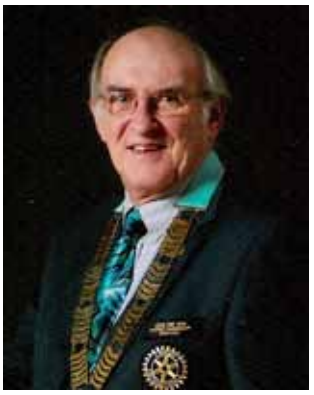
R.M. Christie
Eskbank, Scotland

Robert (Bob) Christie stated that his interest in the Global Network for Blood Donors is as a donor:



> *"which I became in 1972 in Inverness, Scotland where it was discovered that I could produce the antibody AntiD which is used for the prevention of the Rhesus disease in newborn babies. I gave my 600 donation on Christmas Eve 1990 which was a record number of donations by an individual donor in Scotland. [I] was awarded the British Empire Medal by Her Majesty the Queen and went on to donate just short of 800 donations before the British Health Service decided that they would no longer require our services."*

A wine merchant from Eskbank, Scotland, Bob Christie, celebrated Christmas on Monday, December 24, 1990 by giving his 600th "armful" of blood - through the Plasmapheresis procedure - at the Lauriston Place donor centre in Edinburgh. After moving to the Edinburgh area in 1974, Christie went to the centre every Monday before work to donate blood to provide valuable anti-D, a concentrated antibody which was given to mothers to prevent Rhesus disease in new-born babies.

At the time of this donation, along with his total commitment as a donor, Christie was praised as a good friend to the Blood Transfusion Service in many other ways. He served on the executive committees of both the local and national Scotland Association of voluntary blood donors and contributed the donor viewpoint at editorial meetings of Donor News - the bi-annual newspaper produced by the Service especially for blood donors."

Today, Bob Christie sent this message:
"I would encourage anyone and everyone to become a Blood Donor, you never know when you or any member of our family may require a donation of blood or plasma."

Picture at the top is a current picture of Christie. The middle picture shows Christie with Sister Bremner at the blood donation center in 1990, at the time of the 600 donation. Bottom picture is with his wife Ray.

Additional Notes

- The anti-D Rhesus programme was pioneered in Inverness in 1969.
- Treatment using the concentrated anti-D antibody became routine treatment in preventing Rhesus disease in new-born babies which was believed throughout the later part of the twentieth century to almost eliminated the disease.
- Plasmapheresis is a procedure whereby whole blood is taken from donors. The blood runs through a centrifuge which extracts the plasma and returns the red cells to the donor. Because the plasma is made up by the body within hours - donors can give plasma more often than whole blood.