

Great Commission Support Ministry

February 2013

OCTOBER

SAIDEL-GOLEY WEDDING: October 20th, 2012 Sarah Hickman and Isaac Saidel-Goley were married. As you may remember, I had done pre-marital counseling with



them and would be officiating the wedding ceremony. I was a little nervous about how I would connect with my Jewish and Christian audience. But God gave me wisdom. I was able to blend Christian and Jewish terms when using scriptures from the O.T. What a special day it was. What joy and satisfaction it brought me to hear how pleased they were. They want to continue the counseling phone calls with us as they value our advice and see it as beneficial to their marriage.



NH VISIT: Denise and I enjoyed our time in NH, even though we missed the peak of the foliage. Connecting with family, and friends and ministry partners is always so very special. We connected with a very dear lady, Muriel Wheeler, who has faithfully prayed for us, written letters, and sent us homemade cards over the last 25 years. In those years she has never missed one of our birthdays, our anniversary, or any major holiday. What a blessing to be loved like that. Muriel went to be with Jesus on February 7, 2013. She was 90 years young.



We both flew to NH with the plan of my (Gerry) driving back with Aunt Rachel's car. I was going to extend my stay a bit but had to cut my time short to outrun Hurricane Sandy and the snow storm heading for PA. Praise the Lord I made it out just in time!

NOVEMBER

HAITI: I was privileged to be able to go to Haiti in November to provide greatly needed dental care with a ministry called Heartline. This was my first time in Haiti, and it was special



to me because our church in NH first started its mission's focus there. I was also very impressed with Heartline. They have a great ministry to women teaching income generating skills. Their facility was filled with women busily working on their projects. I was invited by Troy Livesay (of Heartline) to come and train him along with three Haitians from various

organizations. Troy is an American working full-time there with his wife and seven (7) kids. Along with Troy, I trained Winifred Louisville (Heartline), Clotilde Thermadore (Three Angels Children's Relief) and Junior Sinsmyr (Awaken Haiti). They were all motivated—eager to learn and enthusiastic about dental ministry. What a joy it was for me to train this group!



Troy sent me this attestation: *“I recently completed the DTFM dental course with Gerry Beauchemin in Port au Prince, Haiti. It was exactly what I needed and was looking for. I had little prior experience in dentistry but after training with Gerry I am prepared and confident enough to continue offering dental care. Gerry is a kind, patient and experienced instructor and dental practitioner; his love for God and those he teaches and serves is very evident. The course is intensive hands-on practical training, accompanied by a very thorough and useful manual. I believe this training would be beneficial to any ministry effort around the world. It meets real needs, brings healing and relief, and opens doors to the community. I have personally witnessed growth in relationships and opportunities to love and minister to others after taking this course. I highly recommend it!”* —Troy Livesay

“Gerry, I can't tell you what a blessing it was having you here and learning from you. Thank you so much.” —Troy

COLORADO: *Family Time* -- Just days after returning from Haiti,

Denise and I were off again on a road trip to Colorado to spend Thanksgiving with our daughter Anna and her husband David. The 1000 mile road trip turned out to be a very special time for us. We enjoyed having profound as well as light-hearted conversation. As we crossed northwestern Texas, Denise and I were just laughing and dodging the



tumble weeds crossing the road. Some really big ones scared us as they crashed into our windshield. No cracks, thank God. You might find our video clips entertaining! <https://vimeo.com/60720732>

<https://vimeo.com/60716277> <https://vimeo.com/60695070> Nicole and Paul joined us there as well. It was Paul's first time in Colorado. How fun it was to take the drive up to Pike's Peak with him. Being all together for Thanksgiving was awesome. Even Renee was able to join us by Skype.



We're so thankful for modern technology that helps keep us connected.

DECEMBER

MEXICO (MATAMOROS): In December we had two students, Liz Ann and Beverly Sterling, take the course here in Texas. We did our practical field clinic in Matamoros serving two churches. Liz is a Canadian and private practice dental hygienist from British Columbia and Beverly is an American nurse serving as a full-time missionary in Nigeria. Bev operates a medical clinic and, along with her husband, an orphanage with 31 kids. She certainly will have much occasion to use her skills in their ministries.



Liz is a dental activist in Canada working to expand the clinical functions of the dental hygiene profession in her province. I accepted her because I believe hygienist should provide ART so they can provide care to those in North America who cannot afford a dentist. She is a Christian and is very dedicated to her profession and the people she serves. Liz has a very generous and giving heart.

It was a joy to train Liz Ann and Beverly. We treated numerous patients in two separate churches. One church was a new contact, a pastor and business man. He has a very gentle and humble spirit who truly wants to bless his congregation and community. Because of violence across the border, our Mexican hosts lodge us so we can stay off the roads at night. He and his wife took great care of us and want me to return.



LOVE INC: After much prayer, I (Denise) and my fellow board members and our Executive Director, decided to shut down this ministry at the end of 2012. It was a difficult and sad decision for us to make as each of us has a heart for the needy in this area and for the church to be involved in meeting those needs. Love INC had been in existence for 10 years and had helped meet the needs of over 3,000 people. The ministry struggled for most of those years with finances and getting churches to participate. We have a sense that God is letting this ministry go for a time and has better plans for the future.

