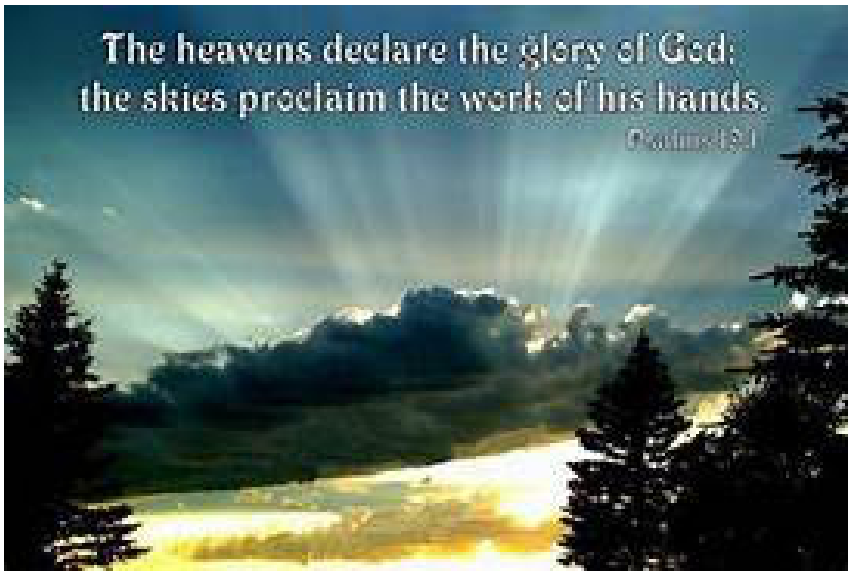
Christian Dental Society News-Brief
February 2022



CDS members are going on dental missions and renting equipment to numerous places around the globe to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Many are finding ways to serve and there continues to be a strong interest in dental volunteerism, as evidenced by those contacting the CDS about missions at our home office and dental conventions. We Praise the Lord always!

Dr. Gayle Cheatwood's dental/vision/medical/outreach mission trip to Oaxaca, Mexico in January 2022 was a shining example of a successful, multi-functional, cross-cultural, Christian outreach, mission trip despite COVID-19. We will share his story. See the website, Dental Vision Mission at www.dentalvisionmission.org. We hope Dr. Gayle's report will encourage and inspire you as God's faithfulness saw them through all difficulties.



The Oaxaca dental/medical/vision team

The team consisted of 32 Americans with six dentists, one hygienist, seven dental assistants, two sterilization attendants, three pharmacy staff, two eyeglass technicians, four health check and triage personnel, and one physician. Other team members included pastors, translators, and children's ministry workers. This trip was special in that three Mexican dentists from Mexicali attended. It feels good to have local dentists get involved and they did a great job.



The power of prayer is an essential element of every mission

We seemed to meet with resistance every step of the way. I call it spiritual warfare. On the first day, the church had no electricity. We prayed, then went ahead by faith, and set all the equipment up. Four of the dental units were run off solar power using two car batteries. After a while, even though it was obvious the transformers were blown on the power pole outside the church, the electricity came on. We ended up having a productive time and spent the following day there also.



Portable dental clinic set-up

The third clinic day was up in the mountains about an hour and a half away on a very, windy road. The bus stopped a couple of times for those who got car sick to get out. Again we prayed and by the time we arrived everyone was feeling better. The town was called Tiltapec and the people were from the Chachino Indian tribe. They were mostly farmers growing corn, vegetables, and coffee for export and were gentle, caring people. There were around 3,000 Chachinos in the area and over 300 attend church. We were

impressed that ten percent of the population goes to church. We had interpreters that translated from Chachino to Spanish to English. The weather remained comfortable and the scenery was beautiful.



The eyeglass team



The pharmacy

Our fourth clinic day was very busy in a small church near Puerto Escondido. We took out some third molars and a portable x-ray, sensor, and computer software made the extractions easier. We could see what we were getting into and could formulate a game plan.



Pressure pot sterilization



Children's ministry

Each night we would meet on the second floor of the hotel in a meeting room and have a short time of praise and worship. We had a couple of gifted worship song leaders, Dr. Kent Neubert from Wyoming and Joe Godwin from Utah. Each night one of the team members would bring a short devotional. The devotionals were inspiring and, even though the meetings were optional, everyone looked forward to them. Even some of the locals joined in.

The final attack on the team occurred when our flights home to Mexicali were canceled. Again we prayed and Pastor Moore got alternative flights to Tijuana where we walked across to the U.S. We were picked up by church members who drove us two hours back to the Imperial Valley.

It feels good to get back into doing missions. We have one this week in Rocky Point, South of Lukeville, Arizona, at a men's shelter. Someone donated a mobile unit which a men's group transported there and we will be setting it up this weekend to work on the men.



Dr. Gayle, and his wife Nita, in Oaxaca, Mexico

Christian Emergency Relief Teams International, a Christian mission organization listed on the CDS website, is bringing a medical team to Mexicali, Mexico on March 15-19. If anyone is interested in joining a dental mission, let me know (gacdds@prodigy.net). One of the days we will be working on Haitian people in an encampment who are hoping to enter the U.S. I am not for open borders but, as a Christian, my goal is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Dentistry is the gift God has given me to open doors through compassion. I have a young, Haitian, farmer friend who goes to our church and I invited him to translate and share the gospel, which excited him.

