

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear fellow Rotarians,

The beginning of the Rotary year is always an exciting time, with new club and district officers, a new theme to work with, and a renewed sense of purpose for our service projects. The beginning of this particular Rotary year is, of course, especially exciting for me as I look forward to meeting Rotarians throughout the world and seeing firsthand the many remarkable projects you are carrying out.

In planning how your club, and each one of you, can *Make Dreams Real* this year, I ask you to consider the millions of children who never even have the chance to dream. Every day, more than 26,000 children under the age of five die from preventable causes. As appalling as that number is, it is a decrease from the figure of 30,000 that first caught my attention and spurred me to bring this matter of grave concern to Rotarians.

UNICEF's *State of the World's Children 2008* report states that "by 2006, the most recent year for which firm estimates are available, the annual number of child deaths globally fell below 10 million, to 9.7 million, for the first time since records began." I would guess that some of the improvement in child survival rates can be directly attributed to Rotary projects that have been successfully addressing problems related to health, hunger, water, and literacy for a number of years now. So I asked myself: "What would happen if 1.2 million Rotarians focused their service efforts on keeping even more children alive?"

I think we already know some of the answers. If Rotarians provide insecticide-treated bed nets, fewer children will succumb to malaria. If we dig wells and address sanitation problems, more children will have clean water to drink and more hygienic surroundings. And if Rotary clubs carry out effective nutrition projects, we can save some of the almost five million children who die each year from under nourishment.

UNICEF estimates that fully two-thirds of the 9.7 million deaths in 2006 were preventable. With Rotarians working to provide vaccines, oral rehydration therapies, accessible health care for mothers and newborns, and other relatively simple interventions, I'm confident that many more babies will not only survive but go on to live healthy, productive lives. Let's *Make Dreams Real* by giving these children the chance to grow up and have dreams of their own.

Dong Kurn (D.K.) Lee
President, Rotary International



The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

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INVOCATION

July 15	Anil Bharwani	July 22	Ineke Boekhorst
July 29	Peter Boekhorst	Aug. 5	Robert Campbell

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
July 17	Wendy Lindvik	Matt deBruyn
Aug. 21	Diane Kirkland	



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

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Meeting with Para-Olympians

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Election of Vice President for 2008/09

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Aug. 2		Heritage Day	M.R.Peace Park
Aug. 9	3pm	Bee BBQ – Vlad's Apiary	The Bee Farm – 129 th Ave., Pitt Meadows
Sept. 13		WineFest	Thomas Haney Centre

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$131.00 + 1/2 of today's sales, 48 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Terry Becker made a \$500. cheque presentation on behalf of the Wine Fest Committee to Ineke on behalf of the Caribbean Festival. Ineke advised that this year's event will include a Caribbean Dance Off on Saturday night at the ACT. Tickets are \$10. She also advised that the beer garden will be going green this year - they are using cups made of corn that will compost within two months.

Our Guests today were Alfonse Seward, Samantha & Debbie Nosworthy, Jennifer from Kevin's office, Lila Jane Terwiel, Caitlin Green, Vladimir's friend from school - Boris and Sonya, Stephanie O'Brien, and Leo Krekeler (former exchange student).

Announcements:

Robert advised that Heidi Johnson raised \$5,500 for her Philippines Elementary School Project.

Robert advised that the Canadian Government has funded \$60,000,000. towards the Polio Plus Campaign to eradicate polio. He would like to hear fundraising ideas and suggestions from our club members to assist in this campaign as there is a \$100 million challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation available. The resulting \$200 million would directly support immunization campaigns in developing countries, where polio continues to infect and paralyze children.

Gordy announced that Translink will be making a presentation in the Council Chambers next Monday June 14th starting at 6:30 pm, to be followed by a question period at 9 pm. He asked that everyone available attend, as the long-term plan Translink is presenting does not include Maple Ridge.

Sharon advised that she attended the Maple Ridge Firehall Rotary Bursary presentation. She reported that Andrea Vevers and her husband also attended.

Robert advised that the election for Vice President and the Installation of Alfonse Seward will be held in two weeks.

Vladimir's BBQ is on August 9th. The Haney Club will be invited to attend as well. There will be a sign up sheet circulated at our next meeting.

Ineke advised that a visiting Rotarian from England who attended one of our meetings sent a banner from her Club, along with a £10 donation for the Shelterbox Project.

Ineke asked for volunteers for the Ridge Meadows Mayors' Heritage Day Celebration on Saturday August 2nd to flip hamburgers.

Bob Shantz read a letter of thanks received from Anne McDonald with regards to our Hospice contribution.

He then presented Patrick O'Brien with a Paul Harris Award. ➡



Marco introduced our Guest Speaker, BJ (Baas) Terwiel. Baas is Marco's brother, a former Buddhist Monk and a retired Professor with the University of Hamburg who is a specialist on mainland Southeast Asia.

His topic was the effect of cyclone Nargis on Burma (Myanmar). He advised that Burma is comprised of states of different ethnic groups. 70% of the population is Burmese and 30% is the various ethnic groups (Shan, Karen, Rakhine, Mon and many others). There is religious diversity within the country. The main religion is Buddhist, but there are also substantial Muslim and Christian communities.

He provided a bit of the history of the country. Britain conquered Burma over a period of 62 years (1824-1886) and incorporated it into its Indian Empire. The middle class at that time was mainly Indian (train conductors, accountants, etc.). Burma was administered as a province of India until 1937 when it became a separate, self-governing colony. At this point the country lost their middle class. Independence from the Commonwealth was attained in 1947. After independence Burma drifted close to anarchy, so the military intervened with the aim to steer a course for unifying the country. In 1962, General Ne Win led the first military coup.

In 1990 there was a free and fair election, won by the opposition party of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy by a majority vote. The military junta used the excuse that there was as yet no Constitution in place to postpone handing over power until the present.

There has been worldwide criticism of the Burmese leaders. They are depicted as tyrants, and especially General Than Shwe was considered a mad man, for example when he moved the national capitol from Yangon to a site near Pinyinmana and named it Naypyidaw, meaning "City of Kings".

In September 2007, the media showed Burmese monks demonstrating for democracy. On May 3rd of this year, Cyclone Nargis cut a path thru the lower part of the country only. There was approximately 8,000 square kilometres flooded. Although the media reported that a 150,000 or more had lost their lives, in actuality the number of lives lost was closer to 69,000 - 70,000. The press reports on conditions in Burma are inaccurate. No foreign reporters are being let into the country as a result of selective media reporting on these incidents. The Burmese did get outside help after the cyclone from Thailand. If the Western outside help offered had originally gone through Thailand it would have been accepted, but Burma does not accept "gunship charity". Tighter sanctions have been imposed by President Bush and parts of Europe recently, resulting in no outside wealth coming into the country. Any wealth within the country is used for purchasing weapons.

Baas concluded by saying that what we see and hear in the media is not always accurate due to selective reporting. He cited the Indonesian president saying a bit of tyranny is still to be preferred above civil war. Many Burmese lead a stable if very frugal lifestyle but even concepts such as poverty cannot be measured by applying our standards.

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence

