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2008 Summer Meeting at Callaway Gardens

The annual COS meeting will be at beautiful Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia, approximately one hour from Atlanta. As in the last few years, this year's meeting will begin on Thursday morning with a "missions technology program" featuring lectures and discussions on various aspects of overseas missions including a "wet lab" Thursday afternoon with instructional emphasis on manual small incisional cataract extraction. The scientific program will feature lectures on cataract surgery, glaucoma management, pediatric updates, a uveitis symposium, and various aspects of medical ethics.



Hiking on a nature trail in Callaway Gardens.

Web Site:

www.callawaygardens.com/callaway/info/things.aspx

The spouse's program will feature Kay Arthur, co-founder of Precept Ministries. Kay Arthur and her husband, Jack, founded Precept Ministries International in 1970 with the vision to establish people in God's Word. She is an international Bible teacher and four-time Gold Medallion award-winning author who has authored more than 100 books and Bible studies. Kay is also the teacher and host of *Precepts for Life*, a radio and television program, which reaches a worldwide viewing audience of over 94 million, teaching them how to discover Truth for themselves. Today God is using Precept Ministries to reach nearly 150 countries with inductive Bible studies translated

into nearly 70 languages. Kay serves as Executive Vice President and shares the office of Precept CEO with her husband Jack.

The children's program will include various activities, weather permitting, including miniature golf, train ride, ping pong, and volley ball. Florida State University's Flying High Circus will be performing on:
Thursday at 3:30 p.m.
Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

(continued on p 4)

Inside this issue:

Letter from the President 2

Honduras Mission trip with VOI 3

Taxpayer costs of divorce 4



Callaway Gardens Conference Center

2008 Annual Meeting

**Contact Dr. Sterling Cannon
West Georgia Eye Care Center
2616 Warm Springs Road
Columbus, GA 31904
(706)478-0764
COScallaway@yahoo.com
for more information**



Letter from the President

by Mike Siatkowski, M.D. COS President

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying a beautiful spring. We recently had our annual COS Board meeting and accomplished a lot of great things for the Society. (As but one example, check out our great new website at www.cosw.org!). An overriding theme that was obvious to us all during the meeting was that God is faithful in promoting unity among His people and bringing them together. Our opening Scripture was John Chapter 17. Here Jesus prays for Himself, for His disciples, and also for us. "...I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 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....May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me....I have made You known to them, and will continue to make You known in order that the love You have for Me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

As I write this letter we celebrate the anniversary of yet another event that demonstrates God's faithfulness and His intent to have unity among His people despite odds that are seemingly impossible. Sixty years ago, the modern nation of Israel was established, fulfilling the promise that the nation would never disappear and that one day the Jewish people will be brought back to their Promised Land. After Turkish and British rule, and after Jews returned before, during, and after WWII, there were only about 40,000 Jews in Israel. Immediately after the nation was formed, neighboring Arabs attacked in a vicious war that lasted the better part of a year. Against unbelievable odds, every able man, woman, and child in Israel fought for the nation and their survival. Yet within 10 years the Jewish population in Israel was almost 900,000. The people inherited a land that was agriculturally bereft, economically desperate, and technologically backward. Yet today the land is verdant, thriving, prosperous, and continues to grow. Conflicts

with the Arabs are still a threat, and many of the people suffer the same moral, emotional, and spiritual decay that we see in the western world, but God has been faithful and kept His promises.

As we trust God to continue to keep the nation of Israel, we trust Him to continue to use the COS to glorify Himself, improve the quality of medicine, and serve the needs of our people both scientifically and emotionally. With a rather small annual budget, no assessment of dues, and an all-volunteer work force, the COS faces strong challenges in this day and age. But God has indeed been faithful, and for that we are grateful.

Please make your plans to come to the 32nd annual COS meeting at beautiful Callaway Gardens, GA, July 30-August 3. This is a great family resort, and we have a spectacular meeting planned, with up to 15 Category I CME credits, including ethics credits. The spouse's and children's programs will be among the best ever. Check out the full program on the website, get your hotel reservations now (706-663-2281, www.callawaygardens.com) and register for the meeting online at <http://cme.ouhsc.edu>. We look forward to seeing you this summer!

Yours in Christ,

R. Michael Siatkowski MD

"we celebrate the anniversary of yet another event that demonstrates God's faithfulness and His intent to have unity among His people despite odds that are seemingly impossible."



