

# Gerry & Denise Beauchemin

## Great Commission Support Ministry News

### March 2016



#### Dear Friends,

So much has happened since we wrote you last; it's hard to know where to start. But I trust God will help us make our news concise and still interesting. We hope this letter blesses you in knowing what you are accomplishing with us as our partners in mission.

#### Dental Training Vision Renewed

As Islamic radicalism expands, we, as followers of Jesus know what the true solution is. Jesus' servants in missions across the world can have a powerful impact for the Gospel as we humbly immerse ourselves in helping suffering humanity in practical service. Tooth decay afflicts billions causing great suffering in the world. Dental pain is one of the worse; ask anyone who couldn't sleep at night because of it.

Our vision has always been to train "trainers" so dental care, in Jesus name, would multiply in the world. Well that is now more attainable than ever. Why? Silver Nitrate therapy—a simple therapy that halts dental decay in its tracks. Its simplicity and economy greatly facilitate replication. Imagine the potential in relieving human suffering this could bring. It could open the flood-gates to train thousands of dental techs across the globe. All things are possible with God.

#### Senegal, West Africa

In November, I was so blessed to return to Senegal again after eight years. I was welcomed with much affection from my former team—quite overwhelming at times. Each of my six days was like a roller-coaster of activity. But the best thing was being with my old friends again. At times it felt like I never left. My purpose in going was to bring dental education updates, evaluate the clinic, encourage the team and offer suggestions to help make things better. [Official Clinic Report](#) I've been invited to return to implement my recommendations. We are awaiting confirmation on dates. See my short 3 minute video: [House of Hope in Action](#)



#### Bend, Oregon

In December, God opened a way for me to fly to Seattle, WA, then drive with Jason and his wife Meggan—partners in our mission, across the Cascades to east central Oregon. We went to meet with Dr. John Frachella, an expert and pioneer in Silver Nitrate treatment. Dr. Frachella has much experience with this technique in which he uses the same material we already use in A.R.T. He, along with others, is on a mission to change the "standard of care" in caries treatment in America. We spent two days going over his methodology in detail. His collaborator, Dr. Steve Duffin (also a pioneer and scientist) kindly told me to consider myself part of their team. What an honor! They respect my dental experiences in training nationals in developing nations using A.R.T. Dr. Duffin started a project in Ghana W. Africa called "No DK." (DK=decay) based on Silver Nitrate therapy. This trip solidified my acceptance of this new therapy for our program.

## Matamoros, Mexico

It was very important to me that I promptly start applying silver nitrate therapy for myself in a clinical setting. So I scheduled clinics at two churches in Mexico. This has helped me to make the adjustment of integrating A.R.T. with the simpler and quicker treatment of dental decay, now called S.M.A.R.T. (Silver Modified Atraumatic Restorative Treatment). Immediately, I saw a dramatic increase in productivity; patients were coming and going much more quickly.

Two faithful members at “Fe Y Poder” Church (Faith and Power) signed on as my first students in our new course—Ruth, the pastor's daughter and mother of three; and Diego, manning the air pump in the photo. He is a dedicated young man with a servant heart. He and Ruth are very excited about providing dental care in their church. They also want to serve and train members of other churches. I’m looking forward to start their training in April.



## Denver, CO

I’ve put the final proofing of my new book on hold for a time so I could meet the pressing needs of the dental ministry. However, in January, I was flown to a planning session for a conference on God's infinite love for all to be held at “The Sanctuary Downtown,” Denver. The church is pastored by Peter Hiett, a respected pastor and Bible teacher. Philip Yancey writes: “Week in, week out, Peter Hiett is one of the best teachers I have ever heard.” Also, Paul Young, author of “The Shack,” will be one of our speakers. Here’s the list of attending authors: [Conference Attending Authors](#) I’m privileged to have been invited to participate. Hope you can come! While in Denver, I also attended the Sunday service and appreciated Peter’s teaching on the rich man and Lazarus. [Sunday Sermon Video](#)

## Anchorage, Alaska

As well, in January, Jason flew to Anchorage to hold a silver nitrate seminar with two physicians and an influential dentist interested in this treatment. Their interest is geared towards isolated regions in the context of the First Nations population. I coached him and sent him the supplies he needed for the meeting. He had a great experience. It’s possible he may have paved the way for a state-wide approval of this therapy. Time will tell.

## Omaha, Nebraska

In February, Jason and I also traveled to Omaha together to meet with Dr. Mark Manhart. He is another pioneer dentist who has made a great discovery. He has found great success in a simple, inexpensive treatment for gum disease. We both read his autobiography, *Open Wide*, which explains in detail how he made this finding.

