



Breakfast Rotary—Jefferson City, MO

www.jeffcityrotary.org

September 2003

Every Wednesday 7:00 a.m. Capitol Plaza Hotel 415 W. McCarty St. Jefferson City, MO

DAN'S DISSERTATION

(WORDS FROM OUR ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENT)



International service has been at the forefront of our club's activities during the past month. The Group Study Exchange team from Japan visited Jefferson City over a four day period, and our club was at the forefront of making that visit a success. International Service Committee Chairman Stephen Stark put together the itinerary for the group's visit and arranged for host families to house our visitors during their stay. Don and Sue Alberti, Kyle and Christie Kittrell and Roger and Jean Kurtz were among those handling the hosting duties. In addition, Randy Scherr, Jeff Pennock and Mary Forck and Kit Freudenberg arranged and/or participated in some of the activities offered to the group.

Also on the international front, we are pleased that our exchange student, Artur Castiel Reis de Souza, has arrived from Brazil. As many of you know, due to a problem with a school district policy that no one anticipated, Nancy and Bill Gratz have had to reluctantly forego serving as Artur's first host family. Paula and George Hartsfield have graciously agreed to step in on short notice and will host Artur through the end of September. Murph and Linda Tetley will take over as host family in early November, leaving us still in need of a host family for October and for the spring months. David Luther has performed yeoman work in trying to line up host families. Regrettably, he has gotten more of

a response from members of other clubs than from our own. This should not be. Artur appears to be a very pleasant young man and I believe that hosting him would be a rewarding and enriching experience for anyone who decides to do it. As the sponsoring club, we should be able to supply most, if not all, of the host families for our students. I hope all the membership will give serious thought to the possibility of serving as a host family for Artur, and that some of you will be contacting David to express your willingness to fill this need

Recent Service Activities

* Meals on Wheels - August 25

This month's volunteers were Bob Sfredo, Dudley Galloway, Ron and Marlene Medin, Alan Becker, Phyllis Willibrand and Sue and Al Laffoon. A special recognition and thanks to Phyllis because it was her first time and she did a great job. Delivering meals takes about an hour and is relatively simple but it can be very satisfying after you see some of the situations that people are in and how much this little thing can help them.

This work also is eligible for "make ups" so President Dan hopes even more of you will give it a try. Al Laffoon will lead you through the process so "have no fear", just "Do it".

Al

LAST CALL!!!!!!

We still have two (maybe three) slots open for the RFE to Thailand. Plans are becoming more "firm" and the probable itinerary will resemble the following:

The RFE would probably be from January 29+/- to February 12+/- . It is likely that we would start the RFE in Chiang Mai, where we will see some hill tribes and attend the Festival of Flowers (which I understand has a parade similar to the Rose Bowl). We would then travel to Chiang Rai, which is near the Thai-Burmese-Laotian border. Then down to Sukhothai, which was the first capital of Thailand....and finally down to Pitsanulike to finish up the actual RFE.

The Rotarians in Thailand are VERY EXCITED about this exchange as they have not participated in one for many, many years.

In doing some research about the country, I think this is going to be an EXCEPTIONAL trip and experience. The countryside is spectacular and the people are very friendly and PRO USA.

Please contact --

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Relief International

Relief International is a humanitarian, non-profit and non-sectarian agency providing emergency relief, rehabilitation, and development assistance to victims of natural disasters and civil conflicts worldwide. RI's programs bridge the gap between immediate emergency relief and long-term community development, through innovative programming that is multi-sectoral and grassroots-based. This orientation promotes self-reliance and the peaceful reintegration of populations. RI's programs are designed with the input and participation of target beneficiary groups such as women, children and the elderly, whose special needs are often neglected in disasters.

Iraq Response

Relief International's staff on the ground in Iraq is working hard to rebuild Iraq. A main focus of our work is the restoration of the educational system beginning with the reconstruction of schools. Some 51 schools are under reconstruction by Relief International as of July 4, 2003. After three decades of life in a closed political system, several wars as well as

the impact of economic sanctions, disruptions to public services and the economy have left the Iraqi population facing almost insurmountable hardships.

Relief International's community infrastructure reconstruction team of civil engineers is rebuilding schools, rehabilitating school water and sanitation infrastructure, and creating the conditions that allow Iraqi children to return to school. In addition a health team is creating programs to rapidly improve access to healthcare in areas where it is desperately needed. To combat the decades of isolation in a closed society and to promote democratic values and create access to information globally, Relief International is also setting up Digital Community Centers for children and adults alike. With access to the internet, these Centers provide exposure to information technology and to use computers and allow Iraqi youth to gain life skills and practical training. Relief International's projects encourage community participation and democratic governance, with a particular focus on undeserved groups including women, children, the elderly, and minority groups.

Join us in supporting these critical programs to empower Iraqi citizens and youth to participate in the global age equipped with education and democratic values. Relief International is dedicated to providing humanitarian assistance to those in need. Together, we can make a difference and help the people of Iraq rebuild their country and create hope for the future generation.

from www.ri.org/iraq

September Programs

Sept 3rd - Nancy Jones
JCHS Vocational Internships
(Introduced by Rob Hess)

Sept 10th - Derrick McBride
Boys and Girls Club
(Introduced by Nancy Gratz)

Sept 17th - TBA

Sept 24th - Linda McAnany
United Way
(Introduced by Rob Hess)