

Meet Dr. Robert Liebler - CDS Treasurer

Robert Liebler, DDS has been involved with CDS since the early 1990s, when he first met Dr. Haw at a CDS booth at the ADA convention. A year later, "Bob" joined the Advisory Board, and, three years later, he volunteered to become CDS Treasurer. Robert also served as Executive Director of CDS for five years. As Treasurer, Bob oversees the CDS budget and advises the Board on financial issues.

Bob still works two days a week at his Miami dental office, and teaches two days a week at the University of Florida Dental Center in Hialeah, where twenty-four foreign dentists attend the two-year Advanced Dentistry Residence program.

Bob grew up in Connecticut, where his father, an Episcopal parish priest, felt the Lord calling him to take the Gospel to Native Americans. For three summers, the family traveled to various "Indian Reservations" while camping in a teepee tent. Eventually they settled with a Utah Navajo tribe, where Bob's father served for forty years, preaching and building a school, a clinic, and three out-stations.

Bob went into the military after Pearl Harbor was attacked. Upon his return

from the war, Bob became a pre-law student at New York University. During an internship with a large law firm, Bob says, "I decided being an attorney would tear me apart."

Knowing Bob liked making model airplanes, his dentist suggested he consider dentistry. Bob took two years of basic science at the University of Miami, becoming a Physics lab instructor after excelling in that course. In 1956, Robert graduated from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in Boston, and was invited to teach at the University of Alabama College of Dentistry in Birmingham. Later, he took over the office of a retiring dentist in Miami.

Robert says, "A few years ago, for no reason at all, Jan (my wife), and I both had one of those 'funny feelings' that we ought to have passports. A few evenings after receiving them, we were watching CBN's 700 Club. 'Operation Blessing' was going to Romania in two weeks and needed five dentists. Although Thanksgiving was around the corner and we were planning for eighteen guests, my wife nodded, smiled, and said, 'Give them a call.' That became my first overseas mission trip."

Robert and Jan, a hygienist, have served together in North Russia, Kiev, Ukraine, and Israel. He has worked with "Community Smiles," a humanitarian clinic in Dade County, where, in 2010, Robert received their award for fifty years of humanitarian service. Robert and Jan also received the Florida Dental Foundation Humanitarian Award in 2010. He says, "When they first contacted me about receiving their award, I told them Jan and I are a team. As such, any award must be given to both of us. They agreed."

Robert and Jan have six boys, including Michael, an evangelist that traveled to Israel with them. Their main hobby is mission trips, especially to countries formerly behind the iron curtain.



Robert and Jan in Israel

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PO Box 296, Sumner, IA 50674

CDS ANNUAL DUES

Active Membership (voting)

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Christian Dental Society

CDS News: Fall 2013

To Carry Out Christ's Great Commission (Through Dentists and Dentistry) - Matthew 28:19 & 20

CDS Welcomes New President



Dr. Bob Meyer believes, "The Christian Dental Society exists to encourage, to assist, and to equip dental volunteers to minister to disadvantaged people worldwide, in loving cooperation with church and Christian organizations. Dentistry is a unique, highly sought-after skill that can be used very effectively to help impoverished people around the world. So many dental professionals have found rewarding significance when they are able to relieve pain and suffering, to restore a smile, and to give a measure of hope to the hopeless."

Welcome to Our New Board Members

The Christian Dental Society is pleased to announce the election of six new Board Members who will serve for six years, 2013-19. Dr. Robert Liebler (Florida) has been active in CDS as a Board Member, Executive Director, and Treasurer. He introduced Dr. Katy Barlow (Florida) to CDS when she was a dental student. Katy has been a CDS Board member previously, served on a mission to Haiti, and volunteers with local dental outreaches. Dr. Jim Carney (Illinois) and Dr. William Griffin (Virginia) are CDS Past-Presidents and both have sponsored and led numerous mission trips for professionals and students to Jamaica. Dr. Ron Lamb (Oklahoma) is founder and president of World Dental Relief, an organization that has supplied more than 6,000 volunteer dental mission teams and clinics. He is a past CDS President and received the 2012 ADA Humanitarian Award. Dr. Denny Scharine (Wisconsin) is a CDS Past-President and has served on many overseas mission trips. They are joining current Board Members: Dr. Pete Fotos (Kentucky), Dr. Blake McKinley (Washington), Dr. James Wolf (Michigan) and Dr. Roy Wrather (Tennessee.)

