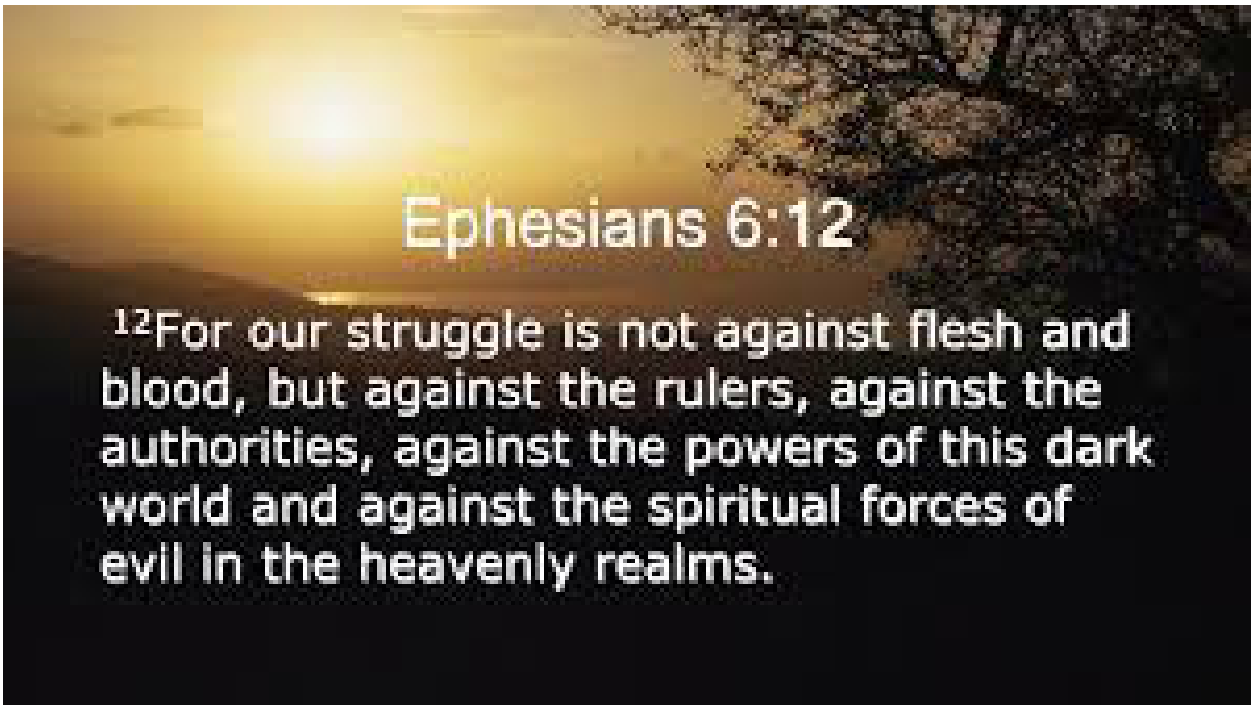
Christian Dental Society July News Summary



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 pandemic, opportunities are starting to open up and we pray for those planning and participating around the world. Our CDS President, Dr. Michael Vaughn, led a dental mission trip to Matamoros, Mexico in June. To encourage others, Dr. Michael shares some thoughts about his short-term mission:

"Matamoros is a city of about 542,000 people located across the Rio Grande from Brownsville, Texas. The people have suffered over the years with corruption, poor education, and lack of work. In the last four years, major automotive and parts factories closed, resulting in increased unemployment with significant poverty, and creating opportunities to serve and to share the Gospel.



Dr. Michael Vaughn setting up the dental clinic

We crossed the border on June 19th with six of our twelve-member team from TN and TX into a hot and sweaty border crossing for inspection by Federal Police. They searched our trailer, looked at the dental equipment, and assessed a $450 tax which we paid. We were equipped with two, blue, portable dental chairs, a dental unit/compressor, two surgical kits, one restorative kit and one hygiene kit which we rented from the CDS. We also had $1000 of donated medicines and PPE from Blessings International. A short drive to downtown Matamoros, dinner at Garcia's, a restaurant for tourists and diplomats, and we were ready for the week.

Sunday morning, we had breakfast and a devotional in the hotel and then visited the clinic sites. When we arrived at La Gloria, they had installed electricity the day prior. The compound was in poor repair with no running water due to an ice storm in February of this year. From there we went to a soccer game to cheer on the team sponsored by Pastor Garza and World Changing Missions. After the game, we took the team to lunch as part of our ministry to feed the hungry. We then drove out a dusty road to the city dump in an area called La Bermuda, where residents had erected 4' x 8' concrete wall homes that had just received electricity, but had no

running water. We arrived at a small chapel with concrete walls, tile floor, and windows—our site for Monday and Tuesday clinics. We unloaded the dental chairs and equipment and the Mexican helpers erected rope and sheet walls for the operatories.



