

**TURNING WHEELS OF BULAWAYO
ROTARY CLUB**

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Once again we are approaching the final countdown to Christmas. This has not been an easy year, for Rotary, individuals or the country. However, we are still here plodding on regardless of the speculation about the Y2K disasters, which were to overtake us.

I have been giving this whole Christmas thing some thought and it seems to me as if we are loosing sight of the Christmas story and our part in it. Not only that but the excitement of this time of the year has been lost. We do not look forward to December with the anticipation anymore. In short it's another trying month to get through. I am not going to speculate about the reason for this, as I feel there is enough despondency around. However, having children in the house has given me another viewpoint. To them this is an exciting time. There is lots of anticipation, speculation and new things to do and see. To them the problems with which we seem to surround ourselves are far away and not to be considered.

I am not saying we should ignore all around us and just live for the moment. But I do think we should re-look at ourselves and try to bring things into perspective once again. The simpler view is sometimes lost because we are too busy trying sort out the complicated issues. Where as if we look at the simpler side then the complicated issues sometimes sort themselves out.

Maybe this is a good time of the year to take stock of ourselves, and our Rotary Club. Where are we going and are we willing to continue down this path. Are we trying to be too ambitious considering the amount of people in the club whom are willing to get involved? Are we loosing sight of our abilities and resources? Are we not trying to feed, clothe, educate and house the whole nation, just because the need is there, without considering if we are able to do this with the resources available? Maybe, just maybe we should take a long hard look at the situation and regroup our forces.

This seems a good time to end off. May I take this opportunity to wish each one of you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year. We look forward to the year 2001 and pray it will be a better year than 2000.

Chris Pool.
President.

NOVEMBER MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have just returned from the Foundation seminar held in Masvingo over the weekend of 17th to 19th November 2000. What a pleasant weekend it turned out to be. I originally went out of a sense of duty, but came away, feeling entertained, refreshed and motivated. The emphasis was on fellowship, with the whole family joining in. Which made me think about all the other fun times I had experienced, and the common denominator is fellowship. If you are having fun you are also enjoying good fellowship.

Recently we may have lost sight of our fellowship. I cannot say I blame anyone, as the blame must lie fairly and squarely with the situation in our country. However, I do think it is up to us to encourage fellowship within our club, our friends and family.

I also think that the only way in which our club will survive in the difficult times ahead is to have strong fellowship. As more and more needy situations arise and we are put under more and more pressure to give assistance we will find ourselves relying on each other a great deal more. The only way in which we will come through this is if we are comfortable with each other. This can only be achieved by fellowship. We are all different, with different needs, feelings views and backgrounds. We all see things differently, but have to work together as a club. We can only be effective in maximizing our resources if we all pull together.

The DG was most impressed with our club and the way in which the projects were being managed. He thoroughly enjoyed the assembly and the subsequent dinner. He was still talking about the visit to our club at the Foundation seminar. So whilst I have been harping on about fellowship, we already have a good start. All we have to do is build on it.

That's all for now.

Chris P.

Between Two Worlds

Valley Rotarian on a mission to help improve education prospects for Zimbabwe children

By Ian Lidster (special to the Echo)
(Comox Valley Echo, Tuesday, April 25, 2000)

"Bulawayo is a city of contrasts; from the sophistication of computer equipment in private industry to unbelievable poverty by our standards. From KFC franchises and fine Italian restaurants; wonderful outdoor markets with fruits and vegetables to filth and despair. From beautiful landscaping to piles of rubble and garbage. Then again, I have seen this in our cities as well, but it is not the same."

Excerpt from Doug Ante's Zimbabwean Rotary Journey diary

Once it was known as Southern Rhodesia (named for Cecil Rhodes, of 'scholarship' and colonial African expansion notability), and it virtually epitomized the 'white' African colony of pith-helmeted expatriate colonels, safaris, pink gins on the terrace brought by ever-obedient and servile 'boys', and all the other elements of glory days of Empire, when the landmasses on the globe were dominated by the color pink.

