

THE EYE OPENER



Page 2

Breakfast Rotary—Jefferson City, MO

June, 2001

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

www.jeffcityrotary.org



Jim's Jargon

What a great Rotary year! A special thanks to all who helped. Your efforts exemplify "Service Above Self" and I certainly appreciate the club's efforts this year and every year.

I especially want to thank you for all of your support with my family and all that it means to us. Your thoughtfulness and prayers have gone a long way in our healing process and we again say, "thank you".

I want to encourage you to support Jo Moore and her officers and I want you to seriously consider taking a foreign exchange student into your home.

- Jim



Installation of Officers

Picnic at Binder Lake
Boat Dock
5:30 pm
Wednesday, June 20

Bring the whole family!

Project Fishing Rod Catches New Recruits: A Rotary Foundation Project

The Rotary Club of Roma Appia Antica, Italy, recently launched "Project Fishing Rod" in Burkina Faso, one of the world's poorest nations. Working closely with the Rotary Club of Ouagadougou, the capital, the Rotarians selected two young men and two young women, brought them to Italy for job training, and now are helping them launch their own businesses. The Italian Rotarians call Project Fishing Rod a "micro intervention," based on the concept of "aid for development instead of aid for survival."

Formerly Upper Volta, the landlocked West African nation lies in the midst of the drought-prone Sahel. Only about 1/8 of the land is arable, and average life expectancy is just 44 years. The United Nations Development Program ranks Burkina Faso 171st of 174 nations in its World Human Development Index.

The project was funded by a \$3,000 Carl P. Miller Discovery Grant and a \$10,000 New Opportunities Grant from The Rotary Foundation of RI and District 2080 (Italy).

The men received technical training in air conditioner maintenance and installation at a factory in southern Italy. The women's training course took place in a shirt factory in central Italy.

How about a **BIG** thanks to:

Sherry Mariea
John Gilstrap
Roger Kurtz

and their families for hosting Bia!



June 2001 Programs

- 5-23** Donna Deitz – Chamber
Multi-Culture Committee
Prayer Pastor Harv
Humor Randy Scherr
- 5-30** **OFF SITE**
Salvation Army

- 6-6** Kevin Mullally– MO Gaming Commission
Prayer Reg Turnbull
Humor Bill Cowell

- 6-13** **OPEN**
Prayer Rev. Kyle Hern
Humor Murphy Tetley

- 6-20** Installation of new officers at Binder Lake

- 6-27** Rob Muschany – Girls Town
Prayer President Jim
Humor Al Laffoon

Last October, the final phase of the project began in Burkina Faso: the launch of the new enterprises.

-- Excerpted from the May 2001 issue of The Rotarian by Tom Marcy

The West Club is sponsoring a blood drive
June 22nd from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
at the Elks Club

August 6th is the date for the
3 club Rotary golf tournament.

African man speeds through LU courses to reunite with family of six

By KRIS HILGEDICK--News Tribune

Two continents. One ocean. 8,762 miles.

It took Stanford Nyatanga, 49, from Zimbabwe, only two years and nine months to earn a bachelors degree in accounting at Lincoln University with honors. But separated from a family of six who remained behind in Africa, he had a reason to hurry.

Along with 300 of his classmates, Nyatanga graduated Saturday in a ceremony at Reed Stadium. The ceremony, and a following celebration at a fellow church member's home, is the culmination of much work and sacrifice.

It's likely these are the difficult years Nyatanga will always remember -- but with good memories. Although he took his chances when offered an opportunity to study in the United States, it seems to be working out.

Nyatanga currently lives in the caretaker's pavilion near McClung Park with his wife, Ellen, and two of their five children -- David, 19, a freshman at State Fair Community College with an interest in computers, and Nolyn, 16, a student at Lincoln this fall who hopes to obtain a medical degree someday.

