

Thanks, Tina, for 20 Years of Service (We Hope for Many More!)

There is a special thank you fund where tax-deductible contributions can be given to bless the Wendel family for their service to the CDS. Please send checks to the CDS office at P.O. Box 296 Sumner, IA 50674, marking them "Tina's 20th Anniversary Bonus."

Everyone that is a part of the CDS is deeply grateful for Tina's faithful twenty years of service to the Christian Dental Society. She is our trusted, loyal, one and only, paid CDS administrator, who has assisted myriad volunteer officers, board members, dentists and others over the years. Tina holds much of our institutional knowledge and history. Tina organizes the many details of equipment and kit rentals for numerous trips each year, keeps records for the CDS, tracks financial affairs, handles CDS correspondence, coordinates meetings, and mans the official telephone line. Tina has managed and performed many other duties for our organization, and her contributions have been the heart and soul of the CDS. We are most thankful for her ongoing assistance and counsel.



Tina (center), Dr. Robert Meyer (right), and entire Wendel family



Tina's Gym with Tina and Diane Meyer in front of the CDS office.

Pressure Pot Weights Ordered



The CDS has ordered another 100 pressure pot weights to decrease pressure pot sterilization times. We have almost run out of the weights as we are helping more and more teams sterilize instruments. Thank you to Dr. Gayle Cheatwood for getting them made.

The CDS would like to emphasize that sterilization of instruments should be the standard of care no matter where you practice. Sterilization can be easily and reasonably accomplished with the pressure pot as all you need is a heat source to raise the pressure to 24 psi for 10 minutes, which can even be done over an open fire. Chemical disinfection, with glutaraldehydes, ortho-phthaldehydes, hypochlorites, phenol/phenas, hydrogen peroxides, alcohol, etc. should only be used only as a last resort.

See our website for instructions and a validation letter for the pressure pot.

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Christian Dental Society

PO Box 296
Sumner, IA 50674

Return Service Requested

A nonprofit organization promoting
Christian dental fellowship

Motion Passed to Offer CDS Student Scholarship Memberships

The Christian Dental Society offers a free Scholarship Membership to dental students, hygiene students, dental lab tech students, or dental assistant students who participate on an overseas dental mission trip and who will sign our Statement of Faith. This CDS Membership will remain in effect through December of the year of their dental training graduation (not to include residency training).

Dr. Bill Griffin's motion received a second by Dr. Jody Yarbro, and has been electronically or verbally approved by all Board Members. As such, the motion is passed and will immediately go into effect. The Board agreed that merely participating on a trip does not entitle a student to CDS

membership. They must, in good faith, sign the CDS Statement of Faith—before, during, or after participation on a dental mission trip. Those from faiths other than the Christian faith, or those without Christian beliefs, would not be able to endorse the CDS Statement of Faith and therefore will not be offered a free CDS Scholarship Membership. For accounting purposes, the free Membership would include the year they go on the mission trip until the December of the year of their graduation. For example, if they go on a trip in June of 2014, and their graduation is in June of 2015, their Membership would be good until Dec of 2015. They would have to pay regular CDS dues for 2016.

PO Box 296 • Sumner, IA 50674



Promoting Christian Dental Fellowship

Christian Dental Society

CDS News: Summer 2014

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

CDS will meet at the ADA Convention in San Antonio, Oct. 2014



A Christian Dental Society breakfast will be held at the Historic Menger Hotel on Friday, October 10 2014 at 7:00 a.m. It will be free to all those interested in Christian Dental Missions. We are also hoping for a pay-as-you-go dinner Friday or Saturday night on the San Antonio Riverwalk. Please watch for an e-mail announcement this Fall. We recommend staying at the Menger Hotel with many of us from the CDS. Housing is assigned when you register for the ADA meeting and you can select the Menger Hotel until it is full.

Jamaica: March 16-23, 2013



A student dental mission trip led by CDS Members Dr. Jim Carney and Dr. Bill Griffin consisted of students from three different dental schools - Louisville (Chris, Mac, Jared, John, Todd and Josh), Oklahoma (Daryn, James, Jae, Doan, Joshua, Samantha and Loan), and Iowa (Amy, Will, Allison and Janet), along with a hygienist from Ohio State (Janell).

