**The EyeOpener**

**September 7, 2021 – TENT OF NATIONS**

Alan opened the meeting with *O Canada* followed by the Treaty 6 Acknowledgement:

*We acknowledge that the Rotary Club of Camrose Daybreak is located on Treaty 6 land. This is the traditional territory and an ancient gathering place of many Indigenous peoples for thousands of years.*

 *We recognize that we are all Treaty people and have a responsibility to become aware of our shared history, understand the Spirit and Intent of the Treaties and by doing so we can honour the past, be aware of the present, and create a just and caring future built upon Peace, Friendship, and Understanding.*

**Speaker:** Alan introduced Rev. Dr. Deborah Ann Taylor, the pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church who has pastored congregations in Ottawa and the U.S.A. She has travelled twice to the West Bank where conflict continues between Jews and Palestinians. The first time she went with a tour group. She returned to interview people who were working for peace or on projects that brought hope. She went under the auspices of the Lutheran World Federation and the Lutheran Augusta Victoria Hospital. In 2014, her second trip she stayed in a hostel adjacent to a checkpoint and often heard explosions as it was during one of the many wars/conflicts that occur there.

She spent most of her time with the Nassar family who operate *Tent of Nations*—an Educational and Environmental family. The grandfather registered the farm in 1916 when the Ottomans controlled the area. They are surrounded by Israeli settlements on the West Bank. Some of the settlers believe that the land is theirs by religious covenant, for others it is the cheapest place to build a home in Israel. The Israeli government has been trying to get the Nassar family off the land by cutting down their trees, blocking their road, refusing to allow them to build any structures and not connecting any utilities. They are a Christian family and believe in nonviolence, peaceful protest, and resistance. They refuse to be victims or to hate. They have been resisting by taking the government to court, developing their farm by planting and irrigating trees, developing solar power, collecting rainwater, and living in caves. On their website [www.tentofnations.org](http://www.tentofnations.org) they state ***“Our mission is to build bridges between people, and between people and the land. They bring different cultures together to develop understanding and promote respect for each other and the shared environment.”*** They welcome visitors and offer workcamps and volunteer opportunities. They are working towards becoming completely self-sustaining regarding food, water and electricity. Since her visit they have won their court case, but the government will not complete their ownership. For more information and videos see their website.

**Food for Thought:** John spoke of climate change and the changes it is making in the crops grown in agricultural areas. The prairies used to grow predominantly cereals grains, now it is more oil seeds. Russia is now the largest wheat producer. Foreign investors are growing soybeans in Russia for China. Water will be a critical commodity.

Dean will offer **Food for Thought** on the 21st

**Happy Bucks for:** a visit with the wife of a former local Rotarian, visit from a grandson (though worried as he comes from an area with high Covid numbers), her middle grandchild’s birthday, attending a wedding, and a barn dance (though wife got sick it was not Covid), his son’s new job (Senior intelligence analyst for a major U.S. Bank).

**Announcements**

* Patrice and Larry will open their yard on Thursday September 16 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Bring your own wine and cheese.
* The draw for the “Chase the Ace” Raffle is on Wednesday September 8 at 7 pm. We are the presenting club for this and the BGC Camrose (formerly the Boys and Girls Club of Camrose) is the beneficiary.
* Joint meeting on Zoom, Monday September 13 at 7:00 pm, Dr. Russell Schnell, Senior Scientist National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Boulder, CO USA will speak on “The Air We Breathe: It Is Not What It Used to be.”
* Board Meeting next Tuesday September 14 at 8:00 am via Zoom.
* We need volunteers to run our Scholarship Program this year.

We closed with the *Four-Way Test* led by Alan.

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