Later, it became simply Rhodesia and, during the days of Ian Smith, a protracted conflict, which led to civil war, a unilateral declaration of independence from the Commonwealth, and a UN trade embargo, the state became a symbol of the last gasp of white minority rule against the rising tide of native African control of former colonies.

Since 1980 it has been Zimbabwe and, while the nation has its independence, with black majority rule, it remains regularly in the news, as the dictatorship of President Robert Mugabe wanes in influence, tribal factions make their claims for control, democratic factions hope for constitutional change, and the white farmers (still rich, and still holders of huge tracts of the nation), attempt to carry on regardless.

Zimbabwe's economy is a shambles in the sense that the populace has virtually no purchasing power, an inflationary spiral has rendered the national currency largely valueless, and health care (in 1996 the World Health Organization reported that out of a population of nearly 12 million, more than a million Zimbabweans were HIV positive), and education are suffering grievously.

It is of the flailing and failing education system in Zimbabwe that Comox Rotarian and businessman Doug Ante became most concerned. A concern that has become not only an obsession for Ante, but also a way of life that he welcomes.

Ante first visited Zimbabwe in 1997 as a tourist. He was so struck by what he saw there, that in late 1999 he went back for a hands-on experience of bringing some of the affluence of our community, as well as his skills as a former teacher, to the flailing Zimbabwean education system. A system that he believes, should it collapse, will lead to the newly-emerged nation collapsing in chaos. With the children, he believes, there is hope for the future.

"Two things blew my mind," Ante says. "The first was the amount of material things that were available in Zimbabwe, but there is literally no money to purchase those things. Bulawayo is a thriving place, and even boasts stores the equivalent of Costco, but few people have any money. There is also a strong will to succeed, as well as ability, skills and manpower.

The other thing that "blew" Ante's mind, was the shambles of the school system. He had gone back there, on behalf of Rotary International, with the desire to help school kids, and to bring them some sorely needed supplies.

"What happened, was I ended up advocating for the teachers," he says. "These are talented, articulate human beings - and they feel forgotten, they feel that nobody in authority cares. And it does seem that nobody really cares, and that's a tragedy for the future of the country."

There is universal education of sorts in Zimbabwe, Ante says. But it only lasts until the child finishes grade seven. After that, they must pay to go to school - about the equivalent of \$50 Canadian a term. Most do not have that sort of money, so the children leave school.

At that point, he says, they can go to work in rural areas, for pennies, or they can migrate to the city, where the boys can end up becoming thieves, and the girls, prostitutes.

"A lot of what took place for me didn't truly hit until I got home," Ante says. "When I got back here, I realized I had played a significant role with the people I'd come in contact with. I'd told them they had a role to play in the evolution of their country. They'd never been told that before."

Of the current political strife in Zimbabwe, Ante remains warily hopeful. The dictator Mugabe, he says, assuredly surrounds himself with loyal troops, but the army is generally in favor of constitutional reform. If a leader has lost the army's loyalty, he will ultimately lose the day.

Meanwhile, many of the whites he met with have changed significantly in attitude from the days of Ian Smith. They now want Zimbabwe to succeed, and they look to South Africa as something of a model. While there are still racist attitudes in some, he found most to be much more tolerant than he anticipated.

"The whites who remained are survivors," Ante says. "They're really quite amazing people who are on the leading edge of a lot of things that could really bring the country around. There are townships there, too, but not like they had in South Africa. While they are not inspiring, they are clean, relatively crime-free, and have electricity and running water. I met Ian Smith's former finance minister when I was there. He was an intriguing man, and was responsible for the development of townships."

During his sojourn, Ante spent the bulk of his time working in rural villages. He was commended on a couple of occasions, because the black Zimbabweans with whom he was working had never really seen a white man do manual labor.

The reality of his stay in Zimbabwe was different from what he anticipated.

