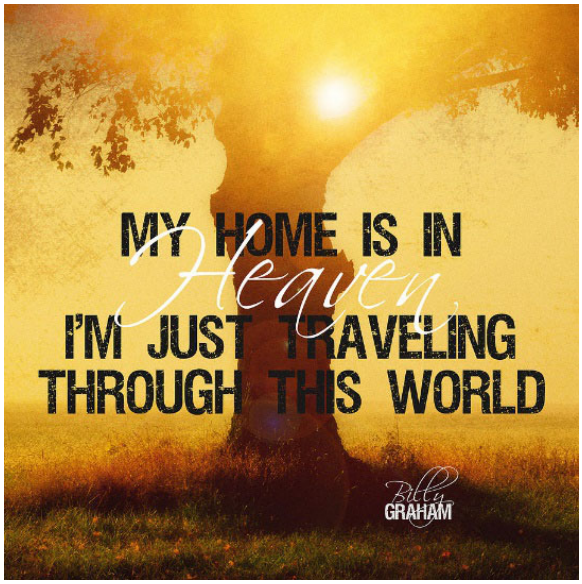
Christian Dental Society August-September News Summary



The American Dental Association convention will be held in-person in Las Vegas from Monday, October 11 to Wednesday, October 13 at the Mandalay Bay Resort Center. The Christian Dental Society and the Christian Dental Association from the CMDA, will have exhibit booths and a joint Dental Mission Banquet starting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday evening, October 12, at the Life Christian Church at 3085 Raven Ave, a short distance south of the Convention Center in Las Vegas. Please consider stopping by the CDS and CDA booths and let us know who will be attending the Banquet.

The CDS will also exhibit at the Ohio Dental Convention from Sept. 30- Oct. 2, at the Washington State Pacific Dental Conference in Seattle from Nov. 11-12, at the Greater New York Dental Meeting from Nov. 28-Dec. 1, at the Denver Rocky Mountain Dental Conference from Jan. 20-22, the Yankee meeting in Boston from Jan. 27-29, as well as the Hinman meeting in Atlanta from Mar. 17-19, the Oregon meeting in Portland from Apr. 7-9, and the Anaheim meeting in California from May 12-14, so look for our CDS booth if attending any of these in-person meetings. Better yet, come join the CDS and talk about missions with attendees!

The CDS is encouraged that our members have started traveling on dental missions again and the CDS is renting out equipment and kits, praise the Lord! Although the world is still full of turmoil over the COVID-19 pandemic, opportunities are open and we pray for those planning and participating around the

world. Mission of Mercy clinics are opening in most states (for example, Colorado is running a 150-chair clinic for the poor, next week). Remote Area Medical Clinics have been operating for months at various sites and local mission outreach clinics are open across our nation. We encourage your participation.

Our CDS Executive Director and his wife (Drs. Bob and Diane Meyer) helped lead a multifunctional mission trip to the Dominican Republic from Sept. 1-13. To encourage and enlighten, they will share a few details of the trip.

The team left with 19 participants consisting of three dentists, an eye-glass team, two pastors, and various volunteer workers. The team lost two members just prior to departing due to medical emergency and two others to a family situation. After booking and paying for flights to Puerto Plata where we were first scheduled to work, American Airlines decided to eliminate that destination and canceled all flights. We booked through Santiago, which added extra transportation costs and time lost, but worked adequately. We were scheduled to have our clinics in Puerto Plata in conjunction with a local medical/dental clinic assisting the underserved with the church and several Dominican dentists who were excited to have us. However, the day before flying, they closed the clinic to us. The extra supplies and instruments we took to help out the clinic were given to three different local dentists hoping to show kindness even though we were unable to work with them. We then set up in the local church we were supporting and had a great clinic for two days until the local government shut us down as we were informed that there were too many people outside the church waiting to be seen for treatment (although discos, sports stadiums, and airport were crowded). We left a day early for Dajabon, our second mission site, and had five great clinic days working with five churches who each sponsored about 150 children with the organization “One Child” and “Fellowship of the Rockies Church.”



Patients waiting outside the church the day after we were closed, still hoping to be seen.

We recount challenges to a well-planned mission trip that may often confuse and discourage. This reminds us to trust in the Lord and to remain flexible because we have found they frequently open opportunities for more blessings and greater good is accomplished. We rejoiced in a great mission trip!





Baptism in the Atlantic Ocean Children's Rally in the Park

Several patients experienced Gospel Salvation experiences at the clinics and during a street rally held by the local church supported by our sending congregation. Pastor Stewart baptized in the Atlantic and the church attendance on Sunday doubled, not counting team members. We conducted two children rallies, a youth outreach for 160 teens, a marriage banquet for over 100 couples, and women's group. Our pastors preached at two church services. The dental and eye-glass clinic treated many grateful patients without any problems. The dental team taught dental hygiene, nutrition, and the Gospel message to many waiting patients. Team members who sponsored children in Dajabon met with them and their families over a luncheon.



Marriage Banquet sponsored by Local Churches, Fellowship of Rockies, and One Child



Sponsors dining with sponsored children and families in Dajabon

Our interpreters were knowledgeable medical and dental students. The food, lodging, and transportation were accommodating and everyone remained healthy. The clinics in Dajabon were hot and humid without air conditioning, although fans helped.



This young patient in yellow was terrified of dentists and would not sit in the dental chair. After allowing him to "help" this adult patient and observed the care given, he was able to tolerate an injection and so we could place a filling in a

permanent first molar. He became our best friend and sang at the worship service on Sunday.

Let us share a quote from Dr. Chris, a first-time dental mission volunteer, “I’d like to tell you about my first patient, Julien. He was probably about 75. He didn’t like his front two teeth. After about 30 minutes I was able to significantly improve his big smile and we hugged. I later learned that his wife was murdered in front of him years ago. He’s had a tough road. God used me for many people just like Julien, but if he was the only person, I treated then he alone was worth the trip.” It reminds us of the “Starfish Story” and how it mattered to that one (Google it if you have never heard of the story). In a world of overwhelming need, we can make a difference!



Dr. Chris treating patients in the Dominican Republic

If we have had complaints in America because of COVID-19, the Dominican Republic made everyone stay in their homes for eight months (our interpreter had to basically stay in his room) and had curfews for 18 months. People who went into the streets were arrested and thousands thrown in overcrowded jails—does this

make sense? People risked jail or starving in some instances. There was more enforcement in the cities. Most people did not work for a year.

There were no visas, requirements, or problems going into the Dominican Republic and all three flights on American Airlines going and coming were on time. To get back into the United States, team members had to have a negative COVID-19 test within two days of departure, which was readily available. When traveling on missions, ask for the missionary fare (or use an agent who does missionary fares) because AA will give three checked bags free, United gives two free bags, and British airways gives three free bags. Check with other airlines to see their policy since this is a significant cost savings.



"Therefore, as it is written: 'Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.'" 1 Corinthians 1:31