Two other children -- Leslie, 26, and Malcolm, 22 -- are graduating this spring from the University of Solusi in Zimbabwe. A final child, Phocna, 24, is expecting to attend the University of Denver to obtain a master's degree in economics this fall.

If you ask Nyatanga how he manages to provide living expenses for all those children, you'll get a smile. "It's becoming very difficult," he acknowledged.

Nyatanga said he's thought about the situation. "My wife and I have asked ourselves, 'What can we do for our children?' We wanted to leave them something," he explained.

Nyatanga said the solution was to seek education for every member of his family. "If you can educate them, in any situation, they can help themselves," he said. "God has worked in our favor. They've all done extremely well in school and we're thankful."

Nyatanga is quick to offer credit to the parishioners of the First United Methodist Church on Monroe Street. "They have helped out quite tremendously," he said. "And with one or two scholarships coming in here and there..."

Church Administrator Jerry Kelly said Nyatanga came to his church three years ago when the scholarship that brought him to the United States devalued unexpectedly, along with Zimbabwe's currency. Kelly said 12 families in the church have actively supported Nyatanga's efforts to secure a degree from Lincoln.

Kelly said the family has become a valuable asset to the church's community. "Anytime you have someone from a different culture, it offers a totally refreshing perspective," he said.

Kelly spoke of the remarkable faith it took to make the leap to come here. "Here in this country, we're not raised to have that kind of faith," he said. "Initially, he came here to better himself, but after the political situation that developed, it became an opportunity for him to make a better life for his family."

Nyatanga said that life in Zimbabwe has changed dramatically for



**Stanford Nyatanga
Cuts the cake at his graduation party**

In Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, Nyatanga is an accountant who has worked for the government for 21 years and most recently as the chief executive officer in administration and finance for the Ministry of Justice. He's been given a five-year dispensation to study abroad.

"I just wanted to get a degree," he said, adding that after being in the workforce for 20 years, it was time to brush up on new technologies and learn new skills.

Now that he's obtained his bachelor's degree, he hoping to finish his master's before his five-year leave is up. He's said he's pleased with the opportunities offered by Lincoln. "The teaching staff is competent and helpful," he said. "Also, it's been three years now, and I've seen a lot of changes for the better, such as the new business school. I credit that to the president -- Dr. David Henson."

The hardest part of his transition to the U.S.?

Acclimating to live as a humble student, he said. "I was used to going to work, coming home and reading the paper. I was responsible for the budget of the Ministry of Justice (the courts and prisons). There were people under me. I was used to giving the orders," he said humorously. "It was hard at first to take instructions from my professors, who were often younger than me." "But I'm glad I adjusted ... and they handled it quite well," he said.

More seriously, Nyatanga said living without his family for two years was really difficult. "I thank God," he said. "You're always praying you'll still find all your children ... intact. None with child, none married, none in trouble."

Nyatanga does not downplay the importance of the Methodist church in his family's life. "My church has played an extremely important role in our socialization ... they have taken care of us, continue to do so. I really appreciate it," he said.

He said he's looking forward to a day when he can return home to Zimbabwe's more temperate climate and his former position in the government -- which he enjoyed. For now, however, he's hoping to help his children come to the United States to study.

This article first appeared in The Sunday News Tribune for May 13, 2001.

the worse in the few years he's been gone. Ellen remained behind in Africa the first two years Nyatanga was in Jefferson City -- holding the family together by running a family transport business and maintaining a bridal shop. She arrived last August; the two youngest children, David and Nolyn, followed in December.

2001-2002 Officers

PresidentJo Moore
President ElectRob Angstead
SecretaryDan McPherson
TreasurerReg Turnbull
Sergeant at ArmsCathy Martin.
Program CoordinatorMary Forck.
International Service ChairRoger Kurtz.
Community Service ChairRyan Burson
Membership ChairRon Mudd
Foundation ChairDon Irwin
Technology ChairMurphy Tetley
EditorMurphy Tetley
Public Relations ChairTony Hiesberger