



September 18, 2010

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Northern Tanzania

Deb Schmidt spoke on September 18 about her trip to Tanzania in July 2010. She went at her own expense with two sisters as part of the Lutheran Nebraska Synod Vision Trip. She traveled with a group of 27 people for the two week trip.

Tanzania is a Christian country on the East coast of Africa. It is winter now with temperatures in the 70s. There is beautiful foliage, but the country has suffered a severe drought in the beginning of the 21st century, which has severely hindered hydro-generation of electricity. The rainy season is January until April.

People in the country are bi-lingual, with Kiswahili and English as the main languages. Almost everyone who can afford one has a cell phone, because there are few land-line phones. The food is mainly rice, bananas, and fruit. Unlike many other countries, the youngest child inherits the family wealth.

Deb visited a variety of places during her Vision trip. She showed pictures of a Houses for Health project. The houses are built for families with long term illnesses, such as AIDS. The houses are all the same to avoid contention.

At hospitals, like the Machene Lutheran Hospital, the family goes along to the hospital to provide food and clean clothing for family member in the hospital. At the Ashika Parish she attended a feast in their honor. Many people don't have much money, so they donate gifts of food or other items. After church there is an auction to sell the gift offerings. Since the Have's and Have-not's live together in the communities, this works well.

Meeting Minutes

Gary Gutttau opened the Optimist Club meeting on September 18 and Dennis White gave the opening prayer. Gary Funkhouser, John Klein, and Chuck Nielsen provided jokes.

The club celebrated birthdays for John Klein and Bob Hibbard. Judy Gutttau, Richard Vorthmann, and Dale Willenborg contributed to the Youth Fund for bragging rights.

There were 16 members and 10 guests at the meeting. Jeff Jorgensen won the 50/50 drawing and Jim Clausen won the attendance drawing.

Judy Gutttau reported that the club earned about \$3000 from the Celebrity Waiter's dinner.

The Mini-4H club collected \$1133.55 from the Can Kennel for June. That brings the total since inception in 1999 of over \$80,000. The Mini-4H club will use the money for fair projects, field trips, adopting animals at the zoo, and other projects. They have 12-15 children enrolled this year in grades K-2.

CALENDAR

Next Can Kennel sorting on Wed, Sept 29, 6:00 p.m. for SWI Honor Band.

Birthdays

Oct 17 – Marsha Underwood
 Oct 29 – Bill Vorthmann

Anniversaries

Oct 6 – Eric & Kelly Allen
 Oct 13 – Dale & Dianne Willenborg
 Oct 17 – Dennis & Kay White **Speakers**

Programs

Oct – Steve Irvin
 Nov – Arlyn Norris
 Dec – Chuck Nielsen/Keith Denton

Animal Super Bowl

During the Super Bowl, there was another football game of note between the big animals and the little animals. The big animals were crushing little animals and at half-time, the coach made a passionate speech to rally the little animals.

At the start of the second half the big animals had the ball. The first play, the elephant got stopped for no gain. The second play, the rhino was stopped for no gain. On third down, the hippo was thrown for a 5 yard loss.

The defense huddled around the coach and he asked excitedly, "Who stopped the elephant?"

"I did," said the centipede.

"Who stopped the rhino?"

"Uh, that was me too," said the centipede.

"And how about the hippo? Who hit him for a 5 yard loss?"

"Well, that was me as well," said the centipede.

"So where were you during the first half?" demanded the coach.

"Well," said the centipede, "I was having my ankles taped."