



This Week

Meeting Date and Place

October 15, 2009 at 12:15 p.m.Meeting at the Cameron Park Country Club

Words of Wisdom

Words of Wisdom: **Norm Headley**; Greeter **Dave Sargent**; and **Vickie Christensen-McLain** at the desk

Program

Rob Roscoe with Sacramento Water District will speak on water challenges in the Delta

Last Week



Dave Bunje and **Jim Copeland** came to talk about **Compassion International** and their recent trip to Burkina Faso in Africa. Compassion International is a Christian child advocacy ministry that releases children from spiritual, economic, social and physical

poverty and enables them to become responsible, fulfilled Christian adults. Founded in 1952, Compassion began providing Korean War orphans with food, shelter, education and health care, as well as Christian training. Today, Compassion helps more than 1 million children in 25 countries. At the core of this program is a system of sponsorships of individual children by donors.

Dave and Jim joined a group of twelve to travel to Burkina Faso in August. Dave talked about the trip and showed pictures of this impoverished country. Landing in the capital city of Ouagadougou, Dave took pictures of the primitive modes of traffic and roadside vendors of everything from bread to gasoline. Dave observed that life in Burkina Faso is really, really different. Acknowledging that we have poverty in the United States, he saw it as much more pronounced in this African country and could only describe it as really different. The group traveled to four Compassion International sites. They visited churches, schools and individual homes. He showed pictures of "toilets" that Compassion International installed at one of the churches. The "toilets" were actually small rooms, each with two holes in the ground. These facilities are more than can be found in the homes visited, where people simple "go with nature."

At one stop, the group served a meal to students. The rice, vegetables and rare pieces of meat were not much by western standards, but it was a rare feast for the children. Dave noted that, unlike children in the west who tend to think of things as "mine," these children generously shared whatever they had with others. Dave and Jim said that the children were positive, industrious and full of joy. They talked about how the children took discarded plastic bags and stretched and tied them together to form a jump rope. Dave was most impressed with the impact of Compassion International's sponsorship programs and how much it meant to the children. Sponsorship involves ongoing correspondence between the sponsors and the individual child. Dave reports that such correspondence

is valued by the children who are known to save and treasure their letters. Those who were sponsored felt that they were valued and would have a chance in life. Those who had not yet been sponsored were eager to be selected.

For \$38 per month, an adopted child is assured of educational opportunities, key life skills and vocational support, ongoing Christian training and basic health care, including examinations two times each year. They get school uniforms, often the first clothes that they can call their own. Significantly, parents or guardians of sponsored children receive support if necessary to enable them to raise the child. Dave was already sponsoring one child and committed to sponsor another while on this trip. **Fritz Engel** authorized Dave to select one child that Fritz will sponsor. Jim is sponsoring six children in three countries. Rotarians **Vickie Christensen-McLain** and **Shiva Frentzen** are sponsoring one and two children respectively.

Jim talked about his fifteen years of involvement with Compassion International. He began by sponsoring a girl in Bolivia. Five years later, he met the girl, her family and program volunteers on a trip to Bolivia. The trip was obviously an emotional experience for Jim, which he describes as life changing. Jim has traveled to Compassion International sites in Africa, Brazil and Mexico and is overwhelmed by how this program helps to save children from poverty. He met children in the early years who are now adults. He watched them grow and says that they are now giving back to their communities. For Jim, this program has changed his life and given him purpose.

Dave and Jim shared pictures and profiles of several children who are in need of sponsors. The Compassion International web site has pictures and profiles of over 1,000 children from twenty-five countries who are seeking sponsors. For only \$38 a month, you can make a profound difference to a child's life. For more information, Please refer to <http://www.compassion.com/>

Presidents Corner



NEW MEMBER: CINDY SUTORKA:

Norm Headley had the privilege of inducting **Cindy Sutorka** as Cameron Park Rotary's newest member. Norm gave a brief history of Rotary International and related what it means to be a Rotarian. Cindy was then given a few fine free moments to tell about herself. The mother of two teenage boys, Cindy is now embarking on a second career. Previously, Cindy worked for Intel before taking off to raise her sons. She is now a Financial Advisor who will shortly become a Financial Planner. Welcome to Rotary Cindy.

EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND:

Mike Collom called for volunteers to help raise funds for the Cameron Park Rotary Educational Endowment Fund. He is in the process of forming a committee to come up with ideas and to go out into the community to develop donations. The endowment fund is striving to match the \$100,000 challenge by **Darol Rasmussen**. Mike reports that a recent donation of \$500 from **Bob** and **Sara Edwards** brings the total raised to date to \$85,000. Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to contact Mike.

EL DORADO COUNTY HOMELESS SHELTER:

Tom Keating announced that United Outreach is looking for some help getting the Placerville site ready for the shelter. **Gary Reynolds** has already offered his tractor to help with the grading. Additional labor will be needed. Anyone interested in lending a hand is asked to contact Tom.

POLIO PLUS:

Debbie Miller reports that **Itzhak Perlman** will be donating all of the proceeds from his performance in New York on December 2, 2009, to Polio Plus. Perlman is himself a victim of polio. He will also be performing this week with the San Francisco Symphony.

Debbie offered the following information about Polio Plus: On September 21, 2009 there were 1.2 million Afghan children immunized against Polio. This date also happened to be International Peace

Day. This number is significant because they are immunizing children who cross the border into Pakistan. These children belong to migrant families and they are the most difficult to immunize because of logistical reasons. There are two temporary air conditioned shelters that have been funded by Polio Plus on either side of the border. One other interesting statistic is that since Rotary and its partners started this program twenty years ago, there has been a 90% decrease in worldwide cases. The disease remains endemic in four countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan.

Debbie had a Polio Plus booth along with the Endowment Fund on **SHOW AND SHINE** Saturday where they were painting pinkies purple for a donation. The significance of the "Purple Pinkie" is that as each child is immunized they dye their pinkie purple to signify that they have been immunized. Over in those countries it is a badge of courage and honor-it means that this child has a chance to survive polio free.

ROTARY FOUNDATION AREA DINNER:

The annual area dinner for the Rotary Foundation will take place on Thursday, November 12, 2009, at the Sequoia Restaurant in Placerville. Keynote speaker **Jean Irwin** is known for giving inspirational talks and promises to make the evening a night to remember. Her visit to Cameron Park last week confirmed that Jean has that wonderful combination of being inspirational, informative and entertaining. Members won't want to miss this Foundation Dinner.

Noted Rotarians



HAPPY BUCKS AND FINES:

ROTARIANS OPEN WALLETS FOR LADY GODIVA:

President **Bill Gallant** may have discovered the answer to our State's fiscal woes. Almost everyone loves chocolate and is willing to pay for it. Bill wisely selected the only non-chocolate loving person in the club, **Sabrina Ho** as the custodian of the chocolate. Exercising her unquestioned good taste, Sabrina selected Lady Godiva to entice members to lick their lips.

Darol Rasmussen offered \$8.80 to celebrate his birthday, saying that he was on the way for the day that he would pay \$10.00. The real money came not for his birthday, but for the chocolates as Darol came up with \$50 for a box of Lady Godiva.

It's a big month for spouses with birthdays and all wanted chocolate. **Bob Edwards** secured a box for **Sara's** birthday for \$25. **Cathy Thornton** did the same for **Thomas's** October birthday. **Dave Tavernetti** got a box of Lady Godiva for **Suzanne** without giving away her age, but hinting at something with a \$24 donation. **Dennis Hamilton** was not so subtle. He bought Lady Godiva chocolates for **Michelle** for a generous \$48.

Vickie Christensen remembered that her daughter has an October birthday and that she also likes chocolates. That was good for a \$25 donation.

Dave Johnson was caught coming in late and, while he claimed a good excuse, he diverted attention by paying \$44 for a box of Lady Godiva to celebrate his October anniversary with **Pamela**.

Rick Spicer is home from a trip to Paris, Berlin and Vienna and appears immune to jet lag. **Irina Green** however, needs a little help and Rick acquired a box of Lady Godiva for medicinal purposes for only \$50.

