



The Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

February 4-8, 2015

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President Margo Neal

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

Pictures by Dr. John W. Elman and Tom Bos

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 - Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org

- **Rotary District 5280 Website:**www.rotary5280.org/
- **RI President (2014-2015) Gary CK Huang**
- **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2014-2015): Elsa Gilham**

PDG Tom Bos Addresses Malibu Rotary Club on the Latest News on Rotary's World Eradication of Polio

Editor's Note: Tom Bos is a Past District Rotary Governor from Holland, Michigan who has led 3 different Polio Inoculation Day trip to India. He shared a PowerPoint presentation about his experiences with the Malibu Rotary Club several years ago. Tom gave me a CD of this presentation and the pictures in this story, which was written by Tom, are from that CD.

FEBRUARY 4, 2015

We have very good news today!

Eliminating Polio in Africa has been very very difficult, particularly in northern Nigeria. The conservative Muslims in northern Nigeria have been very suspicious of foreigners wanting to give their children vaccines. Consequently a couple of years ago vaccinations were halted and polio cases skyrocketed and polio was being exported throughout Africa.

To make the program more acceptable to Muslims we now make the vaccine in Indonesia, a Muslim country. Also intense pressure was exerted on Nigeria to get all their children immunized by the other countries in Africa.

As a result (Good News Alert) as of last week Wednesday, January 28th, we can report there has not been a reported new case of polio in over 6 months.

Two caveats: 1) there could be unreported cases in northern Nigeria that are not being reported, but it cannot be many because no cases are coming out that area. 2) summer is the prime time for polio transmission. Getting through the summer months without a case of polio will be the test. Having said that, we have been very good at stopping new outbreaks in their tracks. We have good reason to be very optimistic.

Although there have been no new cases of polio reported in Afghanistan in the past two months, we still have a problem in Pakistan. So far this year there have been 3 cases of polio reported there, which is half the number reported for the same period last year.

Does all this good news mean we can relax? Absolutely not! In order to be sure the disease is eradicated we will need to immunize all children for three years after the last reported case.

Rotary made this possible! Although we have known for decades that the eradication of polio was possible in theory, no one thought it could be possible to generate the political will to make it happen. It was possible in theory since polio requires a human host and can be passed only from one human to another. Most diseases can also be passed from animal and/or insect hosts making it impractical to eradicate. If we can immunize all humans against polio it will halt the transmission of the disease, which will eliminate the virus.

In the 1980's a Rotary District in the Philippines secured a grant from The Rotary Foundation to immunize all the children in the Philippines against polio. That program was so successful, and the vaccine so cheap the leadership of Rotary International suggested "why not immunize the whole world." For the first time Rotary was given a corporate goal: to wipe out polio by Rotary's 100th anniversary, 2015.

There are three types of polio and the vaccine was a trivalent vaccine for all three types. Although it was effective for all three types, it was especially effective for Type II. By 1990 polio was eradicated in the Western Hemisphere, and Type II polio appears to have been eradicated in the entire world.

This was done during the Contra war in Central America. Rotary was able to negotiate "Days of Tranquility", essentially ceasefires, so that all the children could receive the vaccine. The World Health Organization (WHO) has gone on record as saying that, without Rotary, this would never have happened. Only Rotary was trusted by both sides of the conflict enough for them to agree to a ceasefire so that all children could be immunized.

The same thing happened in the 1990's while we were trying to immunize Eastern Europe in the middle of the Serb-Croatian conflict in the former Yugoslavia. We were not able to negotiate "Days of Tranquility" but instead were able to get "Corridors of Tranquility", which are no fire zones in the no man's land between the forces. Both sides were able to bring their children to these corridors to get the vaccine. Again, WHO has said this would not have been possible without Rotary.

Rotary was also able to negotiate ceasefires in Sri Lanka during their civil war. Only Rotary had the trust of both sides. They could lay down their arms knowing Rotary would keep their word and provide vaccine for all the children.

But just as important as Rotary's reputation for integrity and its monetary contributions, has been Rotary's ability to advocate. Rotary has the ability to get others on board, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which has given almost one half billion dollars to TRF. Bill Gates himself said TRF is more efficient than his own foundation. Rotary has also successfully convinced governments around the world to donate generous financial aid to support the effort to eradicate polio. A little known fact is the amount of support we get from our own country and many others to stamp out this disease.



Tom Bos is seen above in January 2000 on one of his National Immunization Day trips to India



Before the NID there are parades and many announcements telling everyone in the country to get the children ready for the oral vaccine that will be administered by the volunteers led by Rotary . Tom is in the center above in blue cap.



