

The Dental Mission Project - Bhutan

Dr. Andrew Cheng

In July 2010 Dr. Andrew Cheng borrowed dental equipment and supplies from The Dental Mission Project and took a team to Bhutan to do dental mission work in this remote, mountainous region.

“Our team accomplished 4 and a half day of dentistry in Bartsham. The equipment set up was uneventful. However, we had difficulty with the distiller and Statim because the voltage issue. The converters and voltage stabilizers eventually worked after we had an electrician make a house call. Unfortunately we still had to boil instruments and make do with questionable sterilization since we didn't

have distilled water. Our supply of gloves was used up quickly but we did manage to source latex gloves locally. We had adequate sundries and instruments.

The handpieces and dental units functioned well. The compressors were working at full capacity. When the PSI dropped significantly from one compressor we managed to T off the other full one. We were well organized with screening and managed to do over 300 dental procedures according to the stats compiled by Nicole Hamel our hygienist.

The team performed magnificently. Our scope was limited to hygiene, extractions and basic fillings. We encounter high rate of caries amongst the local population. The demand for dental services was obvious. The knowledge gained by our team will enable us to return with a bigger team in the fall of 2011 with 2 hygienists and 3 dentists along with support. Hopefully with a little fund raising we can set up a more permanent presence or dental clinic in Bartsham, Bhutan.

Thank you once again for your continuing help and support to enable our mission to continue.”

