

Hope Arising

Dental Travel Team to Dera,
Ethiopia March 2009

Dentists meet baby Alazar

Our dental team arrived in Ethiopia Sunday March 22 with over 40 suitcases, full mostly of supplies for the dentists as well as for the schools and orphanages which we visited. It was a miracle we cleared customs as timely as we did. Dr Chris Burton, an oral surgeon and Dr. Jason Horgesheimer, a pediatric dentist saw their very first patient Sunday- a beautiful baby boy, Alazar, only 5 months old with a severe cleft pallet. These doctors have followed up with Operation Smile to see if there can be some help.

Addis Ababa University Dental School

Monday we arrived early to Addis Ababa University Dental School where we were warmly greeted by Dr. Banchiamlak Demissie (fondly called Dr. Banchi). This wonderful woman has trained 7 years in both Russia and China to become an oral surgeon. Ethiopia is a population of 78 million people and there 3 oral surgeons in the entire country and she is one of them. There are 53 dentists in total in the whole country!



Cindy & Chris Burton, Dr. Banchi,
Jason & Kristi Horgesheimer

Dr. Banchi operates only on Tuesday because they do not have sufficient supplies or resources to do more surgery. She often must refer patients to private clinics where bills range around \$10,000- impossible for most Ethiopians. And so they go without care and many die.



She is in great need of text books and supplies. She has invited the doctors to return and do some lectures for the students and possibly some field work together.

Dera Health Clinic

The dentists arrived early to Dera with their three hygienist: Alisha, Courtney & Candice. In addition, there were 4 team volunteers, 6 nursing students, a nurse from the health clinic and several assistants from the health clinic. It was a full house of service and long line of patients waiting with graciousness.





Dentists helped
157 people in
Dera and
trained 9 local
health care
workers



Wonji Hospital



This dental team served over 215 individuals and pulled over 300 teeth. Infections severe enough to be life threatening are now being treated.