For more info, visit www.DentalMissionTrips.org

Recommended Dental Mission Book Series

The fourth edition of The Handbook of Medicine in Developing Countries by Dennis Palmer, DO and Catherine Wolf, MD, MPH has recently been published. This is an excellent resource and guide to providing health care overseas.

The book can be purchased at the CMDA bookstore or on Amazon.



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Executive Board

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

Dr. Ron Lamb, Christian Dental Society Member, Shares Advice

The Recently-Opened Dental School in Ethiopia Serves as a Great Example and Opportunity

Dr. Ron and Pam Lamb credit God in helping them build their World Dental Relief (WDR) organization since 1976. Placing millions of dollars in donated dental supplies for mission clinics around the planet, WDR is a mega-dental force that sends 400 dental teams out each year to more than 80 countries. WDR exists to spread the gospel to hundreds of thousands of people while providing relief from dental disease, the most rampant scourge in the world that affects 95% of the earth's population. When Dr. Ron was in private practice, he scheduled six to eleven mission trips each year. In 1991, he closed his practice and committed to full-time mission work. It took a huge step of faith as Dr. Ron resolved to be debt-free, but had little savings. The Lambs thank God for always providing everything they need.

Dr. Ron says: There are at least 400 more short-term dental teams each year that need participating dentists. Indebtedness can hinder a dentist's freedom and availability to be used of God for a special assignment or project. I would challenge each of you to stop and think about what it would be like... to be debt free! Maybe the Lord is calling you to help in short or long-term dental opportunities around the world.

As organizations and individuals set up dental clinics in other countries, the first questions I ask include, "Who do you have committed to operate the clinic? Can they get a license or permit to practice? What will be the parameters of service?" Those are important questions to answer before one penny is put into a project.

Many clinics have been built by various organizations and individuals with no thought of a dentist or a budget to run them. Well-meaning people, often seeing

the overwhelming need for dental care, have jumped in with resources and used dental equipment to provide clinics for volunteer dentists who never came.

Bricks, mortar, and dental equipment are the easy part of a permanent clinic or dental school. The most difficult part of any project is to find skilled, capable people who are committed to a long-term stay in the country. After securing personnel, the budget must be established to obtain property and equipment.

Five years ago, Dr. John Balikowski suggested we start a dental school in Ethiopia. A career missionary in the Philippines for 17 years, with degrees in Pharmacy and Dentistry, Dr. John subsequently took several medical mission trips to Ethiopia. He moved there to coordinate teams, while teaching physicians and nurses tooth extractions in the hospital emergency rooms.

Ethiopia, with a population of 87 million people, is a country the size of Texas. Ethiopia had only 61 licensed dentists at that time, with an incredible need for dentistry.

Dr. John became licensed as a practitioner and professor in Ethiopia, which credentialed him to teach in schools, hospitals, or government buildings. When he called about starting an Ethiopian dental school, I said, "John, do you have any idea of how much money that will take?"

"Yeah, Ron, they tell me about \$1 million!"

"John, we don't have that kind of money!"

"Yeah, but **God has the Million Dollars!**"

That next week, a major corporation called and asked me if we could use 40 like-new, four-year-old dental chairs. They wanted to donate them for overseas clinics, away from their American market. When told

we didn't own a semi-truck, they agreed to bring them to the WDR warehouse loading dock in Broken Arrow. I said, "I'll take them!"



World Dental Relief packing equipment for the Ethiopia dental School

John set up an appointment with the Minister of Health and Minister of Education to discuss opening a dental school with a flexible two-year dental curriculum. Initially it would resemble a dental hygiene program that included simple extractions and fillings, much like the dental therapist programs in Canada or New Zealand.

John received a letter of agreement from the government, inspected a building the government promised to provide, and partnered with a nursing school who would teach the students basic science courses prior to the dental curriculum. John made plans to move from Addis Ababa (the capital) to Mekelle (City of Knowledge) in northern Ethiopia. When John emailed his success with the government, I told him about the dental equipment. His response was, "Yes! Yes! Yes!"

