

ROTARIAN HONORED AT GLOBAL HEALTH SUMMIT FOR POLIO WORK

By Wayne Hearn, Rotary International, 11 November 2005



From left, Past RI President Frank Devlyn, Time Senior Writer Christine Gorman, and Rotarian Ezra Teshome at the Time Global Health Summit in New York. Photo by Doug Goodman for Time

For the past nine years, Seattle Rotarian Ezra Teshome has led volunteer teams back to his native Ethiopia to help immunize its children against the crippling disease polio.

His most recent trip was in late October, when he and his 35-member team participated in a national immunization campaign that reached 16 million children under age five. How fitting that his first stop upon returning to the United States was New York City, where he was honored as one of 10 "global health heroes" at the Time Global Health Summit, an international conference of public health experts and policy setters convened by *Time* magazine to address the most pressing health issues facing the world today.

The agenda included sessions on infectious diseases such as polio, HIV/AIDS, and influenza; malaria; infant mortality; the worldwide water shortage; and access barriers to health care and affordable medicines. "Contrary to what many in the United States believe, polio is not a conquered disease," said actress Glenn Close, who introduced Teshome and the other award recipients.

"Ezra's work in the U.S. and Ethiopia is fighting the disease and raising awareness, both valuable contributions to the cause," noted Close, whose father was a surgeon in the Belgian Congo (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) for 16 years.

Teshome, a member of the Rotary Club of University District of Seattle, was modest in accepting the award "on behalf of the Ethiopian children, on behalf of the many medical workers, and on behalf of the millions of Rotarians who have worked so hard to (help) Ethiopian children and children throughout the world."

He described how members of his teams, many visiting Africa for the first time, return home with a new perspective on the world and an enhanced commitment to volunteer service. "We go to the villages and walk door-to-door and see firsthand what poverty does to people," he told the audience, which included his wife, Yobi; daughter, Sophia, a student at Howard University in Washington, D.C.; and Frank J. Devlyn, chair of The Rotary Foundation Trustees.

Back at home in Seattle, Teshome reiterated that he accepted the honor "on behalf of so many Rotarians who have given up their time and treasure to eradicate polio."

In a press conference, Microsoft Corp. founder Bill Gates said, "Rotary, in particular, has been a leader" in supporting the polio eradication initiative. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has contributed millions for polio eradication, most recently US\$25 million for immunization efforts throughout the Horn of Africa.

Later in the summit, Jeffrey Sachs, director of the United Nations Millennium Project to reduce poverty, hunger, and disease by 2015, lauded Rotary when he spoke of the need to apply a goal-driven, systematic approach to global health. "Now, it's being done small scale in many places for many things, and it's being done large scale for some specifics, such as Rotary taking on polio and leading the way and doing something practical: a timetable, achievement, delivery."



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter

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NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

INVOCATION

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|
| Nov. 22 | Walter Volpatti | Nov. 29 | Stan Wade |
| Dec. 06 | Sandy Wakeling | Dec. 13 | Laurie Anderson |

BINGO SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---------|----------------|-------------------|
| | 6:15-8:15 | 8:00-10:00 |
| Dec. 01 | Lynda Lawrence | Marco Terwiel |
| Dec. 29 | Mina Park | Liz Attarmigirian |

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or email peter.boekhorst@telus.net



SERVICE Above Self

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Foundation Meeting - Rob Martin

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: 'Friends in Need' Foodbank

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

| Date | Time | Event | Venue |
|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Dec. 6 | noon | AGM and Election of Officers 2006/07 | |
| Dec. 20 | | Christmas Party | Robson's, |
| Dec. 27 | | Regular Meeting Cancelled! | |
| Jan. 3 | noon | Visit to Mission Mid-day Rotary | Bellevue Hotel, 32998 1st Ave, Mission |
| Jan. 7 | 8am-2pm | Potential Rotary Leadership Seminar | Sunrise Banquet Centre 5640-188 St., Surrey |

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$570+ 1/2 of today's sales, 33 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING

Our guests at the meeting were Keith Vernon from Port Moody, Gary House ex-RCMP, Elaine Houghton, Pat Tong, Mary Embry and Jeff Eckstein who are the GSE Team that went to New Zealand.

Ken Paterson decided that we needed to raise some extra funds during lunch so decked out in his recently acquired Lions' gear, he gave us a Lions' trivia quiz.

