

# A charge to new Rotary members

Read by his daughter Sue Rose  
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WHY ARE YOU HERE?

WHY DO YOU DO IT?

HAVE YOU GOTTEN CAUGHT IN A WEB OF  
ROTARY GOODNESS?

THERE ARE A MYRIAD OF OUTLETS FOR  
VOLUNTEERS THROUGH THE CHURCH,  
FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS, SERVICE GROUPS  
AND COMMUNITIES.

WHY DID YOU BECOME A ROTARIAN?

ROTARIANS ARE NOT BORN.  
ROTARIANS ARE MADE.

FEW OF US JOINED ROTARY WITH THE IDEA OF  
CHANGING THE WORLD. MANY OF US KNEW  
LITTLE OF ROTARY PROGRAMS. MOST OF US  
WERE SEEKING FELLOWSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP.

THE FULL FEELING OF ROTARY CAME TO US  
SLOWLY. WE ARE CONTRIBUTORS IN ANY WAY  
WE ARE ASKED BY SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES.  
SLOWLY OUR PRIORITIES CHANGED SO THAT

ATTENDING THE WEEKLY MEETING WAS IMPORTANT. WE BECAME INVOLVED THE WITH SPIRIT OF ROTARY.

WHATEVER THE "SPIRIT OF ROTARY" IS, IT INVOLVES THE FRIENDSHIPS DEVELOPED, THE WILLINGNESS TO HELP WITH COMMUNITY CONCERNS, AN UNDERSTANDING OF ALL MEN'S CALLINGS, AND A LOVE OF OUR FELLOW MAN. EVENTUALLY "SERVICE ABOVE SELF" BECOMES SYNONYMOUS WITH "THE SPIRIT OF ROTARY."

RABBI RAPHAEL LEVINE SAID, "SERVICE ABOVE SELF" IS NOT MAKING A LIVING.

"SERVICE ABOVE SELF" IS MAKING A LIFE.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT SCRIPTURE - 'LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF' - ROTARY ASKS TO LOVE THEY NEIGHBOR MORE THAN THYSELF - 'SERVICE ABOVE SELF.'

WE ENTER INTO ROTARY SERVICE LIKE A NEWBORN BABY - NAKED AND UNCLOTHED WE "MAKE A LIFE" AS THE MYSTERIOUS AND GOOD WORKS AND ROTARY UNFOLD OVER A LIFETIME OF PARTICIPATION.

THE PROJECTS THAT ATTRACT US AND KEEP US INVOLVED IN ROTARY DID NOT FOR THE MOST PART EVOLVE FROM THINK TANKS, NOR CONTESTS FOR IDEAS. HEADY MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES OF HEADY MEN HAVE CONTRIBUTED ONLY MINIMAL DIRECTIONS AND PROJECTS. ROTARY IDEAS , PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS HAVE NOT BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY THE CLASH OF CYMBALS, THE BEATING OF DRUMS, OR THE BLARE OF TRUMPETS. THERE WERE NO SHAFTS OF LIGHT FROM THE HEAVENS, NO ROLL OF THUNDER, NO BOLTS OF LIGHTNING.

WHAT MAKES THE ROTARY LIGHT "SO SHINE"?

IN MOST CASES IT COMES FROM AN INDIVIDUAL ROTARIAN WHO GETS AN IDEA OR SEES A NEED. OTHERS JOIN THE THINKING AND A WORKING PROJECT IS BORN.

THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF PROJECTS BY THOUSANDS OF ROTARY CLUBS. MOST ARE SIMPLE AND EMERGE FROM SOME SPECIFIC COMMUNITY NEED. OTHER PROJECTS ARE ON A LARGER SCALE, OFTEN BY LARGE CLUB



INVOLVEMENT. THE PRESIDENT SEES THIS IN HIS TRAVELS.

