

# News From The Beauchemins

May 2017



**Dear friends,**

We believe God has answered our prayers for wisdom and direction as we have been making changes to the dental ministry. The last few months have been busy and we are happy to now share with you the highlights of this process. We hope it blesses you.

## **Dental Program Revision**

All is progressing well with the revised dental program. Though it's taking longer than anticipated, I believe it will be worth it in the end. There are many details I could share but I'll keep it brief.

I'm working hard to get the program ready for the Oklahoma course at the Institute of Biblical Community Development (IBCD) in June. See [www.DentalCareForAll.org](http://www.DentalCareForAll.org)

## **Mexico with Denise**

Denise and I went to Mexico in January and were warmly hosted by three churches. She came with me to help field test our new 4-handed filling technique. We saw almost 50 persons and her assistance was a great help—both in serving the people and refining the technique! It was such a joy to have Denise with me. Our hosts and patients were very grateful for all we did.

## **Center for Pioneer Church Planting**

I'm thrilled that Denise also assisted me in training a mission dental class of seven students in Los Fresnos, Texas. The dates for that class set an arbitrary deadline for me to finalize my revisions... so I thought.

The class started just days after our return from Mexico. I felt ready for it... we did it... it went well... but... my revisions continued; that's OK. Thankfully, these students will receive our course revisions in video soon.

Our trainees all seemed to enjoy the class. Here's an email from one of them:



*Hello Gerry and Denise,*

*Thank y'all so much for the training, it was invaluable! Extremely practical, I really look forward to putting it into practice when we move to Ecuador. You both were such a blessing to get to know and spend time with. Thank you for all the time and resources you have poured into making dentistry so reproducible. Your love for Jesus is so evident in spending time with y'all. Many blessings in your continued work. In Christ, Luke*

## Free Online Course

Last year Jason and Meggan suggested making a free online video course on healing tooth decay with Silver Nitrate. I wasn't ready for such a bold step at the time, but recently, I've come to see it differently. A free online course offers great potential in helping people everywhere. Plus, Dr. Danner is behind the idea which is a big factor for me. We are confident that Jason and Meggan will help make it a great course *plus* they have ideas on how to promote it widely.

## Another Dental Breakthrough (NHMT)

The first breakthrough, as you know, is Silver Nitrate therapy—an amazingly easy and low cost treatment for tooth decay.

Well...that breakthrough has caused me to wonder... how else can we make dental care less expensive for the outback regions of the world?

Gloves immediately came to mind. They are not cheap in Africa and elsewhere—and they are very costly to ship. So I thought... why not disinfect and reuse them? Well, with further thought, I decided against that.

But then, another idea surfaced...

Why not handle our dental tools differently *without* placing our hands *in* the mouth? Problem solved! So I practiced on a manikin and found a way that seems to work well.

When Dr. Danner visited in April, I introduced him to NHMT (*No Hands in the Mouth Treatment*) and he was intrigued. So we tested it in Mexico and it worked well! However, in our courses, NHMT will be taught with *gloves on* with clear stipulations on when and how to use NHMT *without* gloves in developing nations. Now when the gloves run out—and they certainly will, dental care will continue safely!



## Dr. Dee and the Padvoracs Come to Brownsville and Mexico

Dr. Dee Danner is our ministry's senior dental adviser. He's been there for me over the years—always willing to help and offer advice.

In 2015, he helped us teach our dental class at the Institute of Biblical Community Development (IBCD) in Oklahoma. This month, he came to visit for six days to evaluate our new system and field test it in Mexico.

Dee is enthused about our program and helps us figure ways to do things better and find solutions to problems. He's also willing to visit with foreign health officials who are interested in adopting our program in their nations as that door opens.

Jason, Meggan and their little girls, came from Seattle to spend a week with us. Meggan stayed back with Denise while Jason joined Dee and I in Mexico. It was Jason and Dee's first time to meet in person and it was evident they hit it off.

I was amazed at how much ground we covered in such a short time. We discussed a wide array of dental issues.

As well, we saw over 30 patients while making some technical modifications as we went. Our patients were gracious as we explained to them our novel system. One such family is in the photo on the right.

Since Dr. Dee and Jason returned home, I've been further tweaking the course in light of their ideas and suggestions—all good stuff.



The final stage is completing the videos... hopefully it won't take more than a couple weeks. I'm looking forward to launching the new course in June at IBCD in Oklahoma. These are exciting times for our mission!

### **Hope for All**

Completing the dental revision is taking more time that I thought with all its twists and turns. So I thought it best to postpone the final stage of the new book until I could give it my undivided attention. Please pray for God's continued direction and blessing in both these visions

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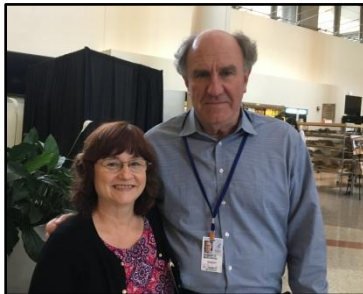
## Denise's Corner



As many of you already know, thanks to the wonder of Facebook, I was invited to participate in a new clinical trial at NIH in January. The trial was to see if a new medication, after 3 months, would “reset” my immune system so that it will stop rejecting my bone marrow’s production of blood cells. If successful, I would no longer need cyclosporine—a powerful immune suppressant with serious side effects.

Well... after my 3 month evaluation at NIH last week, the doctors determined, that though my blood counts went down, they are stable and expected to climb. They have taken me off all meds, plus, I no longer need weekly blood tests, just monthly. Praise the Lord! Now I’m in the wait and see mode. I go back in January for my annual bone marrow biopsy. Your continued prayers are greatly appreciated.

Last month the story of my medical journey was published on the Aplastic Anemia & MDS Int’l Foundation website. I was interviewed by phone and they wrote my story. Here’s the link if you would like to read it <http://www.aamds.org/patient-chronicles/denise-beauchemin>



I met the gentleman who wrote my story while at NIH. Pat Hale, a wonderful long time friend, who’s been such a big help to me during my NIH visits, got to participate in the interview. It was a fun experience to share. I’m looking forward to further involvement with the foundation, possibly as a peer support volunteer.

Apart from the health issue, I keep quite busy with ministry responsibilities, including assisting Gerry with the dental ministry and everyday stuff that needs doing. I continue as a mentor in MOPS and leading a ladies’ bible study group. We have been doing a study on loving God and others. At times it seems very basic, yet can be very challenging—especially when it comes to loving those not so loving to us.



Recently I received this note from one of the ladies in my group:

“HOPE is not a fragile wish or a dream that fades with time – it’s an ANCHOR of the soul, held secure by the unchangeable promises of God.”

*Dear Denise,*

*Thank you for allowing us to stand with you in hope for the past very difficult years. You’ve openly shared your physical, psychological and spiritual struggles with us and yet hope – that you’ll get better – hope – that others will be helped – hope-that God is truly enough sometimes – hope has kept us all going and going together. Thank you for sharing your life with us. ~ Debbie*

It’s a great blessing to know that my life is making a difference.

*Thank you for taking the time to read our news, for your support and continued prayers for our ministry, family, health and spiritual well being. You are a blessing to us.*

*~ Gerry and Denise*