

Teethsavers Newsletter September 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.

Good news! Teethsavers has been accredited for the International NGO in Malawi and it looks like we're well on our way to achieving NGO status in Nicaragua. This new status could potentially help open up new Teethsaver sites for treating children and possibly establishing a school on the East Coast of Nicaragua.

The WOW, Women of Westminster, have continued to amaze and bless the children of Malawi, Nicaragua and now Sierra Leone with their pillow case dresses for the girls and britches for the boys. The women say they don't want to stop doing this. These clothes are certainly wonderful and a blessing for the children who receive them.

Our book drive for children's books and toys to send to Sierra Leone and to Malawi has finally gotten underway. We hope to fill a shipping container with these items. If you have any children's books or toys, please bring them either to Westminster Presbyterian Church or to our Teethsavers office at 3306-34 St. in Lubbock. We are going to cooperate in this effort with an established program called Slumber Jack which is supplying the shipping container.

Our team in Malawi has accomplished much already this year, seeing and treating hundreds of village children, gaining official accreditation and delivering clothing to the villages. At the same time, immigration has prevented some of our team members from Zambia from returning to Malawi to continue their work with the team. Also, the government of Malawi has passed a new law requiring landlords to raise their rent by 10% so our rent there has been raised beyond a sustainable level. In the upcoming year, we are going to have to either build our own facility or find somewhere else to rent. (There does not seem to be much available in our price range that is adequate and safe, however.) Please pray for God's direction for our Teethsavers team in Malawi. Keith and Kelly Rodgers were in Lubbock for a couple of weeks for much needed rest and for gathering needed supplies for their Teethsavers mission in Southern Nicaragua. Keith's testimony about the children they've seen in the mountain village schools and the witnessing and teaching of English they have been able to do with everyone they meet is uplifting. Many children in this area of Nicaragua do not have shoes. Any donation of flip flops for children would be appreciated.

You can contact Keith through his e-mail at k-rodgers@hotmail.com or check their activities at their website, www.hopefornica.com. The Teethsavers school and our students in Jinotega seem to be progressing well. The students there have begun their practicums and are out in the villages now seeing and treating children and educating parents. They saw in excess of 2,000 children in July. Dr. Rivera and Alan Oliva deserve much credit for making this happen and keeping things going smoothly there.

Dr. Rudd left for Sierra Leone on August 11. He has found a place to stay within walking distance of the facility where he will be treating children and educating parents. He will be training assistants there as well as doing much needed research for Teethsavers. He will also be doing work in the villages. While there, he'll be working on his autobiography, "Grateful for the Pain." Jack will be working with other professionals there from the Texas Tech Health Science Center, such as Dr. Amy Parker. The organization that Jack will be working alongside there is The Greatest Goal Ministries that headquarters out of Bellevue, WA. An extra benefit is that Melanie Kastmann, a producer/director, is going to do a free documentary for Teethsavers in Sierra Leone. Remembering the extreme poverty level, the lack of dental care available and the amputee rate in Sierra Leone, we covet your prayers for Dr. Rudd and his work there in the coming months.

Tracy Ebarb, our Executive Director, has worked out an agreement with the Schein Dental Products Company to allow Teethsavers to purchase dental instruments at cost. This savings should help greatly as dental instruments are a large part of the treatment costs for Teethsavers. He has also gotten several dental practices to sign up for our new Partner Pal Program which should help Teethsavers more in the future. (See attached explanation of this program to determine if you might be interested in adding it to your dental practice.)

Oral Hygiene and Reading: Journey of Motherhood

Teethsavers proposes combining reading with daily oral hygiene from the age of three months.

In 2007 when Doranah Muloongo left her one-year-old baby with her mother in the village and returned to work for Teethsavers, she began going to one District Health Post per day by mini-bus or taxi, to start our new program of teaching mothers to combine oral hygiene with the babies' bath from the time the baby is three months old. Mothers learned to wrap a warm, damp cloth around their fingers to first clean the lips and gradually the lower front gums and, eventually, the upper and lower back gums. The important rules the mothers learned were to be Gradual, Careful, Persistent, and Never Force the baby (wait until the next bath). From the Ministry of Health, Doranah was given the schedule for each distant Health Post stating when mothers and their babies came for check-ups. We were lucky as each Health Post had a different day of the month for this check-up. As available, employees watched Doranah teach the mothers and the same day she taught the full staff. Our god: "Teach a Few Health Post Employees to Teach Many Mothers."

We have since added, www.reachoutandread.org (Reach Out and Read.org), which was started in Boston and New York City. Pediatricians recommend that all mothers read to even babies. Teethsavers wants to combine reading with daily oral hygiene and bathing by the same person.

Strategy: in a village, we will identify one to three teaching mothers who can read at least some of the illustrated, used children's books to the learning mothers. In seven to fourteen days, the supervisor directing that village will return and teach more words to the teaching mothers, who will teach the learning mothers and make certain the reinforcing of oral hygiene for three-month-olds and other ages with Teethsavers toothbrushes. This process goes on as illiterate mothers learn to read better to their children and exchange illustrated, used children's books sent from The Can Do Americans.