Dr. Castellano and Lisa treating a patient

Monday, we arrived at the landfill before 9 a.m. to find the electrician putting the final touches on power and window air conditioners. As the temperature was rising, I was praying for the A/C to work. The patients started to arrive at 10 a.m. and were given bottled water and medical histories to fill out. The mothers brought their children to see the dentist or doctor for the first time. Our Nurse Practitioner, Jacob, brought a mini-pharmacy and was busy treating coughs, colds, and parasites. A local dentist from Matamoros, raised in poverty in the area, had received dental education through contact with missionaries. She joined our team to help her people. Dr. Adriana Costellano and Lisa Moffitt saw the children and cleaned teeth, while I did exams and extractions. The CDS blue, portable dental chairs worked great and placed the patients in the right position. You could tell the ones who were frightened by their first visit with a dentist. We consoled them in Spanish and prayed with them to have courage. My translator, Sorena, served as my dental assistant and had two children. We treated an 8-year-old boy who needed a primary tooth extraction and my assistant's three-year-old daughter

Sophia rubbed his head and said, “Don’t worry, it will be okay.” This was one of many precious moments.



Sophia, my translator’s three-year-old, comforted patients

Tuesday, the clinic was the same other than a thunderstorm knocked out the power and air-conditioning for over an hour. You could quickly feel the temperature increase and we had to take a break from cleanings and extractions. Fortunately, the two pastors continued to share with our patients and distributed the book of Romans. Another precious moment was a 65-year-old lady, a dental phobic, who needed three, very mobile teeth removed. After we removed the loose teeth and went over post-operative instructions, she stood up, turned to me, gave me a bear hug, and kissed my cheek several times in appreciation.

Our medical clinic was just as busy as the dental clinic and I asked Jacob to share a story. He said one of the patients came in complaining of a buzzing noise in her ear. He looked with an otoscope to find a moth lodged in the ear canal. He reached in with a pair of tweezers, the moth flew away, and she was cured! Jacob grew up in Ohio and he and his wife answered the call to missions by learning

Spanish and moving to the Texas border, where they are members of a Spanish-speaking church. They are waiting on their missionary assignment.

Wednesday and Thursday, we set up clinic inside the pastor's compound in La Gloria. There was more room to work with good electricity, but no running water due to the freezing weather in February. Fortunately, we had cases of bottled mineral water. The clinic in La Gloria was full of patients and the chapel was larger, so more patients could sit in the air conditioning and share their stories and hear about the Way, the Truth, and the Life.



Breakfast at the hotel

Thursday afternoon, we packed up the clinic and drove back across the border to the Hampton Inn in Harlingen. It was a night of rest and relaxation. Friday was a beautiful sunny day and we spent it walking and reflecting on the beach at South Padre Island, a short distance away. There was a Friday night, home church service which was powerful, and we returned home on Saturday.

The trip was physically demanding, the food was wonderful, and the clinic was in impoverished conditions. Still, the Lord works in the hearts of His people, I received a tremendous blessing from serving and remember the people I met and their appreciation. We treated 80 people in the dental clinic, a similar number in the medical clinic, and four people made a profession of faith in Jesus. That's what it is all about. I encourage you to get back out there as Missionary Dentists and share the love of Jesus with those you encounter. Consider joining us in Matamoros in 2022!"

Dr. T. Bob Davis and Dr. Bob Meyer took three dental student leaders from Dallas and Houston dental schools to explore the possibility of taking dental students to an out-of-country dental mission service experience at a new 8-chair dental clinic being constructed by Casa Hogar, a large, Christian mission, children's home. The CDS, and hopefully the CMDA, will have another close, inexpensive site for dental students and mentors to help the under-served in the Matamoros, Mexico area.



Student trip to Matamoros. From left to right: Dr. Bob Meyer, Connor Bresnahan, Dr. Saul Camacho, Dr. T. Bob Davis, Jackson Valencia, and Andrew Roberts

The American Dental Association convention will be held in-person in Las Vegas from Monday, October 11th to Wednesday, October 13th at the Mandalay Bay Resort Center. Please consider attending this conference as there will be many other national and international organizations participating including the CDA, FDI, ICD, ADI, ACD, and state and specialty organizations. The CDS as well as the CDA will have exhibit booths and a Dental Mission Banquet together on Tuesday evening at the Life Christian Church at 3085 Raven Ave, a short distance south of the Convention Center in Las Vegas.

The CDS will also exhibit at the Ohio Dental Convention Sept 30th to Oct 2nd, at the Greater New York Dental Meeting, Nov 28th to Dec 1st, and at the Denver and Yankee meetings in January, 2022.