Mike Collom is happy that his chocolate loving father is coming to town for **Show and Shine**. Dad is a World War II vet who will be judging aircraft while indulging in a \$50 box of Lady Godiva's best.

Larry Shuler is sure happy that **Sherri Coulson** is home from the hospital and Sherri will be even

happier with a \$25 box of Lady Godiva.

PRESIDENTIAL GOOFS:

President **Bill Gallant** called for a moment of silence for our troops, neglecting to consider our allies who are equally at risk. Before Past President **Iain Marshal** could bring this oversight to his attention, President Bill caught the error of his ways and fined himself \$5.00. When the time came for Happy Bucks, President Bill misread **Gear Up** and tried to extract cash from **Anne Eckert** for her October anniversary. Before recognizing his mistake, President Bill actually faulted **Mike Neal's** fully reliable database. It turns out that, while there is no anniversary for the Eckerts this month, **George** does have an October birthday. Anne figured that the birthday was worth \$13.40 for some inexplicable reason and to redeem himself, President Bill agreed to pay half of that amount.

MISCELLANEOUS HAPPY BUCKS:

Shiva Frentzen recognized **Mike Collom's** efforts to support the Cameron Park Community Service District event on October 4. Mike contributed a tent, the Rotary Club of Cameron Park got the recognition and Shiva contributed five happy bucks to thank Mike.

Fritz Engel will learn to come to class unprepared. Professor Emeritus **Dennis Hamilton** is liable to pull a pop quiz at any time and he caught Fritz unaware. That Fritz was unaware of the percentage of Rotarians in the Nazi party in pre World War II shouldn't be a surprise. The surprise was that it cost him \$10.

Birthdays in October

Art Cort

Jana Ellerman

Darol Rasmussen

-----Spouses-----

Gina Crofut

George Eckert

Sara Edwards

Michelle Hamilton

Paul Liebergot

Suzanne Tavernetti

Thomas H. Thornton

Anniversaries in October

Dave & Pamela Johnson

Upcoming Calendar

October 15, 2009- **Rob Roscoe** with Sacramento Water District will speak on water challenges in the Delta

October 22, 2009 - **Vicki Barber, Ed.D**, Superintendent of the El Dorado County Office of Education will speak on education issues facing our county.

October 29, 2009 - **Ane Deister** will relate her recent life changing experiences in Honduras. Note: this meeting will be held at Faith Episcopal Church in Cameron Park

November 5, 2009 - **Dave Bunje** will give an update on the Rotary Foundation

November 12, 2009 - Annual Rotary Foundation dinner 11/12 Rotary Foundation DINNER at Sequoia Restaurant in Placerville at 6:00 p.m. **Jean Irwin** speaking.

November 19, 2009 - **Bob Edwards** will discuss the Sugarloaf Arts and Music program

November 26, 2009 - No meeting this week. Happy Thanksgiving

December 3, 2009 - Assemblywoman **Alyson Huber**, 10th Assembly District

December 10, 2009 - Annual Christmas Dinner and Auction

December 17, 2009 - A program you do not want to miss. The **Ponderosa High School Choir**

December 24, 2009 - No meeting this week. Merry Christmas

December 31, 2009 - No meeting this week. Happy New Year

Upcoming Words of Wisdom/Greeter Assignments

October 15, 2009 - Words of Wisdom **Norm Headley**, Greeter **Dave Sargent, Vickie Christensen-**

McLain at the front desk

October 22, 2009 - Words of Wisdom **Art Cort**, Greeter **?, ?** at the front desk

October 29, 2009 - Words of Wisdom **?, Greeter ?. ?** at the front desk.

The Last Word



DATES TO REMEMBER:

November 3, 2009 - Monthly Board meeting at the Bass Lake Golf course at noon. All members are invited and welcome to attend.

November 12, 2009 - Annual Area Foundation Dinner.

Mike Neal has put together a photo series of highlights of the 20th Annual Show & Shine Event held on Saturday, October 10, 2009. The link is at the bottom of this web page.

Gear Up is written by **Jim Buckley, Art Cort** and **Rick Spicer**. Web site, photography, and artwork through the talents of **Mike Neal**.