

Academy Examiner

THE ACADEMY OF LDS DENTISTS NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we prepare the details of our upcoming annual conference this August 14 and 15, the executive committee members pause often to evaluate how we are fulfilling the Academy's mission statement, which has been our guiding direction since the Academy's organization 32 years ago. Many great and capable leaders have all played their part in helping the Academy to grow and become the organization of influence that it is.

Our dental school years were filled with numerous new frontiers. Many left for dental school as either recent newlyweds or soon-to-be-marrieds. The new friendships we found in this new vista of life were special as we struggled together and prepared for the careers that we hoped and dreamed would support and carry us and our families through our lives.

The annual conference provides us with an opportunity in a great environment for the whole family to spend some renewing time together. This sociality is a great part of the annual conference and meets one of our goals of **fostering fellowship** with other families.

The fast-paced educational format at the conference is designed to make the experience academically rewarding and helpful in keeping us sharp and up to date in the always-changing dynamics of our profession. We try very hard to make the conference one of the best values in **continuing education** possible. We maintain our credentials with the Academy of General Dentistry and the California Board of Dental Examiners, to name a few, to help in the postgraduate dental education requirements we all have.

Providing **service** to our fellow men is the third element of our Academy's founding principles. Each year there are many exchanges and reports of service throughout the world as well as here at home. We continue to support and encourage alliances to help with these worthy endeavors. One of the most recent projects has been supporting a Church-initiated clinic in Guatemala City, which will provide many opportunities for service both in time and clinical skills as well as financial support. Its completion will occur this summer, and you will be hearing more as it develops.

We are excited about the student chapters of the Academy that are growing throughout the nation, and we hope to be a blessing to this new generation of dentists in their new and developing careers.

We look forward to the upcoming conference experience and hope that your plans will continue to include attendance at the conference.



David H. Geddes
Academy President

ACADEMY OF LDS DENTISTS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 2009-2010

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VISIT THE WEB SITE

Keep up to date by visiting our Web site at www.academyofldsdentists.com/.

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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PEDODONTIST AND PROSTHODONTIST NEEDED IN HONDURAS

The new dean of the dental school in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, has requested that a pedodontist, a prosthodontist, and a periodontist come teach for a week, November 16 to 20, 2009. Spanish speakers are preferred.

The Academy has had three such expeditions in the last three years, originally organized by dean Ramon Arguelles, who is LDS and died of a neurologic disease. But we as an Academy, and David Sheets/Sonrisas para Honduras, have decided to continue to help this dental school.

Dental schools in developing countries have great access to academic information through the Internet. But they lack the experience/demonstration of how to do procedures. Much of the teaching is chairside, as in the accompanying photo. Please talk to any LDS pedodontist or prosthodontist you know about joining Jerry Summerhays, periodontist, to teach in Tegucigalpa for a week. Contact Jerry at SummerhaysGS@msn.com or 801-268-4436. Please invite LDS specialists to join the Academy for the conference and for the service.



Dr. Gerald Summerhays teaching four Honduran periodontists

UPDATE ON GUATEMALA ORPHANAGE DENTAL CLINIC PROJECT

In our spring 2009 newsletter, we presented the details on this project. Area President Don Clarke and dentist/humanitarian missionary Dean Bawden have obtained **Church funding to build a dental clinic** at a large orphanage in Guatemala City. Not only will orphans from all over Guatemala City be cared for in that clinic, but missionaries/premissionaries will receive needed care. And externs from a nearby dental school will be trained. The photograph shows progress with the building of the clinic. The five chairs, five delivery systems, and five lights have been donated by John and Janelle Spencer, owners of DCI, who received our Humanitarian Award at our last Academy conference. Fantastic!

But now we need everything else, from compressor to hand pieces, from X-ray machine to curing light, from dental instruments to restorative materials. The construction crew hopes to have the clinic functional in September! **So we have a challenge to meet.**

1. If you, or someone you know, dentist or otherwise, could be a **major donor**, please call



Dean Bawden, Charles Albert (the missionary called to help by supervising the construction), and William (an LDS architect who is helping)

David Wright, Academy Foundation chair, at 801-836-0619. With time so short, this is an important option.

- 2. Donations are needed!** If you are able, please make your donation by going to www.academyofldsdentists.com, fill out the Humanitarian Foundation form, and mail it in.
- If you know anyone who is **management with a dental manufacturer or supplier** and who would be receptive to our appeal for specific equipment or supplies, please call Steve Sorensen at 360-909-4219 or Rich Call at 303-469-8030.
- If you, or someone you know, might be the lucky **Spanish-speaking general dentist called as a missionary** to supervise the clinic, call Jerry Summerhays at 801-268-4436.
- If you would like to **work at the clinic for a week or more sometime in the next year**, communicate with Jerry Summerhays at SummerhaysGS@msn.com.

