



# ROTARY SPOKES

*The Rotary Club of Ventura  
Weekly Bulletin*

*"The friendliest club in Rotary"*

*100% Paul Harris Club*



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May 16, 2012

## **Meeting of May 9, 2012** **North Korea – 1945 to Present** **Reporter: Betsy Chess**



**Randy Hinton** handled the Invocation, which featured Mothers Day factoids, and Introductions. **Clyde Reynolds** and **Jim Spencer** led us in *God Bless America*.

### **Presentations and Announcements**

**Prez Lynda** – Club Social on May 12th at Foster Park from 12:30 – 3PM. The favorite food is chili, but bring any of your favorite goodies.



**Larry Emrich** – Our club has raised \$11,000 for Polio Plus, the second highest total in the District.

Happy 96th birthday to **Dr. Leo Tauber!**

**Fining** – **Roger Case** chose travel on which to quiz us – we must not get out much!



**Rotary Moment** – Norm Blacher complimented those who have organized our recent programs. He stated it was a privilege to be a member of this club where he has made life-long friendships.



**Happy Dollars** - Good things to celebrate about our families and businesses.

**Program** - Steve Doll introduced our speaker, **Dr. Mel Cheatham**, who has traveled to North Korea 23 times as a representative of the organization Samaritan's Purse. He has just returned from his fifth visit to the DPRK this year. Dr. Mel is a physician, humanitarian, author, Rotarian and a wonderful man.

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Web addresses: Club [www.venturarotary.org](http://www.venturarotary.org) – Photos: [www.rotarycov.smugmug.com](http://www.rotarycov.smugmug.com)  
District 5240 [www.rotarydistrict5240.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5240.org) – R.I. [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

## Meeting Programs & Assignments

### Programs

Chair: Larry Emrich

May 16, 2012

**International Disaster Relief**  
**Featuring Mark Kirwin**

May 23, 2012

**The Annual Interact Bake Sale**

May 30, 2012

**Drugs and Professional Bike Riding**

### Introductions

Chair: Ron Calkins

**May 16 – Greg Kinkaid May 23 – Jeff King**

### Rotary Moment

Chair: Terri Adams

**May 16 – Gary Wolfe May 23 – Jack Wood**  
**May 30 – Gary Young**

### Fining

Chair: Ron Bamieh

**May 16 – Ellyn Dembowski**

## 2011-12 Officers and Directors

### Officers

President ..... Lynda Girtsman  
President Elect ..... Indy Batra  
President Elect Nominee ..... Irene Henry  
Secretary ..... Jim Deardoff  
Recording Secretary \* ..... Larry Emrich  
Treasurer ..... Connie Young  
Assistant Treasurer \* ..... Mark Sauer  
Immediate Past President ..... Hutch Hutchinson  
•Non-Voting

### Avenues of Service

#### **Club Service**

Director ..... Terry Schaeffer  
Assistant Director ..... Dan Holmes

#### **Community Service**

Director ..... Curtis Cormane  
Assistant Director ..... Nanci Cone

#### **International Service**

Director ..... Mario de la Piedra  
Assistant Director ..... Ed McCombs

#### **New Generations**

Director ..... Ellyn Dembowski  
Assistant ..... Ken Cooper

#### **Vocational Service**

Director ..... Bill Finley  
Assistant ..... Todd Binkley

### *Program continued*

He began by recounting the many Rotarians whom he has known for the past 45 years in Ventura.

Korea has 5,000-year history. ***We in the U.S. want freedom; they want a Leader.*** Korea is a peninsula off Manchuria that was partitioned after WWII. The Allies put Kim IL Jong in power then. The Korean War (Conflict?) began in 1950. It concluded with a truce in 1953, but as there was never an armistice, we are still technically at war. Korea was another example of drawing the lines of the Cold War: the Berlin Wall, Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam.

***Dr. Mel went first to Chonju, South Korea, in 1985 as a visiting professor of neurosurgery at the invitation of the Rev. Billy Graham and son Franklin.*** They also invited the family to Berlin in 1989 to witness the fall of the Berlin Wall, which prefaced the fall of Communism in 1991. The Cheathams, via Rev. Graham, met many times with Gorbachov. In 1994 the DPRK launched a nuclear development program.

Billy Graham, who got on well with Kim IL Jong, invited the Cheathams to North Korea. Kim IL Jong died in '96, however he was declared President for Eternity. Mel showed slides of Pyongyang in those early days that showed great public places with no cars or people. There are said to be one million land mines in the DMZ.

Everything is about the military. There is a tunnel beneath the DMZ, that Mel has seen, through which 35,000 soldiers can be moved to the South in an hour.

Every year there is a great national celebration. 100,000 performers make no mistakes! Translate this discipline to a military operation and you have an idea the danger the DPRK represents. Mel recommended we read **Escape from Camp 14** to better understand conditions there.

His son, Kim Jong IL, succeeded Kim. Things began to change. Everything you see is a facade, like a Hollywood stage. Recently, Dr. Mel worked in 700-bed hospital north of the Yalu River with no water or electricity, yet every bed was full. Dr. Mel and the Samaritan's Purse work closely with US agencies. Communication is very circumscribed. Every word is recorded and likely filmed. Now the 29-year old Supreme Commander, Kim Jong UN, grandson of the President for Eternity, rules the DPRK. The DPRK is totally food dependent. Six million out of 24 million North Koreans are at risk of starvation. The general population subsists on 400-600 calories a day. In February there was an agreement to suspend uranium enrichment and nuclear long-range missile tests in exchange for food relief. Six weeks later a missile was launched.

What next re: food, military and reunification? He said to expect another weapons test, which means big trouble. Even China has issued warnings. It would cost \$14.3 trillion to unify the Peninsula. Children are starving yet there is money to pay for the military. Dr. Mel said the best hope is to keep America both morally and physically strong.



## **CLUB BBQ AND PICNIC – MAY 12**

### **Message from Prez Lynda:**

What a perfect day for s Bar-B-Que! Weather was order by Terry --- Thanks for all who came! It was encouraging to see small children of members ... grandchildren too! Great food; sorry, no winner of the Chili contest. I discovered that everyone had their favorite, but everyone was different ... great selection from sweet to blow the roof off.



Thanks to the team, Larry Emrich, Greg Kincade, and of course Terry Schaeffer ... Thanks to Sally Crain for her perfect firewood to make the hot dogs, hamburgers, brats and others taste great. Thanks to set-up team Sheila Fatterelli, Ellyn Dembowski and Charolette Bell. For those who missed it --- sorry, hope we have another. Those of you who brought guests, just shows ... We are "The Friendliest Club in Rotary".



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**May 16 (Wednesday) 11:30 AM Derby Club**

**4<sup>th</sup> of July Event Meeting**

**Please plan to attend – great opportunity for new members to get involved!**

**June 19 (Tuesday) 5:00 PM Crowne Plaza**

**President Lynda's Step Down Dinner**

**Reception @ 5 PM, buffet dinner @ 6 PM**

**June 20 (Wednesday) – DARK (no meeting)**

**Day after step-down dinner**

**June 23 (Saturday) – District Luncheon at**

**Moorpark Country Club**

**DG Wade Nomura's Step Down &**

**2011-12 Club Awards Celebration**

**More information to come**

