



MERIDEN ROTARY CLUB "GOOD SPOKE"

Meriden, Connecticut, USA

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Service Above Self

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REPORT FROM AFRICA... RESULTS ... UPDATED NOVEMBER 2011 ...

From the Editor...

When one embarks on the International Rotary Projects there are things in mind. As Chair for International you want to MAKE SURE the project will A) make a difference, B) make sure the funds are spent correctly, and C) make sure the results are "close to exactly" what was proposed from all the partners in the project. Partnering with a number of Rotaries on these projects also gives a sense of "super stewardship", where a lot of eyes and connections are on the target area.

This was the case of the Galcide Well project. We had embarked on the journey with Southington Rotary, Washington State area Rotary and others. It was assured that the monies needed could be gathered and the reports would come back to the Club Members, where we felt, collectively, that **we made a difference.**



Galcide Water Well
The new Galcide well in use!

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Newsletter Editor
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nzinternational1@yahoo.com

NEWS!

What we cover!

Presidents News

This Past Week

Looking Forward

Reflections

Remember

**WATCH HERE
FOR FUTURE
SPEAKERS
CALENDAR!
COMING NEXT
EDITION!**

Here is the latest news on the water/sanitation project in Itu and Galcide villages: Robin Simons Global Team for Local Initiatives (GTLI)

- the first well, in Galcide, **is complete.**
 - there was difficulty getting the drilling rig in to the 2nd well site, in Itu, so the community is clearing a road.
 - in both communities CBLA (Community Based Learning in Action) training sessions have begun: community members meet in small groups with GTLI trainers to discuss their health issues. Discussions lead to the understanding that ill health comes, in large part, from lack of sanitation and the decision to adopt pit latrine use.
 - "Ergas" (local community leaders) have been selected and are being trained. The ergas will take over the training from GTLI trainers and will continue to train and motivate the community transition to pit latrine use after the project officially ends. (In a similar Rotary project that just ended, at project's end 35% of families had fully transitioned to pit latrine use and the number was continuing to grow. The project sparked a community-wide movement to make the switch and peer pressure will continue to push for change until the community is 100% open defecation free. We expect the same thing to happen in Itu and Galcide.)
 - The community has demarcated a large Defecation Free Zone around the Galcide well and ergas and elders are monitoring the zone to make sure it remains feces free. Five pit latrines were built around the zone.
 - Workshops have been held for local government stakeholders so they can support the project and the ongoing transition to latrine use. Government officials monitor the project regularly.
- 4 Rotarians (3 from host club Addis Ababa West and one from Hawaii) visited the project to monitor.
- Last steps:
- Finish well in Itu.
 - Train water committees in both villages to maintain the wells.
 - Begin discussions re: income generating activities to earn money for well repair.
 - Create and monitor defecation free zone around Itu well, supported by 5 pit latrines.
 - CBLA training continues; movement builds toward becoming 100% open defecation free.
 - Households build pit latrines.
 - Household Inspection Teams (made up of community members) inspect each household quarterly for hygiene and sanitation practices.
 - Ergas take over training from GTLI trainers.
 - Construct spare parts depot for well maintenance.



Global Teamwork from many ROTARIES make a difference. Thank you **Southington Rotary, CT,** for bringing this project to us!



Thank you RHONA for sharing your photography with our Club



This...is what it is all about

SMILES from US TO YOU!



**WITH THANKS TO RHONA FROM HAWAII FOR HER BLOG
AND PHOTOGRAPHY**

Here is a link to a blog post by **Rhona Slingerland**, the Rotarian from Hawaii who just visited the project.
<http://www.travelingwithrhona.blogspot.com>



ABOVE TOP—RIBBON CUTTING

Galcide ribbon cutting: the 2 men in yellow are GTLI trainers. The woman in purple is Lori Pappas. The man in red is a local government official.

ABOVE MIDDLE

Addis Rotarian Yemane Bisrat at Galcide well.

Service Above Self...

From our backyard to The Globe...



**With the TRIBE
MEMBERS IN SCHOOL**

7/2011

REPORT FROM AFRICA...

FROM RHONA'S BLOG ...Entries to educate us from afar...

I had a once in a lifetime opportunity to accompany 3 local Rotarians from the Addis Ababa West Club to evaluate some Rotary projects in South Ethiopia near the Kenya border. Rotarian **Lori Pappas of "Global Team Local Initiatives"** has been living and working among the Hamar Tribe for the last 4 years bringing them water, sanitation and education. Her personal sacrifices and love for these people moved me greatly. We were so impressed with her projects and the progress she is making here.

Global Team for Local Initiatives has built a school and many come to learn everyday. It's hard to put into words what I saw and experienced, but I will try. First, getting there is two full days of driving on bumpy roads. It was an exhausting, adventurous and the scenery was breath taking. Yemani had the difficult task of driving us far into the wilderness and he took us on several detours. Sometimes we were lost; roads aren't often marked. Mike and Askale and I made four in the car.

These young women are so happy to be learning and improving their lives. It seemed like I stepped into a National Geographic film when we arrived at the GTLI camp. Time forgot the Hamar tribe. The area is experiencing the worst drought in history and the people are suffering. Many, especially the elder ones, are mere skin and bones. My heart ached. Only two months of sorghum grain can be grown, so the rest of the year, they go hungry. They are slowly eating their only assets, cattle and goats. Even the livestock were thin and under nourished. What will happen to them when the livestock is gone?

The women wore goat skins and were mostly uncovered. They were adorned in their traditional beads, shells and feathers. They wear metal bracelets around their wrists and forearms and when they dance, they rub their arms together to make music. A certain necklace signifies whether they are the first wife or second wife. They almost all have many scars on their backs; some were even scarred in a decorative fashion. They use red clay and butter to form beautiful dreadlocks in their hair. Their bodies glisten with the red clay and butter mixture, and their skin is healthy and shiny from it. Their teeth are straight and white. I had entered their world for a day.

Some of the men wore western T shirts and shorts, but many were still dressed traditionally; a short wrap around skirt, a head wrap and beads. Every man carried his portable seat/neck rest. The children were mostly running around naked. Many of their bellies were swollen with worms. In general, people were very thin. A cow was killed for our dinner and celebration. It was quite gruesome. They drink the cow's blood, stick their head in its stomach to inhale the fumes, rub bile on their legs, and spear the meat to cook by the fire. the bulls".

So what is Lori doing living among this tribe and sacrificing so much of her life, time, money, love, and health for? I will only be scratching the surface. She has brought life sustaining water to the area. She has taught them how to dig latrines away from the water source. She is educating them and teaching them sustainable vocations; chicken farming (eggs), gardening, goat skin tanning, and jewelry making. She is teaching them to use more caution when applying the salve on the bleeding backs of the girls from one pot because if even one girl is HIV+, the entire females of one family could be wiped out. She is teaching the girls to cut their bangs a bit higher so that the clay and butter doesn't drip into and infect their eyes. The list just goes on and on.

*****As New Generations shadow our work, thank you to Lex's List for the \$300 donation added to Meriden Rotary Club's \$3,200. With Southington Rotary, CT, and the host of other Rotaries lead by Nor'Wester Rotary Club of Port Angeles, WA ... we have succeeded ! ***Now... the work must go on...**