

The Global Adventist Dental Connection

Christian Dental Professionals, United to Advance God's Healing



Edition #6
February 2020



YOU ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF GOD'S WORK ON THIS EARTH

YOU CAN COLLABORATE WITH HIS CHURCH TO FURTHER HIS KINGDOM

WHAT YOU DO FOR PATIENTS IS NOT ONLY HEALING AND EVANGELISM BUT THE TOUCH OF GOD'S HAND

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The Global Adventist Dental Connection

Introduction from the Editor

In this 6th edition of the Global Adventist Dental Connection, we will turn our attention to the great continent of Europe. It is our hope that as you read about the dental ministry in this part of the world, that you will be inspired and energized.

We recently attended the third ENAD (European Network of Adventist Doctors) Conference in Michelsberg, Germany from Oct. 31 - Nov. 3, 2019. Spending time in the company of a few hundred dedicated dentists, physicians, therapists, and nurses is enjoyable. It is thrilling to be with a group like this, comprised mostly of young people, dedicated to spreading God's love and message of good health. And when this type of event is held in Europe, where the Adventist Church is not growing rapidly, one is not just inspired but exhilarated.

An event that brings together medical professionals will always have the usual mundane conversations about patients, remuneration, the politics of healthcare, hospital policy, etc. However, the conference theme for the weekend was "Mindset" and the lectures, worships, Sabbath activities, and workshops were dedicated to the idea that wholeness includes a sound mind and a healthy body, inseparable and completely interconnected. The participants reaffirmed that "human mind" and the "human body" are arbitrary labels attached to different parts of the human soul. Most conversations were about heeding this truth and appropriately using this knowledge to care for God's precious children.

When a group of Adventist Christians get together, the natural thing is to

reach out to those in need. The professionals at ENAD are no different. In this newsletter you will read a little about past ENAD mission trips and you can learn about future mission trips (the next one is to Tajikistan) at the website, <https://enad.eu/category/enadevents/enad-mission-opportunities/>. Our congratulations are extended to the ENAD leadership and we are looking forward to the next conference and mission opportunities.

Thank you for enjoying this dental ministry newsletter. May God bless you and what you do.



Editor: Doyle Nick

ENAD Mission report

Two years in a row the ENAD mission week took place in Darmstadt. The church there had invited us to support them at the Health expo and for work with the refugees that live nearby the church campus in Jefferson Settlement.

Both years were a great blessing. We pray that the seeds we have sown will gently, but decidedly, grow under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

During the week we spent two days assisting the Darmstadt church with a big health expo for the general public; a number of booths provided visitors the opportunity to check their personal health, learn about healthy lifestyle, learn about health-giving nutrition, and taste delicious vegetarian food. In addition to the health expo, our group offered information about the ill effects of drugs and media addiction at the Marienhöhe school (German Adventist school with a large number of non-Adventist students) through presentations in the classroom and a info booth in the hallway.

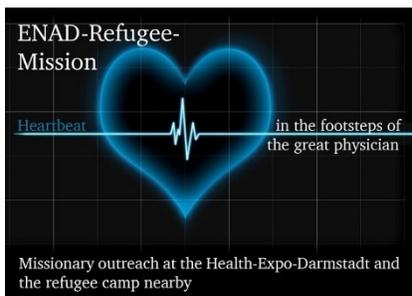
In the Jefferson refugee settlement we offered information about healthy foods and a special, week-long program for the children. Although the theme of the kids games and handicraft program was

Newstart / Wertvoll, our main focus was to give the children much needed attention and affection. Last, but not least, during 'spare time' members of our team set out to do some canvassing in Jefferson: going door to door, telling people about our program, offering literature, listening to their stories, and praying with them.

To make all this possible and to nourish the team both physically and spiritually, a lot of hours were spent doing supportive work. Mornings and evenings we had a devotion time with our team while during the day a small devoted group was praying for the program. The organizing team arranged everything needed. Our accommodations were provided and each meal was prepared for us. We are thankful for all the volunteers who made up the wonderful team and all the preparatory and support work that they did!! We experienced many blessings during this week and were honoured to be allowed to serve God in this manner.