MEMBERS OF THE LOCHABER ROTARY CLUB IN FORT WILLIAM IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND MEET AN AFTERNOON TRAIN ONCE A WEEK WHERE THEY PICK UP AN ELDERLY GENTLEMAN AND DRIVE HIM 60 MILES TO VISIT HIS WIFE WHO RESIDES IN A NURSING HOME. AFTER THE 45 MINUTE VISIT THE MAN IS DRIVEN BACK TO FORT WILLIAM TO TAKE THE AFTERNOON TRAIN BACK TO HIS HOME. THIS SIMPLE ACT OF KINDNESS -- -- IS IT A SMALL PROJECT? NO -- -- IT IS A LARGE AND MEANINGFUL PROJECT TO THOSE PEOPLE INVOLVED.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON -  
- -- THE NUMBER 4 CLUB IN THE ROTARY WORLD IS COMPOSED OF OVER 800 MEMBERS. THOSE ROTARIANS CONTRIBUTED US\$3,000,000 TO HELP BUILD A PUBLIC BROADCASTING TELEVISION STATION. BY ANY STANDARDS THIS IS A LARGE AND MEANINGFUL PROJECT.

GOOD, QUIET MEN AND WOMEN OF ROTARY ARE DOING GIGANTIC THINGS IN QUIET WAYS. THOSE QUIET ROTARIANS ARE ENGAGING IN TREMENDOUSLY IMPORTANT PROJECTS WITHOUT FANFARE OR FLOURISH - QUIET MEN AND WOMEN WHO SEEK NOTHING --- --- IN RETURN FOR THEIR DEEDS AND THE DEEDS OF THEIR ROTARY CLUBS.

WHY DO YOU DO IT?

THE PROPHETS WHO HAVE INFLUENCED ALL OF MANKIND FOREVER HAD NO AGENDA FOR THEMSELVES. THE STORY OF KINDNESS, LOVE AND GIVING RUNS ACROSS THE CENTURIES.

BUDDHA WAS BORN INTO WEALTH AND SUBSTANCE AS THE SON OF A KING. BY AGE SEVEN HE BEGAN TO QUESTION THE VALUE OF MATERIAL POSSESSIONS OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS. HE WAS ANGUISHED BY HIS FATHER'S DESIRE FOR HIM TO INHERIT WEALTH AND POWER. AT AGE 29 HE RENOUNCED HIS PRINCELY WORLD TO TEACH HIS FOLLOWERS TRUTH, KINDNESS, GENTLENESS AND ULTIMATE HAPPINESS.

JESUS CHRIST WAS BORN INTO POVERTY AND  
LIVED A LIFE OF SIMPLICITY AND HIS TRAVELS  
WERE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF HIS BIRTH  
PLACE.

THE ADMONITION TO HIS FOLLOWERS SPREAD  
AND THE MESSAGE HE LEFT IS KNOWN AROUND  
THE WORLD.

THE WORDS OF GOD TO THE PROPHET  
MOHAMMED DAILY REACH EVERY PART OF THE  
WORLD. THE WRITINGS OF THE KORAN TELL  
STORIES OF COMPASSION AND CONCERN.

THE TORAH AND THE ANCIENT SCRIPTURES  
SPEAK OF LOVE.

THE MODERN PHILOSOPHIES OF MAHATMA  
GANDHI AND ALBERT SCHWEITZER ESPOUSE THE  
TEACHINGS OF THE PROPHETS.

THEY ALL HAD A COMMON DENOMINATOR ----  
SAID IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS.  
YET, THEY ALL SAID THE SAME THING.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER --- --- --- LOVE ONE  
ANOTHER.

YOU HAVE NO AGENDAS FOR YOURSELVES.  
YOUR ROTARY CONCERNS ARE FOR DOING SOME  
GOOD IN THE WORLD.

WHY?  
WHY ARE YOU HERE?  
WHY DO YOU DO IT?

THE CEMENT THAT BONDS ROTARIANS  
TOGETHER IS THAT SIMPLE LITTLE PHRASE,  
"SERVICE ABOVE SELF" --- WHICH MEANS  
SERVICE MORE THAN SELF.

"SERVICE ABOVE SELF" ALSO MEANS LOVE ONE  
ANOTHER.

ARE YOU HERE AS PART OF THE ADMONITION TO  
LOVE ONE ANOTHER?

I THINK SO  
I THINK SO  
I THINK THAT IS WHY.