
Turning Wheels of Bulawayo Rotary Club

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July 2003.

From the RI President

I will rely on your support and your expertise in the coming year as we:

Lend a Hand to alleviate abject poverty
Lend a Hand to educate the illiterate
Lend a Hand to relieve the scourge of disease
Lend a Hand of fellowship to all members of the family of Rotary.

Whether we are reaching out to those in our own clubs, or reaching out to our communities, or reaching out to our world, we will *Lend a Hand to Sow the Seeds of Love*. By focusing on personal involvement, and working together, one hand can become many and there is no limit to what the helping hands of Rotary can accomplish.

Rotary Thoughts of the Month

'Lend a Hand' the new Rotary theme for 2003/2004.

Main focus areas: poverty, literacy, humanitarian needs, hunger and disease.

New RI President [Jonathan Majiyagbe](#)

'There is a loftier ambition than merely to stand high in the world. It is to stoop down and lift other men and women a little higher'

Outgoing RI president [Bhichai Rattakul](#)

Phil

We come to the end of a very busy 18 months and our fast-track experience into leading our wonderful District 9210. When I received a phone call from IPDG Rafiq Nathanie and PDG Derrick McDiarmid on 22 December 2001 I had no comprehension of what this role of service would require or demand.

Names like Anaheim, DTTS, Foundation Seminars, PETS, Conference and Convention were only names of non-descript places. Each with the friendships made on this journey are a rich tapestry on what was an empty cloth.

I will confess like all responsibilities when you are up to your "neck in crocodiles" it is difficult to remember what was the initial objective. The Zimbabwean backdrop of social, political and economic change has put the little extra into our year - much of which we did not find in the comprehensive training manuals!

The past year is studded with hard work, rewarding work and several warm and committed Rotarians easing the path Sandy and I trod to fulfil our obligations. These have been many and yet as we reflect at the end of the year it has been deeply satisfying and worth every ounce of energy we could commit.

The District I trust is different for our passing. More especially our communities in a small way richer for our joint efforts. We are called to serve and as Rotarians to serve to the best of our ability.

The demands of District 9210 are enormous when you contemplate the mere five focus areas we have worked on in the past year. We have succeeded in pushing the boundaries on HIV/Aids, Malaria, Polio Plus, Famine Relief, and poverty alleviation. The work must continue and I am confident under William Nyirenda's leadership we will continue to climb to new heights in our Foundation giving, project support, fellowship and training.

I am indebted to so many that it is hard to not spin a long list of names. Much of this was done in person at our recently ended District Conference in Bulawayo that again has been a successful and motivating event. We finalise the last details and know we will contribute to the District funds with a profitable position.

Recognition is important and both in international awards to the "Three Musketeers" (Eric Marques - PolioPlus Award from Glen Kinross; Chris Molam - Service

Above Self Award and Derrick McDiarmid - TRF Citation for Meritorious Service) and District awards we have done well. To the many recipients of Paul Harris Fellowships and the two Major Foundation donations - we salute you all.

Each aspect of the District's life has inched forward and I am confident of this ongoing positive momentum. My thanks to District committee Chairmen. Assistant Governors and club Presidents for all achieved.

The District is studded with selfless Rotarians committed to our ideal of Service above self. In no small way we are assisted by our formal and informal networks from the staff at Evanston and Zurich, our matching grant partners, GSE and Youth Exchange support and our regional Governors Council of East and Southern Africa. Our formed international partnerships with World Food Programme, WRAP and others have benefited our communities enormously. Our friends and close allies in PDGs and Rotarians across the globe who have strained their own clubs and districts to come to our aid. Thank you seems hardly enough and yet it is the simple recognition of you all.

District Governors are renowned for "long speeches".

I return to my club to play a more active part as a Rotarian, proud to have been "called upon in the District's hour of need". The story recounted in Bulawayo of Cincinatus in 5 BC returning to till the lower 40's is my call. "Stony Ground" remains the path - many much more worthy, many stronger.

