

# News From The Beauchemins

## August 2016



**Dear friends,**

Greetings from sunny **HOT** Brownsville! It's hard to believe that summer is almost past. These last few months have continued to be very busy for Denise and I. We are excited to share with you some of the recent changes in the dental ministry. I believe God is giving us wisdom and direction as we move forward.

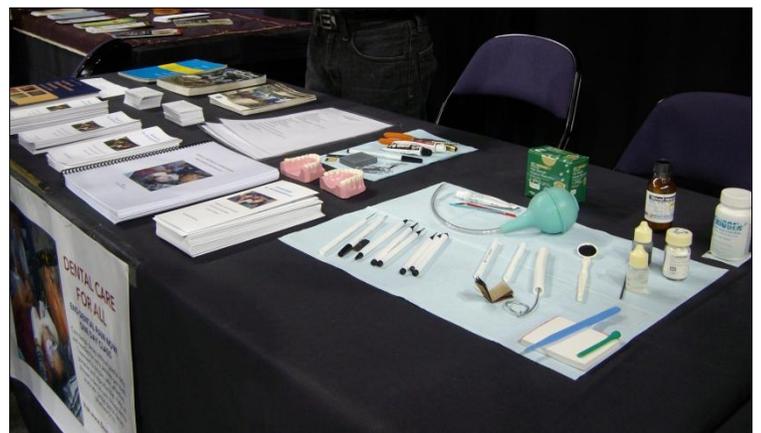
### **Dental Care For All International**

For several reasons, we have adopted an alternate name for our dental ministry. It is preferred over "Dental Training For Missions" when we contact government agencies or for missionaries working in sensitive countries. The "international" element is important as it provides a certain protection for us in regards to requirements since we reside in the US and do periodic dental outreaches into Mexico and other countries. The greater simplicity of our new treatment protocol also expands our training opportunities and the new name reflects that.

### **Wholistic Missions Conference (Phoenix Arizona)**

In May, Denise and I attended the Wholistic Missions Conference in Phoenix, AZ. ([www.wholisticmissions.com](http://www.wholisticmissions.com)) It was a time of networking with numerous mission agencies. The focus was community development and health for the neediest areas of the world. A special bonus for us was reconnecting, after 15 years, with our former mission leaders from Senegal—Jean Marc and Dr. Martine Fritsch. It was such a joyous reunion and wonderful time.

I discussed with Martine my visit to the "House of Hope" (Senegal) and she gave me important tips on how best to approach African governments with our new program. She invited me to bring dental training to Madagascar where she and Jean-Marc spent ten years establishing medical clinics in connection with the Ministry of Health throughout the country.



## **The Grand Canyon Again!**

Since it was Martine's first time in the US, and being so close to the Grand Canyon, we decided to take a few days to visit America the Beautiful. Our friends in Phoenix lent us their car and we drove up to Flagstaff where we stayed with some other friends who warmly hosted us. Flagstaff is just a couple hours from the Canyon. The drive up was amazing. Jean Marc and Martine were blown away by the awesome beauty of the area and the breathtaking views of the Grand Canyon. No photos could ever do it justice. What a gift from God!



## **Dr. Steve Duffin (Portland, Oregon)**

Our biggest challenge with SN treatment is the lack of specific guidelines for our context in missions. I've discussed this with Dr. Duffin, a highly regarded authority in the field. I hope to work out with him a protocol appropriate to our context that he would approve. Hopefully we'll have something within a few weeks.

## **Revised Field Operations Manual**

In preparation for the June class at I.B.C.D., I revised our training manual so it would be current and as simple as possible in light of the new changes. I will continue tweaking it over time. I'm submitting the medical evaluation section to Dr. Nyla Gordon, here in Brownsville, for review. She's been a great encouragement to us.

## **Institute of Biblical Community Development (Oklahoma)**

This was our largest I.B.C.D. dental class since 2009—twelve students. It consisted of two back-to-back classes of six students each. This was a trial run of our new course and it went quite well. The key that was confirmed to me in this class is the importance of pre-viewed videos, so that we can launch immediately into patient care practice. This is what our students need the most in order to build their confidence.



We are hoping this new simplified course will become a one-day seminar thus making it more affordable, which would encourage more people to take it, and subsequently, easier to replicate abroad—which is our ultimate goal.

## Dr. Kim's Prophecy

Dr. Kim greatly encouraged us when he commented, "I'm excited about this new, extremely simple program. I can see how it can replicate across the world. I believe that, like "Doctors without Borders," Dental Care for All will someday also win a Nobel prize." His words were, needless to say, challenging and also humbling. With God, all things are possible.

## Padvoracs Stepping Up

It was a joy teaching this class with our team-mates, Jason and Meggan from Seattle. We complement each other nicely as they bring fresh ideas and we, practical field and teaching experience. They have a passion for this ministry coupled with a keen desire to promote it widely. They have also had a number of opportunities to practice their dental skills and even to teach them to others. Together we have the potential to truly move our mission forward!



Jason teaching on Silver Nitrate Therapy



Meggan checking a student's work.



Jason and Meggan include their girls, Jonna (3) and Mandy (1), in their dental ministry. And Teddy too!

## **Beyond Dental Health**

I have come to realize that we need to go beyond oral health. The wholistic conference convinced me of this along with Dr. Kim's vision. I was introduced to a great teaching aid at the conference, titled: "Health Education Program for Developing Countries" by Dr. Arnold Gorske MD. [www.hepfdc.info](http://www.hepfdc.info) It is now part of our curriculum. It will not take up any extra class time as we will discuss it in our videos. We are also including water purification, as 80% of all diseases in the developing world stem from contaminated water. We, with Dr. Kim, recommend the "Sawyer" filtration system. It's simple, effective and economical.

