



• **Officers**

President

Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski

Vice-President

Dr. Steven R. Grimes

Secretary

Dr. Robert E. Leonard

Treasurer

Dr. Stephen Demick

Trustees

Dr. Larry A. Balisky

Dr. Glen O. Brindley

Dr. Stanley I. Hand

Dr. Bradley K. Farris

Dr. William H. Jarrett

Dr. Walter J. Paschall

Dr. J. Lawton Smith (Emeritus)

Dr. Enoch Tsai

**POLITICS: CAN “ONE” MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

**IS THERE A WILLIAM WILBERFORCE AMONGST US?**

As the recent movie *Amazing Grace* emphasized, our personal faith can make a difference not only in our own lives, but the lives of many others and can bring positive change to society.

William Wilberforce did this through politics. His passion to bring about abolition of slavery culminated in the passage of legislation by the British Parliament outlawing slave trade in England in 1807 and subsequent abolishment of slave trade in America and France.

This was no easy task for him. Slavery had been used by civilizations since the Ancient Egyptians, around 4000 B.C., to accomplish tasks requiring hard labor. Slavery had a tremendous economic impact on England and other countries at the time. The opposition Wilberforce had to face was summed up in John Wesley’s last written letter which was to him: “Unless the divine power has raised you up to be as *Athanasius contra mundum*, I see not how you can go through your glorious enterprise in opposing that execrable villainy which is the scandal of religion, of England, and of human nature. Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be



*Members of the COS attending AAO’s congressional advocacy day in Washington, D.C. April 19, 2007*

worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them together stronger than God? O be not weary of well doing! Go on, in the name of God and in the power of his might, till even American slavery (the vilest that ever saw the sun) shall vanish away before it.”

It took Wilberforce and others about 20 years of effort to bring about the laws against the slave trade, but persistence paid off.

*(Continued on page 5)*

**Inside this issue:**

Letter from the President 2

Spouses Program for July meeting 3

Children’s Program for July meeting 3

Brief history of the Alamo 4

**2007 Annual Meeting**



*Hyatt Regency San Antonio, TX*

**Contact Dr. Kyle Smith,  
3890 Burton Lane, Temple, TX 76502  
(254)724-4248  
ksmith@clearwire.net  
for more information**

## Letter from the President

by Mike Siatkowski, M.D. COS President



Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well, and that, in the midst of your busy schedules, you are planning to attend the 31<sup>st</sup> annual COS meeting in San Antonio this summer. This meeting is shaping up to be truly excellent and further details are below.

Occasionally I am asked about the size of the COS and how many people attend the meetings. For the record, our rolls have between 500 and 600 members. (However, only a tenth of these have entered themselves into our electronic address book—please help us by signing on through our website at [www.cosw.org](http://www.cosw.org)!). Approximately 100-150 physicians and families attend the annual meeting and about 75 attend the annual COS prayer breakfast at the AAO. Not too shabby when you consider state medical meetings or subspecialty society meetings in comparison. On the other hand, however, in the US and Canada there are about 18,000 ophthalmologists in practice and in training. Thus our membership rolls contain at most 3% of ophthalmologists in nations where 30-50% of the population identifies themselves as Christian.

There are many possible reasons for this discrepancy. One answer is that a smaller proportion of doctors are Christian than in the general population. Another possibility is that most doctors are quite busy and don't have time for the COS. They may be involved in their local churches, CMDA, Promise Keepers, or other groups, and genuinely are not called to participate in the COS. A third potential reason is that many doctors would like to be involved with the COS but something always comes up as a conflict and they have to cancel at the last minute or wait until next year, or wait until the meeting is in driving distance, etc.

Responses to the first two possibilities are easy. In the case of non-Christian doctors, we pray for them and share the Truth of the Gospel whenever we can. For the committed

Christians not called to COS, we applaud their service and commitment elsewhere where God has lead them, and remind them that we welcome them at any time. The third case, however, presents a greater challenge.

I have been involved with the COS for over 20 years. J. Lawton Smith was President then; in 1990 Brad Farris took over the reigns, and I became President in 2000. I can honestly say that the COS has consistently become a better organization and the annual meeting has continually improved each year since my involvement. This certainly has nothing to do with the leadership progression, as I know that Brad Farris would agree with me that Lawton was clearly the most dynamic visionary of us all. And I can tell you that much of what I have done as President has been to build upon what Brad Farris did. Rather, the continual improvement is completely due to the Lord blessing the COS as we do our best to honor Him and serve other people.