As said at the Bulawayo Conference - the year's effort can only be dedicated to my long time friend, confidant, youth exchange stalwart and the Rotarian who was able to achieve so much more for our District this past year - Peter Johnston. A special thank-you to Pam for your courage and support in a difficult year for us all.

Thanks to Sandy, Wendy, Mark, Kristin and Lauren for the sacrifices made. The personal cost can never be quantified.

Best wishes to the "Lend a Hand" team, to William and Mabel best wishes for an adventure of a lifetime, to Assistant Governors, Club Presidents and all District office bearers - let's continue with the good work.

Phil Whitehead
District Governor

Sandy

As our year draws to a close, I should like to say thank you all so much for the wonderful experiences we have shared with you. I have a whole book full of memories of a very special year. Perhaps a good way to describe it would be a roller coaster ride, for from the moment we embarked on this journey just 18 months ago, there as not been one boring moment!

As I flipped through my diary I recalled with pleasure our time of training in Anaheim and meeting Governors from around the world, our adventure trip to Malawi for the wonderful conference at the lake with Nelson Mandela as the guest of honour, the many inductions we were privileged to attend, the amazing Charter night of Victoria Falls Club, the great Rotarians we met and projects we saw on our visit to Zambia.

I will never forget the road to Mumbwa, the warmth of the people at the Charter of Tete and first Foundation seminar in Portuguese, the amazing sunset on Beira beach, Phil and Julie being so ill there, our club visits in Malawi culminating in the Charters of Mzuzu and Chipata (where I sprained my ankle).

I remember well the warmth of the welcomes as I visited Anns and Inner wheel Clubs in Zimbabwe, being moved to tears at the kindness we were shown by many new Rotary friends, the excitement of experiencing the Eclipse with the youth exchange students, our delight at the Charter of Borrowdale Brook and the pleasure of meeting old friends at the

Governors' Council in Benoni.

Thank you for supporting our District Conference in the City of Kings. It was a great pleasure to have so many of you with us to share in the celebration of what had been accomplished and to enjoy fellowship together. My special thanks to Anns Conference Convenor PDG Ann Shelagh Meikle and our wonderful team who worked so hard to ensure that it was such a success.

I feel truly blessed to have been able to share these experiences with Phil over the past 18 months and am proud of the way he has encouraged and inspired Rotarians across our District, coped with the huge amount of mail and admin that goes with this task as well as continuing to manage his company so well, faced the enormous problems in our region and still made time for our family.

We have just returned from the Rotary International Convention in Brisbane which was truly a remarkable experience. What a joy to meet up again with friends from all over the world, to be inspired by RI President Bhichai Rattakul and other speakers, to experience the spectacular opening and closing ceremonies, to know that we are playing our part in eradicating polio and to know that we in District 9210 are making a difference. Let us look for the harvest in people's lives as we have sown the seeds of love this year.

DG Ann Sandy

SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE ROTARIANS

1. ATTENDANCE: They always make it a point to attend as many Rotary meetings of their clubs and also of other clubs, as is possible. They are aware that attending Rotary meetings is a very important part of being a Rotarian. They do not miss any chance to attend such meetings. They also attend meetings of various committees of which they are members and even some others if they are invited. They are keen to attend various district functions and all projects of their club. They are proud to attend the district assembly and the district conference every year. They would try to attend the Rotary convention atleast once in five years.

2.FELLOWSHIP: They enjoy meeting other Rotarians. They often feel that in some of the Rotary functions meeting and exchanging greetings with others is often as important as actual transactions of the meeting. They go out of their way to talk to those whom they do not know. They go by the dictum that a stranger is a friend whom

you have not yet met. Even outside Rotary they enjoy meeting people and getting acquainted with them. At large gatherings of Rotarians they try to meet members from other clubs, rather than fraternising with members of their own club.