"I thought there would be a beginning, middle and end to my trip," he says. "I thought I would distribute the \$40,000 worth of goods raised by Rotary, and then come home. But, it has now become a lifetime commitment for me, based on the reality that we have so much, and they have nothing."

Currently, he says, there are four Rotary clubs in Zimbabwe that have become involved in what he is doing, so there is a momentum transpiring.

"I am going to make two more trips in the next 18 months," he says. "The second trip will be up to three months long. I plan to take three teams, made up of six Rotarians each from the district. Right now the district is compiling the information on schools with need."

A significant factor in the success of the work, he says, is for those who go there to gain an appreciation of how the African mind works. If they are not directly involved in a project that might be bestowed upon them, they claim no ownership. They need money and they need materials, but they must do the work themselves. Then it becomes theirs.

"As an example, in one of the schools I was at, the kids had to walk five kilometres daily to get water for the school. Some of them had already walked 12 kilometres to even get to school. The headmaster wanted me to do something about it."

What Ante did was tell the headmaster to have the children each carry two rocks to the school each morning for a period of time. After a few weeks he had sufficient rocks for what he had in mind.

"When that was done, I got some cement and built them a cistern that could collect rainwater off the roof", Ante says. "Ultimately, I built three cisterns, which will give them sufficient water to last them year-round. What they really needed in this case was the cash. Money to buy the cement, and money to buy the gutters for the roof, so the water could be directed into the cisterns."

Likewise, in terms of a future project, Ante recognized that the soil in the area was fertile, but few vegetables were grown, because the wild goats tend to eat everything.

"So, they need fencing," he says. "Once they have the fences, they can grow gardens."

In his 5.5 weeks there, Ante says he was literally busy seven days a week, and regretted none of the intense involvement.

"I didn't go as a tourist," he says. "I had done that two years before. I was there to work, and I loved it. Africa's secret weapon is its children, and I wanted to do what I could for them. The children are immensely charming and friendly, and it takes nothing to get a smile from them."

Another sidelight of his trip, Ante says, was that he developed a far greater respect for alternative medicine.

"The 'spirit mediums' - call them witch doctors at your peril - offer a culture that deserves great respect," Ante says. "I saw them accomplish some pretty amazing things, and both whites and native Africans use them regularly. I went there with a bad tennis elbow. A spirit medium used acupuncture on it. I don't have tennis elbow any longer; it's as simple as that."

Meanwhile, before he goes again, Ante says he would be delighted to talk to any group or organization, with no charge for his time.

"I've already spoken to Rotaries and church groups, and have travelled as far south as Oregon to do

so," he says. "It's all very rewarding, and I spend an inordinate amount of time with it. It's worth it. And, if you want to help, you can do so. Through the magic of Rotary International, you can turn every dollar you contribute into \$8."

As a special bonus for his work, Ante, and his wife Carol have adopted a little Zimbabwean girl called Sandie. While she has parents of her own, the Antes have taken over the cost of her education.

"We'll pay to put her through school there, and I would love to see her come to university here."

Rotary Events and News

From: Phil Whitehead <whiteheadp.thz@aamines.co.zw>

Rotary International, One Rotary Center, Evanston, Illinois, USA.
Rotary News Basket, No. 679, 25 October 2000.

President Devlyn pro-actively Creates Awareness and Takes Action to expand Rotary service into non-Rotary countries

The 18 October News Basket report on the 14-21 November official visit to China by Rotary leaders demonstrates the success of RI President Frank Devlyn's ongoing initiatives in exploring opportunities to meet with leaders in countries that do not currently have Rotary clubs. Given the importance of the upcoming visit of Rotary leaders to the Peoples Republic of China, President Devlyn has re-arranged his schedule to be able to participate in key discussions with Chinese leaders.

"These meetings with high-level Chinese officials are critical to Rotary's future in the Peoples Republic of China," the President said. "I feel it is essential for the most senior leader of our association to be there and signal Rotary's strong and united commitment to extending its presence into China. Therefore, I will be joining President-elect Rick King in these crucial discussions."

"This opportunity for conversations with Chinese leaders has been a high priority for me and I am pleased that one of the many approaches we have been exploring has come to fruition," the President reported. This visit is the result of President Devlyn's ongoing efforts to work with governments to open up more parts of the world to Rotary service. "With the support of the RI Board, I have been coordinating efforts of Rotary leaders to pursue negotiations with the Chinese government and bring Rotary back as an active force in the community. Key Rotarians are also investigating opportunities for Rotary's return to Cuba," President Devlyn said. "We need to create awareness of opportunities to extend Rotary service and take action to work out any obstacles that are preventing the formation of Rotary clubs in every country in the world."

Time to register for African Presidential Conference

The African Presidential Conference, scheduled for 26-28 January 2001, in Cape Town, South Africa, will offer a platform for all Rotarians to examine and discuss ways to enhance Rotary service in Africa.

Summarizing Rotary's challenge in Africa, RI President Frank J. Devlyn explained: "Rotary has done so much over the years to improve the quality of life in Africa, from PolioPlus to our many grants projects. But there's much more to be done."

South African President Thabo Mbeki has been invited to give a keynote address. Taking full advantage of a special feature of the conference, President Devlyn and senior Rotary leaders will exchange ideas with Rotarians on a wide range of Rotary-related issues. The RI president and Past President Glen Kinross will address participants on "Creating Awareness and Taking Action in Africa" and "A Look at The Rotary Foundation in Africa."

Discussion topics include preventing urban violence, creating jobs to impact the quality of life for people with disabilities, addressing African health and world population concerns, ensuring literacy for the girl-child, and identifying opportunities and challenges in African membership development and retention.

To expose participants to international service opportunities, a projects fair and Task Force exhibition will be held on 26 January. Rotaractors and Interactors will also have the chance to discuss their vision of Rotary service at a youth forum.

Social events planned for the conference include a host hospitality evening with Cape Town Rotarians and a conference party featuring local entertainment. Participants also will be able to enjoy the many beautiful sights of Cape Town, such as museums, art galleries, scenic parks, beaches and a breathtaking landscape.

Due to space limitations, it is important that those who wish to attend the conference register by the 31 December deadline. Registration fees are US\$80 for Rotarians and guests and \$8 for Rotaractors, and include the conference plenary and discussion sessions, coffee breaks and one lunch. Room rates at the Cullinan Cape Town Waterfront Hotel, the conference headquarters hotel, are \$78 and \$89 for single and double accommodations.

Registration forms and further information on the conference can be obtained from the International Meetings Division by fax: 847-866-9239; telephone: 847-866-5202; e-mail: lammys@rotaryintl.org; from the Meetings section of the RI Web site at <http://www.rotary.org>; via the RI faxback service at 800-510-8726; or by writing to RI Registration Department, IM300, One Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Ave. Evanston, IL 60201, USA.

RI receives top public relations award for PolioPlus

Rotary International has received the International Public Relations Association's (IPRA) 1999 President's Award for its PolioPlus program, which is the first and largest private-sector support of a global health initiative.

"I can think of no other more deserving organization to receive the IPRA President's Award than Rotary International," said IPRA President Roy Sanada when presenting the award to Rotary Foundation Trustee Chairman Herbert G. Brown at a 20 October ceremony in Chicago, Illinois, USA. "Their initiative to protect the children of the world from a crippling and tragic disease is a superhuman effort that only existed in dreams until Rotary turned it into reality.

They have achieved the impossible and will be remembered by the children of the world for many years to come."

"I am honored to receive this very prestigious award on behalf of the 1.2 million men and women of Rotary dedicated to eradicating polio, a disease that has crippled and threatened the lives of children throughout the ages," said Brown.

Established in 1997, the award celebrates "outstanding contributions to better world understanding" by individuals or institutions that have utilized the tools of mass communications to promote the principles of peace, social justice, cultural understanding or the role of public relations. Past recipients include the Nobel Foundation, the International Red Cross, Band-Aid, The World Wide Fund for Nature and South African human rights activist Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Using communication tools such as Public Service Announcements, posters, billboards, folk songs, and promotional messages placed on floats, trucks and rickshaws, Rotarian volunteers across the world continue to mobilize parents cut off from the mainstream by conflict, geography or poverty to get their children immunized.

