



## ***His Work In Progress* needs Dental Hygienists!**

By: Colleen Rutledge, RDH and Mr. Walter Miller

A little over a year ago, I became involved with a non-profit group called *His Work in Progress*, pioneered by Yardley, PA native, Walter Miller, who has made several mission trips since 1998. The goal of this organization is to advance the current health conditions in impoverished areas outside the US. They provide medical and dental supplies, equipment, and pharmaceuticals as well as support in healing the sick and helping the needy.

When I first met Walt, he told me that there was a critical need for dental hygienists to join in dental mission trips. He told me that no dental professionals had joined a mission trip in several years! The aim of this article is to increase awareness among dental hygienist professionals to assist *His Work in Progress* on the next mission trip to Croatia in May, 2010.

Walt recalls the first experience a few years ago trying to help hundreds of the people in the refugee camps with their dental needs. Walt arranged for shuttles to transport many children to the clinic for dental care, but the screams from the treatment area had all the children running out the door! In his words it “ended in disaster”, as the Russian dentist who they nicknamed: “the butcher”, did not use any anesthetic when performing dental treatment. Since then, no other dentist, hygienist or assistant has stepped forward to offer their time and talent.

Walt really needs our help! He told me there is such a need for dental hygienists. He actually witnessed firsthand a woman whose teeth and gums were totally black! He said the people in the camp always ask if there is a good dentist and someone to clean their teeth - especially the young girls who “want to look like movie stars”. Walt has to answer their pleas with “No, I’m sorry, we have no one.”

I tell you all this in the hopes that someone will read this plea and give financial support or better yet volunteer to go on the next mission trip which is scheduled for May 27 – June 9, 2010. If you can not go, maybe you know another hygienist who can.

*His Work In Progress* is constantly looking for willingly dental professionals to join them on their missions. If you are interested and would like to learn more about *His Work In Progress*, visit: [www.hwip.org](http://www.hwip.org) or contact Walt personally at [Walter.Miller@att.net](mailto:Walter.Miller@att.net).

These people go to bed each night relying on the generosity of others - hoping that someone will help them. They are waiting for all of us. What will be our response?