

# Oswego author contributes to Amazon's top selling anthology

What happens when authors from across the North American continent meet in an Amazon on-line discussion group? They share their publishing experiences, encourage each other's continued successes, work together to publish a collective work and donate the profits to help end extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. Last weekend, their book, the "Shameless Shorts Anthology" was the best selling anthology in Amazon's e-book store, Kindle. The book also ranks #44 in all fictional short stories.

Oswego author and international development advocate, D. A. Blankinship, served a lead role in managing the overall project and he contributed two stories to the anthology.

"It was an exciting process," Blankinship said. "Almost everyone in the group had published novel-length books and a few had published poetry collections. Short stories were a new direction for most of us."

The eighteen authors are a fascinating collection of literary talents, reflecting the life-



experiences of the legal profession, law enforcement, technology, healthcare, psychology, and many other areas. The authors reside across the continent, from the west coast to the east coast, the Deep South and up into Canada. The stories in the anthology are diverse, ranging from horror/thriller stories for adult audiences, to scuba diving, to political thrillers, to evil clowns, to playing senior-league softball.

"I contributed two stories to the anthology," Blankinship said. "*Jewel's Friends* is the story of a young girl enduring a harsh childhood in an isolated area that is being invaded by wolves. *Justice for All* is the story of a woman's life-changing quest for re-

venge against the man who robbed her and threatened to kill her."

In addition to the short stories, Blankinship is the author of "The Scoloderus Conspiracy," a futurist thriller about big government and power, conflicts and conspiracies, and a bright university professor who is swept-up in all the scheming and intrigue. "The Scoloderus Conspiracy" is available through the Coffeyville Public Library, Columbus Public Library, Oswego Public Library, and the Parsons Public Library.

Profits from the sale of the "Shameless Shorts Anthology" benefit the work of The Praxis Ethiopia Foundation. The foundation works to reduce hunger, illness, and illiteracy in Ethiopia and sub-Saharan Africa. Blankinship is the founder of Praxis Ethiopia and he serves on the board of directors. His Excellency, Ato Meles Zenawi, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, is the Honorary Chairperson of the Praxis Ethiopia Foundation's board of directors.