

The Global Adventist Dental Connection

Christian Dental Professionals, United to Advance God's Healing



Edition #1 Sept-Dec 2016



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

In this Edition

Introduction

Greetings

Seoul, South Korea - Adventist Dental Hospital: Fifty Years of Mission

History of the National Association of SDA Dentists

The Story of a Short Term Missionary

Announcements and Opportunities

The newsletter can be viewed by:

- Copying and pasting this address in your browser address window:
<http://www.dentalmissionsda.org/global-dental-newsletter.html>

Please share this website with interested colleagues.

To request new subscription visit this website:

<http://www.dentalmissionsda.org/sda-dental-professionals.html>

The Global Adventist Dental Connection

Introduction from the Editors

It is with excitement that I anticipate your reading this inaugural issue of the Global Adventist Dental Connection newsletter (Global Christian Dental Connection – GCDC). Our expectation is that three times each year, this free communication will facilitate professional collaboration between believing dental professionals and one another, the church's work, and the mission dentistry program.

We expect this newsletter to be part of a two-way communication so please feel very free to provide considered positive or negative comments and feedback as well as contributions for publication and suggestions. We are looking forward to informing you about mission opportunities and events and encouraging you in the effective witness for our wonderful Lord and His amazing love and healing for His children.

Dentists are in one of the most influential professions in existence. Although they may not have the fame or money of other individuals in the world, they have amazing opportunity to connect on a very personal level with patients. As they kindly, respectfully, skillfully, compassionately, and comfortably care for patients, they are highly appreciated. This respect grows as patients return, over the years, for routine recall appointments and find that they can depend on the integrity and gentleness of people that they soon call friends. It is not unusual to find patients that travel long distances, sometimes even internationally, to see a dental team that they have learned to trust

and care about. A patient will, over time, refer friends, children, and parents to a dental team until we are privileged to be an integral part of a community and important to many people and many families.

The Adventist Dental ministry includes a great number of these influential people. In addition to the private dental practitioners (for whom this newsletter is written) there are over 100 dental clinics in the world that say "Adventist" on the door. These practices belong to one church entity or another such as a hospital, a union, a division, or university. Many are cutting edge practices that not only provide state of the art dental care but are purposeful about connecting patients in a natural and comfortable way to the God that we serve. If just 70% of the dental professionals who receive this newsletter, work 200 days/year and see 10 patients in a day, they will be influential to over seven and a half million patients each year. As we consider this sobering reality, it seems very appropriate to inaugurate this initial Global Adventist Dental Connection with our commitment to do what we can to collaborate together with one another and organized Christianity to heal not only people's dentition and mouths but their hearts and spirit as well.

Written by: Doyle Nick



Greetings from the GC Health Ministries Department,

Outside of my family, one of the most valued people in my life is my dentist. You may think that this would be an appropriate, but perhaps, overstatement, playing to an audience of dental practitioners. I hope my dentist reads this (and every issue!). You see, my dentist is kind, gentle, efficient, caring and explanatory. He ensures that the local anesthetic is accurately and caringly given, that it is effective, and has never (and I mean *never*) hurt me! I celebrate his special ministry, and share my positive experience as widely as I can. Oh yes...he is a committed follower of Jesus, and also a skilled teacher; he takes full advantage of my enforced “aphasia” to get the words in “edgewise”, as it were, that leave me in no doubt of the wonders of the physiology of teeth and gums, as well as God’s creative power that “made all things well”.

Dental services are essential and allow their effects to be radiated through bright smiles! What amazing transformations are wrought by skillfully applied wires, adhesive and elastic bands – turning straggling teeth in disarray into well “ranked” pearly soldiers, ready to assist articulation of speech as well as the initiation of digestion! And of course – the ever-telling smile...

The varied specialties of dentistry improve physical, cosmetic and even general well-being! Self-esteem can be restored, pain relieved, and inflammatory processes which may even trigger and aggravate atherosclerosis can be slowed. I have no doubt that many opportunities arise for the dental practitioner to share words of hope, wisdom and even to point to the saving grace, love and power of our friend and Savior, Jesus Christ. Christ’s method is thus implemented in dental surgeries around the globe, and many lives are touched.

I am so grateful for the work of the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry, its leadership and faculty, who unstintingly support this valued ministry. Drs. Doyle Nick, Quint Nicola and Jim Crawford have led out in this work over the past three decades. Their deans, and the administration of Loma Linda have facilitated and enabled this ministry. Many other practitioners have volunteered and supported the work of the Seventh-day Adventist dental program. And, very importantly, you, the reader, and dental practitioner, daily share healing and hope with what adds up to millions of patients annually. Thank you for making the difference; thank you for alleviating physical pain, and erasing the emotional pain by the skillfully correcting physical abnormalities – touching one mouth, and one life at a time.

