

Academy Examiner

THE ACADEMY OF LDS DENTISTS NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 2004



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 27th annual conference of the Academy of LDS Dentists was a huge success! Wasn't it wonderful having Dr. Gordon J. Christensen back and sharing his mission experience with us Friday night!

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

As I listened to Dr. Christensen relate his feelings regarding his mission service and bear his testimony about our Lord and Savior, I came to know Gordon in a way that I had not known before and what really lay within his heart. He has been honored as the founding father of our Academy over the years, and we all look forward to his vision in the future. But Friday night, listening to him, I came to really know him as a brother in the gospel and a friend to our profession.

Like Gordon, we all have a desire to serve, don't we? After all, as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we believe that when we are in the service of others, we are in the service of our God (see Mosiah 2:17). And yet, we are all at different stages of our lives and some of us just can't serve full-time missions at this time. There are probably those who might find it difficult to serve even for a short time in Mexico, Peru, or some other deserving country. But perhaps our service might come through helping to fund the Academy Humanitarian Service Foundation or contributing to the scholarship fund. And, of course, we can all serve by being an example in our own realm—our dental practices.

I am very excited to be part of the Academy of LDS Dentists. Our mission has not been fully reached, but we are progressing. We are doing better than we ever have in membership and donations. Our opportunity has never been better. *What lies within [each of] us?* May we each do just a little more, dream a little grander. Believe and have faith that we can accomplish more.

Just being on the right track is not good enough. If you don't move, you will probably get run over. The grave is a terrible place to waste potential.

I hope that you will take a few minutes at this time to renew your membership, and I encourage you to be generous, if possible, with a donation to the humanitarian or scholarship fund. I know many of you renew your membership for those years you are able to attend the conference, but we need and would appreciate your support on an annual basis. We count on the proceeds from dues to fund our ongoing service efforts.

Sincerely,

Robert Boyer
Academy President

ACADEMY OF LDS DENTISTS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 2004–2005

President—Robert Boyer

President Elect—Albert Clark

Secretary/Treasurer—David Geddes

Vice President—John Gerritsen

Immediate Past President—Bret Tobler

Service Development Councilor—Gerald Summerhays

Service Funds Councilor—David N. Wright

Development Councilor—Rick Meyers

Communication Councilor—Eileen Johnston

Membership Councilor—Richard Francis

Education Councilor—Karl Koerner

Spouses President—Kari Sanford

Hygienist President—Ellen Christensen

BYU Representative—Steve Trost

THE 27TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE A GREAT SUCCESS!

The 27th annual conference of the Academy of LDS Dentists, held August 13–14, 2004, was a great success! In attendance were 327 dentists and hygienists, 137 spouses, and 80 children and youth. Some dentists traveled from distant states, and one dentist, Dr. Zambrano, and his wife



Dr. Christensen presents a Book of Mormon to Dr. Croll.

traveled from Ecuador. Two full days of continuing education and many opportunities for fellowship were provided along with luncheons, an evening banquet, a sports run, a full program of enrichment for the spouses, and many exciting activities for the children and youth. At the completion of the conference, all attendees left the BYU campus spiritually and professionally enriched. At least one speaker expressed his admiration for the members' dedication to still be in class at 5:30 p.m. on a beautiful Saturday afternoon.

The facilities of the BYU Conference Center were very comfortable, as always, and the members of the Academy extend sincere thanks to the BYU pre-dental students who escorted the speakers, and to Mr. Vince Stroud and all the BYU conference staff who made everything run smoothly.

Dr. Christensen made the arrangements for our clinicians who enthusiastically shared their knowledge,



Saturday's speakers (from left to right): Drs. John and Cathy Jameson, Dr. McGarry, and Dr. Croll. Dr. Christensen also spoke on Saturday but is not pictured.

research, and practical clinical tips. All the speakers scheduled for each day spoke in the morning, with a thirty-minute question and answer session before breaking for lunch. In the afternoon the attendees then chose two topics that were discussed in greater detail. The afternoon classes were smaller and more intensive, so it was possible to have a more personal interaction with the speaker and to share ideas with the class. This format is different than the usual dental conference, but its advantage is that everyone has an opportunity for a general overview of the latest topics in dentistry.



