



June 16, 2011

Issue No. 47

Editor: D. Doyel

TODAY: Helping the Hill Tribe Peoples of Thailand

According to this month's Rotarian Magazine, 1.4 Billion people live on less than \$1.25 per day. Some 70% of these people live outside of cities. The International Fund for Agriculture Development has suggested that donors, and governments should invest more effectively in sustainable agriculture, and entrepreneurship to improve living standards in rural areas.

Rotarian **Matt Weaver** is doing just that. He is here to tell us of his experiences in working to improve the lives of the Hill Tribe people in northern Thailand. The Hill Tribe peoples migrated over a hundred years ago from the



southern part of China, settling around the Golden Triangle of Burma, Laos, and Thailand. This is one of the most remote areas of Asia and these people are among the poorest of the poor.

Matt, his wife Denise, and daughters Dana and

Kelly have formed the nonprofit Next Level Missions. Through this nonprofit organization they have diligently worked to improve the lives of the Hill Tribes by the hands-on construction of water systems, and schools, supporting fair trade coffee grown by villagers, promoting child sponsorship, bringing medical personnel and supplies to this distant part of the world.

Matt is a twenty-four year Rotarian, and currently, for a few more weeks, President of the Arcadia club. He owns an insurance agency in Arcadia, and lives with his wife in Monrovia.

LAST WEEK

Dr. Beth Teran gave an informative, and entertaining discourse on care and routine active maintenance of your back. Key point: Get up and move. The worst thing you can do is be sedentary, or be hunched over a computer.....
...writing....the Wheel.... I think I'll go for a walk.

THE KICKOUT: Thursday, June 30th 6:00 PM

The countdown to the **Kick Out at Cal Poly Agriscapes** continues, where we will not only thank our outgoing President Sue for a job well done but we will also be unveiling the winner of the prestigious **Covina Rotary Jim Speer Award for Service Above Self**. In addition to all this **Trish** and **Shirley** have been tweeting me, some of which are suitable to divulge for this family publication, about untold secrets and surprises in store for this gala event. You won't want to miss it.

Where's Sue? She's Back

Our President is back from her sojourn to Arkansas, gavel in hand, to lead today's proceedings. I wonder if she ran across any of **Shirley Harrison's** relatives?

CALENDAR

July 25th – Concert in the Park – Covina Park that is.

Quotebook: Blame the Speculators

The current debate over the role of speculators in oil pricing reminds me of Rep. Noah Sweat's classic answer when asked what he thought about whiskey: **"If you mean whiskey, the devil's brew, the poison scourge, the bloody monster that defiles innocence, dethrones reason, destroys the home, creates misery and poverty, yea, literally takes the bread from the mouths of little children; if you mean that evil drink that topples Christian men and women from the pinnacles of righteous and gracious living into the bottomless pits of degradation, shame, despair, helplessness, then my friend, I am opposed to it with every fiber of my being.**

However, if by whiskey you mean the oil of conversation, the philosophic wine, the elixir of life, the ale that is consumed when good fellows get together, that puts a song in their hearts and the warm glow of contentment in their eyes; if you mean Christmas cheer, the stimulation sip that puts a little spring in the step of an elderly gentleman on a frosty morning; if you mean that drink that enables man to magnify his joy, and to forget life's great tragedies and heartbreaks and sorrow; if you mean that drink the sale of which pours into our treasuries untold millions of dollars each year, that provides tender care for our little crippled children, our blind, our deaf our dumb, our pitifully aged and infirm, to build the finest highways, hospitals, universities, and community colleges in this nation, then my friend, I am absolutely, unequivocally in favor of it.

This is my position, and as always, I refuse to be compromised on matters of principle."