JANUARY

MEN'S MINISTRY CONFERENCE: I attended a men's week-end conference at South Padre Island with about 14 men from our church. It was a time of worship and Christian teaching on numerous themes. They had quite a number of local pastors speak, all limited to ten minutes. It was amazing to see how much pastors can put into a ten minute talk. I was inspired in my faith and encouraged. I would like to pass on to you a thought on humility that blessed me: *"Humility is not thinking less about ourselves, but instead, not thinking about ourselves."*

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH / RIVER CHURCH: I was blessed recently to share about dental missions at two local churches here in Brownsville. I was invited by my friend David Nuckols (from Bread of Life) to give a short talk at CCC. I talked about the effectiveness and practicality of dental ministry and some important tips on successful short-term missions. Azarja and Renee, who attend this church and are supported by them, Skyped in that morning to share with the congregation. We were so proud of them. It was all part of the church's missions emphasis week. And also at our new home church, I was asked to share about a recent mission outreach I did with *To Every Tribe Mission*.

TO EVERY TRIBE MINISTRY: Largest dental class ever! I was excited in January to train 14 students. Yes 14! And the only reason I was able to pull it off was because of God's help and Kevin Cooney's (a former student). I told you about Kevin in the last letter. He co-taught the class with me. It was unique and challenging in that I experimented with a new training approach: simplifying our enamel breaking technique and dividing the students into teams of two. This permitted us to accelerate the training and launch into patient clinics after only two days of lab practice. (Photos coming in next letter)

CENTENARIO, MEXICO: Centenario is a small village about 90 minutes south of us. I went with 12 students from the above class. This was the first of two scheduled field clinics. I think we saw around a hundred people in the course of a week. We set up 6 student stations who worked in teams of two. There is no better way to learn than working on real people. Kevin helped me supervise freeing me to do some extractions. He was also eager to learn injections and extractions, so I coached him through some of that. He welcomed every opportunity - living up to his name: "The Dental Beast!"

The community was very happy we came and invited us to return. I received a praise report saying this clinic opened doors of opportunity for TETM's mission team working there.

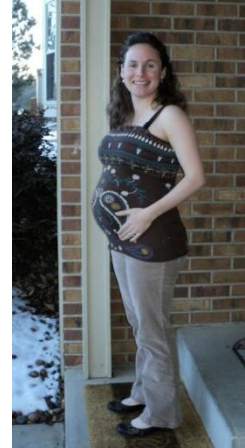
As you read this I should be in Southern Mexico with some of these same students doing our second field clinic. I'll tell you more next time.

FEBRUARY

GUATEMALA: I was in Tactic, Guatemala from 1/31- 2/12 with Impact Ministries. What a touching time it was. I'll share much more about this trip in our next newsletter.

PRAISE REPORT! We received this email today (2/26): *"I would love to learn more about your A.R.T. training program. I'm preparing to move to Sierra Leone to work as a community health nurse this coming fall... I feel like this training would be quite useful to the community I plan to serve... I learned about your training program through watching some of your former students in action. I was in **Haiti** last week on a short term medical trip, and was extremely intrigued by the work your former students were doing. In between seeing my own patients I kept slipping into the dental room just to watch these guys work."* Karlin Bacher

Notes from Denise: Here's some news I so wanted to share with you in our last newsletter: Anna and Dave are expecting their first baby! I know some of you have already heard this news but it is so exciting for us! Jordan Deborah Fry is expected to make her debut May 15th! I'm planning to see Anna in a couple weeks. I've got to rub that tummy again before Jordan arrives. It's mother / daughter time!



Gerry and I have been attending a new church started by one of the pastors of our former church. River Church Brownsville is very Jesus centered, community and missions minded. It's so nice to be part of a smaller church that's just starting out. Already one advantage has been that they pray for Gerry with the congregation before he goes on his trips.

I'm still leading my ladies' Bible study group. We're still making our way through the same study we started months ago, "Living Above Worry and Stress". We're finding it so helpful. The discussion is so rich we usually have to take two weeks to get through a lesson. I'm so thankful to have a group of ladies who are faithful to getting their homework done, are not afraid to share from their hearts, and to pray for one another. I just love these ladies.

I'm enjoying my involvement with MOPS. It's not quite the same without Renee there. I count it as such an honor to be part of these mom's lives. Encouraging young moms, helping them to be better moms, helping them grow in their faith is just such a joy for me.

All our girls are doing well. We sure are missing Renee and her family. We're so thankful for phones and especially video Skype. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to adjust to being in South Africa. They're having a bit of a struggle dealing with strong-willed Esther.

Thanks for taking the time to read this long newsletter. We had planned to send one sooner but as you can see we've been very busy, especially with Gerry traveling so much more.

Thank you for your prayers and for your faithful support each month. You are such an important part of this ministry. May God bless you and make Himself known to you in a real way each day.

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13 NKJ

Blessings,
Gerry & Denise

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