

**Gerry & Denise Beauchemin**

## **Great Commission Support Ministry News**

**January 2015**

**Dear friends,**

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**Welcome to 2015!** Denise and I pray that this new year is a wonderful and blessed year for you and your loved ones! We extend our deepest thanks for your prayers, encouragement and support over the last year. As we proceed into 2015, we are looking forward with anticipation to what God will do in and through us in these areas of our ministry: International School of Primary Dental Care (ISPDC), Women's Bible Study (WBS), Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) and Hope For All Fellowship (HFAF). We want to briefly share our vision and updates in these areas including some family news as well.

### **ISPDC**

Dental Training for Missions is now International School of Primary Dental Care (ISPDC). We made this change to facilitate those serving in sensitive areas and to underline its international character.

### **D R Congo**

I had a wonderful trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo this fall. I joined up with Luke and Chantee Fisher, missionaries working with Africa Frontline Mission. We've talked about them in our last letter. Luke had six students (nurses) eager to learn when I arrived. They work in government sponsored health clinics. Luke was also eager to learn more about extractions and Lesion Sterilization and Tissue Repair.

Everyone was excited about this class. It was amazing how we bonded over our two weeks together. They had to accompany me to the airport when I left to show their love and appreciation.

Because there are so few dentists in this country, and the dental needs so overwhelming, we needed to include extractions in the training. That was a challenge, but it went well. It was also fun to speak and teach in French again, which I rarely do these days.



One interesting note: We needed to ride motor bikes to get to remote villages. That was a first for me. In fact, on our first visit to a village, I drove the motorbike with the mission leader's wife and baby on the back. Talk about stress! This 61 year old hadn't ridden a motorcycle in decades. How would I do I wondered? I guess I would find out. It was super tense going through deep puddles, afraid we would tip over, get all muddy and maybe even injured. I've never ridden in those conditions before. But we made it!

Another exciting thing was testing a new treatment for infected teeth, called Lesion Sterilization and Tissue Repair (LSTR). Essentially, it's an alternative to extractions and root canals. We did much reading on this and decided we needed to include it in our treatment. We have high hopes for it, though our research is not done. We need to track down practitioners in the field to compare notes. Jason did a few cases while in Thailand and now Luke and I in Congo. Luke continues to use it when appropriate.





**Touching lives with  
God's love through  
training and care.**



### **Dental Missions Presentation**

While in South Africa, Renee organized a dental mission's night, inviting missionaries to come. It turned out, at the last minute, that only one German lady could make it. Thankfully she was a prominent health professional in the community and was very blessed by what she learned. She will spread the word. Perhaps on our next visit to SA, a group of missionaries will attend the full course.

### **Seminar for Dentists**

Last month, we had two dentists and a physician participate in a Skype seminar on mission dentistry for dentists. Jason, in Seattle, also participated as our technician. The presentation lasted five hours. It was one of the most exciting things I've done in mission dentistry. I look forward to more seminars in the future. Here are two links if you would like to view it.

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4vP4hu3m3w>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUo8Bbw7Rac>

Dr. Mark Smith leaves in a few days for DRC, yes Congo. I'm looking forward to a great report from him, anxious to see how his Congo class goes after such a brief course with me. Would you believe the other dentist, who doesn't know Mark is also going to Congo? Is this co- incidence or God?

## **Dental Team**

Jason and I have invited Dr. Dee Danner from Virginia to join our team. Dr. Danner, who I have collaborated with many times, is happy to join us. I'm hoping he can make our upcoming class in Texas. It's important we all get to know each other and brainstorm in person for the future. Dee has a dental practice in the prisons. He and his wife Janet, one of my former students, have used dentistry on numerous mission trips having trained a large number of nationals. Please pray for Janet, as she is facing a very serious health issue.

## **Hope for All Fellowship**

HFAP is a vision that is being birthed in my heart, prompted by calls and emails we've received from readers of "Hope Beyond Hell." For at least two years, I've been sensing a strong need to help bring people together in community: to be nurtured in our relationship with Jesus and with each other—we who share an especially high view of God's enduring love and mercy for all people.

I've thought and prayed much about this and continue doing so. I feel inadequate for the task, but am confident that in my weakness God will come through. I must depend completely on Him. All I know is the intense desire I have for it. I'm consulting with friends for prayer and guidance.

