

# Dental Health for the Least of These

Global Missions Health Conference  
November 11-13, 2021

William T. Griffin, DDS,  
Vice President for Dental Ministries  
Christian Medical & Dental Associations

# Personal Information

- Married to Linda
- CMDA Vice President for Dental Ministries
- Formerly in Private Practice
- Christian Clinic Involvement
- Dental Mission Trips, ~ 4/year



# Dental Needs Around the World

- It is estimated that oral diseases affect nearly 3.5 billion people.
- Untreated dental caries (tooth decay) in permanent teeth is the most common health condition according to the Global Burden of Disease 2017.
- More than 530 million children suffer from dental caries of primary teeth (milk teeth).
- Severe periodontal (gum) disease, which may result in tooth loss, is also very common, with almost 10% of the global population affected.

○ WHO Study, 3-25-2020

# Dental Needs Around the World

- High Income Countries: 1 dentist per 1,708 citizens
- Middle Income Countries: 1 dentist per 13,810 citizens
- Low Income Countries: 1 dentist per 152,721 citizens

○ University of Copenhagen, 7-21-2020

# The Least of These

Matthew 25:40 (the sheep and the goats) – And the King will answer them, “Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”

# Potential Pitfalls of Short Term Mission Trips

- When Helping Hurts by Brian Fikkert, The Great Omission by Steve Saint, etc.
- -waste of funds
- -continued dependence
- -disruption of the economy
- -Lack of lasting spiritual impact
- -condescension

# Equal at the Foot of the Cross

- 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 - For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

# Today's Agenda

1. Top 10 Reasons for Short Term Mission Trips
2. Ready-Made Trips – Global Health Outreach
3. Mission Trips With Students
4. Remote 3<sup>rd</sup> World Teaching Trips
5. International Gospel Opportunities at Home
6. How Mission Trips Can Affect Private Practice
7. Resources

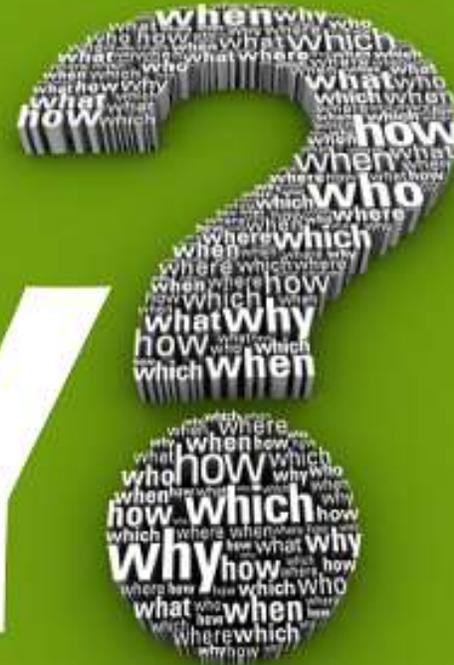
# Today's Agenda

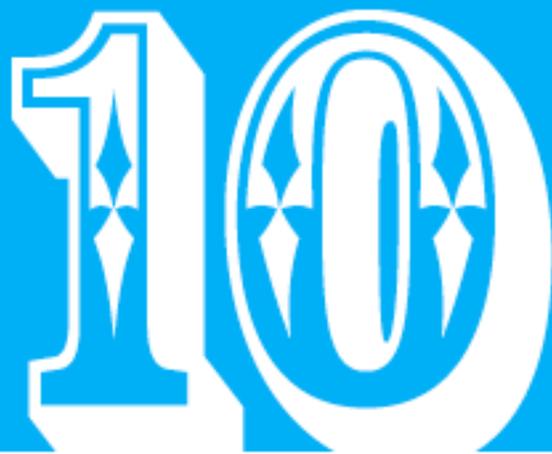
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# Reasons to do Short Term Mission Trips

The big

WHY



A large, stylized white number '10' is centered on a blue background. The '0' is designed to look like a globe, with a white outline and a blue interior containing a white grid of latitude and longitude lines. The '1' is a simple, bold, sans-serif digit.

# **Reasons** to go on a **Short-Term Mission Trip**

by William T. Griffin, DDS

# 1. Evangelistic Opportunities “in the field”

“Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’?” (Luke 5:23).

## 2. Evangelistic opportunities back home

“... let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).

### 3. Showing love to believers

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Gal. 6:10).

## 4. Increased appreciation for what you have

“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thess. 5:18).

## 5. Decreased dependence on material things

“I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want” (Phil. 4:12).

## 6. Freedom from the Western pace of life

“Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?”  
(Matt. 6:27).

## 7. Teaching medical/dental students

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others” (2 Tim. 2:2).

**Dental students Kevin Howarth and Nicole Reynolds,  
from the University of Oklahoma,  
sharing and expanding their skills in Jamaica**



## 8. Establishment of profound friendships

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity” (Prov. 17:17).

# Dr. Bill Griffin, Dr. Jim Carney and some Jamaican Friends



## 9. Greater appreciation for the universality of the church

“... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:21).

# Liberia 2010, Logos Hope



# 10. The privilege of seeing God at work

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen” (Eph. 3:20, 21).

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# Global Health Outreach

- Dr. Trish Burgess
- [cmda.org/gho](http://cmda.org/gho)

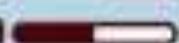


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# JAMAICA

0  20 km  
0  12 miles



Caribbean  
Sea

ST JOHN  
CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH









ST/OU  
03/2013

3/19/15

4/20/14

ST/OU  
7/1/15

3/21/12

OU

















# The Pork Pit



NO  
SMOKING



# Student Trips

- Blessings
- Challenges
- Devotional Plan

# Questionnaire

- Q. Do you believe the Gospel?
- A. If you believe, why – what are some of the compelling reasons that have caused you to believe?
- B. If you do not believe, why not – what primary objections cause you to reject the Gospel?