And just as I love and appreciate my dentist, I know there are many like me who appreciate you, and your teams who daily make the difference. My prayer is that this newsletter which aims to connect Seventh-day Adventist dental professionals around the globe, will serve as an encouragement to many to “not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9, NIV.

On behalf of Adventist Health ministries at the General Conference, I wish to extend special gratitude to Dr. Doyle Nick for launching this publication, and for being the chaplain and advisor to our many dentists who blend dentistry and ministry, thereby being a conduit of the love and grace of the Great Healer.

May the Lord richly bless each of you as you use your healing skills in His service.

Peter N Landless
M.B.,B.Ch., M.Fam.Med., MFGP(SA),FCP(SA), FACC, FASNC
Director, Health Ministries, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



Seoul Adventist Dental Hospital

Founded on the values

When one visits South Korea (Republic of Korea) today, one enjoys very much the many evidences of a rich cultural heritage. It is very difficult to believe that when it was founded in 1948, upon being liberated from Japan at the end of WWII, it and its northern neighbor, North Korea were together the poorest countries in Asia.

In those early days the Adventist work was small and struggling and foreign missionaries were important to the work. Today S. Korea is one of the countries most prolific in producing Adventist missionaries for the world church.

After 30 continuous years of 10% economic growth, South Korea is now one of the most vibrant countries of Asia and the world. It is a high-income country with the world's 11th largest economy, the



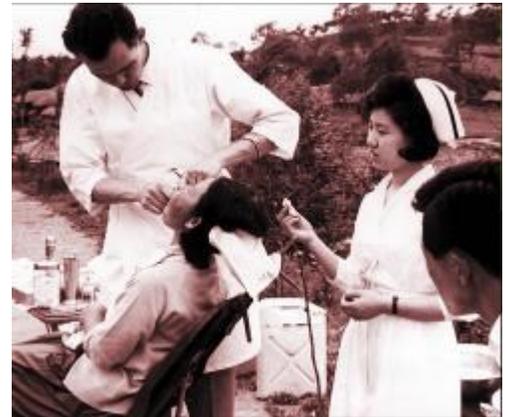
largest budget surplus, and highest credit rating of any country in East Asia. It is a country with very high ratings in personal safety, education, job safety, ease of doing business, and healthcare quality. Its government is the most advanced democracy in Asia with a high level of transparency and rule of law. Freedom of religion and other fundamental rights such as universal

suffrage are well protected.

Along with the development of the country and the Adventist denomination, the Adventist Dental Ministry has also flourished. In Seoul there stands what is arguably the flagship clinic of the Adventist dental ministry, a four story building, Seoul Adventist Dental Hospital. This institution has 52 dental chairs and 80 employees, including 36 hygienists. The 12 full-time dentists include specialists in every clinical, dental specialty. More than 10 residents are studying and learning from them. The facility houses many state-of-the-art dental advances such as digital radiographs, plasma sterilizers, CAD/CAM capabilities, clinical microscopes, 3-D digital tomography, and some surprising capacities such as in house beds for patients who might need that service. This clinic serves, and is influential with 3,000-5,000 patients each month and they benefit from an environment which is specifically crafted to communicate that reality of God's love and concern for his children. As at any other successful Christian institution, the dentists and the clinic administration are influential because they teach in local institutions, donate equipment and time and service to local and international communities.

Before the Dental Hospital opened in 1999, Seoul Adventist Dental Clinic grew over the years, beginning in a very modest fashion with a Japanese-American dentist Dr. Yama Modo Onjin in 1947. The American dentist Dr. L. Meade Baldwin who went to Korea in 1949 and fled war 18 months later was the

first GC-fully-sponsored missionary to Seoul. In 1960 the first Loma Linda Alumni-Dental Missionary, Dr. J. Raymond Wahlen opened an actual dental clinic facility. Collaborating with the Korean professional through the years were Dr. Herman Q.L. Montgomery who served from



Dr. J. Raymond Wahlen (LLUSD c/o '57) doing dentistry in Seoul in 1961.

1980-1995 (his son Dr. Monte E. Montgomery also served in the Seoul dental clinic from 1993-1998). Little did these hard-working early dentists expect the kind of results that God would make from their faithful efforts! Little do we know what God has in store for his faithful dental professional representatives of today!