Friday's speakers (from left to right): Dr. Soderstrom, Dr. Hornbrook, Dr. Kugel, and Dr. Christensen

Some of the dentists and their families made a vacation of their trip to Provo by visiting family or attending the BYU Campus Education Week that followed the conference.

Dr. Christensen gave each speaker a Book of Mormon, which each graciously accepted. The speakers included Dr. Gerard Kugel, Dr. Jerry L. Soderstrom, Dr. David S. Hornbrook, Dr. Thomas J. McGarry, Drs. John and Cathy Jameson, Dr. Gordon Christensen, and Dr. Theodore P. Croll. The following topics were discussed: light-activated tooth whitening, porcelain laminate veneers, implants, dentistry in the new millennium, dental materials and technology updates, successful removable partial dentures and partial denture design, building the dental practice, communications and production, tooth color correction in children and teens, and contemporary dentistry for children.

SPANISH-SPEAKING DENTIST MISSIONARY COUPLE URGENTLY NEEDED IN HONDURAS

Dr. Boyer addressed the members and their spouses at the Friday evening banquet. He said that there is an urgent need for a Spanish-speaking dentist couple to teach in a new clinic in the dental school in the modern city of Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

This missionary dentist would teach sixth-year dental students the procedures he or she does day after day in his or her office. The missionary dentist couple would work with the Honduran LDS dean and a Honduran program director. Part of their responsibilities would be coordinating visiting instructors and dental service teams sent by the Academy. Other Church humanitarian projects in the area would also be part of the dentist missionary couple's work.

The dentist missionary couple would be called by the prophet to serve for eighteen months under the direction of the Humanitarian Department.

Please call Dr. Rick Meyers, (760) 951-8980, or Dr. Jerry Summerhays, (801) 268-4436, for more information or if you or someone you know might be a candidate.

FRIDAY EVENING FIRESIDE WITH DR. GORDON CHRISTENSEN

Dr. Gordon Christensen, founder of the LDS Academy of Dentists, spoke on Friday evening to those attending the Academy banquet. He spoke about his and Rella's surprise at being called by the prophet to be the director of the Los Angeles Temple Visitors' Center and the challenges and the great rewards of going on a mission. His slide presentation was filled with the beautiful, bright, and

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS AT (801) 422-4851 OR VISIT [HTTP://CE.BYU.EDU/CW/CWPROFES/](http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwprofes/)



Dr. Gordon Christensen was the Friday evening fireside speaker.

cheerful faces of the young sister missionaries and the wise, smiling faces of the missionary couples he supervised. He and Rella made many friendships that will truly be eternal.

Dr. Christensen encouraged everyone present to start preparing now for a mission in their retirement years so they will have the health and financial resources to make this special opportunity to serve the Lord possible.

The attendees at the Friday evening dinner were delighted to hear Brother Marvin Goldstein play the piano. Before performing, Brother Goldstein spoke about his desire to bring peace to the world through music. None were disappointed. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed his original arrangement of several international songs. His performance was the perfect addition to Dr. Christensen's fireside, an evening of fellowship and excellent dining.



Pianist Marvin Goldstein performs.

DR. ZAMBRANO OF ECUADOR RECEIVES HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AWARD



Dr. Zambrano with his wife, Maria, displays his Humanitarian Service Award.

At the Friday evening banquet, Academy president Dr. Bret Tobler presented a special service award to Dr. Washington Zambrano for his dedicated work among the unfortunate living in third-world countries. Dr. Zambrano is the international vice president for the organization Charity Anywhere. He has been on humanitarian expeditions to Mexico, Haiti, El Salvador, the Galapagos Islands, and the poorer parts of his own country, Ecuador. The *Church News* has quoted Dr. Zambrano as saying, "It is a privilege, a wonderful opportunity."

