

CALIFORNIA NEWS



District Thirteen

Summer 2015

Dr. Ronald E. Fritz volunteers in Zihuatanejo, Guerrero, Mexico

ICD member Ron Fritz reports an inspiring week in Zihuatanejo Mexico, during a week of a dental mission project.

'Zihua' is one of the



poorest of Mexico's 31 states. Nevertheless, it boasts a large, round bay, beautiful beaches, friendly people, and an easygoing lifestyle. Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman escaped here to live out the simple life in *Shawshank Rebellion*.

In the words of Dr. Fritz: "The children of Octavio Pas and one other school were given the best of what dentistry has to offer. When I remembered the smiles, *gracias*, hugs of appreciation by these beautiful children, these wonderful memories of children I will never see again tugged at my heart and tears welled up. I was consoled in the possibility that perhaps a seed, some imprints of love and their being loved through our work, and a positive dental experience in the dental chair will remain with them for a lifetime, to improve their health and make them better patients.

"As I looked down on the lush green terrain we were passing over, I saw village after village, some very isolated, some by rivers. The thought occurred to me, of how many other kids out there need help in the same way. I realized what we had done is only a drop in the bucket, barely a scratch on the surface of huge need. **I also realized we need more drops for the bucket, and that by working together, the task becomes much easier.**"



opposite: more from the mission in Mexico

other missions by Dr. Fritz

In addition to Mexico this past year, Fritz has also donated his time in Uganda and Nicaragua

His Ugandan trip last year was sponsored by NEEP Uganda, which sent him to Nyamabuga village, a school out in the country, where 400 students, primary and secondary, were treated, screened, and educated on oral health.

Fritz has also joined Loma Linda University and the Foundation for Worldwide Health in a mission project to better the oral health in five separate areas of Nicaragua. One group of the five lived and worked west of Managua in Leon. Other groups went to San Marcos, Acahualinca, Catholic University School of Dentistry and Hospital Metropolitano Vivian Pellas.

“Providing dentistry with portable units and modified adjustable aluminum lounge chairs was intense and sometimes back-breaking,” says Fritz. They were assisted by third year dental students.



Share the mission with GBF, Global Visionary Funds

The ICD Global Visionary Fund has been joined by dentists and corporate sponsors to channel funds to proven dental caregivers around the world. Henry Schein Cares has donated \$100,000 of dental supplies and equipment for distribution to ICD-humanitarian projects. We have recently sent funds to established clinics in Africa so that local dentists can treat neighborhood children without having to finance volunteers' transportation.

Your on-line donations are easy on our website!

November 3-6, 2015

Annual meeting, convocation, and dinner in Washington, DC

The ICD convocation for 2015 fellows will be held on Friday, November 6, 2015, at the Renaissance Hotel, followed by a dinner dance to honor the new ICD Fellows. Fellowship orientation will be on Thursday, November 5, 2015, including a presentation by Dr. Robert L. Frazer, Jr.

ereserve on-line by September 30

after October 9, all fees will increase and registration materials will not be mailed

The ADA will hold a Mission of Mercy in Washington, DC, following the ADA meeting. ICD is proud that many Fellows give generously of their time and talents to treat patients. Our Foundation is contributing \$1000 in support of this event.

OSAP and ICD to collaborate on infection prevention and safety

The Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention and the ICD have signed a memorandum of understanding that outlines a formal collaboration between the two organizations. Their goal is to enhance dental infection prevention and safety practices worldwide to protect both patients and healthcare workers from infectious diseases and other hazards encountered during the provision of oral healthcare.

ICD International President Joseph R. Kenneally commented, "There has long been a need for this type of scientific, evidence and research-based program to promote high standards of safe infection control practices, especially in humanitarian care situations in underdeveloped nations. This collaboration will not only promote these standards, but it will bring training to dental professionals around the world."

The collaboration will include organizational linkages such as mutual conference participation and websites, education and training, and the development of global regional infection control training programs, and partnering on other relevant matters. The memorandum of understanding is for three years and may be renewed.

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Section 1 USA
annual meeting and convocation
November 4-7, 2015
Washington, DC

Since the annual session will be held nearby, Registrar Carol Turner invites members to stop by to see the Section 1 new office in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The staff will be there the week before and the week after the annual event. Let the staff know, and they would love to show you around.

Spring meeting
April 5-9, 2016
Williamsburg, VA