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Curtis Goos Speaks to Optimists

Curtis Goos, a 2010 Treynor graduate and a 2014 University of Iowa graduate, spoke to the Treynor Optimist Club on Saturday, April 28 about his work in achieving his third goal of service in the Peace Corps. The goals of the Peace Corps are:
1) To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
2) To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
3) To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.



Curtiss Goos

Curtis's major was International Studies with an additional Major in French. During college Curtis taught English at the University of Pau in the East of France. This gave him the confidence and desire to serve in the Peace Corps. The Peace Corps has three basic fields, Agriculture, Community Development and Education. He was selected to serve in Education (STEM). His training was in Philadelphia. Because the Peace Corps is sponsored by the United State Government they are trained to be good representatives of the United States.

Curtis Arrived in Rwanda September 11, 2015 a small densely populated country about the size of Vermont and served through November 2017. It is one of the poorest countries in Africa. It is a green tropical country with volcanic soils. The temperatures ranged from 50 to 80 degrees.

Curtis spent the first three months with a host family to learn the most common language, Swahili. The family lived in a southern providence of Rwanda about one hour from a highway. He was the third Peace Corps representative in the area, so he was quickly accepted. The only electricity was at the school where they had one functional computer. He taught secondary education and had an evening youth camp where he taught leadership and promoted confidence in the students that he selected. Because "c" was hard to pronounce, they called him "Goosi".

Rwanda's main food was the cassava root, a high starch low protein food. Other foods were rice, beans, eggs, milk and bread. He ate all the eggs he could get. Curtis lost about 20 pounds in three months due to the high starch low protein food and GI problems. He was fortunate to be close to a tap water access, but as the dry season progressed he needed to go farther, and the price was higher. He collected two large containers of tap water per day and the Peace Corps provided him with a bleach water filtering system.

Goos' town of 700 people would double on market day. There were no open places to be alone. People everywhere. He always felt safe with reasonable precautions, like not going out in the middle of the night. There was some petty theft.

The family units were large with 6 to 7 persons and many single parent families. Everyone has a job even children, but women have double duty. The fields were individually owned but regulated by the government. Men do some planting and field work, but most is done by the women. The

men are herders and run the stores and businesses and many spend time in the Banana Beer Bars during the heat of the day.

The houses were about the size of three rooms with tin roofs and reed walls. Some had tile roofs and Curtis felt fortunate to have a tile roof, because they were quieter. He did his own cooking. Peace Corps provided a \$250 living allowance. He hired someone to do his laundry which was done by hand.

The religions were 90% Christian, with two-third Catholic and one-third 7 Day Adventist.

Meeting Minutes

Keith Denton called the meeting to order with 12 members present and 5 guests, Tom and Linda Gomez, Curtis Goos, Caitlin Reed and Sydnie Melby. Humor was provided by Chad Guttau, Keith Denton, and Gary Guttau After the pledge of allegiance Dee Guttau said the prayer.

Bill Vorthmann won the 50/50 drawing. Chuck Nielsen won the attendance drawing but was not present. There were no birthday or anniversaries.

Bragging Rights dollars were contributed to the Youth Fund by Marsha and Keven Underwood to brag that their nephew pitched a no-hitter game. Gary Guttau contributed for the success of the track team and for the success of the Athletics Booster Bash Dee Guttau donated because their grandson, Chase, got an ACT score of 31. Keith contributed because his corn is planted.

Caitlin Reed and Sydnie Melby were present to receive their can kennel checks for the cheer leaders and dance team.

Swim lessons will be offered in July at two times at 11:00 and 12:15 at the Oakland pool. JOI Club will be painting the shelter at the park.

Under Old Business, Keith thanked Dale for running the last meeting and Gary Funkhouser expressed appreciation for all who helped with the Youth Appreciation Event.



Sydnie Melby, Caitlin Reed, Keith Denton

The Scholarship Committee has completed their review of 20 applications and selected nine seniors and two JOI Club members to receive scholarships.

A memorial donation was presented for Keith Denton's mother, Leona Denton.

There was discussion about seeking help with flags.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with the recitation of the Optimist Creed.

Dee Guttau took minutes today.

A Thought

Be nice to your children. They will choose your nursing home.

Calendar

May 2 Can Kennel Sorting with Zion Youth

Birthdays

May 11 Keith Denton
May 21 Steve Irvin
May 22 Kirk Vorthmann

Anniversaries

Programs

May Gary Guttau
June Lou Howell
July Ann Vorthmann (first 2 weeks)
Chuck Nielsen (last 2 weeks)

Speakers

Judy Guttau, Editor, 31107 Dogwood Rd, Treynor, IA 51575
402-670-4330 judy.guttau@tsbg.com

Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575