

Upcoming Speakers

May 2015

05/13 - Jim Waters

05/20 - Sandra Wilson, Chamber of Commerce

05/27 - Whitney Morreau, Impact One

Club Leaders

Jamie Futrell

President

John Williams, Jr.

President-Elect

Phyllis B. Russell

Secretary

Glen Anderson

Vice President

Thomas Scott Taylor

Treasurer

Chris McNeill

iPast President

Melanie McNeill

Membership Chair

Debbie DeWeese

Club Executive Secretary

Birthdays

David F Hutcheson

May 07

Steven A. Bright

May 07

Tony A. Hamilton

May 12

Tom Grassham

May 14

Mardie R. Herndon

May 15

Guthrie H. Allen III

May 20

Andrew S Wood

May 20

Suzanne Farmer

May 20

Robert L. Alexander

May 21

Andrew Carlross

May 24

Wally Montgomery

May 24

Jim Dudley

May 28



GearTeeth

The Rotary Club of Paducah

Website: www.PaducahRotary.org

May 6th, 2015 Issue 76, Number 38

Gear Teeth is published weekly except New Year's, Easter, Quilt Week,

4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

A Unique Perspective on the Middle East

May 6th, 2015



Dr. Scott Garrett, is a rare individual among academics. Not only is he a scholar of history, but a boots on the ground kind of guy as a soldier in the U.S. Army and the Reserves. Those qualifications netted him an appointment as a Sergeant Major of Military History, which reported to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for present and future operations.

The assignment led him to multiple tours in the Middle East during which he had "blanket orders," meaning everything he wished to do was authorized. His knowledge of Islamic history combined with his personal experiences was

instrumental to the success of military operations in a troubled arena.

"There are 1.3 billion Muslims in the world and most would not want to harm you because you are Christian," he said. The radical factions that would be about 1,200 years behind modern times, which adds to the complexity of the situation in the Middle East. "There are more different kinds of Muslims than there are Christians and they often don't like each," said Garrett.

He said the fundamentalist Muslims wish to return the world to a Caliphate where a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad would rule both the spiritual world and all governments. Dr. Garrett said the media often ignores the role organized crime plays in the unrest. He recounted how a man accepted \$50 from a terrorist faction to simply fire an RPG at American troops. These criminals are also responsible for kidnappings where the victims may change hands a number of times to the highest bidder.

He is also concerned about the recent nuclear agreement with Iran "There cannot be stability in the region if Iran is allowed to develop nuclear weapons. Iran has been a sponsor of state terrorism for twenty years," said Dr. Garrett. The difference between the U.S. and Soviet Cold War and a nuclear threat in the Middle East is the radical Muslims believe they will achieve "paradise" in a mutually assured destruction scenario. "The best world is yet to come," he said in the minds of terrorists.

When questioned on why moderate Muslims don't oppose the radical factions he said many are afraid of reprisals, which is comparable to the penalties of death meted out a thousand years ago for those disagreed with the Catholic Church. "Muslims have yet to undergo the Renaissance or the Reformation," he said. The U.S. government was very particular in separating Church and State. The Islamist fundamentalists wish to apply Sharia Law to all.

Announcements

May 6th, 2015

Rotarians are strongly encouraged to attend the upcoming Rotary District 6710 Conference to be held in Paducah May 15-17th. The Murray Rotary Club has thrown down the gauntlet by declaring more members of the Murray Club will attend than those from Paducah. Past President George Shaw has vowed this shall not come to pass. Volunteers are needed to ensure visiting Rotarians find a good meal downtown on Saturday night, as well as assisting with issuing commemorative souvenirs prior to the fireworks show on Friday evening at 8:15.

Rotary is also launching another Shoes for Orphan Souls campaign, which will coincide with the District Conference. Rotarians are asked to donate three pairs of shoes, infant to adult size 9, or make a cash donation toward purchasing the shoes.

Happy Birthday to all May Rotarians! Robert Alexander won the Birthday floral arrangement.

Logan Blewett accepted a check for a Club donation to the Paducah Railroad Museum.

Guests

May 6th, 2015

Student Guest: Aaron Armstrong, Paducah Tilghman High School;

Bobbie Wrinkle – guest of Julie Hart;

Chuck Hank – guest of Glen Anderson;

Mark Mitchell – guest of David Morse;

Katherine Byassee, Derek Bess, and Chelsea Edgar – guests of Mike Muscarella;

Gary Zheng – guest of Jamie Futrell;

Jim Tidwell – guest of Andy Wood.