

Teethsavers Newsletter
May, 2011

Firmly Established on 2 Continents — Africa and Central America

Teethsavers Mission — To introduce and facilitate the provision of simple and inexpensive dental care for children—being careful to always give the credit to God.

This month we have much to report and much to request. Worldwide, God is using Teethsavers in a wonderful way to treat the hurting children of 3rd world countries and to train others to help in their own countries. Thus our financial responsibilities are growing at the same time that our donations have decreased. Teethsavers needs your continuing support,

The team in Malawi continues seeing village after village thus seeing hundreds of children each month. The women at Westminster have taken on the job of sewing little dresses for the villages of Malawi for little girls who have only one article of clothing they must wear all the time. The women have just finished sewing and shipping 171 of these lovely little dresses to our team in Malawi for their distribution to the children in the villages. Our special thanks go to the women of Westminster who made these dresses and especially to Dona Nussbaum and Paulette English for their work in making this happen.

In southern Nicaragua, Keith Rodgers is establishing his mission and Teethsavers clinic. Following is part of Keith's first report. For more on Keith and Kelly visit www.hopefornic.com.

School children receiving
toothbrushes in Nicaragua

"After 3 months of preparation, we had our first clinic in a school today. It went fantastic. After our first wonderful day today, my family and I took the two graduates to a celebration dinner which they loved. They smiled so big and told me how much they appreciated that and everything Jack and Teethsavers has done for them. We have 36 schools set up to work on in the next 12 months. Then we will come back to them next year and add some more that are farther out. During this time we will provide dental care for thousands of School children receiving children in the name of Christ."

Farther north in Jinotega, Nicaragua, where our Teethsavers School is, we have a second class of students in training. Our first class of graduates are all doing work in their home districts now, with the exception of the two graduates who are working with Keith Rodgers in San Juan Del Sur. *

In Sierra Leone, we have 2 trained ART operators working for Teethsavers with children, and now Dr Freddy Fisher has voluntarily gone over there to help and plans to stay for 6-12 months. This will greatly increase the number of children who can be seen and treated there.

In Uganda, Brian Ushuru of RUNUGANDA and his team are seeing hundreds of children and treating them both at his clinic and out in the villages. This month he is having a seminar on ART at his clinic for 15 dentists from all over Uganda so they can see and treat children in their areas. Brian is a dentist. He was trained in the ART technique by Dr Frencken. Dr. Rudd went to Uganda last year to help set up his school.

In Morocco and in Belize, the dentists Dr Rudd has trained in the ART technique are continuing to see and treat children. In Belize, we supply the Fuji material for the ART technique as the dentists are unable to get it there.

The Gambia, which was one of Dr Rudd's earliest training sites, has continued to grow on their own and even have their own website for Teethsaver operations now. They see many, many children and have greatly expanded their operations.

News and Notes:

Our Executive Director, Tracy Ebarb, set up a booth at the annual dental fair in San Antonio in early May. To our knowledge, this was the first time a non-profit agency had ever done this. It was really well received and some of the pediatric dentists expressed a great deal of enthusiasm over it (and Teethsavers). Hundreds of people stopped by the booth to learn about Teethsavers and our mission for children. Our special thanks go to Tracy for all the work it took to set this up and operate it and to Susan Hunter for her assistance with manning the booth.

Teethsavers International has a website which has been "under construction" for the last several months. You may view it at www.teethsavers.org; Also, this website now carries the capability for you to contribute online to Teethsavers via a secured credit card link. We would like to thank Michael Bowlin for all the long hard creative work he's done to get this going and to Frank Rudd for all the work he put in helping Michael with this as well as the 10 years he was the webmaster of our previous website.

Our new office at 3306~34th St in Lubbock is now in use. Thanks goes to Westminster Presbyterian Church for the use of the office and equipment. We also appreciate the donation of some furniture for our lobby area by Dr. David Midkiff. The phone number for the office is 806-368-7513. The office email is teethsaversoffice@yahoo.com . The office is manned by volunteers, so if you'd like to visit the office, . please call first so we can be sure to have someone there to greet you.

If you would like to have someone speak to, or make a presentation to your agency or organization, or if you'd like to receive some literature from us, please contact us either by phone or email. Rev. Ebarb will be more than happy to come and make a presentation. Also, Dr. Rudd will be happy to talk with you anytime. Rev. Ebarb's email is tsebarb@verizon.net and Dr Rudd's email is: jackruddteethsavers@gmail.com.

We still have room on our Board of Directors for 2 new members. If you might be interested in serving on our Board, or know of someone who might be interested in doing so, please give us a call. Our Board meets one evening every 6 weeks on Thursdays.
From Behind the Molar....

Dr Jack Rudd

Many times people ask, "What does Teethsavers do?" or they ask, "Why are they only focused on 1 set of teeth?" The answer comes from Jack in this section of Behind the Molar.

"Teethsavers Focus is the Four Six-Year Molars that come in behind the primary teeth at 6 years of age. They're our four most important teeth that do 65% to 70% of our chewing while anchoring the bite. Loss of just one of these molars causes the adjacent and opposite teeth to shift and drift into the remaining space. It also causes chewing on the overloaded opposite side of the mouth to compensate for the loss. Subsequent losses continue to complicate chewing which affects digestion having too large a bolus of food for stomach enzymes to break down and metabolize. This adversely affects the health and life span of the person. It would be very easy to lose focus and begin doing many other treatments, but we believe that if we diligently work to save the Six Year Molars we will increase overall health throughout the mouth and save the child from a host of other dental problems, disease and even death."

Upcoming Event:

Teethsavers will be hosting an Open House at their new office at 3306 34th St. in July. Be looking for an invitation in the mail. This will be a great time to learn about Teethsavers, meet Jack and meet the members of the Board of Directors as well.

If you would like to make a donation to Teethsavers, please mail to Teethsavers International, c/o Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3321 33rd St., Lubbock, TX. 79410. You may call for information at 806-799-3621. Teethsavers is a 50.1 c3, non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.