A few examples of our improvement at our annual meeting: We now offer CME credits in medical ethics. The children's program has never been better. Our missions technology program has fully blossomed and we will again offer a hands on wet lab experience. For the second year, we will have available free, private, individual prayer and counseling sessions during the meeting from an outside pastoral professional. We have exciting new changes ahead for people looking for new jobs or new practice partners. And, outside our annual meeting, we have a new website, we have taken over the National Ophthalmology Prayer Breakfast at the AAO, and for the first time this year, are hosting a meeting at ARVO.

Our goal is to see the Lord touch as many ophthalmologists and their families as possible. We want to see people affirm or reaffirm their faith in Christ, and we want to do what we can to help them with problems and challenges in their practice, their families, and their service. We are making every attempt to maximize our resources to do so. But as we work in this way, the enemy works harder against us.

*“many doctors would like to be involved with the COS but something always comes up as a conflict and they have to cancel at the last minute or wait until next year, or wait until the meeting is in driving distance, etc.”*

## Letter from the President (cont'd)

*(continued from page 2)*

Everything seems to take more time and get more cumbersome, from the CME process to the hotel arrangements to getting speakers to commit. And the scheduling conflicts continue to grow. I myself had to withdraw from a national speaking commitment to attend this year's meeting. And of course we all face the prospect of decreasing reimbursements and the need to work harder to make less.

But I know that I need the COS. Granted, the members and the meeting can't meet all my needs or address all my flaws. But I have never come home from a meeting where I was not blessed, challenged, convicted, or encouraged (usually all) to press forward and press into God. The devil knows this and knows that the Lord is moving through the COS, so he makes it harder and harder for people to come and be blessed. I therefore urge you all to pray hard for yourselves and for others to be released meeting, and be touched by God and return home a new person.

Rhea and I and our family look forward to seeing you and serving you in San Antonio!

## Spouse's Program for San Antonio Meeting

On Thursday, the ladies will be involved in a mission project under the guidance of Nel Smith. It will be a time of fellowship and making blankets for a mission organization -don't worry-- no sewing is involved. Friday and Saturday we will be ministered to by Barbara Adams of Houston. Her gifts of teaching and music will encourage and challenge us to grow spiritually and empower us to minister to our friends and community.

Come with excitement and anticipation of getting to know each other better and worshiping together.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Jan Paschall  
1400 Cedar Oaks Ln.  
Harker Heights, TX 76548  
Home Phone/Fax 254-698-6803  
Jan Cell 254-718-5866

## Children's Activities for San Antonio Meeting

### *Children's Program*

For questions or further information on children's activities, contact Calvin Eshbaugh, MD at [keshbaugh@hotmail.com](mailto:keshbaugh@hotmail.com) or at 254-982-4712

In- hotel childcare and children'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

Additional Children's Activities *(continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

#### Additional Children's Activities

- Friday, July 27, 9-11 AM Tour of the Alamo (ages 4 and up)
- Friday, July 27, 6-8:30 PM IMAX movie (finished 3rd grade or older)
- Saturday July 28, 6-8:30 PM RiverCenter Mall scavenger hunt (3rd grade and up)

#### Children's Food Information

1. Parents are responsible for breakfast and lunch for children each day
2. On Th/Fri/Sat AM sessions, snacks will be provided 10:30 AM for all ages
3. Parents responsible for dinner for children unless choosing options below
  - Thursday July 27 Pizza at hotel (extra charge)
  - Fri/Sat July 28-29 If child is going on field trips above, may bring money to eat at the food court in the mall

## Remember the Alamo

In 1718, a Catholic missionary from Spain named Padre Olivares established a mission at the site that is now San Antonio. The mission consisted of a monastery and a church surrounded by high walls. The name of the mission was San Antonio de Valero, but it came to be called "The Alamo," the Spanish word for the cottonwood trees that grew around the mission.

