

Sid & Judy's Travels



Sid L. & Judy Scruggs III

March 1, 2009

Dear Lions of North Carolina:

We have been missing seeing everyone (and we hope you miss us) but our travels for Lions has been far reaching throughout the world.

Although we are enjoying meeting wonderful Lions everywhere, we still miss YOU and the friendships we have here in North Carolina.

It has been a long time since we were working at the VIP fishing tournament, in fact, we have been around the world since then! We are very aware that this is an opportunity of a lifetime and as ambassadors for all Lions, we take our responsibilities very seriously as we share the wonderful love and caring of Lions for their fellowman all over the world.

Just before Christmas we were in

Nairobi Kenya at the ISAAME Forum (India, South Asia, Africa, Middle East).

We had the wonderful opportunity to see some of the Lions projects that are so helping the people of Nairobi.

One of the projects is an eye hospital where they not only help the local people, but have vans that go out into the villages and transport people that need cataract surgeries to the hospital. The people arrive at the hospital usually after a very long drive; are given food, a shower, a bed (many of them will put the mattress on the floor because they have never used a bed) and are prepared for surgery for the next day. After the surgery, they are watched in the hospital until the following day when the bandages come off, and they return home.

For many of these people it is a first time in a van, in a hospital, sleeping on a bed and leaving their village.

The promise of being able to see makes them put aside their fears and go into the unknown! The Lions of Nairobi pay for this hospital and its' staff. They also have a program that would truly bring tears to your eyes and touch your



Kenyan Parliament, Nairobi

heart.

It is working with mothers with HIV to keep their babies from having HIV. The program has a 98 % success rate and is now being used in many places in Africa.

The mother is counseled before the baby is born not to nurse the baby but to use the formula that is given to them. They come to the clinic each week for formula and to have the baby checked. To see all these precious babies that are being spared from death because of this program, truly makes you cry.

There were about 100 mothers there with their babies and we handed out teddy bears to them.

These Lions are so dedicated to being able to help others and truly are Loving Individuals Offering Needed Services.

We then proceeded on to China where we visited special projects of some of the newest clubs in China and in Lions.

These enthusiastic Lions also have an eye hospital where many cataract surgeries are performed. We were given the special privilege of removing some of the bandages and see the wonderful smile on their faces when they can see for the first time in many long years!

The clinic has no elevator and I watched as a Lion carried this little lady as a mother would carry an infant on her back, up the stairs to surgery.

There are many times when I wish we could share the pictures that we see, but sadly do not always have a camera. The Chinese government is still observing what Lions are doing in China since they are the only service club allowed at the present time.



A patient undergoes eye surgery in China.

Then on to Hong Kong where the OSEAL Forum was held.

We arrived home long enough to get ready for our family to be here for Christmas which was MY Christmas present.

Having 12 of the 15 grandchildren here was a blessing for me and gave us time to get ready for our next adventure.

March 3, 2009

Dear fellow Lions:

It is hard for us to believe it is March already, at times I feel we miss entire weeks. But the best one is when we go out of our hotel room and stand there not knowing whether to turn right or left. (I know some of you can relate!)

January was a very big month of travel for us. We were in Oakbrook (in a snow-storm) to greet Former President Jimmy Carter as he dedicated a special monument to the Lions of the world.

It is a figure of a young child leading a blind man with a stick in Africa. It is a very impressive statue and only one of five in the world. It is given by the Carter

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Former President Jimmy Carter in front of statue donated at international headquarters in Oak Brook.

Foundation.

President Carter entertained the press, Lions and other prestigious people with his memories of his time of being a Lion as a Tail Twister and eventually as Governor of Georgia and then on to being President.

He attributed his success to the training he got as a Lion governor and all that it taught him to be.

We then proceeded to New Hampshire (and a snowstorm) and had two special days with our daughter and family and then on to a convention nearby.

We left in another snowstorm to fly

to London, and then onto Bangkok for another meeting. We were only to be in London to catch another plane, so why did we need our coats, gloves, etc?

So our daughter kept them to send them on to us. But you guessed it, we were in the snowstorm in London that was the worst in 20 years and the airport closed.

