

Brigham Young University  
Academy of LDS Dentists  
Conferences and Workshops  
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# Academy Examiner

THE ACADEMY OF LDS DENTISTS NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2008



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am sure all of you have heard the story of the man walking along the beach at low tide, stooping down to pick up a stranded starfish, and tossing it back into the ocean. Someone else enjoying the beach observes this behavior and berates him: "What are you wasting your time for? Millions of them are washed up on beaches every day. What you are doing will never make a difference." The man picks another starfish and with all his might flings it into the sea and replies, "It makes a difference to that one."

The best thing about the Academy of LDS Dentists is the opportunity to be around so many starfish throwers, people who are making the world a little better for others, one person and one event at a time. While you are realists and understand better than most the conditions of the world as presented in the November JADA, you are optimists. This optimism comes from the vision you have from looking forward to the day when He whose right it is to reign will reign as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. You realize the day will come when there will "be no poor among them." Meanwhile, there is peace in knowing He is in control and you are content to serve your Savior by serving your fellowmen. Thanks to each of you for "being good, doing good, and striving to be better." President James E. Faust said, "Unselfishness can mean being the right person at the right time in the right place to render service. Almost every day brings opportunities to perform unselfish acts for others."

This newsletter reports on our thirtieth conference, on service being performed around the world, and on future service opportunities. We know that the best things happening today will never be written of here or on any paper or with any ink. They are those things you write on grateful hearts every day. Thank you.

*Albert B. Clark*

Albert B. Clark

## ACADEMY OF LDS DENTISTS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 2007-2008

Founder: Gordon J. Christensen  
President: Albert Clark  
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Richard Smith

## VISIT THE WEB SITE

Keep up to date by visiting our Web site at [www.academyofldsdentists.com/](http://www.academyofldsdentists.com/).

The Academy Web site is an excellent place to keep up to date. Information can be found there about the next conference; Academy news; service and missionary opportunities for dentists and others, both here and abroad; 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.

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## ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007—CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

From a visionary beginning in 1978 to this August 2007, the Academy has continued to flourish. Attendees at the 2007 annual conference were able to be a part of the gathering celebrating 30 years of dental training, humanitarian service, and fellowship of Latter-day Saints who have chosen this service-oriented career of dentistry. The professionally rewarding presentations and total family enrichment activities were hallmark traditions again this year.

The dentists received a great variety of educational opportunities from eight special speakers on the topics of aesthetic and operative dentistry, practice management, lumineer veneers, denture and implant prosthodontics, third-party payment, major changes in endodontics, the new orthodontics, and new aspects of dentistry in 2007. New this year was special training in humanitarian service throughout the world.



Friday's speakers: Drs. Robert Ibsen, Gary Goldstein, Gordon Christensen, Rhonda Savage, and James Dunn.

A separate hygienists' lecture was added on Saturday, taught by Dr. George Bailey, periodontist.

The women had a power-packed agenda treating the theme "Encircled Eternally in the Arms of His Love," taken from 2 Nephi 1:15. Speakers included Cherie Burton, John Bytheway, Mindy Gledhill, Wendy Green, E. Jeffrey Hill, Roger T. Macfarlane, Heather Madder, Matt Townsend, and Kristen Whitely. They treated topics from "Finding Peace in a Busy Life," "Building Confidence/Self-Esteem in Children and Teens," "Feeding Your Marriage," "Stand Back and Watch the Miracles," and cake decorating, to advancements in unlocking the contents of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Youth ages 6–11, led by BYU counselors, had an action-filled experience that included games and roller skating, the Bean Life Science Museum, Chuck-E-Cheese,

and dinosaur museum and IMAX theater at Thanksgiving Point, ending with a magician, movie, and snacks. Our teens ages 11–18 were kept busy with visits to Boondocks Family Fun Center, Lagoon, and Seven Peaks Water Park.

A special highlight was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary fireside-banquet celebration at the Provo Marriott. The evening was made festive with the music of the Ken Foster Trio. Elder Alexander B. Morrison, the guest speaker, gave an impressive overview of the humanitarian accomplishments of the Church. Rella and Gordon Christensen were recognized by Elder Morrison with a special service award. The evening was one to be long remembered.

All who attended had another outstanding Academy experience that is unique to a great group of LDS dentists and those close to them.

## HUMANITARIAN TRIP TO SUQIAN, CHINA



Dr. Delmar Gray teaches how to perform various procedures.

In March 2007, a group of 23 representing the Academy of LDS Dentists went to a relatively small town in China (about 1 million people) to treat orphans and older people in government nursing homes. We used six chairs in a local dental hospital. Generally, the hospital treats only those who can afford it. Our patients were poor and would normally find it difficult to receive dental care. The hospital, local Red Cross and health departments, and even the mayor were very welcoming.

Twelve dentists, two hygienists, one plastic surgeon, a nurse anesthetist, and other support personnel went on the nine-day trip. Activities included providing dental treatment, doing cleft-lip and cleft-palate surgery, teaching oral hygiene in local schools, lecturing to about 50 local dentists, and also teaching dentists at chairside the way we perform various procedures. In

all, about 600 dental procedures were done. Approximately one thousand students and their teachers were given preventive dentistry presentations at elementary, middle, and high schools both in the city and in the outlying countryside.

At the conclusion of the trip, we took up a collection and invited one of our dentist-translators from China (a prosthodontist) to come to the U.S. In September she arrived, spending time in California, Idaho, and Utah—staying in our homes and visiting dental offices and labs and seeing the sights. In all, she was here five weeks. She was very willing to attend church services with us, although they were very different experiences from what she was used to in a communistic/atheistic society.