# Excerpts from Surveys

I loved getting to start my day focused on the Lord and get a week away from the rest of my "busy" world to contemplate Him and have my faith strengthened and replenished. I'm thankful to God and to you Dr. Griffin for this trip and I would love to return next year to do it again. I would also love to lead a trip like this after graduation...

# Excerpts from Surveys – 2 Different Responses

The element of the trip that was most meaningful to me **was the realization that my faith could be incorporated into my career.** I had always viewed dentistry as its own secular entity and never understood how it could be intertwined until seeing it in action during this trip.

# Excerpts from Surveys – 2 Different Responses

*“Based on all my research on this topic I can say with certainty that my belief in the Gospel is not simply a blind faith, but is the most logical and reasonable belief available to mankind.” (Student – March 2019)*

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# III. International Training Trips

- Intro: Pretty Radical
- My Experience: Nigeria, Etc.
- Umar Video

# III. International Training Trips

Q. Why do these trips?



























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# International Gospel Opportunities at Home



FAITH  
PRESCRIPTIONS

*Your Faith in Practice*

# International Gospel Opportunities at Home

## *Faith Prescriptions*



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# Effects of Mission Trips on Private Practice

- Staff
- Patients
- Practice



Declare His glory among the nations,  
His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

I Chronicles 16:24





And he said to them,  
"Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."  
Mark 16:1

3



# Effects of Mission Trips on Private Practice

Mission Trip Journals in Reception Room

# My Mentors - Dr. Jim Carney



# My Mentors – Dr. Bob Meyer



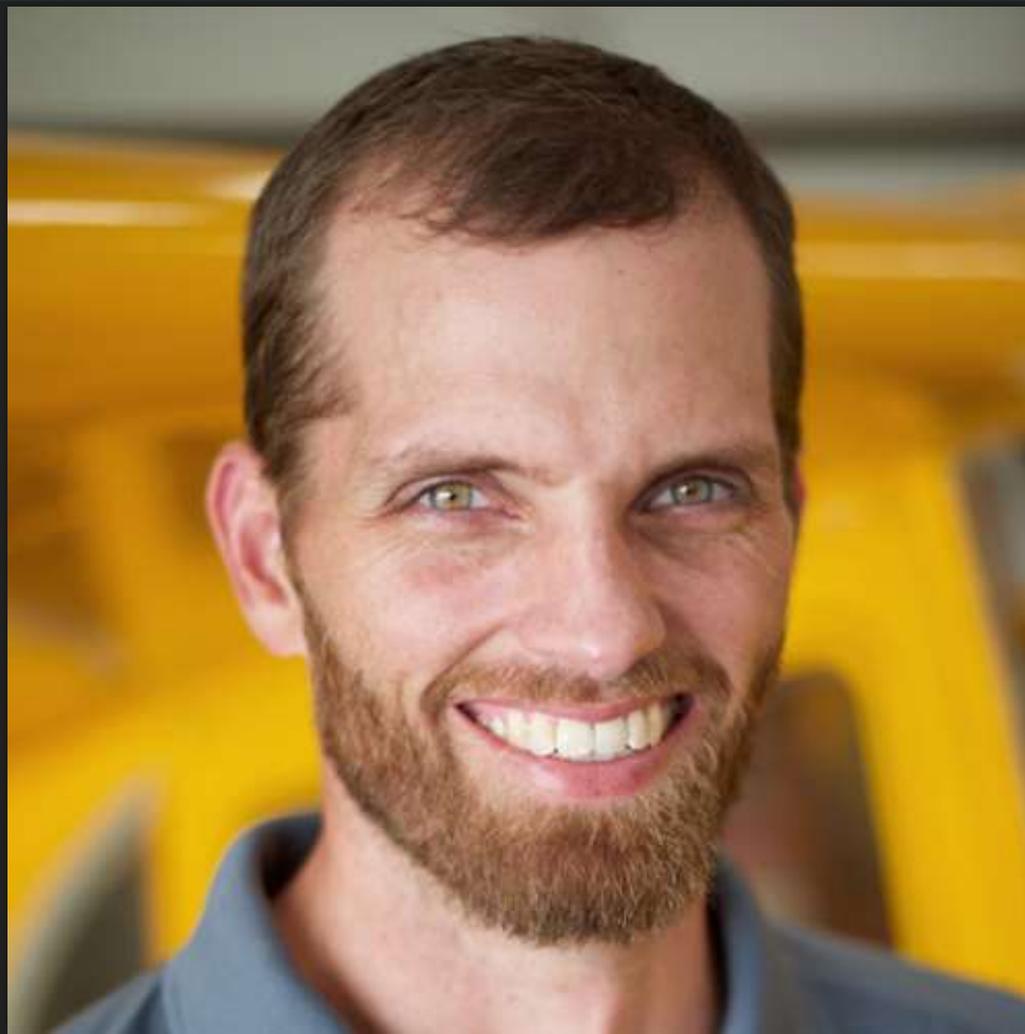
# My Mentors – Dr. Trish Burgess



# My Mentors – Dr. Charlie Vittitow



# My Mentors – Jaime Saint



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# Mission Trip Resources

- Global Health Outreach Dr. Trish Burgess - (423) 844-1078
- ITEC Dr. Jonathan Spenn - (352) 465-4545
- mPower Approach, Ms Linda Webster - (502) 544-9031
- Christian Dental Society, Dr. Bob Meyer - (563) 578-8887
- Dr. Bill Griffin, CMDA VP for Dental Ministries - [bill.griffin@cnda.org](mailto:bill.griffin@cnda.org)

# Final Thought

Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”