Written by:
Dr. Byeongrin Kim, Director,
Seoul Adventist Dental Hospital
Dr. Doyle Nick, Associate Director
of Dental Affairs, GC Health
Ministries Department



National Association of Seventh-day Adventist Dentists (NASDAD)

A Forward-Looking Organization with a Rich History

J. Russell Mitchell, DDS, and M. Webster Prince, DDS, were fishing partners. As they fished, they schemed. "We need to establish an organization for Adventist dentists," they agreed. In 1942 the pair launched what became the National Association of Seventh-day Adventist Dentists (NASDAD). Contacting approximately 100 dentists with their proposal, they specified its purposes: professional advancement, fellowship, application of the Golden Rule, and aid in "advancing the Adventist message."

In 1943 at a Michigan camp meeting, thirteen charter members officially joined together as NASDAD. This organization with the ungainly name continues to this day and it will celebrate its 73rd anniversary at its annual Convention in October of this year (2016). It continues with its original purpose, to be very active in, service to Christian dental education, the Adventist mission dental program, and providing fellowship, continuing education and interaction for like-minded dental colleagues.

Because of war time restrictions on travel, the organization's meetings would be sporadic until 1948. At the NASDAD meeting in Chicago that year, M. Webster Prince introduced a new objective: "We need to establish a Seventh-day Adventist dental school." Members rallied, pledging \$20,000 in support. That amount concerned one dentist who soon wrote to Dr. Prince: "I think you are stepping too high when you ask that we pledge \$1,000 apiece. I am willing, however, to do what I can." One thousand dollars was a large amount of money in 1948 when NASDAD delegates were paying \$20 for a weekend at a very nice hotel and the convention banquet cost \$3/ person. In fact an Adventist dentist's tithe averaged \$700

that year so \$1000 represented almost two months' salary.

When the request to establish a dental school reached the General Conference agenda in 1951, the committee reviewed the facts: only six dental schools in the United States would accommodate Sabbath-keeping dentists and acceptance was uncertain because of geographical preference given to applicants. The American Dental Association's announcement of a dental shortage also supported the feasibility of establishing a school. General Conference President William Branson carried the dental school proposal to the church's fall council in Cleveland and it was accepted.

While the school building was being built at the College of Medical Evangelists, (later to become Loma Linda University), the school of dentistry actually began with four faculty members teaching 42 students in the basement of the nearby Pathology building.

At a NASDAD meeting In 1962 M. Clark Lamberton, on furlough from a dental practice in Thailand, inspired the NASDAD members with an "appealing mission talk" that resulted in a "spontaneous mission offering" of \$4,000.

In 1964 NASDAD, for the first time, provided a dentist and equipment for a particular mission project: Ben Nelson, headed for Blantyre, Nyasaland (now Malawi), Africa, traveling by freighter, the *Robin Grey*, with his wife, daughter, 14, and son, 10, and 8 other passengers on board. NASDAD's president, Robert Swan, DDS, afterward said, "If NASDAD with its 226 members could sponsor this family as missionaries, think what we could do if every SDA dentist would join our group and work together." NASDAD's expanding mission program broadened the organization's impact as funds, equipment, and dental professionals were dispersed

By the 1990's, in addition to funds collected specifically for missionary families, NASDAD increased its general fundraising for missions and records show NASDAD's enhancement of dental care, sometimes in multiple sites, in a dozen African countries, eleven Asian countries, nine Central and South American countries, eight Caribbean areas, as well as in Russia, Armenia, and



Founding NASDAD Members in 1943

NASDAD, cont'd from page 5

the United States (Monument Valley, Arizona). In the last few years Adventist dental clinics in Namibia, Togo, Angola, and Ukraine have been begun with help from NASDAD. In addition many more established clinics have benefited from NASDAD assistance in the way of finances, expertise, volunteer service, etc.

At the NASDAD enhanced clinic in Saipan, Crystal Pierson, (DDS'05), has addressed the very common habit of chewing betel nut. In her stop-chewing program examination for one patient, she pointed to a two-centimeter lesion on his tongue. "How long has this been there?" she asked. "Three or four months" was the guess. After the biopsy, she had to tell him, "It is squamous cell carcinoma" but "I have located a surgeon on Guam. He can remove it." It was impossible to answer the question "And then I'll be all right?"

On occasions when Crystal and her husband (Ken, DDS'00) sense the isolation of being in a foreign country, their thoughts turned to people like this patient who is now a regular at the clinic. Chastened into a non-chewing life and flashing a bright smile, he says simply, "You saved my life."