I believe one of my initial tasks in this vision, is to publish a simpler, more concise book highlighting God's character as it is seen through an accurate view of His judgments. I'm in the final stages of that and covet your prayers.

## **Denise's Corner**

### **WBS**

So far 2015 is off to a good start. I continue to lead my women's Bible study group. This group of ladies is so precious to me. I count it a privilege to carry these women in prayer throughout the week and to be there for them when they need someone to talk to. It is a joy to share our lives with one another as we grow in our relationship with God. We are continuing with *30 Life Principles* by Charles Stanley – a study for growing in knowledge and understanding of God.

### **MOPS**

The new semester for MOPS is just beginning. I'm enjoying being a mentor for the group. I wish I had known about MOPS back in my early days of mothering. It's so nice for these moms to connect with other moms. Many of them are not from Brownsville or even Texas but are here because of their husband's government job. I can relate to them because I've lived in many places too and raised my family away from our extended family much of the time. It's a blessing to be able to point them to the Lord as the source of strength, wisdom and life itself.

# Family News

The last few months have taken us from Brownsville to New Hampshire, Maine, Colorado, DC area, Congo and South Africa! Weddings, births, medical and missions... Here's an overview of it all –September brought us to New Hampshire to visit family and friends. It was a short visit which included a family wedding in Maine. During the 10 days Gerry was in NH he put his old roofing skills into practice and re-roofed the south side of his cousin's house. He felt invigorated working in the cool fall air and felt muscles he hadn't felt in a long time! I was only in NH for 6 days and then went on to Colorado to spend a few days with Anna and her family. It was so fun to see Anna in nearly full bloom of pregnancy and to play and read with Jordan.

October saw us off to South Africa. Yes, us! It was a big step for me, first time since my illness to make such a long trip. With my doctors' approval, off I went to meet our first grandson – Ezra Groot. I spent 5 wonderful weeks with Renee and her family playing games, reading to the kids, celebrating birthdays, sightseeing, helping with homeschooling and enjoying the baby.

Of course we came bearing gifts and that sure made for some excitement. Everyday Elliora and Esther got up with the anticipation of what gift they might receive. How fun! Renee and Azarja were great hosts and set us up in beautiful accommodations at the mission. I even got to sleep in a castle while Gerry was away in the Democratic Republic of Congo. (See photos.)



One of the highlights of our time there was going on safari with Renee and Azarja. They live close to the famed Kruger safari game park. There's nothing like seeing animals in their natural habitat. We saw elephants, rhinos, giraffes, hippos, and more- but no lions or leopards. Maybe next time...



It was so good to see the mission that has now become home to them. We had the privilege of meeting their coworkers, homeschooling friends, church friends and being part of their world. It was good to see up close what their life is like in SA. Our one concern is for their safety. They did experience an attempted break-in while we were there. And there was another one on the mission compound during our stay. Please keep them in your prayers for safety.

Another highlight was presenting clothes to children in a poor neighborhood. A friend donated about 40 handmade dresses and several pairs of shorts made by women in her church. They call their ministry – Dress a Girl Around the World. One of Renee’s coworkers goes to this neighborhood regularly to share Bible stories with the kids. Renee and I accompanied Maria and it was so wonderful to see the children’s excitement as they received their new clothes.



November brought us home by mid-month. Such a long trip from South Africa! One leg of our journey, Atlanta to Johannesburg, was a 16 hour non-stop flight—longest in the world! Just a few days later I was off to NIH in MD for my 6 month evaluation and bone marrow biopsy. It was good to be with our friends Bob and Pat Hale again. Thankfully all went well and the results showed no signs of abnormal cells.

Before leaving for NIH we were surprised by the early arrival of our second grandson, Carter David Fry. Just like his sister, he decided to come 6 weeks early weighing in at 5lbs. Praise God for his safe arrival by c-section. Once he was home, we packed up and went to meet this sweet little bundle of joy. Holding him in our arms brought back so many memories of our sweet little babies.



December was now half over and Christmas just ahead. We had much to get caught up on and added Christmas preparations to the mix. We had a quiet Christmas with Nicole, Paul and His mom. They had a twinkle in their eyes. They have a secret....stay tuned....

Thank you for taking the time to read our news. There’s so much more we could share we have so many wonderful memories of our time in Africa. For more details we’re only a phone call away.

**Financial support and correspondence may be sent to:**  
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