

Great Commission Support Ministry

Fall 2012

DENTAL TRAINING FOR MISSIONS

Dale Parks and Kevin Cooney



I received a request recently from an older gentleman to take my course. He reminded me of my first US student 11 years ago. He's a retired pharmacist who always wanted to be a dentist. Tom still goes to Honduras regularly serving the poor. Recalling Tom's success story moved me to welcome Dale without hesitation. Dale, a retired pastor actively involved in his local pastors' association, was a dental auxiliary and educator in the air force for many years. He was thrilled to take this course and get back into dentistry again. It's so rewarding to train someone with that level of enthusiasm. He thoroughly enjoyed the course.

Dale and I teamed up with Kevin Cooney (a former student) for two clinics at churches in Matamoros, Mexico. I always pray that God will provide good patient cases for my students to learn. God came through again! We had around 100 patients! Kevin, who is 31 and on track for a career in tribal missions with his family, had a great opportunity to refresh and increase his skills. See his testimonial; it truly blessed me.

After our clinics in Mexico, Kevin returned to his mission school while Dale and I held a clinic at a Spanish speaking church in Brownsville— Iglesia Mennonita. This is where Denise and I attended when we first came to Brownsville. Dale lives 90 minutes from Piedras Negras, Mexico and plans to connect with a Christian ministry there to provide dental clinics.



Luke Fisher (RN)

Luke (an Oklahoma farmer and nurse) did my dental course a few years back. He loves dental ministry. He has been spending about a 4-6 months a year in Africa (Sudan, Chad). He leaves again for Africa (Congo) next week (with his new wife) and plans to stay until Christmas. He hopes to train African nationals in the ART technique. He came to Brownsville last month to get materials and supplies and to go over some important basics in dental training. We had a productive time together.

To Your Dental Health!

I recently had a very enlightening phone conversation with Dr. Ellie Phillips, author of *"Kiss Your Dentist Good-By"* She informed me that chlorine dioxide (Closys) is an even more effective mouth rinse than previously thought. It neutralizes the harmful bacteria which causes gum disease—the main cause of tooth loss in adults. Use it, it really works! You can find it at Walgreens and CVS. For more info, call me.

Thank you Tom!

You may recall in our last letter about a new extraction technique I learned back in June. My sincere thanks again to Dr. Tom Kessler for purchasing a second set of surgical instruments for us. This particular set is specific to root removal. They have delicate and fine tips that really do the job well. Thank you Tom!

HOPE MINISTRY

“Hope Beyond Hell” continues to bring peace and joy to troubled and tormented hearts. I often get letters like this:

“Thank you so much for writing this book, it has changed my life. I love God again and people like never before. I know God will never give up on anyone, so how can I?”

At the beginning of July I decided to revise my book in order to more effectively launch a major book promotional campaign this fall. After spending much time prayerfully analyzing the book’s content, revising certain points, tweaking through all the chapters, and writing new content, I felt overwhelmed. I was going deeper than I had intended. So I finally put it aside and began praying for clear direction. Almost immediately I felt released from the sense of urgency that had been weighing on me. I concluded it was not time for a revision or for a promotional campaign. I felt I needed to focus on the Scriptures just for myself, to deepen and enrich my own foundations of faith. I do not regret the countless hours I devoted to the revision as I learned much in the process and have written some new and compelling content (which I hope to publish on my website in days ahead). I thank God for the liberty I have in this ministry to serve Him as I sense He is leading me. I desire only His grace and strength to live true to who I am in Him. That’s not always easy. I appreciate your prayers.

Counseling Sessions

I completed my pre-marital phone sessions with Isaac and Sarah who are getting married October 20th. They have thoroughly enjoyed these visits, to the point that they asked me if we could continue them after the wedding. I was touched and honored. We went through *“Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts”*. It’s a very good study for couples of any age! It will be a joy for me to officiate at the ceremony and celebrate with the Goley family.

Notes from Denise



People often ask us how we are adjusting to being “*empty nesters*” and I am pleased to say, “Much better than we had expected.” While we miss having our family near us, especially Elliora and Esther, Gerry and I are enjoying being just the two of us. Like many of you, as our kids got older and developed lives of their own, we got use to having the house to ourselves quite a bit. So that part hasn’t changed so much. It is Nicole coming and going, having her friends over from time to time, Renee and Azarja and the girls coming for the weekend, babysitting Elliora & Esther...that’s what we miss. We do enjoy having Nicole & Paul not too far away (they actually live in a place called Pharr). We get to see them fairly often. We enjoy our frequent phone calls with Anna. Skype is a wonderful tool for staying in touch with Renee and her family. Though, we sometimes wonder if it is a good thing or not...we miss them more after we’ve visited. Esther always seems so happy to see us at the start and so sad when it’s time to say good-bye. She’ll be turning 3 on November 2nd and it’s hard for her to understand why we can’t come to her birthday party. But such is

life, I've come to realize. We are not alone in this arrangement. So many families are separated by many miles today. I'm just so thankful for the modern means of communication that keep us connected so easily.

My days are kept quite busy between household and ministry responsibilities. I enjoy leading a ladies bible study group. Right now we are doing a Women of Faith study titled "Living Above Worry and Stress". In today's world that is no easy task. This is where my heart is: encouraging women in their faith, encouraging them as they face life's challenges and helping them be the women God wants them to be. My days often include encouraging and praying with women either over the phone or in person over breakfast, lunch or coffee. It's why I like being a mentor mom with MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) so much. Sharing from my experiences, both good and bad, testifying of God's faithfulness hopefully helps them to be better moms and stronger women.



You may recall me sharing a bit about Love In the Name of Christ last year. I am president of the board of this struggling ministry. I would appreciate your prayers for wisdom as our board will be meeting on October 30th. I think we are very close to making the decision to close our doors. Without getting into too much detail, suffice it to say: due to lack of interest on the part of the area churches, lack of funds and a burnt out executive director, I think the time has come to let this ministry go. As a board, we have been taking it month by month for quite some time now, seeking God's direction, all of us having a heart for those in need. We simply don't know how to make this work.



I was in NH in September for Nicole Fortin's wedding. What a joy to share such a special occasion with our dear friends. Anna came from Colorado for the wedding as well. We were blessed to have a special day just to ourselves visiting Perkins Cove, Maine. I'm looking forward to attending Isaac and Sarah's wedding with Gerry. I'm also looking forward to seeing the beautiful fall foliage this time. The change of scenery and spending time with family and friends is always so refreshing.



Thank you for taking the time to read our news. We'd love to hear your news, too. Feel free to call, write or email. You can find us on Facebook, too. We are so thankful for your prayers and to each one who supports our ministry.

Blessings,

*"Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty;
Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!" Rev 15:3*

Gerry & Denise

Financial support and correspondence may be sent to:

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