COS Board at work

Honduras Mission Trip with VOI

by John & Anne Cox

This past February, Anne & I along with my associate, Dr. Heather Estopinal and her husband, Dr. Temple Estopinal, joined Dr. David Cooke with Vision Outreach International from St. Joseph, Michigan in a mission trip to El Progreso, Honduras. Centro Cristiano de Servicios Humanitarios de Honduras (CCSHH), the clinic facility where we worked was started by an ophthalmologist from Sarasota, FL, Dr. Douglas Perry, with the assistance of Medical Ministries International. Dr. Perry did not live to see the fulfillment of the seed he planted in El Progreso, but his wife, Maxine Perry, continued the work he started and along with Dr. David Cooke, has developed a first class ophthalmic clinic and surgery center there. Dr. Cooke has been going on annual mission trips there for the last twelve years, and with the help of a local Honduran ophthalmologist, Dr. Diego Mejia, has trained local personnel, both administrative and technical, to staff the clinic and surgery center.



*Arrival at the airport
in San Pedro Sula*



*The group at Sunday
services*

We flew from Atlanta to San Pedro Sula, Honduras on Saturday, and were met at the airport by Jalil from CCSHH. He took us to our motel, the Casa Blanca, in El Progreso which is about 20 miles east of San Pedro Sula, where we stayed for the week. Later that afternoon we met Melvin Tejada, the clinic administrator, at the clinic where we left the surgical and medical supplies that had been donated by Alcon for the clinic.

The next day we rode back to San Pedro Sula with Maxine Perry and her group from Florida for English speaking church services at the International Christian Fellowship service being held in one of the meeting rooms at the Hotel Copantl. The fellowship was excellent and was led by missionaries to Honduras.

The surgery center at the clinic is equipped with two operating microscopes and two Alcon Legacy phacoemulsification units and the OR staff is very well trained. Their ophthalmic techs selected patients before we came and had scheduled 30 patients for cataract extraction. A team of tech's and other personnel screened patients at a village school about 30 mins. outside El Progreso, and a group from Maxine Perry's church, Church of the Palms Presbyterian Church in Sarasota, FL who were there at the same time, conducted a vacation bible school for the local children at the school facility.



*Drs. Cooke & Estopinal at the
CCSHH Eye clinic*

Anne & Temple assisted with the eye clinic and vacation bible school while Heather & I joined David Cooke in the OR doing cataract surgeries. We were not able to start our surgeries until about 11:00 to 12:00 because the facility was being used by some of the local doctors, but were able to do the 30 cases by operating in the afternoons on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and sometimes utilizing both phaco units simultaneously. Earlier in the mornings we would see the patients that were on that day's surgery schedule and on Tues., Wed., and Thursday we saw our post-op patients.

Late on Thursday we flew to Roatan for R & R before returning back to the USA on Sunday.

VOI is conducting several proctorship opportunities on manual small incision cataract surgery with Dr. Diego Mejia and CCSHH in El Progreso.



*Children being taught how to
properly brush their teeth
during vacation bible school*

More information can be found at Vision Outreach International's website: www.visionoutreach.org, or CCSHH's website: www.ccsbh.org/english

Information about Medical Ministries International can be found at: www.mmint.org.



*VOI at school screening-
clinic in Honduras*

The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing

(from a press release from Sheila Weber, Director of Communications, Institute for American Values)

First-Ever Estimates for the Nation and All Fifty States

Executive Summary from

**Institute for American Values
Institute for Marriage and Public Policy**

**Georgia Family Council
Families Northwest**

This study provides the first rigorous estimate of the costs to U.S. taxpayers of high rates of divorce and unmarried childbearing both at the national and state levels. Based on the methodology, the researchers estimate that family fragmentation costs U.S. taxpayers at *least \$112 billion each and every year*, or more than \$1 trillion each decade. The press release can be found at: www.americanvalues.org/coff/pressrelease.pdf

Thursday evening's dinner speaker will feature Keith Cowart, Dmin whose topic will be on marriage entitled "When 1 + 1 = 1".

2008 Summer Meeting at Callaway Gardens *(continued)*

(continued from p.1)

For further information on children's activities, contact Joy Crumpton
at JLCrumpton@yahoo.com or at (706)321-0400

Childcare, children's and teen's activities provided at the following times:

Thu/Fri/Sat 8:45 AM – 12:30 PM all ages

Thu/Fri/Sat 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM all ages

Sun 8:45 – 10:00 AM Babysitting for infants and toddlers only



Joy Crumpton & Heather Cannon are in charge of this years children's program

Children's Food Information

Parents are responsible for all children's meals during the meeting.
On Th/Fri/Sat AM sessions, snacks will be provided at 10:30 AM for all ages
and at 8 P.M. for the evening sessions