Reminders to Members

- Mark your calendar to join us at our annual meeting which will be held at the ADA convention in San Antonio, Texas on October 9-11, 2014
- Have you visited our website, www.ChristianDental.org, and contributed to it yet?

Contact Us

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Executive Board

President - Bob Meyer, DMD
Pres. Elect - Monica Olivera Hewitt, DDS
Past Pres. - Randy Sanders, DDS
Treasurer - Robert Liebler, DMD
CDS Board Secretary - Tina Wendel

Meet Dr. Bob Meyer - CDS President

Colonel (Retired) Bob Meyer, DMD, MAGD, ABGD feels blessed and challenged to be the new President of CDS. Bob's thirty-two years in the Army helped prepare him for this role. At one time, he commanded the only airborne dental unit in the world, which sent portable dental teams wherever the Army served. This unique experience of deploying portable dental teams, developing and utilizing portable equipment, and managing people and resources, helped open the door for Bob to do overseas Christian dental missions.

Bob now works three days a week as a comprehensive dentist in Colorado Springs. Bob and his wife, Diane, RN, BSN, MST, have been passionate about dental missions for the past fifteen years. They were invited to go on their first short-term dental mission to Nicaragua with their church. That was followed up by encouragement and pointers from Randy Sanders, a CDS member they met at a dental conference, and Ron Lamb, another CDS member and founder of World Dental Relief. Dr Lamb helped supply and teach Bob and Diane how to travel and share dental skills with others around the world.

Bob became a lifetime member of the CDS in 1997, received the CDS Ron Lamb Award for Outstanding Missionary Service in 2008, and has been a CDS Board Member since 2011. God has empowered Bob and Diane to lead dental teams to provide dental care and education in over thirty-five developing counties, several in which they established portable clinics for nationals.

This summer, Bob and Diane led a dental team to Swaziland and Mozambique (see the CDS web site cube for pictures.) When they returned, they began discussing and praying about future trips. Aware that the CDS needed leadership, Bob was torn, knowing he could not continue with multiple team trips each year, work in private practice, and take on the responsibilities as



Bob and Diane in Honduras

the CDS President. Unaware of his struggle, Diane was inspired with a devotional that spoke of a principle to follow to make one's life count. The writer challenged in bold letters, "FIND A NEED AND FILL IT!" That very day, Bob came home and mentioned the great need of the CDS to find committed leadership. Diane immediately said, "I think the Lord has just today prepared my heart to support you if you feel a leading in that direction."

After much prayer, Bob and Diane felt the Lord confirmed that call on their lives, agreeing that they must give up some of the overseas mission trips they were considering. Bob and Diane recognized the potential of impacting more individuals through the CDS, by encouraging and equipping others to use their gifts. This might do a greater good for His ministry.

They are inspired to help support this worthy organization in its mission to further the work of Christ in the world through dentistry.

Bob and Diane are the parents of three, married, adult children, with six grandchildren, ages one to eight. Bob and Diane enjoy family gatherings, mission trips, involvement in church, hiking, and exploring new places.

Meet Dr. Monica Olivera Hewitt - President Elect

Monica Oliveira Hewitt, DDS, PDs, OS, is the CDS President-Elect, and will assume the Presidency in 2015. She was educated both in Brazil and in the United States. She's served on the Advisory Council or as a Board Member of the CDS for almost fifteen years. Monica hosted many first-time mission trip dentists from the CDS. Her mission opportunity was posted in CDS mailings as "Mexico with Dr. Monica."

She has received several awards from prestigious international institutions for her worldwide humanitarian services.