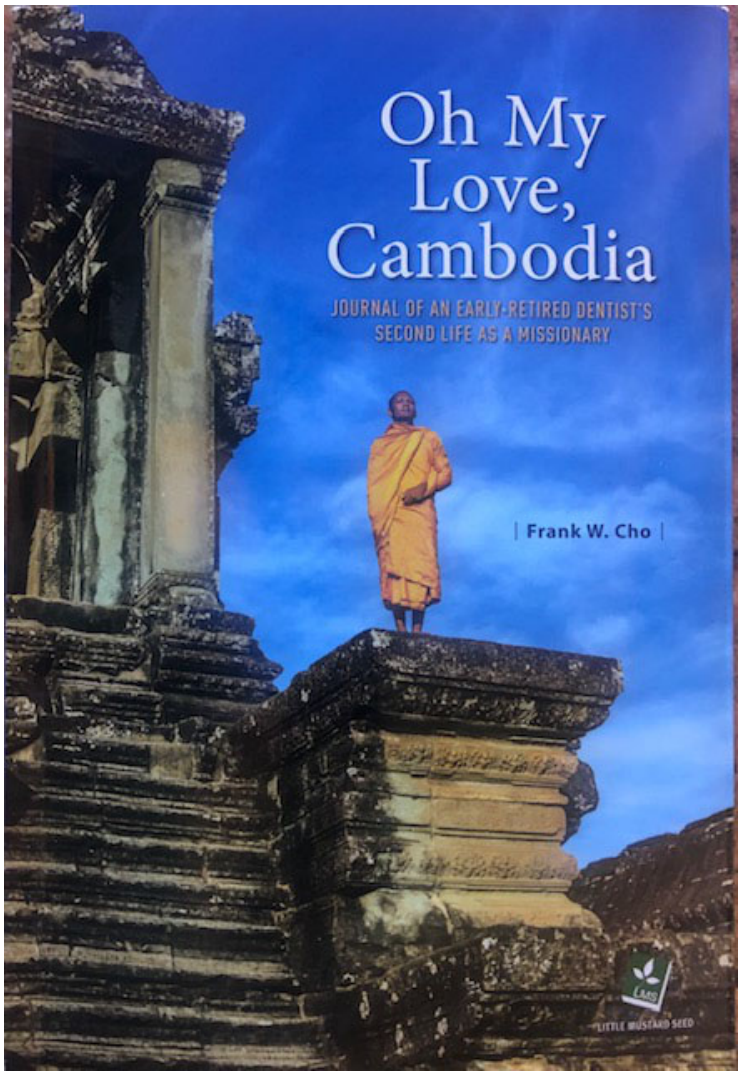
Many times, you help those who go with you more than those you minister to. God just tells us to go and make disciples.
God Bless,
Dr. Gayle Cheatwood, DDS

CDS members, Drs. Bob and Diane Meyer and Dr. Jody Yarbro will be going on the student dental trip to Guatemala (March 19-26, 2022) led by Dr. T. Bob Davis. Other dental students, dental mentors, hygienists, and others will be opening a new 21-chair mobile clinic. The trip still welcomes available students and mentors (see website www.guatemalansmiles.org). Guatemala City dental students and pediatric residents are expected to participate as well.

If you have a mission trip report, the CDS would like to share it with others and will place it in our monthly CDS News-Briefs. Please send it to Dr. Bob Meyer at bdmeyer@comcast.net.

CDS members are encouraged to advertise for upcoming mission trips which will be sent to our membership by e-mail. Either send Dr. Meyer a one-page summary of your trip or enter the data onto the CDS webpage by clicking on "Members Area" and then clicking on "Mission Trip Opportunity Form" which can be easily filled out and submitted.

Dr. Frank and Tina Cho have a new book available concerning their mission years in Cambodia which were supported in part by the CDS. The book is entitled *Oh, My Love Cambodia.* The CDS thanks Dr. Frank and Tina for their beautiful, inspirational, documentary book about their long-term missionary journey to Cambodia. Their love and devotion to God and Cambodia tells an amazing story of faith in action. The CDS thanks them for professionally recording and sharing your amazing journey, connections, testimonies, cultural insights, and colorful pictures to encourage others to fulfill the great commission in a powerful way! They are planning on having the book available on Amazon.com in the future. At this point contact Dr. Frank and Tina Cho at drfcho@gmail.com for a copy.



The CDS plans to exhibit at the Hinman Dental Meeting in Atlanta on March 17-19, the Oregon dental conference in Portland on April 7-9, the California Dental Meeting in Anaheim on May 12-14, and the Florida Dental Meeting in Kissimmee on June 23-25. At the ADA meeting in Houston on October 13-15, the CDS and CMDA will hold Board and leadership meetings and together host a Dental Mission Banquet on Friday evening, October 14, 2022.