

IT'S MORE THAN TEETH

As I (and my daughter Leah and five other Naperville representatives) prepare to leave for Zambia, Africa this message rings clearer than ever. Though everyone can articulate what is really most important, leaving all of the comforts of Naperville behind changes the picture. I'm sure we will have a much different picture (probably thousands) when we return.

Though I will be going as a dentist and plan to spread the word of oral hygiene, I am fortunate to be going as a representative of Rotary Sunrise of Naperville. We will be visiting a community in Zambia called Tikondane (see Tikondane.org). We are apparently the first Americans to visit this village.

Tikondane was set up several years ago by a nurse from Australia after she had recently lost her husband. She went back to the area she and her husband had visited several years earlier to see if she could help the people and ended up staying, building a hospital and a school and coordinating efforts of AIDS volunteers and helping the orphans left. She has done an amazing job and visits the United States and Britain each year to report on progress and encourage support.

Our Rotary Club has become a major supporter of this mission. We have given funds for two wells, weaving looms, and hospital improvements. Our club has also coordinated efforts to deliver shoes and an ultrasound machine donated by an Indiana physician. We are taking school supplies, medical and dental supplies and a solar oven. But there is much more to do, and plans are underway for a new school (please email me if you are able to contribute).

This was never on my list of "100 things to do before I die," but I'm on board now. Ready to get the most out of the trip and make some contribution (or discovery).

Dr. Haselhorst has been in practice for over 20 years in downtown Naperville, and taught for 17 years at Northwestern Dental School. He can be contacted at 420-0013, or DocJoe@NapervilleDentist.com