

Teethsavers International, Inc.

www.teethsavers.org

May/June 2005

FROM JACK

For the past 5 years I have been fully committed to finding and developing a simple, inexpensive and workable way of delivering basic oral health to children in developing countries. Many times the culture clash has been almost unbearable and inescapable, but JOY and frustration go together like poverty and spirituality.

ORAL HEALTH – ZAMBIAN traditions vs TEETHSAVERS way:

ZAMBIAN way: Prevention oral hygiene: ashes on finger from mothers' cooking fire (they cook outdoors 365 days a year) or chewing on a stick (small, frayed tree limb). Most have never heard of a toothbrush, nor have they had anything new.

Treatment for toothache: battery acid is most popular with traditional healers. For most Zambians it is a long walk and a fee for extraction at government dental clinics.

TEETHSAVERS way: Teach people to assist themselves in caring for their own through the Zambian Six-Year Molar Focus School in Chipata.

This school is a workable solution with its six month course which includes full scholarship, room & board, everything for up to 10 students. Graduates receive certification as "Community Oral Health Educator and Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART) Technologist" and are registered with the Medical Council of Zambia.

This new type of dental school has created a new category for oral health delivery - for developing countries.

I recently met in Stockholm, Sweden, with 3 Swedish dentists and 1 German dentist, all with extensive oral health focus involvement in the Gambia (West Africa). From this meeting Teethsavers European Union will be established with a strong commitment to begin a Gambia Six-Year Molar Focus School. Dental schools in Sweden, Denmark and Germany want to participate with instruments, supplies, volunteer dental students and field studies. I will revisit (2000-01) the Gambia on my way back to Zambia, researching and analyzing needs and potential for a Gambia Six-Year Molar Focus School. We will do our utmost to bring these excellent possibilities to reality.

VERY GOOD NEWS FROM CHIPATA

Two of our "star" graduates, Mary Phiri and Falesi Mwanda, have, in my absence, accomplished a landmark event! They have convinced TEVETA (an arm of Zambia's Education Ministry) to complete long pending Registration of our Six-Year Molar Focus School. This, in turn, completes the Medical Council's requirements for certification of our graduates

ONGOING WORK BY OUR TEAM

Five of our 13 graduates now work for Teethsavers. The 5 are all very fine young ladies, working full time since I departed for the USA in early April. They rotate supervisory positions weekly, as our team teaches and treats up to 1,200 children a week. They are assisted by 5 dental assistants who must serve 3 months before applying for our school. These 10 young people have proved to me they can run the school and work in the field – villages, Government and Community (poorest of the poor) schools. Some quotes from their reports follow.

"St. Anne's Community School – They were so grateful that Teethsavers remembered their Community School. We were successful in our teaching and treating. Children and parents were divided into small numbers for teaching, demonstrations and one-on-one instructions. People were very happy. Those just passing by would come near when they saw our Teethsavers uniform and were able to find out where our school house is."

“In Mgubudu area 72 parents and 104 children were taught and treated as needed. We found that many children had gum diseases while those with cavities were few. Next day we went to Nyambo village where 87 parents and 126 children came. Here, we found more children with cavities than with gum diseases.”

“In Kamchiriko village 45 children came with parents who were very interested in what Teethsavers is doing.”

“Falesi and Miriam will be arranging visits along Lundazi road which is basically villages. In villages you need more time in arranging so people can get organized.”

“When we went to Mphande village parents, especially women, delayed coming because they thought we were Satanists, but men came. Later, happy with us, we treated 59 children having both cavities and periodontal disease.”

BOARD MEETINGS

While I have been in the USA, two Board of Directors meetings have been held. The first, April 21, consisted of a look at our Past, Present, and Future. Routine reports and motions were heard and acted on.

Election of Officers was part of the agenda for the meeting on May 24th. New and Continuing Officers and Board Members are:

Ross McCuiston, President (and new member); Dr. Rodger McCuiston, Immediate Past President; Beth Lee, Vice President, Rev. Paul Cunningham, Treasurer; Bettye Rogers, Secretary; Dr. Charles Wendt, Grants; Rev. Ted Dotts, Development; and Dr. Jack Rudd, Founder and Field Person. .

VOLUNTEERS, dental and non-dental, can bring a village alive. We guarantee a Mind Bending Experience! No Guarantee Which Way the Bend Goes when Reentering the USA! PLEASE SEE OUR **WEB SITE** FOR MORE INFORMATION; www.teethsavers.org.

I am nothing but one of God’s transfer agents, transferring ideas, money and motivation from developed to developing countries. Please send me dollars, where **one dollar** can teach and treat (fillings & gum treatment) **one** of God’s Little Children Living in a - **No Oral Health** - Part of the World.

Teethsavers Board of Directors has approved a budget of **\$3850 a month** for **all** operations – school and field work.

At present we have funds to cover about 2 months of operations. Would you **PLEASE** help us make it through 2005? Join others who have and do give financial support to our school and new delivery system for God’s Children Who are Unseen, Unheard, and Just Plain Forgotten - by sending a check to: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3321, 33rd St., Lubbock, TX 79410, with **TEETHSAVERS** on the memo line.

Our address is- Dr. Jack Rudd
PO Box 51910
Chipata, Zambia
Teethsavers@yahoo.co

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Lubbock, TX 79410
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PLEASE SEE WHAT YOUR ONE DOLLAR CAN DO FOR ONE CHILD
UP-DATED www.teethsavers.org