

Literacy the key to breaking cycle of poverty: keynote speaker



RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar presents Sister Ethel Normoyle with a check for \$10,000 to continue her work in South Africa.

Copenhagen, Denmark — After seeing the "ravages of poverty and the paralysis of illiteracy," Sister Ethel Normoyle said that when people can read and write, it helps solve a myriad of interlocking problems. Literacy's benefits can include increasing feelings of self-worth and helping people find work.

Sister Ethel, a Catholic nun and nurse, works in the slums of South Africa in the Missionvale shantytown near Port Elizabeth. In her 12 June keynote address at the Rotary International Convention, she set the tone for discussions about Rotary's role in breaking the cycle that connects poverty, disease, and illiteracy.

"There are so many factors to the human tragedy, but illiteracy in South Africa is the main factor that will most definitely lead to poverty and prevent people from getting out of it," said Sister Ethel. "Literacy is the only ticket out of poverty, as it encompasses all aspects of personal, emotional, social, and economic development," she said.

The Irish-born nun has worked in South Africa since 1972 and since 1988 has focused on the 100,000 people in Missionvale, one of South Africa's most poverty-stricken areas. While working there, Sister Ethel has spent countless hours cleaning children's maggot-filled wounds, comforting the dying, and cupping a candle in a dark shack as children did their homework.

Missionvale suffers from a 90 percent unemployment rate, a soaring incidence of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, and lacks sanitation. But with Sister Ethel's tireless work and community support, the Missionvale Care Center has expanded. The clinic she built now treats 170 patients a day.

The Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth West, South Africa, which has been working with Rotary clubs in Missouri, USA, has helped the center grow through a mix of programs. These include providing a powder for a nutritional soup and a Christmas gift drive for children.

Many Rotarians were visibly moved Sister Ethel's speech, which she concluded by lifting up her arms and singing a simple prayer. "Let the children have a world where there is no pain or sorrow," she sang.

Following this, RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar and his wife, Monica, praised Sister Ethel's tremendous work and presented her with a check from Rotary International for US\$10,000.

After the general session, Rotarians filed into rooms to discuss how they could get involved in literacy. Many Rotarians said that literacy should be continually emphasized. "If we have this continuity, then we can adapt literacy programs to our own communities' needs and make a difference," said Biodun Odeleye, past governor of District 9130 (Nigeria).

Ian Murray, governor of District 9450 (Australia), mentioned that even though they have a local program in Perth, Australia, involving a volunteer tutoring program, he urged clubs take up international literacy projects to help redress the imbalance of literacy in developing nations.



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter

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Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

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INVOCATION

June 20	Kevin Nosworthy	July 4	Mina Park
July 11	Ken Paterson	July 18	Debi Pearce

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
June 15	Mina Park	Peter Boekhorst
July 13	Brian Bekar	Matt deBruyn



SERVICE Above Self

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

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Fireside at Bob Shanz

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Business Meeting - International

***June 27th is Installation Dinner at 6:30pm at Meadow Gardens.
There will be no regular meeting!***

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
June 11-14		RI Convention 2006	Malmö and Copenhagen
June 14	6 p.m.	Haney Rotary Ladies Night	Swan-E-Set
June 21	Noon	Executive Meeting	Home Restaurant, MR
June 27	6:30pm	Installation Dinner	Meadow Gardens Golf Course
July 16	Noon -9pm	Caribbean Festival	224 th St. Maple Ridge
August 19	4:00pm	BBQ at Vladimir and Zdenka's	The Bee Farm – 129 th Ave. Pitt Meadows

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$184.00+ 1/2 of today's sales, 45 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING

Guests were: Vivian Smith , President Brian Hutton and Ed Chui of the Haney Club, and Nazir Virani guest of Cheryl Johnson.



Matt Debruyn presented a cheque of \$1000 to Laura of the Girl Guides. Girl Guides is a non-profit organization for young girls and our donation will go towards funding Camp.

Mary Robson with a RYLA update. This year there are 3 participants. Normally we fund 2, however this year we had \$900 for Youth in Rotary which we moved to general revenue to fund a third candidate. The girls will be going to the Zajac Ranch and any Rotarian is welcome to visit. Please identify yourself as a Rotarian. The RYLA experience is a 3 day event with the girls arriving Thursday and leaving Sunday.

