

MEDICAL MISSION TOUCHES THE 'UNREACHABLE'

By Ryan Hyland, Rotary International News – 6 July 2010

During a massive seven-day medical mission in March, a team of 37 doctors and volunteers from District 3080 provided care to about 50,000 people in the remote tribal district of Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, India.

Organized by Past RI President Rajendra K. Saboo and Vivek Tankha, additional solicitor general of India and past governor of District 3260, several health camps offered medical exams, dental procedures, and surgeries to a population with limited access to health care.

The team included 24 doctors and surgeons, nine volunteers, and four medical assistants.

"This was an exercise where vocational service was at its best, where doctors made their knowledge and talents totally available to serve humanity," Saboo said. "We were able to reach the unreachable."

Saboo -- who has organized a number of medical missions since 1998 to countries including Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Swaziland, and Uganda -- said this effort far exceeded the others in terms of number of patients seen.

Tankha worked with Madhya Pradesh officials to identify the Mandla district as the location for Project RAHAT (Rotary's Active Hands Are Touching). The state government commissioned the support of about 400 medical volunteers.

The magnitude of the effort exceeded Tankha's expectations.

"The patient turnout, voluntary assistance rendered by Rotary and the state government, and the sight of the entire task force working under the banner of Rotary was something which I neither anticipated nor imagined," he said. "This mission presents a perfect example of people's participation towards a healthy society."

The medical camps were organized by treatment type. Four venues -- Mandla District Hospital, Katra Hospital, Yogiraj Hospital, and the local Red Cross -- received new equipment and other enhancements to handle an increased patient load.

The doctors and volunteers performed 3,500 dental procedures and 2,000 major surgeries, including reconstructive surgery, orthopedic work, and eye operations.

Subhash Garg, director of the medical mission and past governor of District 3080, said the many remarkable surgeries included the removals of a uterine tumor for one patient and a cataract for another -- a 105-year-old man.

"After completing this mission, there was a sense from the team of complete satisfaction," Garg said. "All Rotarians involved had a joyous feeling because we were able to contribute something so big."



Top: Volunteer surgeons from District 3080 operate on patients during a massive seven day medical mission in the tribal district Mandla of Madhya Pradesh, India, in March.

Bottom: Villagers of the tribal district of Mandla of Madhya Pradesh, India, register for Project RAHAT, a massive medical mission, in March.

Photos courtesy of District 3080



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

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INVOCATION

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| July 20 | Anil Bharwani | July 27 | Ineke Boekhorst |
| Aug. 3 | Peter Boekhorst | Aug. 10 | Lyndy Buyze-Kerr |



Rotary's official mottoes date back to the early days of the organization. The principal motto is 'Service Above Self'. The 2010 Council on Legislation modified the wording of the other motto to 'One Profits Most Who Serves Best'.

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Zajac Ranch

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Who's Who - Lindsay Hendy

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

| Date | Time | Event | Venue |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| Aug. 21 | 1:30 pm | Golfun | Useless Bay Golf & Country Club Langley, Wa |
| Aug. 28 | 3 pm | BBQ at Patrick O'Brien's | 10328 – 276 St. M.R. |
| Oct. 5 | | Sports Banquet | Meadow Gardens Golf Club |
| Nov. 23 | noon | DG Wayne Wiebe's visit | |
| | | | |

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$1,249.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 14 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Our Guests today were Evangelos Voukelatos, Cailin Green, Glen Kellaway of the POCO Rotary Club, Debi Pearce, Mariella Ignatief and Irena Shantz.

Peter Tam announced a fundraiser for the Cancer Society to be held on 18 July between 7.00- 10.00pm 2010 at Eagles Hall.



Mary Robson introduced our guest speakers, Malcolm Smith and Keith Kellaway, who would talk about their RYLA experiences. She read a letter of apology and thanks from the third student Max, who had been unable to attend the Rotary meeting today. He thanked the club for sponsoring him and affording him the opportunity of attending the RYLA weekend, which had proved to be a life changing experience, in which he was able to make life long friends.

Malcolm is a graduate from the Thomas Haney School and currently is employed with Save-on Foods, while he takes a “gap” year, before starting university in the new year.

Keith is soon to begin his training with the Fire Department in Maple Ridge. He is an active paddler and has competed in events both nationally and internationally.

The students reported back to the club on the RYLA weekend at the Zajac Ranch, Stave Lake in Mission. They had been sponsored by the club to attend the weekend. For more general information on RYLA and the leadership weekend, see www.ryla5050.org

The boys talked about their experiences and what they had learnt over the weekend.



They remarked on how they had been welcomed with hugs and embraces and were given “warm fuzzies” upon arrival. They had met fellow students and made strong bonds of friendship, which they felt would be on going for a long time. They felt very comfortable amongst the members of the group, which allowed them to reflect on themselves, while at the same time, also allowing them to just be “themselves” without feeling inhibited.

The planned activities encouraged them to get to know each other, while at the same time learn about the qualities of leadership and goal setting.

The format of the program included presentations and breakaway discussion groups. The group was then also required to participate in one major project for the weekend. This involved helping clean up and “beautify” the Mission Park. This took a good 6 hours to complete.

In closing Keith stated that the most important thing that he had learned from the weekend was goal setting and in fact the weekend had been instrumental in his career choice to join the Maple Ridge Fire department.

For Malcolm, he had learnt additional leadership skills, which he was using in his current employment.

Fine Master Marco gave some quiz questions from articles in the latest edition of Rotary Canada and the Rotarian magazine. The club members faired pretty well in answering them.



Past-President Marco called on **Cailin Green** to come forward and accept a Paul Harris award from the club for all her contributions to the club and the community including creating posters, all other printed materials as well as using her musical talents.

He then called on **Robert Campbell** to come forward and to accept his award as past president of the club as well as for his contribution and dedication to the club and the community.



He apologized that the award was late in being presented, but it had only just been being received from RI.



Finally **Dave Rempel** received his perfect attendance and Certificate of Appreciation awards handed out at the installation dinner, which he was unable to attend.

Submitted by **Adrienne Dale**

As you can see, we have a new ‘field reporter’ in Adrienne Dale. Thank you Adrienne for stepping in. I couldn’t do it without those people taking notes during our regular meetings. Lynda Lawrence and Terry Becker have done it for years, and I cannot thank them enough for that!

Peter Boekhorst