Although offered a full-time position with Charity Anywhere in Idaho, Dr. Zambrano, his wife, and three of their children prefer to live in the old section of Quito, Ecuador. His son, Juan, is serving a mission. Despite his many responsibilities, Dr. Zambrano also serves faithfully in the Church. He was released in 2003 as bishop of his ward.

THANK YOU, MR. VINCE STROUD; WELCOME, MR. STEVE TROST

Mr. Vince Stroud is leaving his position as BYU representative for the Academy. We thank him very much for all that he had done for our organization. In a few weeks he will be replaced by Mr. Steve Trost.

For three years, Mr. Stroud has prepared, printed, and mailed the newsletter and has overseen the printing of all flyers and notices for the Academy. His office handles all phone calls and correspondence, e-mails, dues, and conference registrations. He makes the arrangements for the yearly conference and sees that all products for the conference are provided in a timely manner. He schedules board meetings and dinners. This is a big job, but he says that the Academy is only a small part of his responsibilities. He runs the BYU sports camps and says this takes up most of his time. The Academy is very grateful for all that he has done for us.

We look forward to getting to know Mr. Steve Trost and working closely with him as well.



Vince Stroud

A SPIRITUALLY AND INTELLECTUALLY UPLIFTING SPOUSES' CONFERENCE

The theme of this year's Spouses' Conference was based on Psalm 27:14: "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

The program included a mix of topics in such diverse areas as spiritual growth, fashion, and world events. Vivian Cline's topic was wardrobe management. The serious political and international problem of terrorism, "9/11 and Beyond," was discussed by Mathew Hufford. Most importantly, though, the members of the spouses' organization left the conference spiritually filled. Mary Ellen Edmunds presented the theme. David A. Christensen's



The new president, Kari Sanford (second from left), stands with the immediate past president, Anne Chambers (third from left), and the other Spouses' Organization board members.

talk was entitled "Waiting on the Lord: You Are Better Than You Think," and Connie Sokol spoke on "Becoming a Christ-centered Woman."

The refinement and sweet spirit of the Spouses' Conference were impressive. Piano prelude music greeted the members as they entered the room, and the Spouses' Organization board members wore beautiful fresh orchid corsages.

HUMANITARIAN SERVICE CHANGE OF FOCUS! YOUR ACADEMY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

You all know the long-term difference between feeding a man a fish and teaching him how to fish for himself and his family. In the spirit of "teaching a man to fish," our humanitarian efforts are now focusing on teaching—teaching local dental school faculty, dental students, and local practicing dentists and their staffs how to work better, faster, and more efficiently—and to do it in a clean environment. Thus, we will be affecting not only *their* professional lives, but the lives of the thousands of people they care for, including our missionaries and members.

When we are inclined to teach in a humble, caring, and loving way—letting the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ shine forth to the world through our actions as well as our words—then we are affecting the lives of thousands instead of hundreds forever!

Our pilot program, a multiple-chair dental clinic at the San Marcos School of Dentistry in Lima, Peru, is very successful and provides a model to follow. Our second effort at the dental school in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, has an even greater promise of positively changing thousands of lives forever. And in the process, we are planting seeds of faith in the hearts and souls of the people we love and teach.

There is no better way to capture the hearts and souls of people than by teaching them how to improve the quality of their life and to better appreciate and understand the source of their blessings.

This change in focus of our humanitarian activity has brought with it new challenges. We estimate that the cost of establishing multiple-chair clinics, in addition to the donation of equipment and supplies, ranges between \$16,000 and \$50,000. These costs stem from the purchase of equipment and supplies not donated, the remodeling of existing facilities, the transportation of equipment and supplies, local licensing and legal requirements, travel and lodging expenses associated with evaluation and building these clinics, and other incidental administrative requirements. The actual human costs of service assignments and missions are borne by the dentists themselves.