Several in the group spoke Chinese, including Delmar Gray, Van Johnson, Karl Koerner, and our resident translator, April Watson Guyman, who had recently returned from a mission in Taiwan. For information on upcoming China trips, contact Karl Koerner at drkoerner@q.com.

## DENTAL SERVICE IN GUILIN, CHINA



Basic dental services were provided in the Guilin Dental Hospital of the People's Liberation Army.



Friendships were made easily with the attentive and kind Chinese hosts.

During the last week of September 2007, a team of seven dentists, including an orthodontist and oral surgeon, five hygienists,

three dental assistants, and five spouses from the U.S. and Canada, participated in a dental service mission in Guilin, China. Basic dental services such as restorative, endodontics, oral surgery, and hygiene were provided in a free clinic on location in the Guilin Dental Hospital of the People's Liberation Army. The team provided lectures in the evenings for the local dentists in endo, surgery, and ortho. During one day, team members took to the streets teaching oral health care as a part of the annual Dental Day in China. The team also joined with local dental workers to teach in the schools. Both events drew the media, and the team's efforts were highlighted in local TV and newspaper stories. One team dentist was repeatedly stopped on the street and referred to as a movie star by the locals who had caught the television spot.

Language barriers were significant for most team members, but translators were provided from a nearby university. One highlight of the week was the rubber dam demonstration, with local dentists and nurses snapping photos and making videos with their cell phones. The clinic was modern, with digital radiography and comfortable operatory setups. Lunchtime siesta periods were spent touring the beautiful Elephant Trunk Park, located across the street from the hospital. Friendships were made easily with the attentive and kind Chinese hosts, and learning was a two-way process through which all were enriched. The team left China with a desire to return in the near future and memories of a unique and rewarding dental experience.

## UGANDA



Public Health Dental Officers are taught the ART technique.

After discussions and presentations about Uganda by Dr. Drew Cahoon at the August conference, the first contingent of Academy dentists will leave February 23, 2008, for the

airport in Entebbe, Uganda. A second group will go on March 1. This will be one of the most ambitious Academy projects to date. Dr. Cahoon has the vision of Uganda becoming the "Pearl of Africa" in dental services and a prototype for other African nations.

Dr. Cahoon; Ayub Twaha, a member of Deseret Uganda from Mulago; and our dentists will be teaching the ART technique (Atraumatic Restorative Technique) to the PHDOs (Public Health Dental Officers—or expanded duty hygienists). ART is preparing teeth with hand instruments and placing glass ionomer cement restorations. In Jinja, sixth- and seventh-grade students will be screened, taught OHI, and treated while the PHDOs learn the technique. This process will be repeated over and over again until we have trained 16 new PHDOs to continue the training of more clinicians and treating patients until 572,000 students have received dental care by December 2010.

Dentists interested in participating in February 2008 should contact Dr. Drew Cahoon at djcahoon@telus.net.



Dr. Cahoon demonstrates the ART technique to the people of Uganda.

## DOORS OPENING IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Academy is in the beginning stages of a joint project with Deseret International in their clinic in Manila and in the Fatima Santos Dental School, also in Manila.

This will be a great opportunity for Academy dentists to teach as well as treat patients in these two facilities. Regular visits by dentists will help the local doctors similarly to what Deseret International has done so successfully over the years with eye and foot surgery.

Are there some dentists out there who served a mission in the Philippines who would like to be involved in dental service projects there? Is there one of you Academy members with a love for the Philippines who desires to help develop a service connection with this country of great potential? Joining the leadership team for this project will be an enjoyable and crucial step in helping improve the dental health of that nation. Interested dentists should e-mail Dr. Richard Smith, atrnsmith@xmission.com.

## AUGUST 15–16, 2008: PLAN NOW FOR NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE

Plan ahead to attend the Academy of LDS Dentists Conference, which is always well planned with leading speakers and educators and fellowship for all. There are activities for the children and a full educational program for your spouse.

Many plan vacations around the conference to see the magnificent wonders of Utah or to renew ties with family and friends who may live in the area. Mark your calendars now for August 15–16, 2008, for another great conference.

## ALASKA CRUISE 2008

Come join the Academy of LDS Dentists on an Alaska cruise July 12 through July 19, 2008. Don't miss this rare opportunity to rub shoulders with other members of the Academy, earn 12 first-rate dental CEs, and relax in world-class luxury aboard the *Golden Princess*. Two courses, sponsored by CRA, will be held simultaneously during the cruise. One is the "CRA Update," and the other is "What Every Office Manager Should Know." Staff and guests are welcome to enroll. "CRA Update" course presenters are Gordon Christensen, DDS, MSD, PhD, and Rella Christensen, PhD. They have authorized a 25 percent discount to Academy members in either or both courses. There are two ways to register. One is to call CRA to enroll in the Update or Office Manager course at 888-334-3200. The other is to call Doug Anderson at Cruise and Travel Masters at 800-264-0557, ext. 105, to reserve a cabin. Reserve as soon as possible for best selection of cabin types. To view more information about the cruise and courses, go to [www.cranews.org](http://www.cranews.org).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2008 CONFERENCE, PLEASE CONTACT CONFERENCES  
AND WORKSHOPS AT (801) 422-4853 OR VISIT [HTTP://LSDENTIST.BYU.EDU](http://LSDENTIST.BYU.EDU).**