[www.sawyer.com/international/](http://www.sawyer.com/international/)

## **Advances in Instrumentation**

I've been testing various instrument ideas to more efficiently apply our filling material to minimize waste. While it was quite involved, the time was well spent. The new tools work well except with young children in which case will continue using the finger press technique.

## **Clinics (Matamoros, Mexico)**

I've recently held dental clinics at three churches in near-by Matamoros, both before and after the I.B.C.D. course. These were particularly important due to the need to field test our new treatment protocol. I also wanted to explore who might want to learn this new technique in these churches since my two previous candidates, Ruth and Diego, were not able to take the course after all. My last clinic days were very revealing as it became clear that we must insist on four-handed therapy after all. I had hoped it could be done with one person, but SN therapy requires perfect protection from saliva, which is extremely difficult working alone. It's actually a good thing though, since there are other great benefits to 4-handed treatment. I'm glad I emphasized it at I.B.C.D.

## **Does Jesus Really Care About Teeth?**

Jesus cares about all who suffer including those who suffer from tooth pain and the severe complications it often leads to—even death. If we should doubt this, we need only read Matthew 25 where He talks about feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, taking strangers into our homes, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and those in prison. He said whatever we do for all these who suffer, we are doing for Him.

Jesus was moved with compassion for hurting people—those with both physical pains and mental anguish—all of it. (Mt 9:35-38) When I think of His call to love as He loved, I can't help but wonder how I'm doing in that. Am I living up to His example? Do I truly care for those who suffer or am I going through the motions in my good deeds? Does it matter? I think it does.

Paul said that even if we bestow all our goods to feed the poor or give our body to be burned as martyrs, and have not love, it means nothing. Have you ever thought deeply about that? What does it mean to truly love? The longing of my heart—for myself, my loved ones, the body of Christ, everyone, is that God will transform our hearts. I'm encouraged by His promises towards that end. (Ez 36:23, 35-38; Ph 2:13; 2 Pt 1:4)

There are few areas in health care that provoke as much fear as dental treatment. I can't describe the weight of responsibility I feel when I have an extremely fearful patient in my care, especially a young child. Do I treat her as quickly as possible to get it over with or do I give all my heart to this person keeping her fear in mind every moment even as this extra caution slows me down? I get a glimpse of my own heart when such fear stares me in the face as I emotionally feel my patient's pain. I try to do all in my power to make this a positive experience.

What joy floods my heart when little Maria smiles and gives me a hug after my love has touched her heart and soul. The most important thing to me, when I teach students dental care, is this one thing... to love as Jesus did. And if I get a chance to tell Maria that Jesus loves her, do you think she'll listen to me?

Those we train in dental care are not usually alone, but part of a ministry team. They understand that communicating the Gospel has multiple facets, like sides of a diamond. All the parts of the body of Christ serve an important function in the whole visible expression of Christ on earth (1 Cor 12:15-17). The greatest image of Christ the world needs and longs for... is love; true love, genuine love.

"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds [done from a pure heart of love] and glorify your Father in Heaven." (Mt 5: 16)

## "Hope For All"

I am happy to say that I am at the final stage of completing my new book after working on it for several years. The title is, "Hope For All" Ten Reasons for Great Joy. If you would like to review the final draft, I would be glad to email you the PDF. Just let me know. I'll explain more about the book in our next letter.

## *Denise's Corner*



There have been some very special moments mixed in with all the busyness of the last few months. A few highlights:

~ Attending my niece's graduation from medical school. What a proud moment when we heard Abbi called Dr. Abigail Patricia Davenport for the first time.

~ Our Reunion with Jean Marc and Matine Fritsch. I wish you could have been there to witness that moment. The hugs we shared were so tight, accompanied with much laughter. So much so, it caused a bit of stir when Gerry was knocked off balance and fell to the floor!

~ Going to IBCD with Gerry for the first time. He has always spoken so highly of the warm hospitality he receives from their all-Korean staff. I was not disappointed. Everyone welcomed me so warmly and told me how they have been praying for me all these years. It was such a blessing to meet them all.

~ Watching Gerry teach people so eager to learn was satisfying after seeing his many hours of preparation. I look forward to hearing the reports from these students. One in particular, Susan, demonstrated a true servant heart helping us right to the end, putting together the dental kits for the other students. She's in her sixties and will be moving to Mongolia with her son and his family. She was so excited to be learning a skill that will bless the Mongolian people.



Susan assisting Jason with a silver nitrate treatment on Gerry

~ After the course, we drove six hours to Hermann, Missouri to encourage some very dear friends. Michelle has ataxia, which is similar to Parkinson's disease except it has no treatment. She is slowly losing the use of her body. She and Gary have been in ministry together many years. Now Gary spends much of his day taking care of Michelle and doing all the things she used to do for their home and ministry. Their love for each other was so evident and it touched us deeply.

~ And most recently, we attended a conference in Denver which highlighted God's relentless love. Paul Young, author of the best seller, *The Shack*, was one among several other speakers who spoke so profoundly about God's unfailing love and reconciliation.

~ After the conference, we visited our daughter Anna and her family in Colorado Springs for a few days. I don't think Jordan, our 3 year old granddaughter, will soon forget Memere's magic suitcase that kept producing surprises.

So ... my heart is full ... my mind has so much to reflect on ... and my body is doing well. Thank you for all your prayers, they are a great blessing to me.

*"I pray that you ... may grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."* Ephesians 3:17b-19

*Thank you for your support and continued prayers for our ministry, family, health and spiritual well being. You are a blessing to us .*

*~ Gerry and Denise*