

Memo to: Friends of our dental missions

Board of Directors, Jamaica Outreach Program

From: Roger Plante, Dental mission Chairman

January 21, 2016

Re: Dental mission staged January 18-19 and 20, 2016 at the Van Domelen Dental Clinic, St. Pius X mission, Kingston, Jamaica

Each time I return from one of these dental missions, I am re-energized with the great need for our services and with the love these people have to offer in return for our services, and these are certainly the emotions going through me today.

This dental mission, our 16th at the Kingston campus, was organized primarily as our first pediatric mission with lots of attention given to the DuPont Students, but many patients at large were also seen.

The team consisted of 13 persons, two dentists, one Medical Doctor, one graduating dental student from Boston University, four dental Hygienists, two dental assistants, two lay persons and myself as the mission leader.

The individuals involved were:

Dr. Kevin Hale, DMD, **Pediatric Dentist** from the Detroit area

Dr. Mary Ellen MacKay, DMD, Dentist from Lubec, Maine

Dr. Clint Potter, M.D. Estero, Florida

David Lane, from the Atlanta area and graduating student from Boston Univ.
Angela Stone, RDH Edgerton, Wisconsin
DuPont School team leader

Jamie Bugbee, RDH Seattle, Washington

Daniela Yanez, RDH, Boca Raton, Florida

Melissa Svarc, RDH, Detroit, Michigan

Nicole Morres, DA, Lubec, Maine

Julie Matthews, DA, Lubec, Maine

David Nielsen, Dental office manager, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Mi.

Andrea Maves, E. R. CNA, Edgerton, Wisconsin



This mission was set up with two teams: The first team consisted of four persons who worked at the DuPont School for the purpose of instructing students in oral hygiene, applying fluoride varnish protective coating to their teeth, and doing an oral inspection of each child's mouth. In all 470 students were seen at the school in two days. Unfortunately, due to glitches on the school's part, the third day's sessions had to be cancelled. The school had scheduled programs that overlapped. In spite of the third day cancellation, the team exceeded our anticipated numbers (450) of students to be seen. During the screenings, students were categorized based upon urgency of needs. Those requiring immediate attention were flagged with 3 stars, those with an intermediate need received 2 stars and those who needed to be seen at some point were assigned one star. The oral inspections revealed between 40 and 50 % of the children had active tooth decay. We were able to treat the worst 20 cases on Tuesday and Wednesday (3 star children). Unfortunately, the one and two star children will most likely fall through the cracks until they are screened at the next screening session. Although we try to get the parents involved in the booking appointments for these children at future missions it does not always work.

Unfortunately, one of our dental assistants from Maine had to cancel last minute due to serious illness, but Dr. Anissa Holmes, our good dental friend in Kingston, graciously supplied us with a dental assistant from her clinic to fill in that position.

We were blessed for the first time on a dental mission to have a Medical Doctor in our midst, Dr. Clinton Potter from Estero, FL, who is a new friend to JOP, and who has taken a great interest in our outreach programs. He was highly instrumental at triaging patients for the dentists and hygienists, and was very helpful to the three dentists, all of whom needed his medical intervention at one time or another. Additionally, he was able to screen for blood pressures and did countless consultations with the patients right in our clinic on medical matters.

The opportunity was great as Dr. Martin was just returning from a week's vacation and had quite a heavy load of patients to see; and Dr. Potter stepped right in to work with Dr. Martin at our medical clinic for several hours on each of the three days. It was a great learning experience for JOP through Dr. Potter's eyes to actually participate the daily care of patients at the clinic. Dr. Potter will submit a separate report on his experiences at the medical clinic.

Statistics for this mission which consisted of our school schedule and our clinic schedule are as follows: We had three chairs manned by dentists with assistants and the fourth chair shared by two hygienists sharing prophylactic cleanings and performing back room duties. A total of 185 patients were seen at the clinic for a total of 293 procedures. We treated 78 children and 108 adults.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Total
School totals	240	230	-0-	470
Total Patients at clinic	49 (incl 21 children)	72 (incl. 29 children)	64 (incl 28 children)	
Extractions performed	28	27	33	88
Fillings	29	29	45	103
Cleanings	26	34	19	79
Consults and referrals	8	9	6	23
Total Procedures	91	99	103	293 total procedures

Further analysis will show that of the 293 procedures we did at the clinic, if we minus out the 79 cleanings it leaves 214 treatments by the dentists or 24 treatments by each dentist each day, which is an extremely high number considering the percentage of children we were dealing with. Kudos to the three docs.

