

THE EYE OPENER



Breakfast Rotary—Jefferson City, MO

November, 2000

Every Wednesday 7:00 am Capital Plaza Hotel Jefferson City, MO

www.jeffcityrotary.org



Bob (Villa) Sfredo
See more picture on our Web Site



Jim's Jargon

Our Canadian friends have come and gone. Thanks to our gracious host David and Mary Kay Linsenhardt and Tony and Tem Hiesberger. Your hospitality was appreciated.

Please sign up for the tailgate party on the 29th of October. Thank you Bob Sfredo for your efforts.

The Habitat Project continues to come along nicely. Thanks to the coordination of Gary Chegwidde, Cathy Martin and Bob Sfredo.

Our deepest sympathy to the Plassmeyer and Fryer families over the death of your loved ones. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

Attendance has been good. I appreciate your involvement in Breakfast Rotary.

Be thinking about location and time for our annual Christmas party. Until next month, *Jim*.



November Programs

Nov 1 - Jill Shanley - Preferred Family Health
Helping Troubled Adolescents

Prayer Murphy Tetley

Humor Al Laffoon

Nov 8 - Stu Murhpy - United Way

Prayer Cathy Martin

Humor Bill cowell

Nov 15 - Werner Fornos - The Population Institute

Prayer Tony Hiesberger

Humor Reg Turnbull

Nov 22 - Rotary Benefactors - Reg Turnbull

Prayer President Jim

Humor Roger Kurtz

Nov 29 - Boshia - An American Experience

Ronald and Roberta Grey

Prayer Don Alberti

Humor Randy Scheer

**If anyone has an idea for a Rotary Program please contact
Roger Kurtz at 556-6272, extension 5 or send email to
roger_kurtz@mcsa.org**

BREAKFAST ROTARY SERVICE AWARD

Sharon Naught has been selected to receive the Breakfast Rotary Service Award. The award is given quarterly to a non-Rotarian who exhibits the "service above self" philosophy of Rotary International. Sharon was nominated by Reg Turnbull and Helen S. Germann, Coordinator of Volunteer Services at Jefferson City High School, for her tireless contribution to Jefferson City, and particularly to the mentoring program for at risk students at the high school. Her numerous volunteer activities with the American Cancer Society, Capital City Regional Medical Center, the Chamber of Commerce, Cole County Hospice, and other organizations certainly exemplify the spirit of the award and of Rotary.

Congratulations to Sharon; Jefferson City is a better place to live because of her efforts. Thank you, Reg, for nominating her and taking the time to recognize Sharon's unique gifts to our community.

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Grant Project at Sefako High School in Lesotho

Report from Audrey Spieler, the leader of our Group Study Exchange Team now traveling in South Africa.

I want to report an absolutely wonderful day going to Lesotho on Saturday, October 7. As we traveled away from the flat farm land in the middle of the Free State we began to see more and more frequent koppis (flat low mountain). Then it began to be mountainous and we climbed the long ascent to a sort of pass into the Kingdom of Lesotho.

We cleared the border check points and...the pavement ended. We were in a rugged vehicle and went rapidly around curves and up and down hills with no guard rails. To make matters worse, they drive on the left side of the road in S.A. and I was putting on the brakes so hard I must have left an indentation on the passenger's side. It was "Romancing the Stone" all over again meeting sparse traffic like an overloaded bus along with people walking beside the road. Shepherd boys were lounging on the mountain side wrapped in huge dark blankets wearing gum boots and watching their cattle. National Geographic photos at every turn. Our team photographer snapped photos of all these new and surprising sights only to find that his film had fouled and he had not captured any of these scenes!

We arrived at Ha Sefaco high school - the site of the repair work that had been recently completed with the help of the Jefferson City Rotary Clubs, the Rotary Foundation, and the Vicksburg Rotary Club. Don't envision a red brick two-story high school. This is a long low building with a metal corrugated roof. The "before" condition was leaking roof, dark unplastered interior, broken windows, holes in the floor large enough to sprain your ankle. With the money they repaired the roof, installed a ceiling to provide for more protection in the very cold days (there is no heat!), plastered and painted the walls, added a concrete floor, and finished it off with a black board. This school serves about 175 students from grades 8-12 in this building. The next nearest high school is about 30 miles away. More good news is that they were able to make repairs on an adjacent building with the remaining moneys!

Ron Stevens, the former District Governor, a kind and gracious man was there to meet us along with the Vicksburg Rotary Club and their wives. They broke out the beer and began the braai (barbecue) fire. We had lunch of some sausages that were much tastier than our hot dogs and smaller than our brots along with the traditional potato salads and relishes...much like ours menus.

I asked Edward, the headmaster, if I could take a few gifts that Mary Plassmeyer (former Peace Corps worker who had taught at Ha Sefaco high school) to the family she stayed with. He said she did not know that we were coming but invited me to ride in his old and dilapidated pickup truck to visit her. Edward is a very kind man and we drove down the winding road to the family's home.

We arrived at the house and Edward greeted Mary's host mother telling her who I am. She recognizes Mary's name and trusts the information. Edward tells her that I want her photo, and she quickly chatters back to him and disappears in a rear room to change into a bright red dress appropriate for the photo. We take the photo and then I am ready to give her Mary's gifts and the money she has sent. She asks that I come in the house. The houses in Lesotho are very humble, simple homes of concrete block and inexpensive building materials. I

had resolved not to go into one as I was sure it would be a shocking sight. However, by this time I feel that if I don't go in I will be offending this nice woman. So, reluctantly I go in the house...they always have you go in first. To my surprise the house is totally neat and orderly. A red sofa and matching chair clusters on one side of the room with appropriate curtains covering the windows; the dining table in the center with a lace tablecloth and centerpiece are awaiting my packages. I give her Mary's gifts one by one and she looks at each of them frequently laughing with delight and clapping her hands. She smooths the dish towels with her hands and chatters in Sotho with obvious pleasure. Then I give her the money that has been changed into Rand. She and Edward count it out; she is pleased. I put it back into the plastic bag and put it back in her hand. She is showing signs that she is going to lay it on the table. I am fearful of what will happen to the money and gesture for her to put it in her bosom. To my delight she follows my lead without a moments hesitation!!! Some expressions translate to any language! Inside I am laughing gleefully at this moment of success.

It was a great day, and I learned a lot about what Rotarians can accomplish with just a little money and a lot of determination. My hat is off to all who participated in this very successful project

Editors Note: There is a link to pictures of this project and exchange visit on our web site at www.jeffcityrotary.org under the Breakfast Rotary section.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

Reg Turnbull November 3rd
Randy Scherr November 4th
Joe Scheppers November 7th
Leigh Ann Nelson November 10th
David Linsenhardt November 12th
Donna White November 14th
Nancy Gratz November 15th
(Happy 50th)
Don Alberti November 18th
Eric Austin November 23rd
Thomas Brown November 24th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!!

Matt & Teresa Tolksdorf November 7th
Norbert & Eileen Plassmeyer November 11th
Tom & Sandra Marcy November 24th
Dennis & Dawn Moore November 25th
Ralph & Rosie Dulle November 27th

**Please visit our Rotary Web Site
www.jeffcityrotary.org**