We spent two days learning his methods in detail. This is a superior therapy for advanced gum disease which avoids gum surgery and its serious consequences, not even an option for most of the world's people. I have always felt frustrated that we couldn't do more for those suffering from severe gum disease. Dr. Manhart is excited to help us bring this therapy to the developing world.

## Democratic Republic of Congo

Associates of our mission, Luke Fisher and his wife Chante, came to Texas to spend some time with me getting updated in silver nitrate treatment preparing for their return to Congo March 1. They work in a very remote region. We discussed various dental subjects related to their work including their activities and plans for the future working closely with us.

I demonstrated new instrumentation I've developed recently and gave them needed supplies. We had a good time of sharing and encouraging each other. Luke is supervising 16 dental techs he has trained (mostly government nurses) working in health posts in their region.



## Periogen

Since our last letter, I've continued searching for solutions to the periodontal challenges we face as you saw above with Dr. Manhart. Frankly, I find it hard to believe that the only way to gingival health is to have someone scrape our teeth with a metal instrument every 3-6 months. This has been bothering me for a long time, especially in light of the developing world where such services are not available, nor are they affordable when they are available.

One solution I am optimistic about is Periogen, a product many insist “dissolves” tartar. Doug and John Anderson (the inventors) attests scientific support for this claim.\* I've had two lengthy conversations with John Anderson and he was very helpful. He donated 50 bottles to our mission, worth \$1500 if sold individually. Luke brought half of them to Congo a couple weeks ago. I will keep you posted on this exciting development. For more details: [google.com/patents/US8298516](http://google.com/patents/US8298516) / [periogen.com](http://periogen.com)

## Root Canals

I've been thinking how great it would be if we could save severely decayed front teeth with root canal treatment. It means so much to a person to have a nice smile; who wants missing front teeth? So I bought an up-to-date root canal textbook and also a practical clinical manual to learn what the current treatments are. There's two encouraging studies, one in [Brazil](#) and another in [Gambia](#) which have had good success training non-dentists without the need for x-rays. Root canals might be feasible for us on front teeth because of the ease of access, good visibility and the fact they only have one root to disinfect and fill.

We have scheduled a Skype session with Dr. Manhart, (mentioned above) this week. He seems very willing to teach us his simplified technique. This may be a long shot, but it is certainly worth investigating. Please pray that God give us wisdom.

# Family News

The last few months have been full of activity for the Beauchemin clan. There was lots of family time, travel, special moments together, and tearful good-byes.



In November I made an unexpected trip to Florida to see my Aunt Rachel who was very ill. This would prove to be the last time I would see her.

Aunt Rachel passed away on December 17<sup>th</sup>. She was the best aunt a girl could have. In fact, she was more like a mother to me and



my sisters as she helped raise us after our mother passed away when we were very young. We were all very close to her and will miss her greatly.



We enjoyed having Renee and Azarja and their family home. They arrived December 10<sup>th</sup> and were with us until mid-February. We celebrated birthdays, had fun playing and making crafts, enjoyed adventure walks with Pepere (grandpa), homemade seesaw, and so much more. Though Gerry and I were a bit tired by the end of their stay, we were sad to see them go. Unless their plans change, they will be in South Africa serving with Mercy Air until sometime in 2019. We hope there be will opportunity for us to visit with them sometime in the next few years. Until then, we are thankful for phones, email, Facebook and especially Skype.

Christmas was awesome! Our whole family was together for the first time in two and a half years! I think the last Christmas we were all together was in 2009! Since then we've added a son-in-law and three grandchildren. Wow! We are blessed! Can you imagine all fourteen of us in our mobile home? It was so fun seeing aunts, uncles, cousins meeting each other for the first time. So many wonderful memories were made.



A very special highlight of our time together was a trip to Florida with Renee's family. Unfortunately, Gerry wasn't able to join us for that. My sister Terry treated me, Renee and her girls to a princess day at Disney World. Elliora and Esther had been looking forward to this for three years! We had a magical day!



Three generations of oldest and middle sisters. Sisters forever!

## Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to read our news. It's always a challenge to know how much to share while keeping it interesting for you. We can't help but want to share our joy with you.

Thank you for keeping us all in your prayers. Especially Renee and her family as they settle back into their life in South Africa. While they really like it there, it is difficult to be so far from all of us.

We appreciate hearing from you – whether by email, Facebook or letters. Let us know how we can be praying for you.

Love & Blessings,  
Gerry & Denise



Ezra having fun with Pepere on the Gerry-made seesaw.

In light of this political season:

**“Don't worry about anything; pray about everything...If you do this, you will experience God's peace....His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.”** Philippians 4: 6-7 TLB

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