

## Drumright Rotary Guests Remind Us Importance of Service Above Self

March 23, 2012

Rotarian of the Day, Ron Dyer, began his introduction, of his guests, by talking about Service Above Self. Service Above Self is Rotary's motto and Ron's guest Dr. Bob Melton and his wife Kathy exemplify that attitude in their daily lives.



Ron Dyer, Kathy Melton, Dr. Bob Melton

Bob showed Drumright Rotary Club a slideshow at Friday's meeting. The slideshow contained memories and pictures of the eight mission trips that he has been on. His wife, Kathy has been able to attend seven of those missions as well. The mission trips are medical based and Bob performs dental procedures in the towns and villages he has visited. The mission trips have contained preachers, medical doctors and even optometrists who delivered old eyeglasses to people who needed it. On all of the missions, bible studies and church gatherings have been at the heart.

Even though being in a third world country and performing medical and dental procedures with dirt floors beneath the feet of the doctors and no running water, Bob mentions that the getting to the destination and back is really the difficult part. There is a lot of time spent waiting in airports and other transportation terminals before the next leg of the journey begins.

Being in a third world country, provides a stark contrast to the normal life here in America. It can be dangerous to eat or drink at certain places and there is always a language and cultural barrier to overcome. However, the people in the countries Bob has visited have warmed right up to him and the others in the mission group. A routine is established and it's not as much 'roughing' it as most would expect, according to Bob.

Bob's dental procedures are primarily extractions, about seventy-five teeth a day. He does not perform fillings on these trips. Even though after the first trip, Bob decided to bring a portable dental chair on future missions – that is about the extent of the equipment available to the missionaries. There is not access to X-rays, or other modern technologies that most Americans take for granted. Eyeglasses are distributed by placing a book several inches away and patients trying on glasses until they can read the text.

There is always room for other people to attend these mission trips as well. Kathy enjoys interacting with the children and also being available to comfort the patients during procedures. There is not an age limit for people to participate in the mission and no specific skills are required, just the desire to love and help other people, Service Above Self.

Of course, Bob reminds us that it's not necessary to travel to South America to be a part of a mission. Bob and his staff and colleagues at Drumright Dental Center give so much all year long to the community. Love Thy Neighbor was started in Drumright for Drumright and helps many families every year. Many Drumright citizens not formally associated with Drumright Dental also assist in the Love Thy Neighbor Mission by providing food and refreshments and activities for children. Drumright Dental also assists with the School Supplies Program and provides local scholarships and other needs as they arise.

Bob and his wife, Kathy, will be heading out on another mission in the fall. If you are interested in participating or if you would like to participate in any of the other local missions they are involved in, please contact them through Drumright Dental Center.

Thank you, Bob and Kathy, for being guests at our meeting and for being who you are. Reaching out to serve humanity is the truest form of love and Service Above Self.

Please join us at Friday's meeting hosted by Rotarian, Jane Frazier and her guest, Angie Bengston of the Drumright Historical Society.

If you would like more information about Drumright Rotary Club, please contact us on our FaceBook page, Drumright Rotary Club, or go to our website [www.wix.com/drumrightrotary/drumrightrotary](http://www.wix.com/drumrightrotary/drumrightrotary).

Written by Jena Drake, Rotarian