Tom seen above administering the oral polio vaccine to an infant being held by his mother

I have been to India three times to participate in NIDs or National Immunization Days. The last time I went was in '04 and I took with me my 14 year-old grandson, David. David learned he could live for three weeks without a hamburger (no beef in a Hindu country) or hot water. We stayed in Rotarian homes where hot water was only available for short times during the day. We were in the city of Bareilly, which is not a tourist destination. Caucasians certainly were not common in this city of 3,000,000, especially 14 year-old boys from America. Each of the local newspapers interviewed David and had his colored photograph on the front page. We would go down to the train station where David would immunize kids through the train windows and even on the trains. He would be followed by Indian Boy Scouts carrying the insulated containers for the vaccine and the markers for painting the fingernails of the kids after they got the dose of vaccine. David at the time had a 5 year-old brother back home and seemed to know just what to do to make everyone feel at ease.

One time we were working a neighborhood and there was a disturbance down the street. We went over to see what the problem was. A Muslim father did not want his children to have the vaccine. I explained to him, through an interpreter, that I had had the vaccine, my children had been immunized and that my grandson, David, had been immunized. The little Muslim man looked up to David and asked "he has been immunized?" When that was affirmed, the father thought it over and then said OK.

The year before when I was working in one of the suburbs of Bareilly, a boy about 11 approached us on crutches to thank us for what we were doing. He explained that we had

vaccinated his sister so now she would not get polio like he did. I later found out that Dr. Kumar, who I was staying with and was with us that day, had operated on this little boy to straighten his legs and provided the braces and crutches so that this boy could stand upright.



Boy above was thankful that although he had developed polio before vaccine was available to him, he was able to get braces and crutches and have surgery to walk upright, and he

was also thankful that because of the vaccine his younger sister wouldn't being afflicted with polio and have to go through the hardship he had.

On each of my three trips to India I came back with memories I have not been able to forget. On my first trip in 2000 I was working in the slums of Rajcot along with 5 adolescent Indian girl scouts. One would carry the insulated container with the vaccine, one would mark the fingers of the children after they received vaccine and the other three would run ahead to alert the neighbors that I was coming.

The girls would knock on door frames and the mothers would come to the doors with their younger children. On one occasion a young mother came to the doorway and saw me standing off to the side. She asked the girls if I was with them, why was I with them, and where was I from? The girls explained who I was and why I was there.

That young mother put her two hands together and bowed deeply to me. She and I had very little in common. We came from very different cultures, different generations, different religions; we had different customs and education, our skin tone was different, we spoke different languages, and we were from different sides of the earth and economic spectrum.

But she could not have been more eloquent, for I understood what she was saying. She was saying "thank you, thank you, thank you" for being here. Her thank you was not meant just for me, it was meant for each of you. Without your contributions to TRF, I would have had no reason to have been there. Although Rotarians travel at their own expense, the vaccine would not have been available without our Rotary Foundation.

If you are interested in making our world a better place for everyone, there is no better agency to support than our own Foundation. It has the highest rating of the charity rating organizations for transparency and efficiency . For this reason, even persons who are not Rotarians should and do support TRF.

Please consider making an automatic re-occurring deduction from your credit card each month for TRF. Chances are you will not even miss the money. Please also remember TRF in your estate planning. It should be one of the top three charities remembered in your will.

--Thomas G. Bos

Malibu Rotary Club President Margo Neal Brings Donations for Kids on Local Rotary District Humanitarian Trip to Guatemala



Malibu Rotary Club President Margo Neal (in center of picture above) had asked people to bring children's school supplies to the February 4th Malibu Rotary Club meeting so she could put them in back packs that would be given to school children in Guatemala while she was on the Rotary District 5280 Humanitarian Trip to Guatemala Feb 05, 2015 – Feb 09, 2015. Margo said she was allowed to take 70 pounds of luggage. To help her fill up her bags with kids school supplies were (L to R) Carlye Rudkin, Beth Muhiuddin, Blanca Torrence, Margo, Shannon Latson, Bob Syvertsen, and Tom Bos.

The Rotary Clubs of District 5280, along with the Rotary Clubs of Guatemala have collaborated on six Global Grant projects to help the Guatemalans living in the countryside. 84 Rotarians and spouses went on the trip.

Plane with Rotarians Diverted due to Guatemala volcano

Late news texted from Margo to John Elman was that their itinerary changed as their airline approached Guatemala. Margo's text: "Came to Tikal yesterday (Sat)..am still in Tikal (84 of us)...why? Because a volcano erupted near Antigua where our hotel is & there was so much ash in the air the airport in Guatemala City was closed..fortunately there was space available

in 2 hotels...the group bought all the tooth paste and brushes @ the tienda...awaiting news of what is next. Pray 4 clear skies.”

An update from Margo on Sunday February 8: “Just flew to San Jose on Pacific Coast.”

Malibu Rotary Club Visitor Randall Mize Talks about his Rotary Club and District in Kansas Establishing A Hospital In Dominican Republic



Randall Mize of the South Kansas City Rotary Club, who has a national sports marketing business (Pepperdine is one of his clients), pictured above exchanging Rotary flags with Malibu Rotary Club President Margo Neal at the February 4 Malibu Rotary Club, presented a short slide presentation at the Malibu Rotary Club showing the major project of his Rotary Club, and also his Rotary District, establishing and continuing to support a hospital in the rural area of the Dominican Republic, where there were previously no nearby medical facilities.

