



May 28, 2011

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Kidugala, Tanzania

Pastor Wallace Lupenza and Pastor Nuru Kahwili from Kidugala, Tanzania spoke at the Optimist Club on May 28. They are pastors over a group of twelve churches in their area. They were visiting St. Paul Lutheran church for two weeks as part of their sister congregation.

Pastor Kahwili is a widow with two children. Pastor Lupenza is married with four children.

Children in Tanzania have free schooling for seven years. After that they can continue in a secondary school, but they must pay for their schooling. The cost is about one million shillings, or about \$1,000 US per year. Therefore, parents often have to decide which of their children, if any, can attend secondary school. Elementary school is taught in Swaheli, but secondary school is in English.

The Lutheran church contributes towards student schooling. They also had a well drilling project to provide clean water to residents. A challenge in any project is to provide support to the people with things they can maintain. Therefore, the Church is developing local councils to maintain the wells.

The children at St. Paul Lutheran contribute their pennies each week. Those contributions are all sent to help the children in Tanzania.

The United States Government also provides support for people in Tanzania. One of their main projects is providing nets to reduce the incidence of malaria.

The rainy season is just ending in Tanzania. Now begins the harvest season. In Kidugala the ground is rocky and there is not a lot of good land. The main crops are maize (corn) and beans. Some people raise vegetables.

In Tanzania, about a third of the people are Christian, a third are Muslem, and a third are tribal religions. In Kidugala, most are Lutheran. Their congregation consists of about 3000 members, with around 80% attending.

The greatest challenges they have are keeping those baptized coming to church, education, and communication with members.

Pastor Lupenza and Pastor Kahwili just arrived Thursday, so they are still adjusting from the airplane trip. Their observations from what they have seen is that it is very green here, the town and school look very nice, the roads are good and the

farms look large, there are many cars, and there are many good people.

Meeting Minutes

Dennis White opened the Optimist Club meeting on May 28 with the Pledge of Allegiance and Richard Vorthmann gave the opening prayer. Keith Denton and Richard Vorthmann provided jokes. There were 15 members and 5 guests at the meeting.

Tyler Siebels came to collect his scholarship reward. He will be attending Kansas State University, majoring in Ag Engineering.

The Treynor Club has been asked to set up chairs at the Prairie Crossing Winery on August 5 for the Optimist District meeting.

Dick Baber talked about next week's program, honoring World War I veterans. The meeting will be held at Zion Church, since the Treynor Community Center is not available. June 6 was D-Day. Breakfast will be served.

Jim Clausen won the 50/50 drawing. Arlyn Norris won the attendance drawing.

Several members helped with flag installation on May 28 after the club meeting, including four enthusiastic cub scouts. We have 134 flags to install this year, if everyone from last year pays.

CALENDAR

May 28 – Flag installation

May 30 – Flag takedown

June 1 - Can Kennel sorting at for the St. Paul Youth Group at 1:00 p.m.

Birthdays

Jun 5 – Bob Abbott

Jun 16 – Dale Willenborg

Jun 20 – Jeff Jorgensen

Jun 22 – Kevin Elwood

Anniversaries

Jun 1 – Kevin & Shana Elwood

Jun 3 – Arlyn & Wanda Norris

Jun 5 – Steve & Debra Irvin

Jun 15 – Steve & Jeanie Chambers

Jun 28 – Mick & Judy Gutttau

Speakers

June 4 – Honor World War 2 veterans

Programs

June – Dick Baber

July – Judy Gutttau

Aug – Treynor Bank Employees

Sep – Jeff Jorgensen

Oct – Gary Funkhouser

Nov – Arlyn Norris

Dec – Chuck Nielsen

An important figure in establishing the official observance of Memorial Day was General John A. Logan. He organized a group of Union veterans called the Grand Army of The Republic (GAR). On May 5, 1868, General Logan issued an order designating May 30 as a day to honor all soldiers and sailors who died in the Civil War on both sides by decorating their graves. He called it "Decoration Day". As a result of this order, Waterloo and other communities soon began celebrating Decoration Day on May 30th as well.