For those of you who follow numbers, these may look similar to previous missions, but to be noted is the fact that in the clinic numbers showing a total of 175 patients, 78 of them were children who require much more time and attention.

None were restrained and none were sedated, yet there were only four cases where the child was not able to be treated due to behavioral situations. This is a huge tribute to the loving and caring chair-side manners of our dentists, and exceptional TLC from our assistants and hygienists who worked tirelessly getting the kiddos distracted and smiling while the docs did their work.



Dr. Kevin with a satisfied patient

Additionally, we had two very special lay assistants both of whom were not strangers to scene. Dave manages the front desk in a large dental office and is headed to dental school while Andrea is a lifelong C.N.A working in an emergency room.

The mission was conducted with great accord, and only two members of our team knew each other before this mission. They were very soon in sync and they worked in tremendous harmony.

I hate to repeat a sentence from a prior report, but THERE WAS LOTS OF LOVE FLOWING ALL OVER THIS MISSION.

Father Raphael was an excellent host and as usual, Miss Bradford and Boxer were extremely instrumental in keeping us supplied, happy, hydrated and well fed. Deacon Vivian paid us a visit as well as one other member of the parish council.

The team stayed at Immaculate Conception Hostel and catered dinners were very good and many enjoyed a dip in the pool after a hard day's work.

Our next mission is organized for February 22, 23 and 24 and this mission will involve a full clinic schedule and also, this will be our first visit to St. Peter Claver School to do oral screenings, education and Fluoride applications. I met with the principal there on Tuesday of this mission and all procedures and arrangements have been finalized. We have had two dental assistant cancellations for this mission, but I am sure those spots will be filled real soon. All files have been sent to the Ministry of Health for approval and missionaries have booked their flights. There should be 13 dental professionals.....seven from Travis AFB in San Francisco, one oral surgeon from the Miami area, One USAF person from the Boston area, and one dental student from Nova University in Miami. Mission leader will be Michele LaBasi who has participated in many of our missions and is very familiar with our operation....and additionally she posses tremendous leadership and organizational skills.

The March mission will be conducted by the original Boston team which is returning for their fourth visit for some and fifth for mission leader Kathy Boyd. We have ten persons working on their documents for this mission and that is a full complement as there will be no school involvement for this mission.

The May mission will be manned by 14 dental people from McDill AFB in the Tampa area, most of them returning from last May's mission. We are needing 1 more lay person and I will probably lead that mission unless another mission leader comes forward. This will be our third "DuPont School involved" mission in the one year cycle to treat the students there, and once this mission is complete, all of the students should have been treated with fluoride.....ready to start again in September.

We have several openings for September and November.

Here are comments I received from some of the missionaries:

I feel to have had the opportunity to share and work with our amazing team and the beautiful patients of Jamaica, the children were so grateful for the treatment that we provided to them and the look on their faces when they were looking at us was so gratifying that it made us feel as their

superhero. It was such a beautiful experience that I would do it again a million times. Thank you for all you do. D.

"Nothing can be so rewarding as time spent in service to others, especially when those to whom we render service would never be able to obtain the care we can give. My time spent providing dentistry to the people of Jamaica, although unbelievably challenging, was unbelievably rewarding and I am thankful for the experience."

Such an experience. One that will not be forgotten. Thank you, for all you did to make this possible for me!!! D.

From one of our very experienced RDH, she says "I am struggling a bit with what we saw. Trying to figure out what it all means for me and my journey".

"I feel so blessed to have been able to experience such a thing and to make an impact on these beautiful people. I feel as though I gained much more than I gave. Thank you."

"Jamaica mission trip thank you Roger for this great chance, I am so happy I did it, it is the most fulfilling and rewarding experience ever "

"I feel extremely blessed that Roger reached out to me, I am so thankful that I was able to meet an amazing group of people from all over the country & Roger did an incredible job putting his trip together. I left a piece of my heart in Jamaica. The people of Jamaica are wonderful and absolutely loved serving such a beautiful country! I'll never forget it & can't wait to go back!" J.

"This was my first mission trip of any kind and was an amazing experience, one I will never forget..... I learned so much on the need for this mission in providing dental care for these beautiful children at DuPont school. Kudos to everyone in our team - I feel as though I have known you all my life, bless you all!"

Please pass on the word that God's love abounds at the VanDomelen Dental Clinic.