



Afghanistan

Dr. Ward Chambers, Associate Professor at UNO, spoke about Afghanistan at the Treynor Optimist Club on June 16. He also brought some items to display from Afghanistan. He rattled off a series of observations and facts about Afghanistan.

In 1893 the Russians and British decided on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Pashtuns have tribal areas on both sides of the border, so it is a very porous border.

From 1923 until 1972, the Afghanistans lived in peace. Then the Russians invaded. Dr. Chambers said that the border and the Pashtun problem need to be solved to solve Afghanistan.

Dr. Chambers has been to Afghanistan about 20 times. He said that the people there don't use brick, they use baked dirt for building.

Before the latest war, Kabul was a city of 400,000-500,000 people. Now it has ten times that many people. The power grid cannot handle that increase. There is no public water or sewer. Farmers use mules to pump water for irrigation. There are guns and land mines everywhere.

Afghanistan has high, rugged mountains. They reach about 26,000 feet.

The Sunnis have prayer five times a day. The Shia have prayer three times each day. They all speak a Persian language. Most Muslims are very moderate. Medical professionals don't care about politics. They want to care for people.

There is no mechanized farming. Farmers own their land, usually 2 or 2 1/2 acres. Everything is done by hand. Helmund Provence grows opium. Afghanistan grows about 80% of the worldwide opium. Most of the farmers used to grow wheat.

20% of children die before age 7. A lot of women die in childbirth. Elderly are cared for by families. The public hospitals are very primitive and terrible. The private hospitals are good.

Calendar

June 27 - Can Kennel - 6:00 p.m.
 July 26 - Westfair help (noon - 3:00 and 3:00-6:00)

Birthdays

Jun 5 - Bob Abbott
 Jun 16 - Dale Willenborg (recognized)
 Jun 20 - Jeff Jorgensen
 Jun 22 - Kevin Elwood

Anniversaries

Jun 1 - Kevin & Shana Elwood (recognized)
 Jun 3 - Arlyn & Wanda Norris (recognized)
 Jun 5 - Steve & Debra Irvin
 Jun 15 - Steve & Jeanie Chambers (recognized)
 Jun 28 - Mick & Judy Guttau

Speakers

June 23 - Greg Witte, Risen Son Christian Village
 June 30 - Pending

Programs

There are some very wealthy people in Afghanistan. They move most of their money to Dubai to get it out of the country.

Dr. Chambers is helping set up medical schools. Most medical schools are taught in English in the Middle East. Doctors make about \$500 per month on their job. They make most of their money outside of their work, on an evening job.

UNO is setting up medical schools in Saudi Arabia, Oman, and India. They have exchange programs with Russia and China.

There are about 600 businesses in Nebraska that export overseas.

Meeting Minutes

President Chuck Nielsen called the meeting to order on June 2. Gary Funkhouser and Keith Denton provided jokes. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Judy Guttau gave the prayer.

Arlyn Norris celebrated his anniversary with a donation to the Youth Fund. Judy Guttau reported that Mick had surgery two weeks ago and he is doing well. Kevin Underwood reported that Marsha had a brain aneurism and is recovering. She may have to have another surgery.

Can Kennel sorting was May 30. They had 834 bottles, 16 bags of cans, and 13 bags of plastic.

The Book Club collected a Can Kennel check for \$860.80 for book purchases. Kyle Ticer and Brad Bailey picked up scholarship checks. Gary Funkhouser won the 50/50 drawing. (Notes by Kirk Vorthmann)

Todd Gordon was the speaker. No notes were taken.

President Chuck Nielsen called the meeting to order on June 9. Keith Denton provided jokes. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Richard Vorthmann gave the prayer.

Kirk Vorthmann, Gary Guttau, and Mick Guttau claimed bragging rights. Kevin Underwood reported that Marsha is improving.

Can Kennel sorting will be June 13. Flags will also be installed for Flag day

Kirk Vorthmann won the 50/50 drawing. Judy Guttau won the attendance drawing. (Notes by Kirk Vorthmann)

Boyd Blasi was the speaker. No notes were taken.

Ken Graham conducted the meeting on June 16 Keith Denton and Gary Funkhouser provided jokes. Dennis White offered the opening prayer. Dale Willenborg has a birthday today. Arlyn and Wanda Norris had an anniversary last week.

The club decided to leave the flags up through Treynor Days. Westfair requested help on July 26.

Ken Graham won the 50/50 drawing. Ward Chambers won the attendance, but did not collect. There were 16 members in attendance

June - Judy Guttau
 July - Jeff Jorgensen
 Aug - Arlyn Norris
 Sept - Steve Irvin
 Oct - Chuck Nielsen
 Nov - Gary Guttau
 Dec - Bill Vorthmann

Prayers

June 23 - Ken Graham
 June 30 - Dale Willenborg
 July 7 - Bill Vorthmann
 July 14 - Kirk Vorthmann