Rotarians join efforts to immunize 70 million African children

Rotarians were among tens of thousands of volunteers and health workers who joined efforts to immunize 70 million children against polio in synchronized National Immunization Days (NIDs) across 17 West and Central African countries.

Ninety-three Rotarians from 13 districts in the Western United States volunteered alongside thousands of African Rotarians to help out at immunization posts, deliver polio vaccine, help parents get their children immunized, transport health workers, and recruit fellow volunteers to assist during the NIDs.

Recognizing the U.S. Rotarians' international outreach, RI President Frank J. Devlyn said: "This volunteer spirit is what enables Rotary to move toward its goal of polio eradication."

Organized by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) with support from RI,

the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as other organizations and governments across the world, the health campaign is part of the global initiative to eradicate polio.

Countries that participated in the first round of NIDs, on 14-23 October, included Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. Cameroon, Chad and Cote d'Ivoire will join the campaign in November.

Putting political will behind their governments' health services, several heads of state personally launched the campaign in their countries. Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo attended his country's launching ceremony on 14 October. Nigeria is key to the polio eradication effort in Africa because it is the most populous and the largest remaining reservoir of the wild polio virus on the continent.

"The federal government, on its part, will do all it can to ensure that polio is eradicated in Africa as has been done in other continents," said Obasanjo.

"I hope that when Rotary International celebrates its 100-year anniversary in 2005, it would be against the backdrop of a polio-free world. This has been our goal, this has been our aspiration," said Adedejin Adefeso, a member of the African Regional PolioPlus Committee. Since it was established in 1985, PolioPlus has contributed \$109,391,903 to the fight against polio in Africa.

More than 25 million flood victims in Asia need assistance

Severe flooding shattered the lives of more than 20 million people in southwestern Bangladesh and more than five million in West Bengal, India, in September. The governors of districts 3280 (Bangladesh) and 3290 (India) are seeking international assistance to help these victims rebuild their lives.

Also in September, torrential rains destroyed hundreds of homes in Jeonranam province, Korea, leaving many residents homeless and struggling to survive. The governor of District 3710 is seeking international assistance to help these flood victims, and has established an account to support relief efforts.

November 2000 % Attendance.

NAME	M %	YTD %	EXCUSED ATTENDANCE	
Andrew Jack	0	25		
Barbour Celia	75	90		
Bond Laurie	100	100	Katz Basil	
Bond Maureen	100	100	Munyoro Nehemia	
Chiponda Charles	100	100	Stipinovich Joe	
Clark Ron	50	80	Weeger Fr. Odilo	
Cooper Alan	50	60	Whitaker Gerry	
De Souza Ali	100	100		
Dlamini J. C.	75	80	CLUB AVERAGE SENT TO DG.	54.2%
Downing Alan	100	60		
Dube Kingsley	75	70	TOTAL MEMBERS	40
Geddes Gordon	100	100		
Ilic Jasmina	100	100		
Johnson Marina	50	75	NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD	4
Lazarus Charles	50	70		
MacDonald M.	25	40		
Maibvisira Edward	25	80		
Maksimovic 'Maks'	100	80		
Maphosa Norman	50	40		
Matatu Sipiwe	100	100		
Milic Stanko	0	5		
Mladenovski 'Joca'	50	30		
Naik M.D.	100	100		
Ncube Nomsa	50	65		
Ndoro Cecil	50	55		
Peters Tony	50	60		
Pool Chris	100	100		
Rensburg Eric	100	100		
Ross Malcolm	25	45		
Scott Rev Noel	100	35		
Shoko Dennis	0	20		
Sinclair Brian	25	15		
Thomas Mark	0	25		
Vaghmaria Sash	100	100		
Williams Alban	75	60		