We then proceeded to go through snow up to our mid-calf in our clothes for 91-degree weather to a motel where we could sleep. No luggage, it all remained on the plane. We will share the whole story with you later, it really was quite hilarious.

Sadly, it made us miss a day in Bangkok where we were to hand out glasses to children in a program that Lions share with Johnson and Johnson for the children of the world.

We were there for the dedication of a huge Lions building for the Lions of Bangkok and Thailand, and there were about 500 people there.

It was a very exciting day with many things happening. It was an all day affair of music, giving of medals, meeting with the Lions and sharing a common bond of love for others and seeing the many projects they are doing.

We proceeded the next day to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where we were greeted by a very large group of Lions.

It was the 50th anniversary of Lionism in Malaysia. They had not had an international officer from Lions Clubs visit since Past International President William L. Woolard and Lion Ginny had been there 20 years ago. So it was a very exciting time for us to be there and especially nice to follow in the footsteps



Lion Sid L. Scruggs III (far right) is recognized during the opening of a new Lions Clinic at MAHSA College.

of Bill and Ginny.

Sid had the awesome privilege of dedicating a beautiful new Lions Park for the children and families of the area. It was dedicated to us, which made us so very proud. We planted some trees and had a beautiful bench dedicated in our name.

We then proceeded to MAHSA College where the college gave space for a Lions eye clinic, the first in the area. It was very needed and most appreciated by all.

We then went into the city for a project where Lions feed the blind each day. We were given the wonderful opportunity to participate in giving out the food for these precious people, both young and older, and some special gift bags to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

That evening there was a huge banquet to celebrate the 50-year anniversary of Lionism in Malaysia.

The following day, we flew to

Kuching (the city of cats). It had cat statues everywhere.

We visited a lovely nursing home run by the Lions of Kuching for elderly people who had no family to take care of them. We were there for the dedication of a new wing that is to be built and Sid was able to run the backhoe and dig the first hole for the ground breaking.

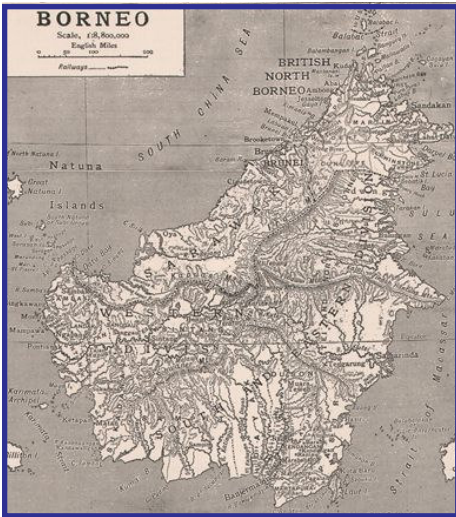
In the evening there was a banquet for the Lions of Kuching in a very lovely setting. (Ask me how much weight we are losing!).

The following day we had a very interesting visit with the Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak.

We then proceeded out into Borneo (yes the Borneo we used to read about as children where the head hunters lived!) It was quite a trip in a four-wheel vehicle over roads that were partially washed out by floods the previous days.

We were there to dedicate a water

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Truly LOVING INDIVIDUALS OF-
FERING NEEDED SERVICES are ev-
erywhere in the world, doesn't it make
you proud to be a Lion?

We left the following day for Kota
Bharau.

project built by Lions to bring water into
a village of 350 people who had to walk
1 and 1/2 hours to get water each day.

Before the ceremony, Sid and the
medicine man walked around swinging
a live rooster to get rid of evil spirits.

They then killed the rooster (in front
of us) and took it out to be cooked for
all of us to eat!

The ladies and children did a tribal
dance that we all joined in doing and
the dedication of the water was com-
plete and they turned on the facet. Two
small children danced under the water
enjoying it. The little girl soon left
and came back with shampoo so she could
wash her hair. A true woman!

It was such an incredible time and
what a dedication of the Lions who built
this gravity fed water supply.

When we have this awesome oppor-
tunity to share in these many projects
that the Lions are doing for others, we
cannot help but be so proud of the dedi-
cation and love Lions have for others.

