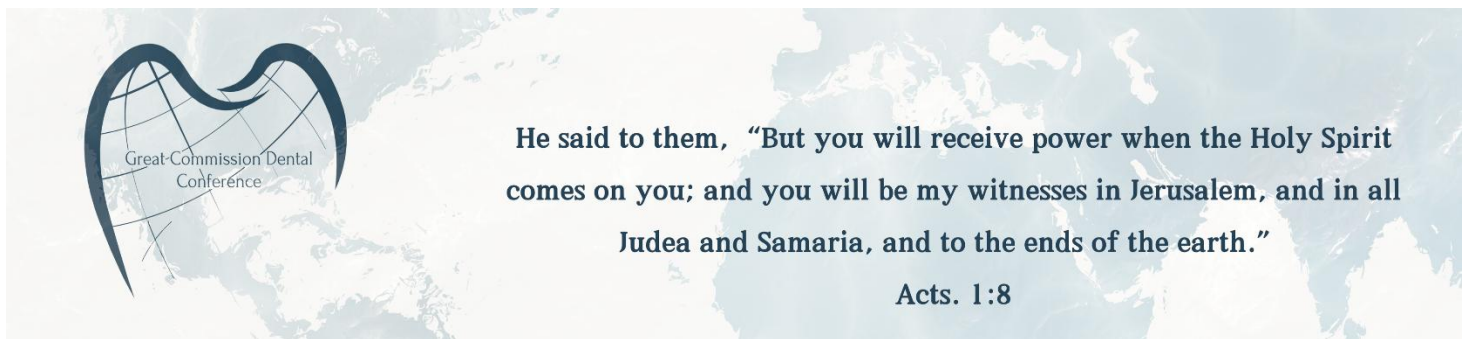
10. Additional Items for Discussion:

a. There are CDS e-mailed **News-Briefs** that keep the membership informed and encouraged about dental missions. If you are not getting News-Briefs or e-mail correspondence from the CDS, please check the CDS website to see if your e-mail is correct. Dr. Bob Meyer invites all to contribute to the News-Briefs and asks members to send contributions to rdmeyer7@gmail.com, including thoughts, ideas, photos, and Scripture verses.

b. The next CDS in-person Board Meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 9th, 2026, at the GCDC hotel conference room. All Board Members, Advisory Council Members, and those interested in the CDS are encouraged to attend next year's in-person **CDS Board Meeting**.

11. The CDS Board Meeting Adjourned in prayer.

A few comments about the amazing Great Commission Dental Conference

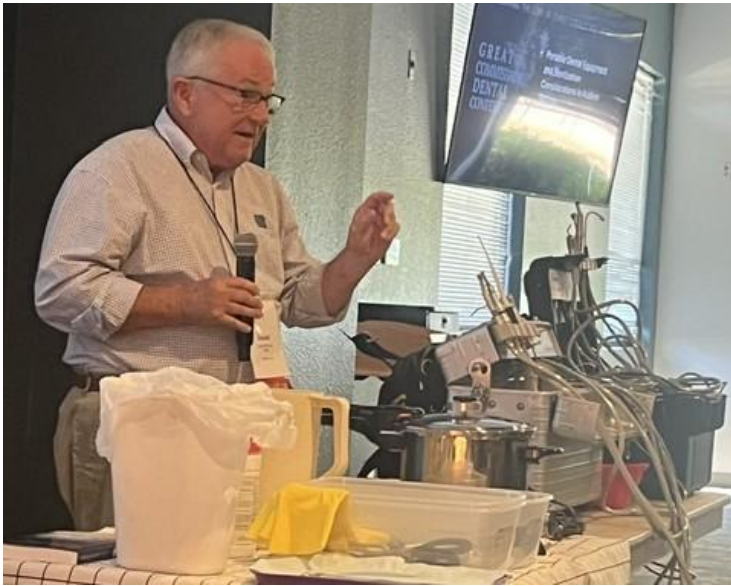


At the 2026 GCDC, we had over 250 attendees who enjoyed 32 breakout sessions, three plenary sessions with music, preaching, and speakers, and delicious food and fellowship. that include Christian mission plenary speakers, preaching, music, Eight hours of CE were available. The CDS encourages members to participate and to announce to dental professionals, students, and others about the fourth, annual Great Commission Dental Conference (GCDC) on September 10-11, 2027 in Dallas, Texas.



There were over 70 Dental Student Attendees at the 2026 Conference

CDS members and their spouses contribute a great deal to the GCDC by helping organize the event, speaking, holding the CDS exhibit booth, administrating, and coordinating along with the Christian Dental and Medical Associations.



Dr. David Moretz speaking on Equipment and Dr. Tristan Galloway on Dental Related Technologies. Dr. Tristan Joined the CDS as a Lifetime Member at the GCDC.

Once again, CDS gave away over five tables of donated dental instruments, equipment, and supplies on a “first-come” basis. If you have any items you would like to donate for dental missions, please feel free to bring them to the GCDC next year.

A final note on the GCDC for next years’ conference. There is an exciting, biblically educational, interactive, place to visit while in Dallas. The Institute for Creation Research, is only a short drive from the GCDC. This place is huge and interactive, as it dramatically shows detailed scientific research, validating the Six Days of Creation and Biblical Inerrancy.



Dr. Bob with a Moving, Thunderous, Tyrannosaurus, and an ICR Sign