We want to convey the experiences of the week with some photographs and by sharing some **personal testimonies:**

Eugen: "I had a patient with a broken root from a wisdom tooth. It was very hard to see the root because of the





location in the mouth. After several attempts to get it out, I tried to drill around the root, just step by step. When I was still unable to get the root out, I asked the patient to close the mouth, because I had to look for another instrument in order to try again. When I had found the instrument and the patient opened his mouth again, I saw that a small miracle had happened. My dental assistant pointed out that the root was lying in the mouth of the patient. Neither of us had done anything during the search for the right instrument. The root had just come out. I didn't understand what had happened until my dental assistant told me that she prayed during the whole procedure. Then I realized who had done the last and most difficult part of the job for me!"

Christian: "Being part of ENAD was such a blessing. The team of people working around the different locations serving others and being the hands and feet of



Jesus Christ was a true inspiration. We sometimes frown at refugees who come to our countries, perhaps not understanding that God might want to use this situation to reach people. To use this opportunity to bring Jesus to these people which would not have been possible in the oppressive religious and political environment in their own countries. We saw several doors and minds being opened to the

light of God during this week. Meeting the refugee kids enriched me more I think than it enriched them. I ask that you keep the refugees in the Jefferson Camp in your prayers."

Sarah: "I want to share two experiences I had during this mission week. The first was at the health expo. I had to run from the massage booth to the air booth at some point. Three young people came and I asked them if they spoke any English. To my surprise they spoke English perfectly. I ended up being with them about 40 minutes talking about health principles. At some point they asked me why I was doing this. This was the best opportunity to share about God as our creator and Father, His design for our health and plant based diet. In the end, I gave them a massage as well. It was one of the best conversations I've had that week.



The second experience that I want to share was at the end of the week. I do not speak German and being with the kids on Friday was challenging in so many ways. At the end of the day, one boy, who was a bit of a troublemaker, was agitated and upset for being put in the end of the queue. I looked at him and wrapped my right arm around him in a side hug trying to tell him that everyone will get a bag and he just needed to stay still. He started crying. From an angry, irritated, and rebellious child he became a soft, emotional child. I knew then how much love they actually need."

The Small Things Make A Difference

A story of mission service and support for an International, Adventist dental friend

Inspired by a very mission minded pastor that served in our district in Switzerland, I participated in my first mission trip in 2010. Along with about 15 other like minded friends, I traveled to Ethiopia. The idea was to preach a partial evangelistic series around Gimbie. I had graduated 4 years before and had survived the first years as a practicing dentist so I was eager to see and learn how dentistry worked in Ethiopia. Gimbe

Adventist Hospital has a very busy dental therapist with a good reputation. His name is Tsegaye. After spending some time with him, it was apparent he did very well at meeting the dental needs of the people there. We supported each other and both learned a lot. I brought him some dental materials from Switzerland and I trained him in areas where he didn't have much experience. Likewise, I was able to

learn a lot about how to do an efficient extraction. I thank God for these intense experiences. It was a blessing to serve by providing dental care and trading knoweldge, and through preaching the gospel. For several years after this trip, I returned to Gimbie for two weeks of service. At that moment in my life I thought that I would participate in a mission trip every year of my life but as the years went by, I was

Small Things, cont'd from page 3

involved with practice, I got married, and eventually realized that I hadn't been on a mission trip in years.

In the spring of 2018, during a special church weekend, celebrating marriage, a couple invited the congregation to join in a mission trip to Kyrgyzstan. I thought this sounded like an interesting trip and was curious about the country because it was a place I'd never thought of visiting. My wife and I decided to get in touch with this



Summer 2019: At work

couple to ask more questions. We found out that my wife's summer holiday break was scheduled the exact same two weeks as the mission trip. With this kind of omen, we decided to join the trip to Kyrgyzstan! We later found out that, besides the couple, we were the only ones who decided to participate with this mission trip. While preparing for the trip I remembered Dr. Doyle Nick, who is responsible of the dental branch of the Health Ministries Department of the General Conference, had mentioned an Adventist clinic in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. I contacted him for information about the clinic



Summer 2018: Dr. Bornand's wife Alicia, talking to Dr. Liia Pak

and luckily I was able to plan a visit to this specific clinic during our short stay in Bishkek. At the clinic I met Dr. Liia Pak, a young, recently graduated, and very dedicated dentist. She had studied in the College of Dentistry at the Adventist University of the Philippines. Dr. Pak had only just recently returned to her homeland to re-open the Adventist Clinic in Bishkek which had been closed for about a decade. I felt empathy for her, remembering, from my own experience, that while a new graduate may have a strong knowledge of dental theory, clinical skills may not be all that strong. Even though one has been treating patients for several years as a student, one may still be a beginner in real world practice. As I got to know Dr. Pak, she shared her heart, her vision, her dreams, and her challenges.