Organizing everything needed for a dental school is much more labor intensive than a one or two-chair clinic in a banana republic. We also developed a budget needed for modifying the building and shipping costs. I chalked off 40'x8' on our warehouse floor to preplan the placement of each chair and piece of equipment for the container. We would build a second floor over the equipment and pack in it three years of supplies for the school. Each piece of equipment and every supply had to be listed

on government import forms with name, brand, serial numbers and expiration dates (even for each box of gloves). This is a detailed and very time consuming process, but must be done to the letter and submitted to the proper authorities for approval.

After waiting two months for approval, we shipped the container and it arrived in Mekelle three months later. Many major plumbing and electrical modifications were needed before the building was ready for equipment.

We graduated 14 students in the first class. We asked permission for the top four students in this first class to serve their two-year government service payback as our instructors. John accepted 28 in the next two year class. Dr. Randy Grill joined Dr. Balikowski a year ago to help teach, since two classes were being trained and we needed a dentist overseeing each class. There is a long-term plan in place for the Ethiopians to take over and train their own, now limiting each class to 20 students.



Ethiopian Dental School Instruction

Dr. Norm Carlson came to us last year about starting a dental school in Burundi, Africa, after reading about our dental school project in Ethiopia. Currently, there are only two national dentists in the entire country of Burundi. The Ministry of Education approved the dental school curriculum and a retired dentist, Dr. Hank Willis from Texas, has agreed to move there to teach. When God calls, He often needs our faith, availability, time, and talents. As in this case, **God already had provided the Million Dollars!**

Serving God Together by Dr. Robert Meyer

Dr. David Stevens, CEO of the Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA), hosted members of Christian Dental Society (CDS) and CMDA on March 17, 2014 at the CMDA headquarters in Bristol, Tennessee. Attendees included Dr. Peter Dawson, Chair of Dentistry for CMDA, Dr. Jeff Amstutz, Vice President for CMDA Dental Ministries, Dr. Gene Rudd, Senior Vice President of CMDA, Dr. Donald Thompson, Director of Global Health Outreach for the CMDA, me (Dr. Robert Meyer, President of CDS), and my wife, Diane.

My presentation emphasized that the primary focus of the CDS is to encourage, assist, and equip dental missions nationally and internationally. The CDS has a pool of experienced, dedicated Christian dentists who individually are reaching the poor and under-served, while impacting many for Christ. The advantage the CDS offers the dental community (which the CMDA does not duplicate) is the organized, reliable rental system it provides for short-term dental missions. CDS owns dental chairs, dental operating units, sterilization, restorative kits, and surgical kits that provide for around 80 mission trips each year. That number is increasing and CDS is hoping to purchase more equipment when funds become available.

The CMDA organization is a dynamic, large, well-managed, multi-faceted ministry, with many of its efforts targeted towards the medical/physician community. The CMDA is willing and open to dentistry, and has great programs to help encourage, train, and assist CDS and CMDA members through a variety of venues. Their conferences are spiritually uplifting and educational, including the Dawson Couples Retreat, Emerging Leaders Symposium, CMDA yearly conference, and Global Outreach Conference. The CMDA "Grace Prescription" conference trains health care providers to communicate spiritual truths. The Global Health Outreach offers



Dr. Robert Meyer, Diane Meyer, Dr. Randy Sanders, Dr. Stanley Anderson, guest dentist, Pastor Will Gunnels, and Dr. Greg Griffin

opportunities for short term medical/dental missions around the world; these are well-planned with a strong Christian focus. CMDA has a valuable campus ministry with medical and dental schools and is starting a dental residency this year to help train long-term missionary dentists.

To enable those volunteering for missions, our two organizations can share knowledge about countries, experiences, opportunities and contacts. We both have knowledgeable members who have set up clinics around the world, and educated dental and medical providers concerning dental care and treatment. Our desire is for the CMDA and CDS to present a unified front for Christian dental ministries, mutually supporting each other for God's glory.

We hope to continue to share information and resources, while encouraging participation together at local, regional, and national meetings. Above is a photo of the CDS and the CMDA working together with adjoining booths at the Hinman dental meeting at Atlanta in March. Sharing experiences with mission-minded dentists and Pastor Will was rewarding. Presenting a unified front for dental missions was synergistic in recruiting and encouraging dental personnel. The CDS impacted several hundred prospective missionary candidates and sold a dozen (all we had taken with us) of the pressure pot sterilizations rings to dentists and organizations who did not sterilize.