

OCTOBER, 2008 NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2008 SURVEY EXPERIENCE

With Teethsavers, we learnt a lot of things, we have worked with Jack, a man of integrity, sacrifice and risk taking, he doesn't give up. It is not an easy thing to live with people you have never lived with, people of different backgrounds, different customs and culture, and also different beliefs. A culture and custom can not be changed neither changing other people's belief, it is something which people need to understand, and learn from one another, cultural crush, but Jack is a strong man, we learnt from him. Sacrificing to live among people with different culture and beliefs, it is really a lesson to us; it takes a man of sacrifice and risk taking.

Without taking a risk, it was not going to be a success. Accepting, learning and understanding each others culture and custom is a contributing factor to success.

Teethsavers in Zambia has really brought improvement in Oral Health Care, People have really realized the importance of teeth, this time when people see us in Teethsavers T-shirts, they always come close, call us just to find out about filling teeth and information on Oral Health Care, even in Dental clinics now, people come and ask for a filling in their teeth, unlike in the past when people would just come and ask for teeth extractions. What we have learnt is that people will not care for what they don't know about, they will only care for what they know, knowledge is power and Teethsavers has done a great Job

During our survey, teachers in schools were confessing to say, after Teethsavers visited the schools in 2005, Oral Health Hygiene improved, every time when teachers were checking the children's Oral Cavity, they always find clean teeth, no plaque. Children really understood what it is to care for the mouth.

For treatment which was given to children three years ago, not bad, most of the fillings we found were like, as if teeth were filled yesterday, we found very few ART failures and majority is a success. There is a boy at Mtewe Basic School a grade 7 this year who was in grade 4 in 2005 by the name of Solomon Phiri who had 13 cavities in 2005 and received a treatment of 13 fillings. When we went back for evaluation, they boy's mouth is looking so nice, We found all his fillings, as if they were filled yesterday but it was done three years ago. We could imagine how many toothaches the boy was going to have in the near future if there was no Teethsavers. As Zambians and Africa at large we really thank God for Teethsavers.

We imagine the situation in Chama District of Eastern part of Zambia where they have never had a Dental clinic, what a crisis. Government workers don't wish to go and work from that place, the place is isolated. Can you imagine even the church is lacking people. A few years ago the church was full of people, teachers, nurses and other people, they all left the church and went back to other better districts and the Pastor in Church was left only with two families, and those two are the only ones encouraging the Pastor to continue leading the church. What a place, where no one wish to go, the Chama people really need help because if all of us we boycott from working there, who will help these people?

Beth Lee can you please select some data to add to this news letter. Data of children taught screened and treated, on site; they treated 10,112 children with 15,276 ART sealants and Restorations and 2,847 periodontal treatments. Meheba refuge camp which birthed the Zambia Six year Molar Focus School as a new category of dental Education and new delivery system for Oral Health in Developing Countries. In April, 2006, the initial teaching and treating of Oral Health was completed at the 159 primary schools and 60 community schools of Chipata District- Area of 1,776 sq. miles with a population of 367,000.

Average cost per child in 263 days in 2004/05/06 was US\$1.45 for a total of \$77,500 for 53,442 children, about ½ the cost an extraction in government clinics. All were given a toothbrush with instructions and screened, 17,528 were examined and treated with 17,813 ART sealants and Restorations, 4,503 fluoride vanish, 5,374 periodontal, totaling 27,690 procedures. 265 were referred to clinics, while 9,446 older children and 13,715 adults were taught only.

Jack is still un well, today he is being taken to the hospita the 4th time, continue praying for his quick recovery.

By Doranah Muloongo

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