



members in the news

OCDS Members Take Dental Care to Guatemala

Guatemala is a beautiful and mountainous country in Central America with a history rich in Mayan Culture. This was the site of a recent annual dental mission trip, organized by the Christian Medical/Dental Association as an outreach program designed to provide dental care to the underserved.

Among the volunteers were OCDS member dentists Victor Chu of Irvine, Christina Do and Bob McLeod of Costa Mesa, Steve Miyamoto of Fullerton and Sam Wu of Mission Viejo. Along with 15 dental students from both UCLA and Loma Linda University, Washington State dentist Kim Nordberg, Los Angeles district attorney Irene

Lee and team leader Dr. Mike Roberts, traveled to Villa Nueva, a suburb of Guatemala City. A makeshift dental clinic was set up in Verbo Church and consisted of twelve dental chairs equipped with compressors, two Cavitron cleaning units, a Nomad digital xray unit, an endodontic apex locator and a diode soft tissue laser.

The team was able to provide over \$75,000 in treatment on both children and adults during the course of the week. Procedures performed included composite and glass ionomer fillings, stainless steel crowns,

cleanings, surgical and nonsurgical extractions, and root canal therapy. All of the students agreed that the trip was a

great experience both personally and professionally, and time well spent during their spring vacation.

Due to the relatively high cost of dental services, receiving appropriate care in this poor part of the country is often not feasible, and definitive treatment for a diseased tooth is frequently extraction. "With the aid of a

portable xray unit, apex locator and soft tissue laser we were able to treat many anterior teeth that in the past would have been extracted," Dr. Chu says. "It was always so sad before to see young men and women cry because removing a front tooth was the only way to stop an infection from spreading."

find out more by contacting Dr. Mike Roberts, CMDA Southern California Area Director, at drmiker@sbcglobal.net.

In addition to Guatemala, annual dental mission trips are conducted in many other countries. Dentists interested in participating in future trips can

