

Teethsavers Newsletter for October 2010

A Word from Our President...

On September 16th we held a dinner at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lubbock, TX where Dr. Jack Rudd shared about Teethsavers and the incredible work they are doing throughout the world. During his presentation he shared about Teethsavers: Then and Now. It was well attended by many people who were curious about Teethsavers and others who have been involved in this ministry for the past 10 years.

If you would like to schedule Dr. Rudd or any of the Teethsavers representatives to come to your church or organization in order that they might share the vision with you, please let us know. You can contact Dr. Rudd personally at jackruddteethsavers@gmail.com or contact us through Westminster Church. As always, we appreciate all of your support and we are so excited to see what the future holds for this great ministry.

Blessings,

Beth Lee, President

The needs are greater than ever as we look to the exciting future of Teethsavers and Oral Health for children. 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 501c3, non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Firmly Established 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.

Africa...

MALAWI—The most exciting news to come from Africa is in Malawi where we have finally received official recognition and certification of our ART technicians in Malawi from the Medical Council and the government of Malawi! Now we can continue to treat children but are able to do so without being under the auspices of another agency. This allows much more freedom and flexibility for our team. This also opens the doors for the Teethsavers Board of Directors in Malawi to begin making plans for a Six Year Molar School!

The Teethsavers team was in the DOWA District of Malawi for 3 days in August. Chiefs, parents, guardians, children and volunteers were all there. Part of the team educated while the other part of the team set up and operated the treatment room. Toothbrushes were distributed to all children. They were evaluated for treatment needs as cavities and gum disease were identified. The DOWA District serves 34 villages with 1,227 children. It will require several more visits for treatment and evaluation. The Dental Therapist at this center said the treatment done by Teethsavers was saving their children from untold suffering and preventing teeth from having to be extracted. The people at the center expressed much appreciation for the work done by Teethsavers and expectations that they would return frequently.

ZAMBIA—Our team in Zambia is still finding pupils and parents desperately in need of treatment and education. The parents also return later for treatment of their other children who are not in school yet. It's becoming evident that those patients with extremely heavy calculus around their teeth are also HIV positive. So now new research is being done on this connection. Our team in Zambia has been seeing high numbers of children monthly in the schools they have gone to.

Work in Zambia has been doubling lately, as there is a for-profit school there operating in the manner established by Teethsavers. It is being run by two former Teethsavers graduates from Dr Rudd's earlier school in Zambia back in 2004. This is the fulfillment of part of the vision of Teethsavers (and any mission agency for that matter), that it become sustainable and indigenous. As more and more students graduate from the Six Year Molar School, they are able to go back to their homes and carry on treatments without having to be tethered to American dependence.

UGANDA—Most recently we've had a request from a small group in Uganda, called RUN Uganda, to come and consult with them. The person heading their program was personally trained by Dr. Frencken of the Netherlands. Dr Rudd plans to go there in November and evaluate this request to possibly establish The Uganda Six-Year Molar Focus School.

MOROCCO—The 82 dentists that Dr. Jack Rudd trained are continuing to perform the Teethsavers ART treatments. We are not currently supplying any of the treatment materials

SIERRA LEONE—Ranked as one of the poorest countries in the world, Sierra Leone faces constant struggles with oral health. In the capital city of Freetown, with a population of 2.5 million people, there are only 3 dentists! The entire country, population 5.5 million has only 6 dentists. This puts the ratio of dentist to people at 1:916,000. To put that in perspective, the USA has a ratio of 1:1,910! 75% of the worlds amputees are located in Sierra Leone and receive little to no health care and even less oral health care.

Last October Dr. Rudd trained two young ladies to teach oral hygiene to children in grades 1-4. He has also trained one of the three dentists in Freetown to deliver the ART treatment. Dr. Fasulukku writes, "I am very engaged in carrying out the necessary treatment for the children with six year molar teeth. I have carried out nearly 210 treatments nearly daily. We are doing so much to save the children thanks to your program.

The Board of Directors is seriously considering a proposition to create a Six Year Molar Focus school in Sierra Leone. In order to do this, there will need to be a significant commitment from donors as we seek to see this school launched. The cost will be \$3,500 a month in order to get 12-18 students trained. Upon graduation they will be employed by the government to deliver oral health care in places like Freetown and throughout the country.

Please think and pray about whether you would like to be a part of this opportunity of a lifetime.

W's of life: Jack's Questions For Life

When were you born?

Where were you born?

Who were your parents?

Why were you so lucky?

Why were you so unlucky?

What can you do about it?

Central America...

NICARAGUA—Meanwhile, across the ocean in Jinotega, Nicaragua, we are about to graduate our first class of 10 students from The Nicaragua Six-Year Molar Focus School in mid-October. We expect to be able to double the size of the next class as our school is well established and known now, and our graduates will be going back to their home districts with government jobs.

The following are statements from our students who are about to graduate from the Nicaragua Six Year Molar Focus School of Jinotega:

“First I would like to say that we treat ourselves as a family and have lived very well together. I know that I can now help people that need it and I feel proud when the parents thank us for the treatment we do to their children. We also have learned to read the Bible and thank God every day for our blessings. Teethsavers has been a wonderful experience and I can proudly say that this is the best experience in my 18 years of life.”

“I personally would like to say that my experience with Teethsavers has been a blessing because I am able to help my own people and to be able to see the smiles of the children after they have been treated. It is especially great when the parents are there and some of them humbly come and thank you for the help we bring them.”

“From day one the classes have been very nice. I like to share my ideas with my classmates . Together we have shared good and bad experiences and this helps us grow spiritually. I like to be a part of Teethsavers because we help people who have little or no access to health centers because they live far away and lack money.”

BELIZE—In nearby Belize, the dentists that Dr Rudd trained are continuing the Teethsavers ART treatments. To support them, we are only required to send them the Fuji IX filling material for the treatment.