Doranah and other Teethsavers will be teaching health post personnel to teach mothers to practice oral hygiene by the time their babies are three months old and to being the process of reading, which is so very vital for the child and the development of the child's country. Once the child is two years old, we will include a very small toothbrush and ask the mothers to supervise brushing until age 8, when the child's muscles for proper brushing have developed. Our program will be more successful if the supervisor for both oral hygiene and reading is the same person.

This simple teaching, if passed down from one generation to the next, should save more teeth and prevent more gum disease than any other oral hygiene process. The child will grow up knowing what a clean mouth feels like, become used to having something in the mouth other than food and liquids, and hopefully will have curiosity and a lifetime love for reading and learning.

This will be our process, starting in the slums of Freetown, Sierra Leone.

From Behind the Six Year Molar

You can't cure what's wrong with the world until we each cure what's wrong in here," said Greg Chapman, pointing to his chest. Jack says it took him eleven years to learn this and get refocused on helping the hurting and overlooked children of the world.

If you would like someone to come to your church, agency, or group and make a presentation about Teethsavers, we'd be happy to do so. Please contact Tracy Ebarb at tsebarb@verizon.net or call him at 325-320-1377. Also, you may e-mail our office at teethsaversoffice@yahoo.com or call 806-368-7513.

Upcoming Events

Some upcoming planned dental presentations are: St. Luke Presbyterian Church, Amarillo, TX—Sept. 26; First Presbyterian Church, Pampa, TX—Oct. 9; Lubbock Dental Trade Show—Oct. 25; First Baptist Church, Lubbock—TBA. Other planned presentations include 1st United Methodist, Brownwood, TX; Westminster Presbyterian, Austin, TX; First Presbyterian Church, Graham, TX; First Central Presbyterian Church, Abilene, TX; First Baptist

Church, Whitehouse, TX; First Baptist Church, Mt. Pleasant, TX.

We continue to appreciate so much the office building and equipment that Westminster Presbyterian Church has provided for us. You'll receive an invitation to our Open House here soon.

How to become a Teethsavers International Partner Practice

Level 1

Your office staff and clients can begin to make a difference in the lives of children around the world right now—today! Participating in Teethsavers' "Dollars for Molars" Program is easy ...

As clients sign in for their appointments, simply hand them a Teethsavers brochure and ask them to look over the information contained therein. If your office is equipped with a TV, you can encourage them to watch the Teethsavers informational DVD.

Provide excellent patient care and service like you always do!

As your clients check out and make their next appointment, ask them if they'd like to add \$1 or more to their bill to support the work of Teethsavers International around the world.

When they agree, have them fill out the simple registration form on the back of the brochure, add the \$1 to their bill, and give them a "I'm a Teethsaver" magnet.

Guess what? You and your patient have just made a huge difference in the life of a child; you've taught oral health and provided much needed dental care to those who are most often forgotten in our world. God bless you!!!

The accounting is simple for your business manager—just keep track of the registration forms that are filled out and the amount of dollars added to the bills and simply write a check on a monthly basis to Teethsavers International. Teethsavers is a registered 501(c)-3 nonprofit organization and will send you a charitable contribution statement at the end of the year for your tax purposes.

Level II

How would you like to travel to one of Teethsavers work sites for some "hands-on" mission work in the field?

Maybe you'd like to send some of your office staff, or maybe the whole office!?? Teethsavers International's goal is to educate, train, and support native residents to be Teethsavers in their own country. We need short term volunteers to go and support our field workers with continuing education and encouragement.

Our Traveling Teethsavers Program allows your office to raise funds to send dentists and office staff to one of Teethsavers' overseas work sites to work alongside the men and women who've graduated from our Six-Year Molar Focus School. Depending upon experience and education, the "Travelers" may be asked to help with continuing education as well.

Participation is simple: As clients sign in for their appointments, simply hand them a Teethsavers brochure and ask them to look over the information contained therein. If your office is equipped with a TV, you can encourage them to watch the Teethsavers informational DVD.

Provide excellent patient care and service like you always do!

As your clients check out, office staff will give a brief (30-second) overview of the Traveling Teethsaver program and invite them to join the Teethsavers Support Team by signing up for a monthly bank draft of at least \$6.

Teethsavers International will set aside 40% of the funds collected through your office into your own Traveling Teethsavers account is to be used at your discretion.

You may designate your fund for yourself, a specific office member, or use it as a special incentive or yearly bonus!

Plus, anyone joining the Teethsavers Support Team through a contact in your office will be helping build your Traveling Teethsavers fund, also.

Level III

Level III Partner Practices may combine both the opportunities of Levels I and II, plus add another exciting dimension, a rebate on credit/debit/EFT processing through Swipe & Give. Teethsavers International has negotiated a special rate through MinistryLinQ, Inc. for third-party card processing that provides the highest level of PCI security compliance in the industry. Not only will your practice benefit from lower rates on electronic payments, also with every card transaction MinistryLinQ will set aside a percentage of the normal transaction fees as a donation from you to Teethsavers International. You'll add money to your bottom line with lower transaction fees, you'll also be supporting the ministry of Teethsavers International, and you'll also receive a tax credit for your charitable contribution!

Please consider supporting Teethsavers, a non-profit 501(c)3 agency. All donations are tax deductible and are appreciated. You may send your contributions to Teethsavers International, Inc., c/o Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3321-33rd Street, Lubbock, TX 79410 or call for information at 806-799-3621.