With these clinics in place, our Academy members can now go to these facilities on short-term assignments to teach various subjects. Because most of us are not prepared to teach what we clinically do every day, your Academy is expending great effort to create instructional tools for you to use when you go to these sites so you will feel comfortable teaching. We also incur some costs in this process. One thing we must all understand is that dentistry in many of these developing countries is far behind what we do every day in our own practices. You do not have to be an "expert" in any subject to be an effective and appreciated clinician in these dental service clinics. Yes, you will render some dental treatment while on assignment, but your focus will be teaching.

We now solicit your financial support to make these clinics and teaching assignments possible. *Five hundred dentists donating \$10+ a month can make a tremendous difference in developing countries.*

Enclosed with this newsletter is a donation slip to fill out and send in. Please help your Academy by also contacting your LDS dentist friends who are not members of the Academy and inviting them to participate as well.



Break time—time for fellowship

THE LDS DENTIST DATABASE—WE NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE BUILDING OUR DATABASE!

With the blessing of LDS Charities and the Church Missionary Committee, we are gathering information on all LDS dentists in the world and entering this information into our database. This is a very secure database and will only be used by your Academy executive council for potential service assignments and mission service and for notification of Academy activities.

So far we have about four hundred LDS dentists who have returned their humanitarian profile form. When Dr. Richard Francis of LDS Charities calls us for names of dentists who could fill a particular dental mission, we must be able to get him this information quickly. We cannot do this without a large database that allows us to sort for any given parameter, such as language skills. As we organize our short-term assignments, the database will be invaluable to us.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a humanitarian profile form for you to fill out and return, if you have not already done so. Please make copies and provide them to your LDS dentist friends so that they, too, can be included. We need your help to work as an area director if you live in Southern, Bay Area, or Northern California; Oregon; Montana; and states east of Wyoming, Utah, and Arizona to finish collecting this information. Directors will also periodically submit names of new LDS dentists moving in so that our database can be continually updated.

The Church Missionary Committee would also like many of these area directors to serve local missions by assisting with the dental care of local missionaries.

Please contact Dr. Richard Francis at (801) 489-9456 or rwfdds@aol.com if you could help gather information for our database. Please send your humanitarian profile forms to Richard at 378 East 400 South, Springville, UT 84663.

Your academy is a living, thriving organization because of you.

VISIT THE WEB SITE

Are you aware that the Academy has a Web site? Yes, we do!

Information can be found there about the next conference; Academy news; service and missionary opportunities for dentists and others, both here and internationally; equipment that can be borrowed for dental service projects; a bulletin board for notices about practices for sale, members seeking jobs, and position openings; and many other areas of interest. There is even a Spanish-language page.

If you have information that you want to add to the Web site, please contact Dr. Scott M. Healey at (801) 785-0584. Dr. Healey developed and maintains the Web site. We are grateful for his efforts. It is an important and time-consuming task.

The Web site address is <http://www.academyofldsdentists.com/>. If you forget the address, simply do a Google search for the Academy of LDS Dentists and follow the links. It is possible to pay your dues and register for conferences online.

Don't forget to add the Academy to your list of favorite links!

AN ACTIVE AND FUN-FILLED YOUTH SCHEDULE

The youngsters and older youth who attended the August conference were not disappointed. Their two days at the conference were filled with many exciting activities. The fun started with a trip to Thanksgiving Point for a visit to the Dinosaur Museum and the IMAX movie. This was followed by bowling at Miracle Bowl. The magic show on Friday evening was a very special treat. On Saturday, the youth filled the bus for an adventure-filled trip to Lagoon water park just north of Salt Lake City.

PLAN NOW FOR NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE OF THE ACADEMY OF LDS DENTISTS, AUGUST 12–13, 2005

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2005

Joe Steven Jr., DDS
Practice Administration

Michael A. Siegel, DDS, MS
Oral Pathology

Richard V. Tucker, DDS
Restorative Dentistry

Robert R. Edwab, DDS
Oral Surgery

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2005

Ross W. Nash, DDS
Esthetic Dentistry

Stephen Cohen, DDS, MA
Endodontics

Joseph C. Piscatella
Nutrition

Gordon J. Christensen, DDS, MSD,
PhD
Dentistry Update