

# Great Commission Support Ministry

## Summer 2012

### Institute of Biblical Community Development

This was another very large class, eight students, topped only by the class in Honduras! A unique aspect of this class, and a great benefit to me, was having Dr. Paul Yi as a co-instructor. Paul is a practicing dentist from Catonsville, MD. He first audited the course last year and was very impressed with my methodology. And this year, he so enjoyed training with me, that he has committed himself to join me again next year! Thank you Lord.



Dr. Paul Yi to the right of Gerry

I'm so pleased that one of the IBCD students took some video of this class. Now you can get a glimpse of it! Check out this video!

**Video Link:** <http://youtu.be/hpRK8CQdYrM>

### Students say thank you...

*You've been really blessing for us and me! Through you, I could see how gentle and thoughtful is His love! Every year, my thanks for you get deeper and deeper. —Yougin Hur (S. Korea)*

*Your cheerful spirit, love and dedication are compelling. I am forever grateful for having met you. May our paths converge again. Many Thanks. [Pastor] Uncle Jonnes (Uganda)*

*Thank you so much for your time, wisdom, skills, counsel and kindness to us. I was not only taught, but treated. God Bless you in very big way! ---[Pastor] Godfrey Kiaizze. (Uganda)*

### A Church Missions' Director (student) shares...



While doing some personal research I discovered, "Dental Training for Missions". Gerry offers a combination of technique and Christ-focused compassion that couldn't be boiled down to a textbook. So, my primary goal was to acquire a skill to use in serving God's people. The secondary was learning how this is used to draw people to Christ. This is an area where Gerry excelled. I believe that each student respectfully acknowledged

Gerry's loving attention to details that refined the ART technique to be patient-centered in order to establish a relationship that allowed for sharing the love of Christ with them.

*Thank you for going above and beyond simply sharing your dental skills. You have shared your heart for Christ and through you, His love for people. —Ron Rohrssen, New Covenant Bible Church, Iowa.*

## Bread of Life Mission and Lake Charles Mission Team

I had a very good class training two students in Matamoros, Mexico (across the border from Brownsville). We teamed up with Bread of Life and the Lake Jackson mission group to minister at Centro Cristiano. Los Palmas While the group built a roof on the concession stand, held Vacation Bible School, and did electrical work, my students and I cared for everyone's teeth. This was one of my most exciting classes ever! Why? I'm glad you asked. I tested an accelerated training idea that whittled down my pre-clinic lab class to just one morning. It succeeded. I'm so pleased. This new approach will accelerate my future preclinical labs leaving more time for actual patient care ministry and practice.



Kristen, Amy and her son Trevor

Both Amy and Kristen were exceptional learners. They were courageous in jumping right in, had great attitudes, and handled their patients in a professional, gentle way. I was very impressed. Amy and her husband Bruce (from OK), have spent some time in Ecuador and are in the process of selling their home to move there permanently.

They may also serve in Zimbabwe, Ecuador, or Russia as the Lord leads.

Kristen is in college and has a heart for missions and dentistry and is seriously considering getting her dental hygiene degree. That would be ideal for her mission's career. I appreciate your prayers for Kristen and for Amy too.



## Ogram Tooth Extraction Seminar

I recently travelled to Dallas for a few days to take in a very interesting class on dental extractions. You know, the dental profession is still doing extractions the same way it has for the last 100 years or more. I was introduced to a micro-surgical technique that is far superior in many ways. My special thanks to Dr. Tom Kessler for introducing me to this new method and for purchasing a new set of instruments to accommodate it. This also met my continuing education requirements for the year and more. I thank God for the privilege of serving Him in this dental ministry and for all He teaches me.

## Pre-marital Counseling

I was asked by a young couple from New Hampshire, if I would accept to officiate at their wedding. Isaac's family has been dear friends of ours for decades and I feel honored to have been given this privilege. As part of their premarital counseling, Isaac, Sarah and I have been studying and discussing a book titled, *Save Your Marriage Before it Starts*. This has been a wonderful learning time for all of us. Yeah! It's a great book.

*Thank you for taking the time to read our news. We are so thankful to each one who gives and prays to make this ministry possible. We could not do it without you.*

*God bless you and yours,  
Gerry & Denise*

**Financial support and correspondence may be sent to:**

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# Family News

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Petrarca  
May 10th 2012



There has been a whirlwind of activity in our home since our last newsletter. Wedding preparations took precedent over so many other activities. Two and a half months is not much time to put together such a special event. Praise God for His mercy and grace! We are so thankful to each one, family & friends, who contributed to making the Beauchemin – Petrarca wedding a beautiful and memorable event.

Following the wedding was a few days of family fun. Nicole & Paul took a short honeymoon at nearby South Padre Island. We all had a fun day at the beach with them and enjoyed a dolphin watch voyage together. What a wonderful memory making day!

In the midst of all the preparing and celebrating was the preparation for the departure of Renee and her family. All this family fun and celebration was mixed with many emotions as we knew we would be saying good-bye to Azarja, Renee and their girls in a few short days. On May 14<sup>th</sup> we drove them to Houston to see them off the following day. How proud we are of them. They have worked hard for many years preparing to serve the Lord in aviation missions. Nonetheless, it was not easy saying good-bye knowing we would not see them again for at least three years. If you haven't already viewed their ministry video, we encourage you to do so at <https://vimeo.com/38283673> . If you would like to receive their newsletters contact them at [grootscoop@gmail.com](mailto:grootscoop@gmail.com) .



Of course it was wonderful to have Anna & David home with us for a few days. They are doing well in Colorado Springs. I'm sure you all heard of the wild fires in their area. They actually were evacuated from their apartment for a day or so. Praise God for his protection. We are thankful to the firemen who were able to bring the fire under control with little loss of life and minimal property loss.

Having our daughters' weddings so far from our original home (NH), means not having many of our family and friends with us to enjoy the event. We were blessed to have my (Denise) sister Terry and her husband Fred with us again. Terry has made it to all three of the girls' weddings. Love you Terry & Fred.





Gerry & I are adjusting to having an empty nest. We certainly miss the sound of children laughing, family conversations, game nights and especially those wonderful hugs and kisses from Elliora and Esther. Is there anything more precious than hearing your grandchildren say "I love you Memere & Pepere!"? We are so thankful for phones, email and especially Skype! We've enjoyed several skype visits with the Groots these past couple months. And for now, we do have Nicole and Paul just a little over an hour away and can see them fairly often.

We are enjoying rediscovering who we are as a couple. Thirty-two years of marriage filled with raising a family, missions and ministry has certainly molded us into the people we are today. We're not the same young'uns who said "I do" so long ago. We're better, stronger and more in love than ever. We look forward to all God has for us in the coming years. We are so blessed.