In 1991 NASDAD initiated financial support of internationally trained dentists who practice in the Adventist dental system. These dentists pursue a six-month upgrade training program offered by LLUSD's International Dental Program. Since that time 35 international students have received NASDAD's financial support in the program. One of these, Dr. Victor Gill of Pakistan of the



LLUSD Students attending the NASAD convention in 2014

established in 1999, is important to the "culture of service" cultivated by both Loma Linda School of Dentistry and NASDAD. These international trips make a great difference in the perspective of students and faculty and improve the lives of the recipients of careful, compassionate care.

As NASDAD's early inspiration, M. Clark Lamberton put his experience this way: "When I volunteered for mission service, I told my wife, 'I don't want to go to the Far East' . . . they sent me to the Far East. "I didn't expect to stay so long in Thailand." Then he added, "I couldn't come home. They depended on me." Fifty-four years after leaving his land of birth, filling that last tooth at 91, Dr. Lamberton commented, "Yes, if I had it to do over, I would stay that long. Thailand is home." We know that Dr. Lamberton was sustained by the results of God's promptings on a couple of fishermen. We also know that this is not the first time that God has worked with fisherman to produce powerful work for His kingdom.

NASDAD Banquet in 1948



Peshawar practice caring for Afghans fleeing the Russian invaders, was one of the first participants to benefit from the program, funded equally by the School and NASDAD. When his daughter Sara completed dental studies in Pakistan and the six-month LLUSD course, she returned to open a practice in Rawalpindi. A wonderful resource for Muslim women who could not be treated by a male dentist.

The NASDAD Service Learning Endowment fund, es-

Written by: Edna Maye Loveless



OTHER SDA DENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

There are several Adventist dental associations throughout the world and we look forward to reporting on them in coming issues.

Grenada Mission Trip

Through the Eyes of a Dental Hygiene Student

A REFLECTION PAPER FROM A DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENT FROM LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY WHO WENT TO GRENADA DURING THE SUMMER BREAK OF 2015. HER WORDS REINFORCE THE REASON NASDAD CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE AND CONTRIBUTE TO DENTAL MISSIONS FOR STUDENTS.

At 1 AM on Sunday, my family woke up to kiss me goodbye and have a very heart-felt family prayer for a safe journey to Grenada. It wasn't until this moment that I realized that the trip was here and we were actually leaving. When we arrived at the school I was met by familiar faces as well as people that I'd never met before. Little did I know that these other students would join me in the bonding trip of a lifetime.

On the first day, after we touched down at the St. George airport and exited the plane, I could instantly feel the Grenadian humidity. This was one of the many differences that I had not expected when leaving my comfortable Southern California home. We went to our quaint guesthouse on the beach to finish the day with a snack and a long night of lying awake. This was partially from the excitement to come and partially from the lack of air conditioning.

On the second day, we woke up to a nice breakfast and had the opportunity for fellowship before our workday. We were able to help over 20 patients who were in great need of dental care. Many of these patients were people who hadn't had a dental visit in 10 years, but for others, this was their first visit ever. Not being accustomed to the humid heat, we were exhausted. Many of us took a nap on the hour and a half bus ride home and were eager to eat dinner and go to bed. The dinner that we had this night was provided to by the SDA church and was beautiful. The four-course dinner included fruits (wax apples and white watermelon) that I had never seen before. My favorite part of the meal was the pea soup and rhubarb pie!

On the third day, we were able to provide care in Tivoli. This is where I felt most helpful to the people of Grenada. There were many more patients here that had never had a cleaning. With no air conditioning, we were able to provide patients with care outside in the open air or inside a small clinic with open doors for plenty of air flow. Being the second working day, our group was much more aware of our work and much more organized. Those who we treated were so thankful for our work. One patient asked how much a cleaning would typically cost in the US and could not stop expressing how thankful she was. These were the



moments that showed me that I was truly making a difference. These were the moments where I knew that my career choice was never my own, but has always been a part of His plan. God has given me these gifts so that I can help people.

On the fourth day, we were able to work more in St George. The local radio station, news, and word of mouth spread the message that we were giving dental care. Because of the news, and patients we were unable to tend to a few days prior, there were many more people that needed care. By this day I was starting to get accustomed to the weather and not having some of my luxuries I was used to (although a dental chair would have been much appreciat-



edJ). I wasn't feeling nearly as tired this night and I had much more energy during dinner and our fellowship time.

