



May 2009

# Teethsavers International

It has been a busy year so far for Teethsavers! Our team of 4 people (Dr. Rudd, Gene and Bev Day and Joan Sears) went to Malawi in January to evaluate the feasibility of setting up a school and treating the needy children there.



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Teethsavers has a team of 6 natives, all trained, in place in Lilongwe, Malawi now. They have already treated and educated the orphan children at all of the Ministry of Hope feeding centers. They are only awaiting final registration of Teethsavers as an official Non-Government Organization and their own final licensing and hiring of a Dental Therapist there to spread out and continue treating the needy children all over Malawi.

In March, Dr. Rudd, Joan Sears and Susan Hunter joined up with the mission team from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lubbock, TX in Belize. They screened and treated hundreds of needy children in Belize. They also trained dentists there in the **Atraumatic Restorative Technique**.

There were several schools in Belize where Teethsavers screened and treated children. The Unity Presbyterian School in the Colette district (or the Burial Grounds of Belize City) was the first. This was the first year this school was open and it was of great benefit to see these children now to begin collecting data for future studies. Following that they saw children at the Kings Children's Home In Belmopan, Belize. This was a follow-up from last year when the children received only teeth cleaning. This year they were screened and the ART treatments were made available to them. They also worked with the children at the Calvary Temple School in Belize City and the Muslim School of Belize City. God was so good to allow Teethsavers to see so many children in such a short time.



Teethsavers is setting up a new program in Belize by matching dentists in the US with Belizean dentists so they can do fillings by sending them Fuji material and money. The dentists in Belize have been unable to do fillings as their government would supply them no dental materials. Previously they could only do cleanings and extractions. With this partnership they will be able to offer much more in the way of preventative care and increased oral health. We still need more US dentists to sign up for this program. It only involves a \$25 - \$50 per month commitment. If you would like to be involved in this great program please contact jack through the website below.

Also, please check out our website for updates:

[www.teethsaversinternational.com](http://www.teethsaversinternational.com).



Future plans are in the works for Dr. Rudd to go and treat the children in the remote Maya villages who never receive any dental care. Two other dentists have signed up to go with him and 2 non-dental persons. There is a need and room for 1 more dentist and 3 more non-dental persons to go. Dr. Rudd will be there for the month of June. The other dentists have chosen to stay for one or two weeks. If you are interested in going,

please contact Dr. Rudd via his email at [teethsavers@yahoo.com](mailto:teethsavers@yahoo.com). Once he has finished in Belize, Dr. Rudd plans to make an evaluation trip to Nicaragua in conjunction with Dr. Patti Patterson and the Texas Tech Health Science Center. They have invited us to join them there and provide dental care in addition to the medical care they are already providing.



### From the Director...

My return trips to Texas have varied greatly through the past nine years. After 10 or 11 months in Africa, at the beginning of this tooth adventure, I was filled to overflowing with uncomfortable feelings at the grossly unfair disparity and at times angry at the absolute differing extreme ways of life. Each yearly return gradually brought me to compassionate acceptance. In God's world of human creatures there was no justice - only life.

This past April, I was able to revisit some of my past and share Teethsavers with long time friends from Abilene High School and a few from Southern Methodist Univer-

sity at a sit down dinner outside Dallas at forever supporters Cyrena and Stan McMurry. Warm feelings and bygone events were the order of the night with some words and photos of teeth and strange ways of life in Africa.

I have no home, no car, a few clothes and books to transport back and forth leaving much room for dental instruments and supplies

in the two-day return to Africa. I often sleep in three different beds in three different Lubbock homes on my return. With a two-year open space, this trip back, I spent a few days outside San Angelo at my sister Maggie Ault's ranch.

Transport can be a disparity experience for me with a few past midnight moves, using feet and carrying a back-pack down Lubbock's 50th street to my next bed. However, only the elite in Africa have a bicycle. I rode my son's bicycle to a 4:00 PM appointment with Dr. Jim Reynolds. Upon completion of our visit, Dr. Jim handed me the keys to his pick-up, saying, "I saw you bicycling down 50th Street and these keys to my pick-up are to protect your head."

Often in developing countries I seem to finally fit in. One day in downtown Chipata, my front tooth broke completely off and the ATM machine kept my bank card. I was so excited about being a native until I remembered my Master Card and my United States of America passport.

Thank you so much to all who minister with us... *Jack Rudd*

*Teach a Few to  
Teach Many...*

### Upcoming For Teethsavers:

Jack will be travelling back to Belize for the month of June and on to Nicaragua and other countries in Central and South America to see about the viability of Teethsavers in those areas.



As our worldwide Teethsavers sites of operations expands, and the number of children we see continues to grow, our need for prayer and financial support also continues to grow. If you would like to give, please know that Teethsavers is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and your contributions are tax deductible. Send donations to:

**Teethsavers International**  
**c/o Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3321 33<sup>rd</sup> St., Lubbock, TX. 79410.**  
 You may call for information at 806-799-3621.