

Dental Training For Missions

September 2011

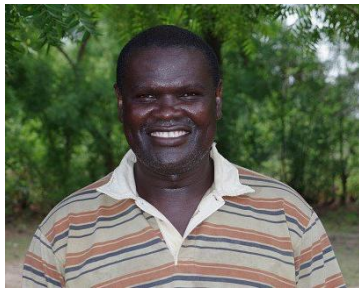
Officially passed the 100 mark!

We are pleased to report that with our recent class **Gerry has trained over 100 short and long term missionaries and Christian workers** to provide simplified and compassionate dental care in Jesus Name. It started in Senegal, West Africa with African nationals serving with our Y.W.A.M. team in the House of Hope ministry. Also at that time, came Dr. Richard Shawyer, an Australian physician serving as a missionary in northern Senegal. He greatly encouraged me in this vision and also came to Texas for further training. I believe the Lord has given me a natural love for teaching and perhaps a gifting in it too. A special thanks to all who have believed in our mission. **Without you it would not be possible.**

Interesting testimonial

Here is an email from a friend of ours who visited Senegal in June. It concerns my very first dental student, who some of you may remember from our early Senegal Newsletters:

Benjamin wrote: "It certainly is Emmanuel! He accompanied our friend Moussa Sadio to Kougara for a church service. He said he was a dentist and I asked him where he trained. He said here in Senegal, with YWAM. So I asked whether he knew Gerry, and he said that it was Gerry who trained him! It's a small world. He said that he was very grateful to Gerry for the training he received. He said that other Senegalese dentists who trained in Senegal are amazed at his skills, and they often think he must have gone to the USA or Europe to train. They can hardly believe that he trained right here in Senegal! He is very happy with the training he received. So I thought you would like to have that encouragement, Gerry, and to know that he is still travelling around the Senegal countryside fixing people's teeth! Even while he was with us someone was asking about having a tooth replaced. He told them to come to his "practice". Gerry's legacy lives on."



Institute of Biblical Community Development, John Brown University

This summer marks my third year teaching at J.B.U. I trained six students from five countries: South Korea, Cambodia, Kenya, Zambia, and the United States (2). The interesting thing about this class was my student from Maryland - a licensed practicing dentist! Yes, a dentist. As you can imagine, I was quite intimidated by the idea. Who am I to teach a dentist any aspect of dentistry? Well, to make a long story short, it went very well. My unique training and experience in a non-conventional approach to dental care gave me something Dr. Paul Yee thought valuable enough to fly



to Oklahoma to learn. He was not disappointed! Praise the Lord. As it turned out, years prior, Dr. Yee had also been a dental student of a dear friend and supporter of ours, Dr. James Greeley.



Kenneth Filbreck, MD; Lee Perry, RN

After my course at JBU, I enjoyed training two other medical professionals - an E.R. doctor from Indiana and a male nurse from West Virginia. Dr. Ken and Lee both travel together on mission trips to Thailand where Ken was raised as a missionary kid (MK). His parents are still there. Both Ken and Lee greatly appreciated the course, especially our time in Mexico at the orphanage. Once he's established, Ken wants to fly me to Thailand to help him begin a dental program for nationals.

Continuing Education Credits Granted!

Your prayers were answered! As you may recall, I asked for prayer in our last letter that the Saskatchewan Dental Therapy Association would grant my full credit request for my dental manual. **They granted me all 26!** As you know many professions require continuing education activities to maintain licensure. This includes Dental Therapy. In case you missed the letter, I developed a training manual uniquely geared to the non-conventional dentistry approach I teach and submitted it for credit. It was bold to request 26 credits instead of 10 or 15. But I went for broke and it was granted! Thanks so much for praying. This is wonderful as it saves me much time and expense.



Ultrasonic Scaling

Susan Russell, a dental hygienist who took my course, highly recommended that I get and use an ultrasonic scalar. This would save me much time and reduce hand fatigue. I shared this suggestion with Dr. Ken and he offered to purchase one for me. He not only offered to, but did! What a blessing as this unit cost about \$500! This is a blessing in several ways, the greatest being greater comfort for my patients. There is a learning curve, but I am making progress, enjoying it and seeing its benefits.

Instrument fabrication and request

Dental instruments, as you might imagine, are quite expensive. In order to keep the cost down for our students, I modify used and broken dental instruments. I've modified instruments for a long time and have progressively taken it to a higher level. I am even looking at making instruments out of nutshell pick tools! I hardly purchase any instruments anymore. While in Senegal, YWAM's Mercy Ships blessed me with thousands of dental drill tips. I am still using this stock. Instrument fabrication is so important in this course that it has become a component of the course itself. Would you ask your dentist to save all broken and used instruments for us? Then send them to us!

Prayer Requests:

Please keep me in your prayers as I travel to Honduras in mid - October to train missionaries at Maranatha Medical Ministries in the mountains of Santa Barbara. I will also be traveling to remote mountain villages in Oaxaca (southern Mexico) in early November; this will be to supervise my students trained with To Every Tribe Missions.

Thank you

Without you this ministry would not be possible. We thank you for your faithfulness in partnering with us. Together we are touching lives with the love of God. Thank you!

"I give thanks to God always for you..." 1 Corinthians 1:4

*Love & Blessings,
Gerry & Denise*

Financial support and correspondence may be sent to:

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(956) 831- 9011 gerrydenise@yahoo.com DentalTrainingForMissions.com

Family News



July brought great joy as we welcomed home Azarja, Renee and our beautiful granddaughters – Elliora & Esther! What a traveling adventure they had getting back to us! Gerry, who was already planning to drive 5 hours to San Antonio

to get them, ended up driving all the way to Atlanta, GA! Yes, upon entry to the USA, the customs official stopped Renee and Esther, who had travelled apart from Azarja and Elliora. Esther had some spots on her face which



appeared to be chickenpox. Renee was pretty sure they were just mosquito bites, but the doctor did not agree. They were not allowed to continue on public transportation! The airline put them up in a hotel. As they were flying stand-by from Holland (“hitch-hiking in the air” as Azarja puts it), Azarja and Elliora made it on a flight the following day. Gerry

arrived in Atlanta just 45 minutes before Azarja! After 2 days of travelling by car, we were so happy to have them home again! It has been wonderful being together again. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to return to South Africa to serve fulltime with Mercy Air sometime next year.



Love In the Name of Christ Challenge Grant

I (Denise) have served with *Love INC* for 4 years now as Board Secretary and presently as Board President. *Love INC* is a bridge between people in need and people in the church who can help.

Visit www.loveincbrownsville.org.

This ministry has been struggling financially for quite some time now.

Praise the Lord, we have recently been presented with a \$5000 challenge grant! This donor is willing to match donations up to \$5000 given by December 31st. If you would like to help us meet this challenge, you can give online at:

<https://www.networkforgood.org/donation/ExpressDonation.aspx?ORGID2=74-2981639>

Or send a check to: Love In the Name of Christ, P. O. Box 724, Los Fresnos, TX 78566. Please write “Challenge Grant” on the memo line. Even the smallest donation would be a great blessing to this ministry at this time. Thank you!