Christian Dental Society News-Brief
October 2020



The CDS is praying for peaceful and God-directed, upcoming elections at the national, state, and local levels.

The CDS held its yearly Board Meeting by Zoom this year on October 17th and we thank Dr. Denny Scharine for setting up the Zoom meeting which was attended by 100% of the CDS Board members and numerous Advisory Council members. Here is a synopsis of the business conducted:

After the opening prayer, Dr. David Moretz called the meeting to order, members were introduced, and the minutes from the last Board meeting were reviewed and approved.

CDS leadership changes, going into effect at the end of the meeting, included:

Dr. Michael Vaughn moving from President-Elect to President
Dr. David Moretz moving from President to Past-President
Dr. James Wolf moving from Board Member to President-Elect
Dr. Denny Scharine moving from Past-President to Advisory Council





Dr. Michael Vaughan Dr. David Moretz Dr. Jim Wolf

Congratulations and support were expressed by those present to Dr. Vaughn and Dr. Wolf for accepting the leadership responsibilities of leadership and thanks warmly expressed to Dr. Moretz and Dr. Scharine for their service. Terms of service for these positions are for two years.

The CDS Board, with 100% approval, forwards Dr. James Carney and Dr. Blake Westra to the CDS membership for a vote to become CDS Board Members. According to CDS Bylaws, the CDS membership is represented by their Board Members, who are the policy-making body of the CDS, and must be approved by a majority vote.

Below is a biographical synopsis of Dr. James Carney and Dr. Blake Westra, and CDS would like a vote of confidence for them to serve on the CDS Board of Directors. **If you have concerns or are opposed to either nomination, please contact Dr. Robert Meyer, your Executive Director, at bdmeyer@comcast.net by November 4th, 2018. Your non-reply will suffice as an affirmative vote.**

Dr. James Carney

Dr. Jim Carney currently lives in Lombard, Illinois and has been intimately involved with the CDS for decades. He has been a past, CDS President, Board Member, and is the founder and leader of the popular Jamaican student mission trips which has grown to the extent that in 2019 they had over 400 participate on 18 different mission trips. Dr. Jim's experience, missionary impact to dental students and mentors, and heart for Christian service is exemplary.

Dr. Blake Westra

Dr. Blake Westra hails from Maltoon, Illinois and has been involved with dental missions for many years to Haiti, Belize, Honduras, and Mexico. He has been on the CDS Advisory Council for many years, is active in his church and community, and is a leader in the Christian Medical and Dental Associations. He has consented to come on

the CDS Board and brings great enthusiasm, leadership experience, and a love for Christian service.

Dr. Randy Sanders, the CDS Kits Manager, gave a report on the CDS surgical, restorative, and hygiene kits, and pressure pot sterilization. CDS has 24 surgical, 14 restorative, and 11 hygiene kits along with 6 pressure pots. The CDS ordered more ultrasonic units and a hundred more pressure pot rings to keep up with demand this past year. Appreciation was express to Dr. Sanders for the work he does to send out organized, clean, well-equipped kits and supplies to the CDS members who rent kits.

Dr. David Moretz, the Large Equipment Manager, gave a report on the CDS portable dental chairs, dental operating units, and x-rays. CDS has 17 chairs, 15 taskforce self-contained dental units, 11 dental units needing compressed air, 15 compressors, 2 battery-operated dental units, and 3 portable x-ray units. As with the kits the first two months were busy for the CDS where10 countries were served, with 13 trips. If COVID-19 had not shut short-term missions down, CDS would have had a banner year. The CDS ordered 100 more portable, corrugated, plastic 13-pound portable chairs and 60 dental stools this past year and **Dr. Gayle Cheatwood** was thankfully acknowledged for coordinating the production and purchase of portable chairs and pressure pot rings. Dr. Moretz was commended for his on-going dedication in storing, shipping, and repairing equipment the CDS provides for mission trips.

The **CDS financial report was given by Dr. Bob Meyer and Dr. Jody Yarbro** who showed that, although COVID-19 shut down short-term dental missions since March, financially the CDS is doing fine as expenses are low. This is due to the fact that most duties and expenses within the CDS are provided by volunteers. CDS did upgrade its one computer which was long overdue. During the last year, CDS spent over $34,000 on equipment (chairs, pressure pot rings, ultrasonics, and equipment repairs), but had that budgeted to support missions.

The $10,525 in the CDS Endowment fund went to an indigenous student named Umal, who trained in surgical dentistry in Uganda with M-Power and in Kenya with I-Tec and helped train others in South Sudan. The CDS funds will support him in his first two years in dental school in which he has completed his first year and is doing well.

The CDS Board prayerfully discussed the effect of COVID-19 on membership, missions, and the CDS. **Dr. Jim Carney reported on the Jamaican Student Miss**ions and **Dr. Jon Spenn reported on I-Tec and m-Power** indigenous missions, both of which have been placed on hold at present.

Dr. William Griffin reported on the Christian Medical and Dental Associations with ideas of mutually supporting each other especially concerning dental students and missions.



Dr. William and Linda Griffin in Jamaica

The **Dr. Ron Lamb Mission Award was given to Dr. William and Linda Griffin** for their life-long contributions to missionary dentistry. Dr. Griffin has been past-President of the CDS, has been very active in student missions with Jamaica, I-Tec, m-Power and the CMDA. He currently directs the dental ministry of the CMDA. Linda, his wife, has been his rock and supporter and as Dr. Griffin says, "My best mission trips are when Linda is along." Dr William and Linda were congratulated and presented (via Zoom) with a beautifully, engraved, glass, CDS award, which, with their approval, will be presented in person at the upcoming CDS Mission Banquet planned during the Las Vegas ADA meeting in October 2021. The CDS Board also **voted to have Drs. Jim and Sue Carney receive the 2021 Dr. Ron Lamb Award** to be presented at the 2021 CDS Mission Banquet.

The CDS Website, www.christiandental.org continues to be an extremely helpful, encouraging, Christian, dental website. **CDS sincerely thanks the Curtis Group** for their assistance with designing and managing our informative site at no cost to the CDS. Members are encouraged to use the site as a source of patient referrals, so make sure personal, office information and websites are updated on the CDS website. The CDS homepage has a quick reference button to help find Christian dentists and one new patient a year from this contact will pay for the membership dues to CDS. Please use the website to sign up for automatic renewal of dues, to advertise mission trip opportunities, to find organizations who will sponsor a trip, and so much more.

The CDS has a **new informational, large, tri-fold handout** which can be accessed under the "About Us" section of the website.

CDS exhibit booths at major conventions has been valuable in encouraging, assisting, and teaching dental providers. CDS sponsored 13 booths in 2019, but were only able to attend three in 2020 before they were all shut down. Once Conventions start again in person, CDS members will be there.

Drs. Bob and Diane Meyer have an article that is ready for publication with the Journal of the American Dental Association titled, **"Recruitment Considerations for Dental, Short-Term Missions Relating to the Holistic Development of Dentists."** We thank many of you who contributed to this qualitative and quantitative study of the holistic benefits and detractors of doing Christian, short-term, dental missions. This is the first definitive study on the subject to be documented and published, and was Diane's doctoral, 270-page dissertation from Liberty University.

Be sure to put October 14-16, 2021 on calendars for the ADA convention in Las Vegas as the site of the CDS Board Meeting, which everyone is invited to attend. The CDS will host an exhibit booth and a Mission Banquet.