UGANDA DENTAL PROJECT

*January 23–February 2, 2009
Submitted by Steve and Joann Sorensen*

What an incredible adventure it was to share our dental knowledge and experience at the Mulago Dental School in Kampala, Uganda, Africa! This ongoing Uganda project is spearheaded by Dr. Drew Cahoon, who represents Rotary International and the Academy of LDS Dentists. The others who went were Dr. Steve Sorensen and Joann Sorensen, RDH; Ellen Christensen, RDH; Norma Mannos, RDH; Karol Aldrich, RDH; Dr. Roger Lambert; Dr. Mike Shane and JoAnn Shane; and Ken Okuyama, lab technician.

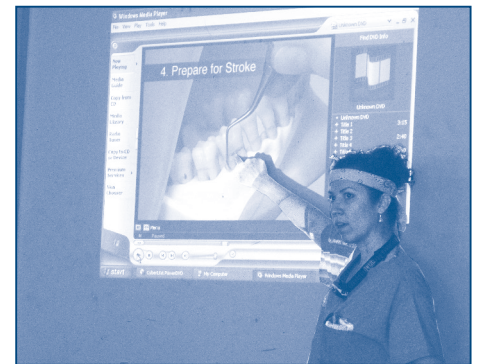
This expedition had four purposes:

- (1) To reinforce in five districts** (like our states) the ongoing use of Atraumatic Restorative Technique (ART, which means remove decay with hand instruments and fill with Fuji IX glass ionomer). During the March 2008 and August 2008 expeditions, ART had been taught to 16 three-year-trained public health dental officers (PHDOs, not dentists).
- (2) To teach nonsurgical periodontal techniques** to dental and PHDO faculty for four mornings and to dental and PHDO students for four afternoons. The four dental hygienists gave classroom presentations using a DVD and visual aids for the first 1½ hours, and then held clinics with patients for 2½ hours. Fifteen faculty, 23 students, and 2 guests received certificates for 16 hours of

education. They also received a personal set of periodontal instruments when they completed the course. They were teachable, eager to learn, enthusiastic, and full of questions, and they hope we will come back in the future. We left 70 sets of periodontal instruments plus many disposable supplies, dental film, scrubs, and miscellaneous instruments for the school.

(3) To do the needed dental work on full-time missionaries from the Uganda Mission. The three dentists also did screenings on prospective missionaries and filled out the dental page of their mission papers. Others who came to the clinic with needs were seen. Anyone needing a prophylaxis became a patient for the periodontal course. The dentists saw 40 to 50 patients each day.

(4) For the lab technician to work with the hospital, helping them in their dental labs.



Karol Aldrich, RDH, teaching

Students were free in the mornings to observe the dentists, assist them, and learn new techniques. It was a win-win experience for everyone! Our days were exhilarating in the clinics, and we were tired each evening, but we knew lives had changed—not only theirs, but ours, too.

This was the first time most of us had been in Uganda, so we did not know exactly what to expect. But everything worked out smoothly. The clinic provided by Rotary and other organizations is beautiful, modern, and very functional. English is spoken in Uganda, so language wasn't a problem. The mission president was so appreciative of the work that was done on the missionaries and those preparing to serve missions. Our housing was great, food was plentiful, and transportation was quick and easy. We also had some exceptional extracurricular activities to round out our week—a white-water rafting trip down the Nile River with Class V rapids at Bujagali Falls, a calm boat ride to the source of the Nile at Lake Victoria near Jinja, a trip to Murchison Falls where the wide Nile River narrows to 20 feet and thunders between rock walls, a game-drive safari in Murchison Falls National Park, a boat ride on the Nile to view aquatic animals and birds, and chimpanzee tracking at the Budongo Rain Forest. On Sunday we attended church, giving toothbrushes to the Primary children. This was one of the most fun and fulfilling projects we have ever done!

Our ten days were full of lessons, clinics, activities, new friendships, and unforgettable experiences as we traveled through the countryside and saw the living conditions of these wonderful Ugandan people. Our hearts were touched, and we would all love to return and do it again. This is an experience of a lifetime!

We have made tentative plans to return to Uganda next year—January 25–29, 2010; February 1–4, 2010, we plan to visit neighboring Rwanda. **Dentists and dental hygienists** are invited to join us for this expedition. Whether you can plan one week or two, we would love to share more information. If you are interested in teaching ART, contact Drew Cahoon at dgcahoon@gmail.com. If you are interested in treating the missionaries, contact Steve Sorensen at VancouverSorensens@gmail.com. If you know a dental hygienist interested in teaching dental hygiene as in (2) above, contact Jerry Summerhays at SummerhaysGS@msn.com.