3. VOCATION: They have respect for every vocation. Vocation and classification are the basis of Rotary. They firmly believe that each vocation provides a cog in the wheel and each one has its own importance, however insignificant it may appear by itself in comparison with others. They firmly subscribe to the view that each person should try to excel in whatever he is doing and try to help others to reach a higher level of efficiency in their work.

4. DISCIPLINE: They believe that no useful work can be achieved in a productive manner without discipline, both within and outside. They appreciate the value of self discipline because they are aware that like charity, discipline begins at home. Not only do they practice discipline but will also enforce it when needed.

5. TIME, MONEY AND ENERGY: They know that they are in Rotary for a purpose. They fully realise that they have to earmark a certain amount of time, money and energy for Rotary as a part of being a Rotarian. They also realise that they are members of a society where all these three items are to be shared for their vocation, family and the community. They see to it that a proper balance is maintained while rationing out these commodities.

6. EMPATHY: They put themselves in the position of the other person, especially if the other person is in difficulty. They know that mere sympathy is never enough. They feel the pain experience difficulties of others themselves. They also understand that what they are doing for the community is merely returning a very small part of what they have received from it. They know that it is only human to expect some kind of recognition for what they are doing but do not hanker after getting credit for it.

7. IMAGE OF ROTARY: There may be moments when they feel that all is not right with Rotary. They may feel that there is 'politics' in Rotary. They know that there are some elements in Rotary who should not be there. They, however, look at the good aspects of Rotary. In public and outside Rotary, they always make it a point to project the best face of Rotary. They would not like to let the public image of Rotary get tarnished.

Dr Jagdish Bhatt

Classification: Sexologist
PP Rotary Club of Bombay Airport

This article was first written for Rotarians on the Internet (ROTI) and has been published in over 150 Rotary club bulletins and translated into French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German and Thai languages after being on the ROTI site of internet. Dr. Jagdish is a charter member of ROTI (www.roti.org).

Rotary International designate each month to a particular subject.

This is part of each club's Rotary Year Planner.

July is 'Literacy Month'

The word 'Literacy' means the ability to read and write.

Former RI President Glen Kinross advocated that 'education is the platform to prosperity - prosperity enables peace'.

Many clubs focus their efforts on projects promoting literacy to enable the poor to make their lives better and creating a more literate society. The topic of adult literacy has never been more timely in Africa. With the large number of youths and adults for whom earlier education was insufficient or denied, entry into the world of literacy opens a possible path to future economic and social change as well as democratic participation.

PP Maureen Bond

Bulawayo Rotary Club

Rotarians in action

A candid conversation with President-elect Jonathan Majiyagbe

Lending a hand

In 2003-04, Jonathan Majiyagbe, a member of the Rotary Club of Kano, Nigeria, will become Rotary International's first president from Africa. He is the principal counsel of the law firm J.B. Majiyagbe & Company, and a member of the English and Nigerian bars. Majiyagbe has served in virtually every leadership position since joining Rotary in 1967, and he and his wife, Ade, are Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation of RI. Recently, he joined *THE ROTARIAN's* editor in chief, Vince Aversano, at RI World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA, to explain his vision and goals for Rotary.



This interview also appears in the March issue of *The Rotarian*.

President-elect Majiyagbe, what do you hope to accomplish this year as president?

I will encourage Rotarians to help meet the basic needs of the many people who live in desperate circumstances today and to use literacy as a key tool for alleviating poverty. An important area of emphasis will be the family of Rotary. I will appoint an RI Family of Rotary Committee, and I will encourage all clubs to do the same. This committee will develop ways to promote fellowship and care among our fold, making members feel more comfortable and welcome. I believe this will help us to increase membership and retain members. My other emphases are poverty alleviation, health, literacy, and education.

What one thing would you like to change about Rotary?

I would like to see Rotary become more of a family organization, for the human family is indeed one. That is why I will emphasize the family of Rotary. By this I mean not just Rotarians but all of those people who care about Rotary: the spouses and children of Rotarians, as well as the Rotaractors and Interactors who support Rotary's efforts through their own service projects. I especially want Rotarians to remember the widows and widowers of our deceased members, because many of these people devoted as much time and energy to Rotary as their spouses did. We need to recognize their efforts and keep them involved in club activities.