The hospital was built in 1994, and now treats 43,000 people per year. It is 70% supported by Rotary.

Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

David Zielski gave an update on the 2015 Malibu Rotary Club Halloween Fundraiser, which will be at Duke's Restaurant in Malibu on Friday, October 30. The room will cost \$500, and there is a \$5,000 minimum on food and drinks. David believes that ticket prices should be \$100.00 per person, and that will cover the actual cost of \$50.00 per person and make a profit. All food and beverages will be provided by Dukes.

Bill Wishard went to the Pre-PETS seminar on Saturday Jan 31, representing Malibu Rotary Club in place of David Zielski. President Elect David Zielski will be going to PETS.

Guests at the last Malibu Rotary Club

Beth's husband, and our frequent speaker on world events **Qadir Mohiuffin** was guest at our meeting, as well as the two Rotarian speakers **Tom Bos and Randy Mize**. Making a second visit to the Malibu Rotary Club was **Tiffany Venalde** of AssistedHomeLiving.com.

Next Malibu Rotary Club meeting Feb 11, 2015--speakers are Donna Brown, Vice President Volunteers for 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles along with Dustin Plunkett Volunteer Workforce Manager

See Calendar below for more information on this week's speakers.

Malibu Rotary Club Supports RainCatcher

Clean drinking water is a problem affecting millions of people around the world. A Malibu company, RainCatcher, is trying to solve the problem in an efficient manner. Much of their work has been in Africa. The Malibu Rotary Club along with the Rotary Clubs of Beverly Hills, CA USA and the Rotary

Club of Entebbe, Uganda has applied for a Rotary Foundation Grant to assist Raincatcher. There are several videos available on You Tube that show the amazing things Raincatcher is doing bringing clean drinking water to places in Uganda and Kenya where there was previously no clean drinking water.

David Zielski, Executive Director of Raincatcher, makes regular trips to Uganda and Kenya to do Raincatcher installations and maintenance. In February The latest video showing what David and the Raincatcher people are doing in Africa was shown at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting on August 20. A link to the video is now on the Maliburotary.org website. The direct link to the video is at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59rzOcM-RL0&list=UUFetq8NgjhXhtkVf0idcQUg>

Calendar (for details on these programs see maliburotary.org)

Next Malibu Rotary Club meeting Feb 11, 2015--speakers are Donna Brown, Vice President Volunteers for 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles along with Dustin Plunkett Volunteer Workforce Manager

News of 2015 Special Olympics and Volunteer Opportunities For Locals to be Presented at Feb 11 Malibu Rotary club meeting





Donna Brown is Vice President of Volunteers and Dustin Plunkett is Games Associate & Uniforms Coordinator as well Volunteer Workforce Manager for the Special Olympics games being staged in Los Angeles July 25 - August 2, 2015.

They will talk about and show a short video about this year's Special Olympics, and the volunteer opportunities for people in our community at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting held noon at the February 11 in room LC 152

at Pepperdine's upper Drescher Graduate campus in Malibu.

It will be the largest sports and humanitarian event anywhere in the world in 2015, and the single biggest event in Los

Angeles since the 1984 Olympic Games. The 2015 Special Olympics World Games, with the unparalleled spirit, enthusiasm, teamwork, joy and displays of courage and skill that are hallmarks of all Special Olympics events, will feature 25 Olympic-style sports in venues throughout the Los Angeles region. The Opening Ceremony, to be held July 25, 2015 in the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, site of the 1932 and 1984 Olympic Games, is expected to attract 80,000 spectators. On April 30, 2014, LA2015 and ESPN announced a global programming deal that will see ESPN bring coverage of World Games to millions of fans around the world.

For more information see the Malibu Rotary Club website www.maliburotary.com.

Josh Voorhees Feb 18, 2015

How he received Pepperdine Scholarship from his Boston area Rotary Club

Sade Obanwo Feb 25, 2015

Science Care whole body donor program

Sade Obanwo is Manager of Community Relations for Science Care.

The Science Care whole body donor program links those that wish to leave a lasting legacy through medical research with the researchers and educators that need human tissue to do their important work. Each donor not only gives of him or herself but gives hope to future generations. Hope for new disease treatment options, better patient outcomes and advanced surgical procedures to improve the future for all of us.

Mar 11, 2015

Hung Le

In God's Perfect Time (meeting in Fireside Room, Pepperdine main campus)

Hung Le is Pepperdine University's Registrar. Separated from his family at the age of 11, Hung recounts the stories of his coming to America as a refugee from war-torn Vietnam, without his family, and finding the power of God's faithfulness through trials and triumphs.

This is the 4th in Malibu Rotary Club's Exclusive Series of Consequences of Vietnam War.