



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



ROTARY'S FOCUS, YOUNG PEOPLE AND PEACE

PRESENTED AT THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE OF
DISTRICT 2290

By

PRID/Trustee Sam F. Owori (RIPPR)

STAVERN, NORWAY

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- Greetings from Ravi and Vanathy
- Ravi says: **Be a Gift to the World.**
- Last year Gary said: ***“Light up Rotary”***.
- These resonate with what Rotarians do!
- The world is often unfair and dark.
- But Rotarians promote fairness and comfort.



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- Why are we here?
- Compelling desire to touch someone's life.
- Normal natural feeling to do good.
- Not necessary to know the beneficiaries.
- As we interact and share experiences:
 - We are engaging Rotary
 - We are changing lives for the better
 - We are lighting up Rotary.



PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS

RAVI asked me to remind you of Presidential citation including.

1. Membership Development and Retention

- Achieve a net gain in membership
- Achieve a net gain in female membership
- Improve member retention by 1%
- Increase new member sponsors by 1%.



PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS

2. Foundation Giving

- Support TRF by contributing min.\$20
- Attain a minimum Annual Fund contribution of \$ 100 per capita
- Increase the total number of Benefactors , or PHFs by at least 1.



PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS

3. Humanitarian Service

- Sponsor at least One RCC
- Partnership with at least one Corporate
- Partner with at least 5 clubs in your area to promote visibility.



PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS

4. New Generations

- Sponsor Institutional Rotaract
- Sponsor Community based Rotaract
- Sponsor Interact club.



PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS

5. Public Image.

- Update club website
- Update club brochure and newsletter.



ROTARY'S SIX AREAS OF FOCUS

- Are pre-dominantly about young people.
- About mothers who are pre-occupied with young people.
- About correcting injustice, indifference, and abuse.
- About hostility and world Peace.
- About Rotary's relevance and future.



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ROTARY IS A PEACE AGENCY

- Changing lives means fostering peace.
BUT
- Peace means different things to people.
- For young people and Mothers:
 - Peace is clean water and sanitation
 - It is decent shelter and clothing
 - It is a full belly



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- Good health and freedom from disease
- It is the right to work
- It is good education and literacy
- Peace is security and self-esteem.
- It is enjoyment of human rights.
- It is the absence of WANT.



What is the reality?

- **Dirty water**

As we open taps and drink, shave and shower, let us remember that there are millions who cannot access clean water, yet water is life.





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- Remember that every second, 8 children under 5 years die from drinking contaminated water.
- So, as you Rotarians provide clean water, you are saving lives, and promoting peace and goodwill.



POLIO ERADICATION

- PolioPlus Rotary's only Corporate project is an unequalled contribution for children.
- Africa is off the list endemic countries with wild polio virus.
- Only Afghanistan and Pakistan left and pressure is on them.



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- **Poor shelter**

As we retire to our houses at night, remember that there are millions who have no roofs over their heads and are not impressed by the gap between them and you. Rotarians can narrow the gap and create peace and goodwill.





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- **No clothing**

Millions cannot keep warm or even clean, because they have nothing to wear. Many of us have missed many opportunities to empty our wardrobes of many clothes you have not worn for a long time.





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Famine and Hunger

- Many of us feed well. But remember that there are millions of hungry and malnourished people all around us.
- Statistics show that 1 billion people go to bed hungry every night.





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- It is also reported that one child is dying of hunger every 3 seconds.
- This is the **TRUTH**.
- But it is **NOT FAIR**.
- And will not Build Goodwill or Friendships.
- We Rotarians make a difference.
- But we must do better.

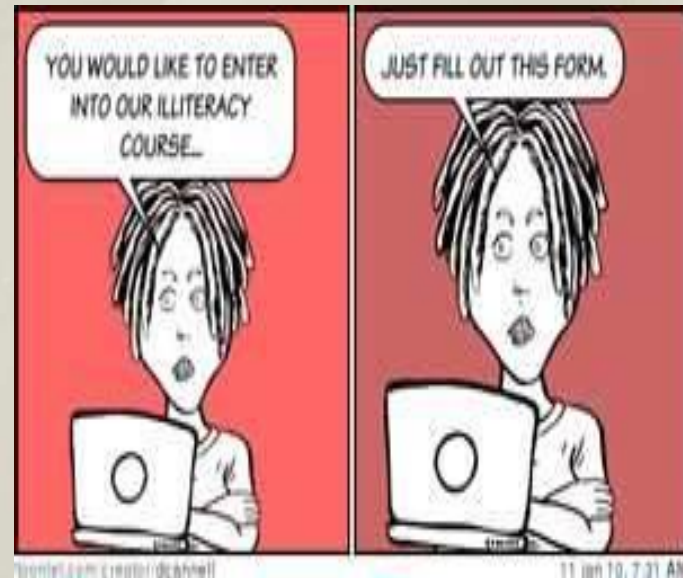
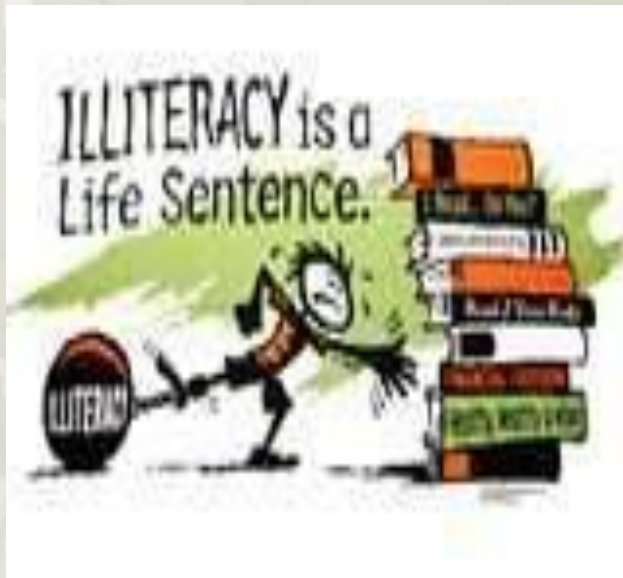


