

Teethsavers International, Inc.

www.teethsavers.org

November – December 2005

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.

BEHIND THE MOLAR

As the American holiday season approaches, especially Thanksgiving, I pause to offer sincere THANKS to God as well as to so many friends and supporters without whose help Teethsavers could not fulfill its mission in Zambia.

Our heartfelt THANKS to everyone who has contributed financially! There is not space to list each and every one of you in this Newsletter, but please know that YOU are appreciated!

Special THANKS to: Eddie Balchin, GC ASIA, Singapore, for immediately sending dental supplies after my 2 BIG bags were lost by the airlines on my return flight to Zambia. Thanks, also, to Dan Hatch and Patterson Dental Supply, USA, for putting together our dental supply orders and giving Teethsavers a very generous discount.

THANKS to the special people who serve on our Board of Directors – Rodger and Ross McCustion for many things, including making it possible for me to actually talk with them via satellite phone and computer; Rev. Paul Cunningham, Treasurer, for recruiting Mike Cunningham who has cleared up the confusion regarding our IRS 501(c)(3) status. Thanks to Charles Wendt and former Board member Mikell Bollinger, for working on grant writing for us. With 501(c)(3) status once again ours, we hope to find a foundation which will be willing to support our program..

To Beth Lee, along with non-Board members Kathy Dane, Cyrena McMurry, Valerie Pelham, and Allison Reed goes much appreciation for what they do in getting the Newsletter ready, printed, mailed and other things. To Sheri Landers and Linda Sanders, Westminster Presbyterian Church, thanks for their valuable record keeping of financial matters. Thanks also go to the other Board members who offer encouragement when we may be temporarily discouraged.

Bettye Rogers, a friend in the true sense of that overused word, spends time keeping several of our projects and vital programs fine tuned. She has sent me ‘care packages’ on a regular basis that are more than valuable to me – a contact – a reminder of over 60 years in the USA.

And, yes, many, many THANKS go to our team members who work so well with the children, teachers, and parents in Zambia’s schools and communities. Dr. Troy Shields, DDS volunteer, is giving valuable service as our independent evaluator, lecturer and one-on-one teacher in the field. We shall miss him when he leaves.

Finally, thanks to Maggie Ault, my sister, my son Frank and his mother, Kay. And to the friends, such as Bill Jamison, Virginia Buck, Joe and Jewel Mogan, whose e-mails and support mean so much and furnish my head a pillow when I'm back in Lubbock.

The children and teachers in the bookless schools of Zambia join me in thanking those who have sent, at their own expense, books. We are grateful and will be grateful for more used or new books. Please send books directly to P.O. box 510910, Chipata, Zambia. You may never know what a difference you are making in the lives of young Zambians!

May God Bless You and Keep You Safe.

Jack

TEETHSAVERS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

September 14th – November 30th 2004

And

January 1st – September 30th 2005

Days in the field	136
Instructions-free brush-screened	29,844
Instructions only-free brush	7,476
Adults taught	7,395
“Teach A Few To Teach Many” (avg-329/day)	44,715
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Children Treated	10,725
Percent treated of screened	35.9%
ART Sealants	4,081
ART Restorations	4,884
Fluoride Varnish	3,169
Periodontal Treatment	3,023
Percent Periodontal of Total Treated	28.1%
Total Procedures (Avg-114/day)	15,157
Referred to Hospital – most Periodontal	143

Some of the days in the field were practical, in the last three months of the Zambia Six-Year Molar Focus School, prior to graduation. Teams of four to six graduates do the procedures and the others on the 11 to 14 member teams serve as dental assistants. After three months as a dental assistant, they become eligible to apply to our school.

I have been on the “tooth” road in developing countries for about 5 and one half years now, but only very recently did I learn a Basic part of Teethsavers. Edward Phiri, who taught for five years in an unpaid poor community school, pointed out that our teaching should begin with WHAT the Teeth are and what they DO. He said without this simple knowledge, many would not learn the rest.

ALL IN ONE DAY by Doranaha Moloongo

Teethsavers is a great gift for children’s oral health. One child, age 12 and in fourth grade, had thirteen cavities in his permanent teeth. My dental assistant and I repaired all 13 with *Fuji IX* filling material. I sat on one of our wooden benches while the boy lay on the bench, his head in my lap—mouth wide open. He seemed to know that he was being helped. He felt no pain during these restorations. I thought about the 13 toothaches he would have had in the days and years to come. It felt good to be able to help this young person. I was told by Dr. Jack that 13 cavities is the top record for one child being treated by Teethsavers.