On the fifth day, we returned to Tivoli. Sandra and I were personally able to care for over 50 patients, making this our busiest day yet! When we returned to our guesthouse we were awarded a certificate in recognition of our stewardship. After five days of working together, the other students and I had found that we had a lot in common. When we first started our trip many of us kept to students we knew, but by now our social circles had started mixing and we were becoming closer than ever.

On the sixth day, we did simple cleanings for the local SDA church to wrap up our week. After work, we were able to visit the beach to conclude our Grenada trip music video. After this, our free time started! We spent time swimming and eating at one of the local restaurants. To welcome the Sabbath, we had a beautiful beach vespers. This was an opportunity to come together and express how we were able to grow closer to God by embracing a servant's spirit.

On the Sabbath, we were able to

attend church and come together for communion. It was beautiful to hear people sing and praise God all Sabbath long. I was humbled to see how people with so much less than I have can be grateful to God for the things they do have. It has never been clearer than me that like Philippians 4:19 says "...my God will provide all your needs". Later in the day I was able to play with the some Grenadian children. Many of the young kids enjoyed playing with our hair or playing cards with us. Their fun was less based on material possessions like video games and more focused on interactions with other people.

Our last two days in Grenada were full of adventure. Our class was able to go scuba diving, snorkeling, and hiking. I will never forget the fun that I've had with Grenadians and my new friends.

The biggest impact on me, spiritually, were the people I was able to help. In one instance, a Grenadian named Kingsly spent hours and hours preparing lots of food for our group just to show his deep appreciation for us. In another instance, we would see patients showing up as early as 5:30 AM when we wouldn't get there until 9:30. This showed me what a great need there was for our service. I cannot think of a more fulfilling time in my life.

Serving God through helping people in Grenada will be, without a doubt, one of my most fond memories. I could



not think of a better place to serve. Even the island, in its beauty, is a reminder of how beautiful God's creation is. I hope that I will have an opportunity to return and help those in need of deep cleanings. I would also love the chance to help future dental hygiene students in their future mission trips. As fulfilling as this trip has been, I would recommend going to anyone who has considered doing missions work. Personally, this trip has opened my eyes that mission work may be something I would like to pursue in the future when the opportunities present themselves. I would like to thank all parties involved in organizing our trip.

Thank you!

Written by Jasmin Ayala
LLUSD Dental Hygiene, c/o 2016



Worldwide Dental Mission Opportunities In SDA Mission Dental Clinics

There are many Seventh-day Adventist mission dental clinics all around the world and many of them could benefit from your expertise.
Here are a few examples of the dental opportunities

- Yaoundé, Cameroon – volunteer without budgetary support
- Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan – any length of volunteer service, no financial sponsorship
- Grenada - Entrepreneurial Dentists

St. Kitts SDA Dental Clinic

The clinic is **URGENTLY** looking for TWO dentists:

Short term volunteer(s) to provide coverage for two to several months each (until a long-term dentist can be found).

AND

Regular, long-term dentist to work full-time at the St. Kitts Dental Clinic.

The clinic is currently served by a skilled, experienced, dedicated, American, dentist whose six month's of volunteer service will be completed in October. Please help to maintain the momentum of this practice and be part of this successful dental practice on this beautiful Caribbean island. You will be influential in God's work of spreading tender, compassionate care.

Kinshasa SDA Dental Clinic

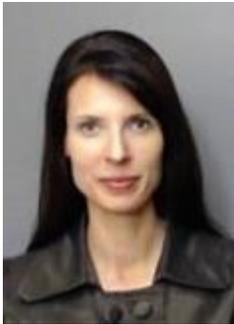
A Regular, long-term dentist is **URGENTLY** needed to serve in the mission dental clinic in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This clinic in the capitol city of Democratic Republic has the potential to attract the most influential and discerning people in the country. A dentist with skill, vision, and a sense of adventure can make a tremendous difference in God's work in this area.

If you have interest in volunteering for two or three months during the next year, please contact Doyle Nick at 909-558-4607 or dnick@llu.edu.

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

Translation to, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish are provided by Dr. Priscilla Taylor, Dr. Ruslan Zmievschi, and Dr. Luis Mendez, respectively. 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.



Dr. Priscilla Costa Taylor, originally from Brazil, graduated from Dentistry and Orthodontics in Brazil, and will graduate from LLU International Dental Program in March 2017.



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



Ruslan Zmievschi, DDS, originally from Moldova, lives in Waynesboro, TN and works in two clinics in the neighboring towns of Hohenwald, TN and Lawrenceburg, TN Dr. Ruslan is a graduate of the IDP program at LLU School of Dentistry.



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