

Hello from Africa Mar 5, 2001

MZ8 - Rotary

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This week we visited the Rotary Club of Beira for a second time. The first visit was soon after our arrival, but unfortunately our camera batteries conked out. This gave us a good excuse to visit for a second time, get to know the members better and finally take a few photos.

As we briefly mentioned in a previous newsletter, Betsy received a "Rotary International Grant For University Teachers To Serve in Developing Countries" that made our visit possible. This is a relatively new grant opportunity for teachers spending from 3 to 6 months abroad. It worked out perfectly for us, covering much of our travel, food and other costs. THANK YOU Rotary!

And we feel that we have had a VERY productive visit. Our work has included teaching of gross anatomy, the writing of a joint WVU-UCM grant proposal to USAID, preliminary work on an article we hope will be submitted to the electronic "Journal of Rural Community Psychology" after we return (the authors will be from WVU and UCM), and a first version of the UCM Website.

There have also been some important spinoffs. The Rotary Clubs in Waynesburg and southwestern Pennsylvania, along with the US Embassy in Maputo, and USAID helped pay for the shipping of a container of new medical books arranged by the Brother's Brother Foundation of Pittsburgh. The Rotary Clubs also helped with shipping of two containers of new books to the Black Lion Hospital and Medical School in Ethiopia last year. That was where we spent a 6 month sabbatical about 4 years ago.

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Visit to the Rotary Club of Beira

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The luncheon speaker was Professor Karin (a 2 year visiting faculty member from Salzburg, Austria, and our next door neighbor). She spoke about a new "Masters Level Program" in Economics and Management that she has been helping to develop at the Catholic University. This new program begins in August 2001.

Another guest was Professor Miguel, from Lisbon, Portugal (a 4 month visiting faculty member) teaching economics. Miguel has an MBA from the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut and is also an architect.

We were all guests of the Fulbright Professor, Dr. Bill Rougle, who also happens to be a Rotary Club member from Helena, Montana. Bill has been teaching Portuguese Literature and also heads up a new Office of Development and Grants for UCM.

One image shows Karin, Bill, Betsy, and Miguel standing in front of the Ambassador Hotel just after the meeting. Another shows Bill presenting a Helena Montana Rotary Flag to the Club President.

We learned that the Beira Club has been active in the "Polio Plus" vaccination program and a number of other worthwhile projects. The day we visited the members reported on their project to build several houses for needy families.

With best regards - Betsy and Dave