After returning to Switzerland, I began thinking about how to support my young dental friend, with so much responsibility, in Kyrgyzstan. I believed that she needed a strong and experienced shoulder, on which to lean and that I could provide that for her. Aware of the fact that I was about to take over my father's dental practice, I realized there was not much time or extra finances to serve directly in Kyrgyzstan. I decided that, instead of me going to Kyrgyzstan, I would invite Dr. Pak to visit me in Switzerland. In the summer of 2019, despite some visa challenges, Dr. Liia Pak was able to travel to Switzerland. She assisted me the entire time and I was able to share my chairside knowledge with my young friend. In addition to dentistry, we had the chance to visit a few nice places because it was the first time she had been in Europe. I tried to encourage and motivate her to find ways to do continuing education. Being in charge of your own clinic, with very little experience, is a real challenge. Patients want to trust you and if they think you're insecure or not capable enough then your



Summer 2019: Alicia and Dr. Liia Pak enjoying the scenery of Lake Lucerne

reputation and the reputation of the clinic won't be as strong as they should be.

In 2020 I would like to sponsor Dr. Pak to take dental continuing education so that she can continue to increase her theoretical and practical knowledge. With more theoretical knowledge comes more confidence and more practical knowledge results in the ability to provide a wider spectrum of procedures.



Summer 2018: Dr. Liia Pak and Dr. Bornand in front of the dental clinic in Bishkek

I wish I could do more for Dr. Pak and Bishkek but I remind myself that often it is the small things we do that can make the biggest difference. When I remember how it made a difference in my life to have an expert help me, a freshman dentist, to grow, it inspires me to help others. I believe that is what the gospel is about, helping others. That is what love is all about.

Written by: Dr. Christoph Bornand,
A member of AMEN and private
practitioner in Switzerland

General Conference Session Indianapolis, Indiana

25 June to 4 July, 2020

A Volunteer Opportunity

Please consider spending a few hours at the General Conference, Health Ministries booth providing free dental screenings and dental education using intraoral cameras, for attendees of the GC session. Last year we helped 400 people from 65 countries to understand their own mouths and level of health. It is a joy to meet believers from all over the world and it is satisfying to know they are healthier because of a few minutes and some expertise that we were able to provide to them. Don't miss this opportunity!

Do You Have Questions?

Email Dr. Doyle Nick at nickd@gc.adventist.org

To volunteer

Email Katie Layon, klayon@llu.edu.

Or reach them by phone at 1-909-558-4607



Service is Contagious

The year Nineteen and Eighty-Nine was very auspicious in the life of Dr. John Kershner, a dentist with a private practice in Frederick, Maryland. Some of his patients were leaders in the Adventist church who, following *Glasnost* and the breakup of the Soviet empire, were eager to tell the citizens of Russia about the Good News of Salvation and God's love. What better way to illustrate this truth than to provide for health and well-being? And what better way than to provide health and well-being than by providing excellent dental care? John was asked to be involved in establishing a dental practice, which eventually became a

growing concern in Moscow. John sponsored a small dental clinic, which opened in 1991, in the Ad-

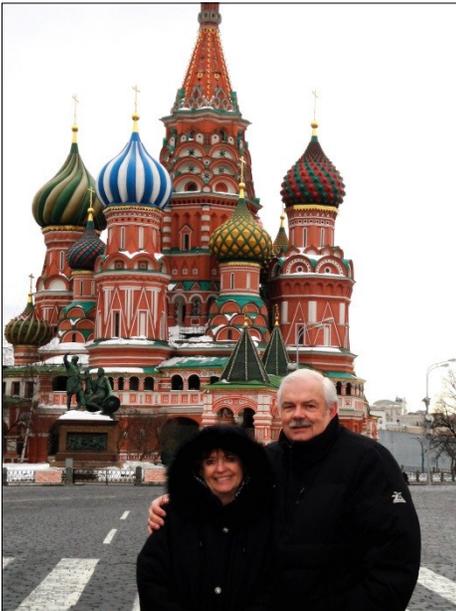


Meeting the needs of some of my many younger patients...sisters.

ventist University of Zaoksky. Although the much bigger and better equipped clinic in Moscow had to be closed a number of years ago, the Zaoksky clinic still serves the students and the citizens of that community.