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Illiteracy

- Here, we take reading, writing and numeracy for granted.
- But a large part of the world is illiterate.
- As technology develops more are becoming illiterate.
- Here too Rotarians can make a difference.



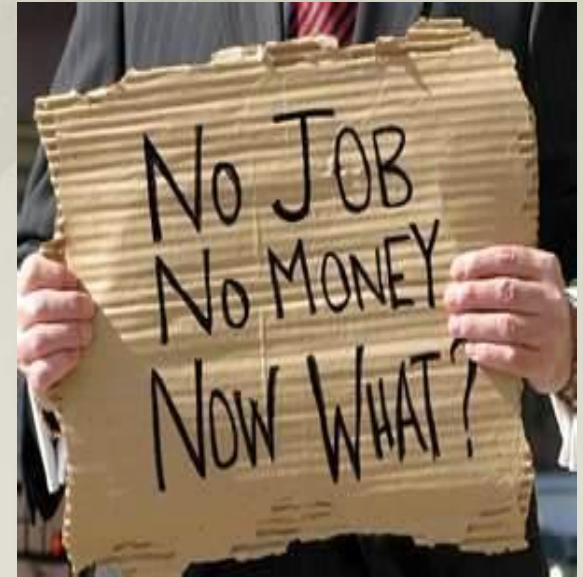


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- It is said , that ill health is a by-product of poverty and illiteracy, and if that is correct, Rotarians should take note and strive to make a difference.

- In a situation where there is:
Unemployment



- Then what do you expect?

These are the beginnings of insecurity, discontent, hate, robberies and revolutions.



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- The poor and destitute don't choose that situation.
- Could be victims of history, systems, structures.
- If situations perpetuate inequality and suffering;
- If there is no empathy with the suffering people;
- If there is superiority of one group over others;
- We lose capacity to prevent/ resolve conflicts.
- So it is self preservation, for Rotarians to Be a Gift to the world.



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- Fairness and Equity prevent explosive situations
- Rotarians make a difference through projects.
- Being good and fair is self preservation
- We cannot live in isolation.
- So it is self preservation for Rotarians to “Be a Gift to the World”.



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- **Insecurity**

Greed, arrogance, poverty, oppression trigger insecurity.





Past RI President Ed Cadman said:

“Peace must start with the absence of war, but peace is more than that.....Most of all , peace is love.”



A Hungry man is an Angry man.

Past RI President Raja Saboo once told us
in quoting Mahatma Gandhi:

“ God himself dare not appear to a
hungry man except in the form of
bread.”

- What choice do mothers and the young have in an old male dominated world?



WE LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE

- Corruption is rampant
- We glorify evil and despise good.
- The honest are called fools.
- Crooks are called smart and rewarded.





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WE LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE

- Protector becomes the persecutor.
- A victim is blamed for being in harm's way.
- Sectoral allocation of national resources is skewed.





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WE LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE

- We pay little attention to vulnerables.
- Trade Unions and Media are weak.
- Leaders are sensitive to constructive criticism
- Impunity reigns and there is no shame.

NB: Without shame there are no minimum standards!



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- Yes this sounds like a litany of lamentations.
- But the list is actually longer.
- The litany shows that things are upside down.
- But Rotarians can turn things the right side up.



Mahatma Gandhi said;

There is enough in this world for everyone's needs but not for everyone's greed."

- Greed affects the needs of young people most.**



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- Today Rotarians are generally old and male.
- Yet majority population is young and female
- World Demographics should guide us.
- Future is Interact and Rotaract clubs.
- It is in mentoring and integrating our successors.



Albert Einstein once said:

“ We live in a dangerous world not because of the evil bad people do, but because of the many good people who look on and do nothing.”

- Yes, there are still many good people.
- But they are often quiet.



Fortunately Rotarians are different:

- We don't just look on
- We do something
- We do alleviate the suffering.
- We promote friendship and fairness.
- But we must focus on young people for sustainability.



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- Polio-Plus has shown that Rotary can change the world.
- And we can do much more
- But we need numbers and diversity.
- More Rotary in Rotarians
- More Rotary visibility to change lives



As the preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO states:

“ Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.”

- Young minds are receptive.



Yes, it is in our minds that the devil has his battlefield, and that is where the battle for peace must be won.

And this is best done in young people.





THINK ABOUT THIS!!

- 1% of the world population controls everything
- For 30% of the population, going to war is a step in improving their lives.
- Poverty is a recipe for violence and warfare.
- Deprived populations have little to lose!



CONCLUSION

- Engage Politicians and Civic Leaders
- The Media, Faith and Opinion leaders
- Family: Spouse and relatives
- Professional and Business Associations
- New Generation/ youths, schools, colleges
- We need a critical mass.
- Let us make Rotary a force for good.

BE A GIFT TO THE WORLD



Thank you!