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Enhancing the Gospel Work

The work of encouraging and supporting physicians and dentists to join us in North and South Carolina continues to move forward. Not only do these professionals excel as models of Christian principles in their practices and their communities but also in their dedication to the Lord's work, often serving as leaders in our churches. We greatly value the fact that the medical work has always been a fundamental element of Embracing the Carolinas With the Compassionate Call of Christ.

Working in conjunction with the Southern Union, a priority each year is to visit Loma Linda to connect with and recruit medical and dental students on track for graduation. We make them aware of opportunities available in our area and inform them of church-provided incentive programs, as well as privately, and state-funded provisions. Whenever possible, we also establish a rapport with them through DeWayne Butcher, MD, our conference medical recruiter, and Stuart Yoon, DDS, our conference dental recruiter, who serve as liaisons should graduates decide to move this way.

Our tradition of holding a banquet every other year at a local restaurant in the Loma Linda area serves as a get-acquainted type of meeting. It has resulted in the Carolina Conference becoming well known among Loma Linda's medical and dental students. During the last five years, 98

students have responded to our invitation to meet, learn more about the Carolinas, and explore the possibilities of moving to this great area of our country. Over the past quinquennial term, we have been blessed to have 13 physicians and dentists relocate here to the Carolina Conference.

An Interest in Missions

We have found that many of these professionals have an interest in mission work and providing care and skills in regions where medical care is not available. We are reminded of the reference Ellen White made to the paralytic, "There are today thousands suffering from physical disease, who like the paralytic, are longing for the message of hope. They need to meet the Healer of the soul," *Ministry of Healing*, p. 77.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, medical and dental professionals not only minister to the physical needs of individuals but also minister to the heartfelt needs of their clients through their example. We are so blessed to have these professionals join us here in the Carolinas, aiding us in expanding the kingdom of God.

Medical/Dental RECRUITMENT