Since I joined Teethsavers about a year ago – first as a dental assistant, then as a student in the Six-Year Molar Focus School for 6 months, and now as a graduate operator, I am able to really care about people and to serve God.

Another boy, 11 years old, had cavities in all of his six-year molars which had reached the pulp and were abscessing. What would this child’s life have become without treatment? The digestive system begins in the mouth. When the six-year molars are lost, adult chewing, 65 to 70 percent of which is done by the six-year molars, is lost. Also, adjacent and opposing teeth shift and drift, losing most of their chewing function. For digesting and assimilating food, essential for good health and longevity, the six-year molars are vital.

Note: Doranah, who is 30 years old and from the distant Southern Province of Zambia, spent many years with her grandmother while growing up. Perhaps she gained her patience, compassion and wisdom from her grandmother. Teethsavers is most fortunate to have her. She has written 32 spiritual songs including Teethsavers theme song – “Teeth Were Made For Life.”

A TWENTY-TWO HOUR AFRICAN VACATION

On the last Friday night of October, at 2a.m., ten of us left for South Luangwa Game Park, one of the best places for game viewing in this part of Africa. We had worked in schools along the road to the park. Dr. Troy Shields, our independent investigator for our field study, served as organizer for the trip and baked 3 big chickens to take along. We furnished the rest of the food.

Our employees paid from 4 to 9 dollars each for the trip. It was the first game park visit for 6 of them. We got great rates as an educational group. The 3 hour trip was over roads as bad as, or maybe worse than, any in Zambia (Rodger, Cindy and Ross McCuiston can attest to that!). We rented our regular truck for about \$150.00. Each person took his/her own mattress to sort of cushion the bumps and up and downs. We arrived at the park at daylight, which is the best time for viewing, using a guide and the truck. The mattresses were used at midday while waiting for late evening viewing. After dark, we headed back to Chipata.

This approximately 22-hour ‘vacation’ was a refreshing get away for me even on the very bad roads. No teeth talk was allowed. The 10 of us experienced a new level of togetherness – bonding.

The four hour return trip in the dark of night was an experience of glory as we gazed at the billions and billions of God’s stars; tall and full trees on both sides of the undeveloped roadside sometimes blocking my celestial view. What pleasure mixed with God’s peace! I was at peace and most grateful for my calling to this most important mission—Teethsavers.

MIRRIAM MWATE -- A SUCCESS STORY

Miriam, our team teaching and treatment coordinator, is 30 years old. She came from a village where she lived in the family hut of 2 small rooms made of handmade blocks held together by mud and straw with a packed dirt floor and bush grass. Her mother woke her at 4 a.m. each school day to make the long walk to the nearest primary school. On completion of the seven grades at the primary school, she attended a secondary school, with fees, as a boarding student. She is the first from that primary school to complete all 12 grades, a requirement to qualify for the Six-Year Molar Focus School in Chipata.

She first served 3 months as a dental assistant with Teethsavers – required for admission to our school. One of the first items of our curriculum is public speaking where we practice teaching oral health to classmates. Mirriam, on her first talk, fell apart with fears and tears. With slow, gentle words and waiting ears, she began to tell me how she felt, a thing rarely done in these parts.

Miriam is a single mother whose three-year old was, by tradition, staying in the village. Last May, as Mirriam was about to graduate, she rented a room for about \$12.00 a month so she could bring her daughter to Chipata. I assisted her by donating a mattress and a few cooking pots. She was so proud and grateful. But, the day before her daughter was to be brought to the new home, everything was stolen – even the charcoal!

On her own this time, with a graduate operator salary of \$210.00 per month, she started rebuilding. She, her daughter, and a teenage Vulnerable Girl Child from the village to take care of the child, now live in 2 small rooms with no electricity, but running water, which has been completely furnished by Mirriam. Victoria, the daughter, attends a church day nursery.

Miriam’s struggle has deepened her faith in God in strengthened her self-confidence.

We have gratefully made each month at full speed; however, our reserves are nearly depleted. Teethsavers, once again accepts you donations for Children Most in Need of Oral Health Care – Teaching and Treating – With *Enormous Thanks* and *Gratitude*.

We greatly appreciate children’s books, new or used. Most school here have few to no books.

Our address is- Dr. Jack Rudd
Chipata, Zambia
PO Box 51910

Please send you’re contributions to:
Westminster Presbyterian Church
3321 33rd St.
Lubbock, TX 79410

E-mail: teethsavers@yahoo.com
Website: www.teethsavers.org