Dr. Kershner was last at the little clinic in November 2019. During chapel at Adventist University of Zaoksky, he was presented a T-shirt that was inscribed with: Zaoksky Dental University, 600,000 miles, 600,000 smiles, 60 times. Over the past almost 30 years, Dr. Kershner has flown 60 times to the University that he has grown to

Service, cont'd on page 6



Cheryl and I in Red Square with St. Basil's Cathedral in the background.

love. The clinic, only charges US \$3 - \$5 dollars per surface for fillings and a similar amount for extractions so he has supported the clinic and most of his own travel. In exchange, the community and his patients have loved him back.

Dr. Kershner and his wife have given more than time, expertise, and dental care. They have benefited the students and residents of the area. They have sponsored education for almost 40 students and made it possible for one person to attend Loma Linda School of Dentistry.

One patient who had ovarian cancer consulted with Dr. Kershner about what she should do. After speaking with US OBGYN friend, Dr. Kershner advised that travel to the United States for a life-saving resection. She stayed in the Kershner home for a year during and after treatment and went through nursing school and now cares for patients in a cancer clinic.

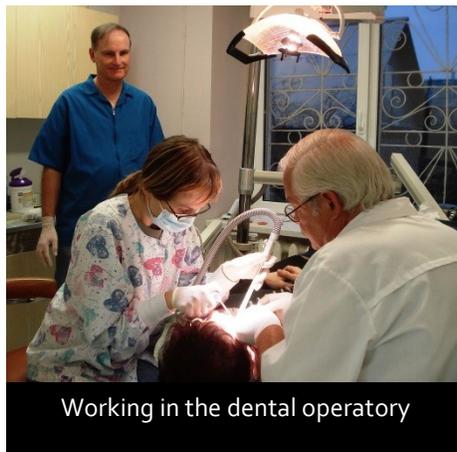
One student that the Kershners' sponsored was valedictorian of her class AND an Olympic cross-country skier. A book "Katya's Gold" chronicles her early life and conver-

sion. Eventually she met and married a young Italian man and they invited the Kershners to fly to Italy so that Dr. John could walk her down the aisle. Today they have added three children to their happy family and their friends and relatives have been introduced to Christ and blessed by them.

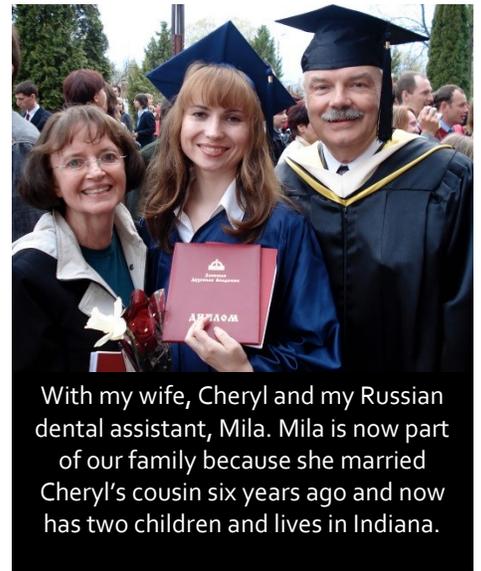
As Dr. Kershner looks back over the years he cannot see any time when God was not protecting and leading him. Even when the KGB came checking around, he had no concerns or worries. His inability to get a dental license or a work permit has not hampered his work in the least.

The Kershner's not only blessed the people of Russia, they were instrumental in changing other lives as well. Many of the 150 dentists, dental assistants, and others who, over the years, accompanied him to Zaoksky to assist and help, have become dentists and or dedicated a large part of their lives to service. It is common that people who are exposed to the joys of mission dentistry, are inspired to become dentists so that they can better make a positive difference in the world.

For the future, his dreams for the Zaoksky clinic are that it will continue to be a force for good in the community. An accomplished young Russian woman, who he has known since her birth, has trained as a dentist. To her he has given the clinic. She will continue the con-



Working in the dental operator



With my wife, Cheryl and my Russian dental assistant, Mila. Mila is now part of our family because she married Cheryl's cousin six years ago and now has two children and lives in Indiana.

stant, great influence in the community, serving not only faculty, staff, and students, but also the local public. Dr. Kershner is not yet finished because he plans to provide a few more years of mentoring at the Zaoksky Clinic, to help continue the good work.

The benefits of his service, to himself, he will tell you, are greater than any he has provided for others. Every time he arrives to the grounds of the University, they feel like hallowed ground. The wonderful Christian people are an inspiration and blessing. His sincerity is palpable as he says, "It has been a life-long privilege to serve there."



Honored to have the new student center name acknowledging my years of service to the university.

