

WEEK 41 FOUNDATION MINUTE – SUNSHINE ON A RAINY DAY

During the past 12 months we have learned of over 3 million deaths world-wide due to the Covid 19 pandemic. A recent Blog from Maria Elena Tronqued-Lagniton, a Philippines Rotarian, suggests that each day is a gift to be shared with others.

“What if today was the last day of your life? Would you be fulfilled with how you have invested your time? Would you have any regrets? Time is the currency we begin each day with. It is our most valuable and most limited asset.” The chair of the hospital she worked for was a PDG – ALL he ever wanted to talk about was Rotary!

“One day, I took part in a medical mission to a province north of Metro Manila to feed a group of indigenous people. They had to travel all night from their homes in the mountain just to have access to care. This level of effort was more than I could comprehend. As the children started chasing balloons around an open hall, I was struck by how simple things like a napkin or a glass of drinkable water, were an extravagance for them. As a breeze carried the stench of garbage from down the street on this humid summer day, I wondered how they could really get used to that smell.

I knew then why I needed to go on that medical mission. Even though I work at a hospital and see people in need, I still find myself irritated by simple annoyances, like a cup of coffee gone cold, or a computer that freezes up on me. As I began to take part in my Rotary club’s service projects in poor areas of our city, I increasingly saw how often I take for granted basic necessities — a roof above my head, a refrigerator to keep food cold, and clean running water. Things like air conditioners, smartphones, cars, even hepa filters to purify our air during this pandemic, are luxuries that simply don’t exist a few short miles away.”

Consider whether you can make the time to participate in a project assisting the children of your community this month.