Brian Bekar advised the club that by a unanimous vote at the recent Fireside, it was decided that the golf tournament would return to being a social event for our club. He advised that the Haney Club is still going ahead with a golf fundraiser, and that if anyone is interested we could support them by participating in the tournament.

Brian advised that our December 6th meeting will be our Annual General Meeting and the Election of Officers for the upcoming Rotary year. Brian encouraged all members to attend the November 22nd meeting next week as Rob Martin and Fred Reynolds will be in attendance, and Rob will be speaking to the club about the Rotary Foundation.

Lynda passed around a sheet requesting volunteer assistance for the Food bank for the Christmas Parade and Christmas Train events.



Marco, who is the GSE (Group Study Exchange) leader for the Thailand trip next year, spoke of what a life changing experience training to be a team leader has been. He introduced Elaine who was the Team Leader for the New Zealand trip. She began by telling us how many people the five people of their group “touched” as a result of their trip. With vocational visits, presentations, host families, etc. she calculated that they had “touched” over 1,000 people.

She said that they visited District 9970, which encompasses the northern part of New Zealand's south island. There are 34 Rotary Clubs in the District with 1,400 members.

Jeff spoke of the vocational and cultural aspects of the trip. He advised that the lifestyles in New Zealand are dictated by the geography of the area.

Pat then spoke of about the agriculture. There are roughly 12 sheep per person in New Zealand, they average 2,000 sheep per farm. The orchards focus on apple and pear production. The salt works produce 6,000 tonnes per day during the production period. They also have aquaculture, which produces the Greenshield mussel.

Elaine presented some information on the Maori who are the indigenous people of New Zealand that are of Polynesian-Melanesian descent. English and Maori are the two official languages of New Zealand. There is the Ngai Tahu Holding Group, which provides funding to the Maori for home or education purposes. They provide the Maori with “a hand up not a hand out”.

Mary then spoke with us about the recreational facilities. In New Zealand there is a “push pull initiative” to get people active. The doctors will issue a green prescription to encourage people to exercise. She talked about her experience at a wildlife reserve. She also spoke of the various forms of dance in New Zealand.

The group ended their presentation with their rendition of a Maori tribal dance.

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence



PAKISTAN: POLIO INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORTS EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS

Following the devastating earthquake to hit Pakistan on 8 October, the polio eradication infrastructure at the country level responded immediately to provide vital relief support.

Among the first relief-workers on the scene, more than 50 polio eradication epidemiologists and surveillance officers arrived in the worst-affected areas the very next day after the earthquake. The polio aid workers were equipped with 15 vehicles, radio equipment, satellite phones, as well as vital medicines, vaccines, potable water tanks and sleeping bags.

The immediate focus was on conducting a rapid assessment of the extent of the devastation and communicating this important information back to Islamabad, to allow more effective relief planning. The polio eradication staff also provided critical emergency rescue and first aid work, setting up treatment camps and transporting patients to the treatment camps. The subsequent focus was on establishing early warning systems for diseases and potential outbreaks, as well as developing outbreak preparedness plans. The polio staff also planned and helped implement large-scale immunization campaigns, vaccinating children in the worst-hit areas against measles, tetanus and polio.

The extensive polio eradication network at country-level frequently helps in providing immediate support to natural disasters such as the recent Pakistan earthquake, or the Southeast Asia tsunami in December 2004, as well as in responding to health emergencies and outbreaks (including SARS, avian influenza, Marburg fever in Angola and Ebola outbreaks). The global polio eradication network is uniquely equipped across countries with both international and national professional staff, allowing for immediate support to emergency response. The polio network is able to provide rapid assessment and early logistical and operational support. With local knowledge of communities, health systems and government structures, the polio network's technical capacity in disease surveillance and planning of large-scale operations is often at the forefront of international and national relief efforts.

ROTARY CLUB OF MISSION – 60TH ANNIVERSARY

All Rotarians and friends are invited to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Mission (AM) at the Best Western Hotel on Saturday evening, January 28, 2006. Our theme for this happy event is a Celebration of the 1940s. Entertainment with a 40- piece concert band, the Andrews Sisters, and several other performers. Door Prizes and reminiscences will round out an evening of Music, Memories, and Mirth.

Jan 28, 2006 at 7pm, Best Western Mission Lodge, 32281 Lougheed Hwy, Mission
The cost is \$50.00. Please contact Heather Stewart at heatherstewart@shaw.ca if you want to attend.