Worldwide Dental Mission Opportunities In SDA Mission Dental Clinics

Globally, there are about 120 Seventh-day Adventist-owned dental practices around the world. Some of them could benefit from your expertise and collaboration and you will benefit from the experience.

Here are some current opportunities. Please write to us if there is any opportunity that you would like to discuss.

Long-term Service

Freetown, Sierra Leone – The Waterloo Adventist Hospital is establishing a dental clinic in the nearby capitol of Freetown. We are searching for a dedicated, confident, enthusiastic, capable dentist to open this brand new, international standard, clinic and build an effective dental practice. This is a normal ISE (Salary and benefits) opportunity. The adventure, cultural learning, and Joy of serving in this wonderful country, is a bonus!

Scheer Memorial Hospital, Banepa, Nepal - This venerable hospital (established 75 years ago) is planning expansion and enhancement of its dental service. A Western trained, ISE, dentist is being sought to work with the wonderful Nepali dental professionals in a newly renovated, state-of-the-art clinic in the heart of the home to Mt. Everest, fascinating cultures, and the beauty of the Himalayas!

Saipan SDA Dental Clinic –A capable dentist is needed to commit to a five-year posting on the paradise island of Saipan. The position of Dental Director would be a good fit for an experienced, dental leader. The Saipan practice is one of the most vibrant and consistently effective clinics in the Adventist dental system and a number of skilled professionals work together there.

Short-term Service

Yaoundé, Cameroon – This dental clinic has been in the healing business for forty years. All of the dentists are from Cameroon and they would enjoy having a self-supporting volunteer to work with them for one or a few months.

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia – Two dedicated, Adventist, Mongolian Dentists, staff this beautiful clinic. They would love to have a dentist volunteer to come and spend one-three weeks with them concentrating on excellent dentistry, especially removable prosthodontics. What an exotic location to serve God and His children.

AMEN, Maranatha, Helping Hands, Adventist World Radio, Your Best Pathway to Health and many other similar organizations are often in need of able and willing volunteers to make important, one-time and short-term programs successful. These organizations have websites that inform volunteers of needs, schedules, and other details. Check out the website:

www.dentalmissionsda.org

Maasai Dental Clinic, Kenya – It would be hard to imagine a more exciting short term opportunity for a dentist than this dental clinic near the Maasai Mara Game Reserve in Kenya Africa. Consider this spectacular cultural and natural experience in addition to the satisfaction of volunteer service to wonderfully interesting, appreciative, and open people?

Cairo, Egypt—The Ramses Cultural Center in Cairo Egypt, has a small dental clinic that has been serving the population without charge for about a year now. This Adventist clinic depends on dentist volunteers to provide the dental care for that community. You will not find a more interesting place to serve. The culture, historical sights, and grateful clientele, will provide for the volunteer dentist a unforgettable experience. If you can volunteer for a few weeks or months, please contact Heidi Gelhorn via email at: heidi@ramsescenter.org.

For More Information about any of these opportunities & others, please contact Doyle Nick at 909-558-4607 or NickD@gc.adventist.org.

The editors would like to recognize the contributions of several skilled individuals

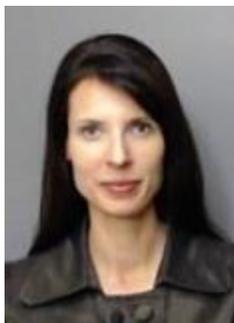
We would like to thank the following generous and capable individuals for their contributions to this newsletter. Volunteers responsible for translations include:

Russian - Nadezda Ivanova

Portuguese - Priscilla Costa

Spanish – Luis Mendez/Ricardo Sosa

Katie Layon, MBA contributes proof reading and editing as well as layout skills. We appreciate the contributions of the whole General Conference Health Ministries Team as well as those of Loma Linda University School of Dentistry.



Priscilla Costa, DDS, graduated from LLU IDP, originally from Brazil, works in Ukiah, CA.



Nadezda Ivanova, BA, MPH, MSA is Director of the Health Ministry Department for the Euro-Asia Division, ESD.



Dr. Ricardo Sosa, DDS, MSc. Currently working as a teacher in Montemorelos University and in private practice.



Katie Layon, MBA Sr. Administrative Assistant to Dr. Doyle Nick



Dr. Luis Méndez, Veracruz, Mexico is full-time faculty member of the School of Dentistry at University of Montemorelos, Mexico.

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Dental Affairs, General Conference Health Ministries Department

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