Many American colonists also settled in Texas. Moses Austin had received permission from Spanish leaders to establish an American colony. But when Mexico became independent from Spain and Santa Anna became dictator, American colonists realized they would have to fight if they wanted to keep their homes. Santa Anna sent troops to get a cannon which had been lent to the colonists, but the colonists refused to give it to them. The American colonists won the battle that followed, which came to be called the Battle of Gonzales. From Gonzales, the excited colonists marched to San Antonio where more of Santa Anna's troops were stationed. They defeated the Mexican army and gained control of the San Antonio mission. Santa Anna led the Mexican soldiers and marched against the American colonists who had gathered inside the high walls of the mission. The American Texans were under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel William Travis. James Bowie and Davy Crockett were among the 150 soldiers defending the mission. Travis sent out a plea for more help, declaring that he would never surrender or retreat. About 37 more men from Gonzales were able to pass through the Mexican lines to join the forces at the mission. Colonel Fannin and around 400 soldiers left Goliad intending to provide reinforcement, but they had to turn back due to equipment problems.



*(continued on page 5)*

## “Remember the Alamo-continued”

(continued from page 4)

Santa Anna began the siege of the Alamo on February 23, 1836. By March 5, ammunition supplies ran so low inside the mission that the Americans could not fire back on the Mexican troops. Santa Anna, realizing that the ammunition was low, ordered his men to scale the walls early the next morning. At the end of the battle, because there was no ammunition, the Americans used their rifles as nothing but clubs. At 8:00 that morning the battle was over. All the American men were killed. Only a few women and children survived, including the wife and baby of an officer, her nurse, and a little boy.

The brave men at the Alamo had held the Mexican army at bay for twelve days at the cost of their own lives. Their sacrifice gave General Sam Houston the time he needed to gather Texans together and to prepare them to fight Santa Anna's army. Houston's army rallied around the cries, “Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!” On April 21, Houston led the Texans against Santa Anna's army in the Battle of San Jacinto, a surprise attack that lasted only 18 minutes. The Mexican army was soundly defeated. But when the battle was over, Santa Anna was nowhere to be found! He had disappeared! The following afternoon a patrol of Texas soldiers came across a poorly-dressed man wearing blue cotton clothing, a leather cap, and red felt slippers. When this bedraggled man was brought into the camp to be questioned, all the Mexican prisoners tipped their hats! It was Santa Anna! The defeated Mexican leader was forced to order all Mexican soldiers to leave Texas, and Texas became independent of Mexican rule.

After winning the war against Mexico, Texas was an independent nation. Texas wrote a constitution which set up the government as a republic. Sam Houston was the first elected president of the new republic. Sam Houston was a brave man who did many good things during his lifetime, but none of them could win him a place in Heaven. The best thing he did was to accept Jesus Christ as his Saviour. Sam Houston made a public profession of his faith in 1854.

Even though the war with Mexico was over, another war was about to begin. Texas fought on the side of the Confederacy in this war, called the Civil War. The war ended in April, 1865, when the Confederate general surrendered. But since it took so long for news to travel west, a battle was fought in Texas even after the war was officially over. The battle took place on May 13, and was called the Battle of Palmito Hill. Christians are also fighting a battle today that is part of a war that has already been won. Jesus has already defeated Satan—but Satan doesn't know it yet, and so he is still attacking God's people!

The above selection contains excerpts from *Texas State History Student Booklet*,  
© 1996 by Joy Dean, published by A Helping Hand ([www.statehistory.net](http://www.statehistory.net))

(continued from page 1)

## “Politics-Continued”

We too can make a difference in our society. As Wilberforce commented: “My walk is a public one. My business is in the world, and I must mix in the assemblies of men or quit the post which Providence seems to have assigned me.”

Do we see our offices and surgical suites as a mission field? As Wilberforce, we must recognize ourselves for what we are....disciples on the job. We are working with eyes on God's mission field. When we become willing to be used in our workplace, God can accomplish great things!



## **Christian Ophthalmology Society Newsletter**

---

Christian Ophthalmology Society Newsletter  
C/O John & Anne Cox  
333 Whitesport Center, Suite 101  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
Phone: 256-880-0667  
Fax: 256-881-2194  
Email: jbcx1@pol.net

  
  

---

  

---

*The Christian Ophthalmology Society was founded in 1977 as an interdenominational group of eye physicians and surgeons who confess that Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord.*

***“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”***

**John 3:17**