What motivated your choice for the 2003-04 RI theme?

Most of the themes in years past have challenged us to follow the idea of Service Above Self. People have an immediate and natural impulse to help others in need, and to be a Rotarian is to make a commitment to act on that impulse, whether the need is great or small. Therefore, I was motivated to challenge Rotarians to continue doing what they do so well, what comes naturally to them: Lend a Hand.

Do you spend much time meeting with RI President Bhisai Rattakul, and do you plan to continue with some of his ideas?

As I have been preparing to take office, the president has been most generous with his time. I have the highest respect for him and for his leadership, and I look forward to the days when we are both in Evanston so we can meet to share our thoughts. We both believe that Rotarians need to renew their commitment to vocational service [one of the four Avenues of Service]. We also believe that Rotary clubs are the backbone of our organization. And we believe that Rotary has only begun to tap its potential as a force for world peace. Isn't it interesting that two people of such different backgrounds and cultures can have so much in common? So, yes, I do see myself working with some, if not most, of President Bhisai's ideas. The president and I are very excited that we will be able to offer continuity of leadership to the world's Rotarians.

How do you see the role of RI president? Has it changed over the years?

The president's role as it relates to the RI Board of Directors is that of first among equals. More broadly, the president serves as a goodwill ambassador in his travels throughout the world and his meetings with heads of state and other leaders and dignitaries. Perhaps the most

important aspect of the president's role is to motivate Rotarians through the annual theme and the message it conveys. Although the role of the president has expanded over the years as Rotary has grown, the core functions have not changed.

How did you feel when you learned you had been nominated as RI's first African president?

I had a sense of pride that Rotary practices what it stands for: the democratic principles that enable us to select leaders without undue influence regarding race, religion, or political persuasion. As an African, I bring a certain perspective to the organization that I hope will inspire Rotarians to respond to the dire needs of people in impoverished parts of our world. But I will be serving as president of Rotary International in all of its 164 countries, so my primary concern must be to bring Rotarians together and not spotlight any one part of the world.

How did your experience as chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Kano, Nigeria, help you as a Rotarian?

I have drawn upon my experiences as chancellor to enrich my life as a Rotarian on a philosophical level. Most significant is the example of the good Samaritan, the notion of unselfishly helping others. Also important is the idea of using service to others as an opportunity to thank God for his goodness to me.

What kinds of people have had the most influence on your life?

People of great intellect, integrity, judgment, and love for others, who, as a result of these qualities, have become leaders of their communities. Of course, many of these people are Rotarians. Some are past presidents who have carved a path of leadership for me to follow, and many are grassroots Rotarians, whose enthusiasm and hard work never fail to inspire me. AIDS has had a devastating effect on Africa's emerging middle class.

How will this affect Rotary clubs?

Specifically, it will impede our efforts to recruit younger members in countries where the disease is spreading most rapidly. Beyond that, the AIDS crisis has many repercussions that are tearing apart the fabric of society and that cry out for Rotarian concern. For example, more than 12 million African children have lost one or both of their parents to this devastating disease. Someone must care for these children. While the power to eradicate AIDS as we are eradicating polio is not yet within our grasp, Rotary clubs can respond with efforts such as the SEED project, now underway in Uganda. U.S. and local Rotarians established a microcredit loan program, supported by a 3-H [Health, Hunger and Humanity] Grant from The Rotary Foundation, to help destitute women, many of whom lost their husbands to AIDS and who are HIV positive themselves. The women also work together to improve community life through water, sanitation, agricultural, and environmental projects.

How effective is it to encourage Rotarians from industrialized nations to make short humanitarian trips to African nations?

Rotarians may lack the power to eradicate AIDS, observes Majiyagbe, but clubs can respond with projects such as the SEED microcredit effort in Uganda.