Missionaries and premissionaries waiting to be seen

SONRISAS PARA GUATEMALA TREATS OVER 900 MISSIONARIES AND PREMISSIONARIES

On April 23, 2009, a large dental/medical group of about 120 people, Sonrisas para Guatemala, left for Guatemala to work on young men and women who are preparing for missions. Dave Sheets, a businessman from Provo, has headed this project for the past several years, which has concentrated on serving Central America. The *brigada*, as it is called, has been going to Honduras twice a year for seven years, but this was the most ambitious project yet. In the past they have worked in orphanages, with people in the community who needed help, and with missionaries. The last few years the emphasis has been on doing whatever is needed to get young people ready for missions. For most of the youth in Central America, getting the necessary medical and dental work completed is a prohibitive expense. Many don't go because they can't afford to have their work done. This group takes medical doctors to do the physicals and dentists to provide dental treatment. Local barbers give haircuts to males before their missionary photos are taken so that when the prospective missionary is finished, his papers are ready to be submitted.

This brigada went to Guatemala City. We had many members of the Academy and other good-hearted people willing to serve. We had four oral surgeons, three hygienists, five who did endodontics, and twenty-three general dentists, as well as volunteers who worked with registration, sterilization, and other support. In addition, pre-dental students from several universities assisted in a variety of ways, and those who spoke Spanish were especially valuable as translators. We flew down on Thursday, April 23, and saw patients on Friday and Saturday.

You Can't Afford to Miss the Academy Conference at BYU!

AUGUST 14–15, 2009

Our annual conference is a *total family experience* that allows everyone to enjoy a weekend getaway together. Spouses will be enriched through uplifting speakers, while the youth attend fun activities that they're sure to love. Dentists and hygienists will attend lectures from an excellent group of continuing education specialists in dentistry and dental hygiene.

This year's program includes the following:

- **Robert C. Margeas** focuses his full-time private practice in Des Moines, Iowa, on comprehensive restorative and implant dentistry. The techniques and methods learned can be incorporated into your practice immediately!
- **Don and Mary Lou Vollmer** are the developers of the People-Oriented-Practice seminars. Their lectures at the conference will help you and your dental team learn to increase your interpersonal relationships, have more enjoyment in your work, and be more productive.
- **John D. West** will be speaking on endodontic predictability and the six essential skills of rotary endodontics. His presentations will focus on the answers to key questions that dentists face every day and will teach practical and specific methods that can be immediately applied to your practice on Monday morning.
- **Harold L. Crossley's** presentations on pharmacology relating to the dental field will enlighten you on the nuts and bolts of drug interactions, the essentials of practical pharmacology for the dental office, and familiarize you with the 30 most prescribed medications and how they might affect your patients' dental treatment. This informative presentation is suitable for the entire dental team.
- **Randy F. Huffines**, one of only a handful of practicing clinicians in the United States who has completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in geriatric dentistry, will teach you principles and techniques that will give you confidence when treating this growing and challenging group of patients.
- **Raymond L. Bertolotti** is a leader in restorative dental practices and is perhaps best known for introducing several revolutionary systems and techniques to the United States. His lectures will teach you restorative dentistry techniques that will keep pleasing esthetics and high function with minimal invasion.
- **Gordon Christensen**, dean of the Scottsdale Center, will provide an update on the hottest areas of activity in the profession.

Dental Hygienist Session

Dental hygienists, please join us at the Academy of LDS Dentists Conference. This year we will have a special Saturday afternoon session just for dental hygienists and dental hygiene students featuring Mark L. Mangelson.

Topic: Periodontal Regeneration—A Team Approach

We are excited about the many great programs being offered this year and hope to **SEE YOU THERE!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO THE WEB SITE: [HTTP://CE.BYU.EDU/CW/DENTIST](http://ce.byu.edu/cw/dentist)

Sunday we went to church, did a service project, and attended a missionary fireside. We worked Monday through Thursday, April 30. We started at 7:00 a.m. and the last ones left at 10:30 p.m. We treated over 930 people and got papers ready for 880 missionaries. We did over 5,700 restorations; 500 root canals; and 1,200 tooth extractions, not to mention diagnostics, scaling, hygiene instruction, and dentures. Everyone left exhausted but with a feeling of joy and satisfaction at being able to use their gifts and talents to further the work of the Lord and help out some of His children.