The 50/50 was won by one of our guests, Nazir Virani, who donated his winnings to Ed Chui's Salvation Army. What a great gesture, Nazir!

BABY PICTURES: Please make a point of bringing a baby picture to the next meeting or please email one to parishatiras@yahoo.com.

Haney Rotary Club Visit to discuss their Corazon project in Mexico

President Brian Hutton and Vivian Smith gave us an invigorating presentation on their project in Mexico. They teamed with Brentwood Rotary Club from San Francisco, 30 teenager volunteers, and the Corazón group to construct a new house for a family in Tijuana Mexico. They traveled to San Diego on their own budget. Upon arrival to San Diego they all were awed by the beauty of San Diego. A short 20 minute drive across the border and they experienced the poverty and slums of Mexico. We also were able to get a first hand look at how people live in Mexico. Many people live outdoors with cardboard as shelter. The fortunate ones who have a home do not have toilets, running water, sanitation or garbage pickup.

The Haney Club wanted to do a hands-on project and they sure got hand on working very hard from dawn to dusk to complete the home The team had one day in which to build a house! The materials cost is \$3100 USD.. The foundation was poured before they arrived and when they descended on the small site, all the volunteers constructed the frame, plywood walls, one window, and a door. The family will determine how to finish the home's interior. Upon delivery, the home is one room with no amenities. This family needed more space and this house is attached to their original house. There are 3 generations living under the same roof. Here is an overview of the Corazon program:

Although *Corazón* offers a wide variety of opportunities to volunteer and provide services to the poor, the way many sponsors and volunteers first become involved is through construction projects. *Corazón* has been building and repairing homes in Mexico through "Build a House in a Day" projects since it's beginning in 1978. Over the years, *Corazón's* construction projects have evolved from a few folks with several van loads of materials and tools going to Tijuana a few times a year to repair or build new homes for the poor to an organized schedule of over 50 construction projects a year building a variety of well designed houses, classrooms, community centers or other building projects. Over the same time, the structures being built have

matured from simple plywood buildings to attractive frame buildings with windows, doors that lock, concrete or raised wooden floors, sleeping lofts, a small kitchen area, and gabled roofs.

The 12 foot by 20 foot "Classic Corazón House" with a raised floor can be built on a small, uneven lot by using cut-off telephone poles to elevate and level the floor. A matching 4' by 4' outhouse typically completes the project. From the early 1980's to the late 1990's this was the principal house Corazón built, and several hundred of them were constructed in over a dozen villages in Mexico. In recent years, *Corazón* has built mainly larger, 16 foot by 20-foot "Super Build" style homes on concrete pads. Local Mexican volunteers, many trained through Corazón's construction class, prepare the concrete pads a few days before the scheduled projects. This allows a larger home, with a larger loft area and drains installed for an indoor bathroom to be constructed with about equal cost. Both projects can normally be completed in one day by volunteer groups of 40-60 volunteers and a few experienced Corazón leaders.

Sponsoring groups do not need to have volunteers with construction experience, though a few people with basic carpentry or construction skills are always an asset. Each project has an experienced lead builder in charge of the construction and project safety, a trip coordinator responsible for liaison with the sponsoring group prior to the project and assisting the lead builder with logistical and group coordination on the day of the project. Typically a few Corazón [Blue Shirts](#) will also come along to help with aspects of the construction and to instruct and assist the volunteers. Corazón's construction projects are designed to require mainly basic skills of painting and pounding nails. The few power tools required, mainly saws to cut the lumber and siding materials on site are only operated by experienced Blue Shirts or by skilled volunteers who demonstrate they are capable of operating the equipment safely to the lead builder for the project

Sponsoring groups can sign up for a project by checking out our [calendar](#) to see what project dates are available and the types of projects offered on those dates. The group can then obtain an [application](#) and a [project list](#), if your group is larger than 50, and submit it along with a deposit for the project



Thanks to the Haney Rotary Club for the visit and the great information on their latest project. Congratulations on a job well done☺

Submitted by Vivian Hatiras