



The Optimist Club of Treynor, IA

# NEWSLETTER

Iowa District, Zone 3, Club Number 40-109

www.treynoroptimist.org

Iowa District Governor: Gary Miner

Optimist International President: Danny Rodgers



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## Tanzania

Arlyn Norris spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on November 27 and showed a video about his trip to Kidugala, Tanzania, along two others from St. Paul Lutheran church. They left on the three week trip on 18 May and traveled took 27 ½ hours, reaching their destination when it was dark. St. Paul Lutheran church has a companion congregation in Kidugala.

Tanzania is a country about twice the size of California. The people are about one-third Muslim, one-third Christian, and one-third indigenous religions. The average income is about \$1400/year. Only 4% of the land can be cultivated. The average life expectancy is about 50 years old.

The first place they visited was a school for the deaf. They also visited a Lutheran Health Center which will become a full fledged hospital. They also observed a new procedure for planting corn using two "bottlecaps" of fertilizer planted beside the seed

The Lutheran Diocese has a 350 pupil high school to train girls who will eventually pass on information to their families. Arlyn and the others talked to secondary school students who asked in-depth questions, such as "how does globalization affects the U.S.?"

Water wells, provided by the Diocese, supply water for thousands. It is not unusual for residents to walk 2 miles to get "good" water.

St. Paul Lutheran members made a cross to symbolize unity with their companion congregation. Arlyn Norris said that a highlight of the trip was the worship services and communion where the cross made in Treynor was presented to the local congregation. Arlyn said that they "felt very welcomed and established meaningful relationships."

The video can be seen at <http://vimeo.com/14600018>

## Meeting Minutes

Dennis White opened the meeting November 27 with the Pledge of Allegiance and Arlyn Norris gave the opening prayer. Keith Denton provided jokes. There were 15 members at the meeting.

Jeff Jorgensen celebrated being elected chairman of the Pottawattamie County Republicans with a donation to the Youth Fund. Gary Funkhouser shared that the first High School home basketball games would be held Thursday. Can Kennel sorting will be Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. for the Cub Scouts.

Dennis White won the 50/50. Bill Matthew won the attendance drawing but did not collect.

## CALENDAR

Next Can Kennel sorting on Wed, Dec 1, 3:30 p.m. for the Cub Scouts.

## Birthdays

Nov 8 - Mick Gutttau

Nov 18 – Dianne Willenborg

## Anniversaries

Nov 21 – Les (deceased) & Milli Harvey

Nov 22 – John & Carol Klein

Nov 25 – Ward & Suzanne Chambers

## Speakers

Nov 27 — Arlyn Norris, featuring a video on our recent Pilgrimage to Tanzania

Dec 4 – Speaker from Field Services, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

Dec 11 – Jim Mathai, Chief Deputy, Pottawattamie County

## Programs

Nov – Arlyn Norris

Dec – Chuck Nielsen/Keith Denton

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The **United Republic of Tanzania** is a country in central East Africa bordered by Kenya and Uganda to the north, Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west, and Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique to the south. The country's eastern borders lie on the Indian Ocean.

The United Republic of Tanzania is a unitary republic composed of 26 mikoa (regions). The current head of state is President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, elected in 2005. Since 1996, the official capital of Tanzania has been Dodoma, where parliament and some government offices are located. Between independence and 1996, the major coastal city of Dar es Salaam served as the country's political capital. Today, Dar es Salaam remains the principal commercial city of Tanzania and the de-facto seat of most government institutions. It is the major seaport for the country and its landlocked neighbors.

The name Tanzania derives from the names of the two states Tanganyika and Zanzibar that united in 1964 to form the **United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar**, which later the same year was renamed the United Republic of Tanzania.