

Newsletter August 2006

Teethsavers International, Inc.

MOTTO: "Teach A Few To Teach Many"

MISSION STATEMENT: Teach simple and inexpensive preventative dental care for children in order to prevent future infection and weakness of their whole body.

PROGRAM AND PURPOSE: Helping children who have less chance for good health and a productive life because they are losing teeth that help them to chew and absorb their basic foods.

PLEDGE: We must believe in a way to give hope to the next generation.

TEETHSAVERS SURELY HAS SET SOME WORLD RECORD!

In the past six years, with your continuing support, Teethsavers has developed into a recognized, practical, efficient, and the most productive oral health educational and delivery system in the world for developing countries. With your help, we have achieved educating high-quality people as dental health providers, with each registered by the Medical Council of Zambia.

Right now, \$1.20 per child teaches, screens, examines and dentally treats - what an investment in the future for one of God's little children.

Since 2004

17,528 were treated with Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART) sealants and fillings and for periodontal disease. 265 were referred to government hospitals for further examination.

27,690 procedures were completed: 17,813 ART, 4,503 fluoride varnish, and 5,374 periodontal disease treatments, rare in the USA in children except for gingivitis. Some 60% of the periodontal treatments involved removal of hard calculus (tartar) formation. Cause - NO oral hygiene.

53,442 children in grades 1,2,3, and4 were taught proper oral hygiene and given toothbrushes.

9,446 older children and 13,715 adults were taught oral hygiene.

76,603 people were directly impacted -at least double directly influenced.

203 children, on average, in 263 days were taught and treated by Teethsavers in the field.

Chipata District of Zambia (population367,000 in 1,766 square miles) is the first in the developing world, we think, to have basic oral health in all of its schools - because of Teethsavers!

With Much Gratitude

\$34,114.94 was contributed to Teethsavers in 2004 by 52 donors

\$44,476.94 was contributed to Teethsavers in 2005 by 73 donors

\$15,048 has been contributed to Teethsavers in the first four months of 2006

Remaining Concerns and Cost Estimates for the Rest of 2006

With the present 36% reduction in Zambian currency versus the U.S. dollar, our cost per child is now about \$1.65.

Teethsavers salaries last month were 28% less than six months ago.

Our school's present six-month course will be completed December 29, 2006 costing \$9,600.

The field team's cost was \$4,000 and now, with the changing currency rate, is \$5,400 per month.

Combines field team and school costs for the remainder of 2006 will be \$7,000 per month or a total of \$42,000.

Some Solutions By Our Team

Instead of one large oral health team's teaching one primary school a day, we divided into three groups for the same area, with each group staying at one school and its villages all week, saving truck rental of \$85 per day. This works best for schools one to two hours distance from Chipata. The results are some 40% decrease in productivity for the week, but "Not Getting Our Way" brings good results with human relationships, stretches out difficult periodontal treatments, and greatly improves parent, guardian and teacher participation -equaling superior sustainability. We have to weigh productivity versus sustainability.

Eliminating: We no longer make advance arrangements to save Kwacha (the Zambian dollar) while knowing it will decrease accomplishments at least the first day because, although some head teachers smoothly integrate our sudden appearance, others, less flexible, take considerable time to make ready for us to begin.

Some Problems We've Encountered

One time the team arrived at a distant school in a rented truck and were confronted by children running away from "Satanists". The word quickly spread among the children that Teethsavers were the Satanists, but the teachers were slowly able to talk with the children and return them to school.

Ants: "We usually camp overnight in two different classrooms, ladies and men. One school where we ate and slept in a teacher's small empty house was not nice! This house was full of red ants which made for sleepless nights. Each night we had to get out of bed and bum charcoal in each corner, using candles for light, with us four ladies crying." Falesi Mwanda, Graduate Operator.

Other Team Reports

"Starting our day is a devotional with a prayer by each in our smaller group, then the word and reading of the day is open for discussion. After supper, we evaluate the day, looking at our human mistakes that we can learn from." Sharon Lungu, Dental Assistant, soon to be a student.

"Going to the villages, I tended to meet many miserable and helpless people and was very touched by neglected children in one village, with only two boys in school." Patricia Tembo, Coordinator.

No Choice: "After work on a Monday, I saw an orphan boy with serious malaria, who lived with his poor, uneducated old grandparents. On Thursday, the grandparents told me they had carried him on their backs to the health post, normally a one-hour walk. There they were told to take the boy to the Chipata Hospital. Having no money for the two hour trip, Eunice Banda, age 8, died with a Traditional Healer." Ruth Chinyama, student from Angola.

Plea from Jack

My gap-closing funds are depleted and, with my inexperience and many duties, grants from foundations are much delayed. Because of these two facts, plus the 36% currency exchange rate not being in our favor, I ask for an even higher level of support. Please give consideration to making monthly pledges for operations for the \$1,600 per month needed by our school for the remainder of 2006. We now have nine students, including two from both Angola and Malawi.

Please Send Contributions to: Teethsavers, c/o Westminster Presbyterian, 3221 33rd Street, Lubbock, TX 79410.

Any contribution will be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

IF IT IS EASY.... IT IS NOT CALLED SUCCESS