Just one story. On the last day as we were closing down, a young volunteer, who had spent most of the week helping out, approached us to see if we could help his wife who was in pain. Most of the X-ray units had been packed up, and many doctors were cleaning up as it was about 8:30. With earnest pleading he asked if we could help her

because she couldn't afford to go to a local dentist. Upon questioning her we found out she had been in pain for three months and recently had not been able to sleep because of the pain. Upon examination, we found an abscessed tooth. One of the doctors got his equipment out and removed the tooth for her. With tears of gratitude, this young husband expressed his appreciation for the help.

It is truly a most rewarding experience to be able to give hope where little existed. To be able to use your skills to bless others and in the process feel blessed; to stretch yourself in service, help someone who otherwise would probably not be helped; and to feel in a small way that you have contributed to the Lord's work is deeply satisfying. There are many similar experiences available, and your help is needed. Please go to www.academyofldsdentists.com to find out about other opportunities like this that will bring you great joy.

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HUMANITARIAN EXPEDITION TO MALI



Dr. Laurence Palmer holding a tired patient

Our expedition to the country of Mali, West Africa, began December 27, 2008, and we returned home January 9, 2009. This humanitarian trip was directed by Dr. Brett Moyes. It included six dentists: Drs. Brett Moyes, Jeff and Casey Shepherd, Brandon Taylor, Larell VanDyke, and Laurence Palmer. They were accompanied by five hygienists and thirteen other volunteers.

Mali is an impoverished country where access to care is extremely limited. Most of the people we served had no running water or electricity. The country has a population of approximately 13 million people and only 52 practicing dentists. Dr. Moyes serves on the board of the Mali Rising Foundation. The CEO/president of the Mali Rising Foundation is a native Malian, Yeah Samake. Yeah was able to rise from poverty in his own country, obtain a high school education, and get accepted to BYU, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees. Yeah is a wonderfully energetic and gifted individual. Previously Muslim, Yeah converted to the LDS Church while attending BYU. Mali is a friendly Muslim country where Christians can worship freely. Currently, there are only three members of the LDS Church in Mali.

Yeah formed the Mali Rising Foundation to serve the people of his country and help lift them out of poverty. Shortly after forming this foundation, Yeah received a special calling from President Gordon B. Hinckley, instructing him to bring good members of the Church to Mali to further

the good name of the Church to government officials and prepare the way for missionary work in that nation. To date, the Mali Rising Foundation has constructed 10 schools, helping educate thousands of Malian children. Two years ago, they began organizing medical and dental humanitarian trips to relieve suffering and teach health care and disease prevention.

Yeah is heavily involved in Malian politics, and his connections within the national government are extensive. His influence helped us all obtain visas, get equipment through customs, and travel freely through hundreds of miles in Mali. We worked closely with several ambassadors, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Tourism, and countless other government officials. Yeah is planning a run for president of Mali in 2012. If elected, he would be the first non-Muslim president in the history of the country.

The national language is French, but many speak only Bambara. Two of our group are fluent in French and were a great help with translation. We visited numerous villages and performed dentistry on hundreds

of underserved people, many of whom walked several miles to get treatment. During one morning of work the six dentists, and the other devoted volunteers helping them, extracted over 300 teeth. We were able to treat numerous, very serious dental and medical infections; deliver antibiotics to patients and medical/dental professionals; teach in schools where we delivered many cases of fluoride tablets (donated by Pharmex) to teachers with detailed instructions for their dosing to students; and work side by side with our Malian colleagues, sharing information and equipment so they could better serve the people of Mali after our departure.

Our group became very close during our two-week mission. We gathered for a testimony meeting prior to our return, where many heartfelt and sincere feelings were expressed to one another—the most common being that our trip was truly a life-changing experience. Our next trip is planned for January 15–25, 2010. Anyone interested in joining us for another incredible experience in Africa should contact Brett Moyes at 801-479-5515 or Laurence Palmer at 801-540-7984.

Join Drs. Gordon and Rella Christensen and Dr. Paul Child on the Exotic Western Caribbean Cruise (round trip from New Orleans) for a double-time (12 CE hours) version of the popular CR Dentistry Update 2010 course and an ideal winter retreat (February 7–14, 2010). Course sessions will be held at sea, allowing attendees to participate in shore excursions. Cruise rates start at \$624. LDS Academy members will receive a reduced rate on Dentistry Update course tuition. Ports of call include New Orleans, Louisiana; Costa Maya, Mexico; Santo Tomas de Castilla, Guatemala; Belize City, Belize; Cozumel, Mexico; and return to New Orleans. Look for a detailed advertisement in the binder at the Academy of LDS Dentists Conference in August. To register, call Camla Messick at 888-334-3200.

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