Monica has always looked to give meaning to her existence and live a life that could make a difference in others. "One day," she says, "God spoke to me loudly and clearly. He said He did not want my money or my good deeds. He wanted my life."

She sold her dental clinic, and she and her husband became commissioned career medical/dental missionaries in Peru, the first from the Brazilian Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board.

Now, after thirty-six years of ministry and practice, she cannot imagine her life having been different from what it became. With retirement, and to launch their children, they moved to America where she received Master's degrees in Missions, Pastoral Care and Education. Although Monica misses full-time mission work, she goes on as many short-term mission trips as possible.

She loves to teach and share her vast experiences in field work with dental students, and feels these students are the future of all Christian dental organizations. She says, "They need to be fired up to serve with what they have in their hands, before they get trapped in a dental practice."

God has used Monica in thirty countries and on five continents as a dentist to serve the unreached. With

two ankle and six stomach surgeries, she confesses she gets fatigued with the trip preparation, field work, and long flights. Regardless, she says, "I am always ready to face the challenges with the company of my wonderful husband, Dr. Scott Hewitt, who takes care of me and has a compassionate heart to serve the Lord wherever He sends us."



Oliveira Hewitt Family

Through many prayer partners, God has given her energy and health - just enough to do the next mission trip each time. She is always very excited with all the opportunities she has to keep serving as a dentist in many places in the world, and says, "That is what keeps me alive!"

The challenge of finding new ways to make portable dentistry more efficient and effective is her passion in life, along with the calling she received, "to reach the unreached and break the resistance to the Gospel through dental ministry."

Dr. Monica and Dr. Scott live in Dallas, Texas. They lead the "Kindness Hands Ministries," a portable dental service working with missionaries "Anyplace, Anywhere, Anytime," wherever God leads them. Their hobbies include traveling, reading, grandkids, classic movies, and music.

Three of their five children have already graduated with doctorates, and are married with four grandchildren for Monica and Scott between them. Following their parents, the children have a passion for serving in missions also.

Meet Dr. Jody Yarbro - Past President

Jody Yarbro, DDS is a 1977 graduate of the Baylor College of Dentistry. He is staying on the Executive Committee after just completing his term as the CDS President. Jody has been a member of the CDS for sixteen years, and this was his second term as the CDS President.

Jody has participated on mission trips since high school, and has led dental mission trips since 1979. His wife, Nancie, has served with him on short term missions for the past sixteen years.

Twice each year, the Yarbros travel to Copper Canyon, Chihuahua, Mexico, on dental/medical/eyeglass mission trips, where they primarily treat Tarahumara Indians.

Jody also travels to Guatemala each March with dental students from Baylor and UT Houston. This December he will be

traveling to Jamaica with CDS member, Dr. Bill Griffin, and fifty California dental students.

Jody practices dentistry in Valley Mills (close to Waco, TX). They have two children and two grandchildren. Their hobbies include golf, water sports, snow skiing, snow shoeing, biking, and walking.



Jody and Nancie with Mincaye and wife in Ecuador

Meet Tina Wendel - CDS Secretary

Mrs. Tina Wendel has been the CDS Board/Home Office Secretary for nineteen years. She began as a part-time employee, and became full-time in 1997.

In 2002, Tina was appointed CDS Board Secretary. She has assisted

ten Presidents of CDS, and has attended and helped organize most CDS events. Tina manages the CDS HQ in Sumner, Iowa. She handles the financial affairs of CDS with CDS Treasurer, Dr. Bob Liebler. Tina also coordinates mission trips and helps with the CDS equipment.

Tina earned a Business degree from Upper Iowa College and worked for five years in the insurance field before coming to CDS. Her husband, Elwood, continues to work the family's farm.

They have two daughters and a son. Tina is a four-time grandmother AND a certified fitness instructor. She owns a gym and teaches fitness classes like kickboxing, aerobic dance, and kettlebells.

Tina and her family are active at Faith Evangelical Church in Sumner. Her other hobbies include gardening and piano.



Tina at CDS Office in Iowa