

Our Foundation

The Our Foundation newsletter is one of the monthly features of the Rotary Global History Fellowship (RGHF)

www.ourfoundation.info



Our Foundation - June 2008

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROTARY LEADERS

FOOD CRISIS HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION — PEACE AND STABILITY AT RISK — AFRICA'S INABILITY TO FEED ITSELF

**WITH DWINDLING
SUPPLIES OF FOOD
AND NO MONEY
THE POOR ARE
SKIPPING MEALS
AND EATING LESS**

"This (food crisis) threatens not only the hungry but also peace and stability," the head of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), Josette Sheeran, warned in a recent speech.

With escalating food shortages and prices and subsequent food riots this crisis is casting an ominous shadow on world peace and stability.

Haiti's government has been recently driven from office by violent protests over food prices that have reached 100% higher than last year (and is still rising). Other countries—Egypt, Cameroon, the Ivory coast, Senegal, Burma Faso, Indonesia and Madagascar have also suffered food riots.

So many areas of Africa, the war-torn sections and the politically

corrupt are all suffering, and Africa's inability to feed itself compounds the problems.

Poor everywhere are coping with the fast rising increase in prices and the decrease in the food supply by cutting back their meager meals. With dwindling supplies and no money they are skipping meals and eating less.

In addition, simple health expenses and educational expenditures cannot be met and are being eliminated.

Rotarians, are there ways we can help?

Eddie Blender, Editor
EBlender@aol.com



WHAT DOES THE ENVIRONMENT HAVE TO DO WITH PEACE AND THE FOOD CRISIS?

Did you attend the Presidential Peace Summit in Windsor, Ontario in April? The keynote speaker was Robert F. Kennedy Jr. a leading environmentalist who stated: *"We must protect our environmental infrastructure in order to achieve peace and justice. The value systems that unite humanity are rooted in nature."*

Let's get down to some specifics.



- **Global warming is now:** Most would think that warmer is better, however that is not true. During Europe's 2003 scorcher, which brought temperatures 10 degrees above normal, Italy's corn yields fell 36 percent (a record), France's fruit harvest fell 25 percent and wine production was the lowest in 10 years. Crop losses totaled \$14.6 billion. Get used to it. In the past, the negative effect of unusual weather events was always temporary; within a year or two, things returned to normal, however with climate influx, there is no normal to return to. Higher temperatures also mean that fewer crops are pollinated: corn tassels dry up above about 70 degrees; rice pollination falls from 100 percent at current temperatures to 50 percent if the world gets 3 degrees warmer.



- **Global warming brings more rainfall:** Rainfall has been coming in fits and starts—dry spells interrupted by deluges. That is a prescription for withering crops and then washing them away. Globally, the amount of land experiencing very dry conditions rose from less than 15 percent in 1970 to 35 percent today.



- **Water Wars are happening now:** Because of global warming dryness became prevalent and farmers in search of useful land (and water) have moved to other locations triggering ethnic violence and land and water wars.





THE DEVELOPING WORLD NEEDS TO DEVELOP ITS OWN ABILITY TO FEED ITSELF

EASIER SAID THAN DONE!

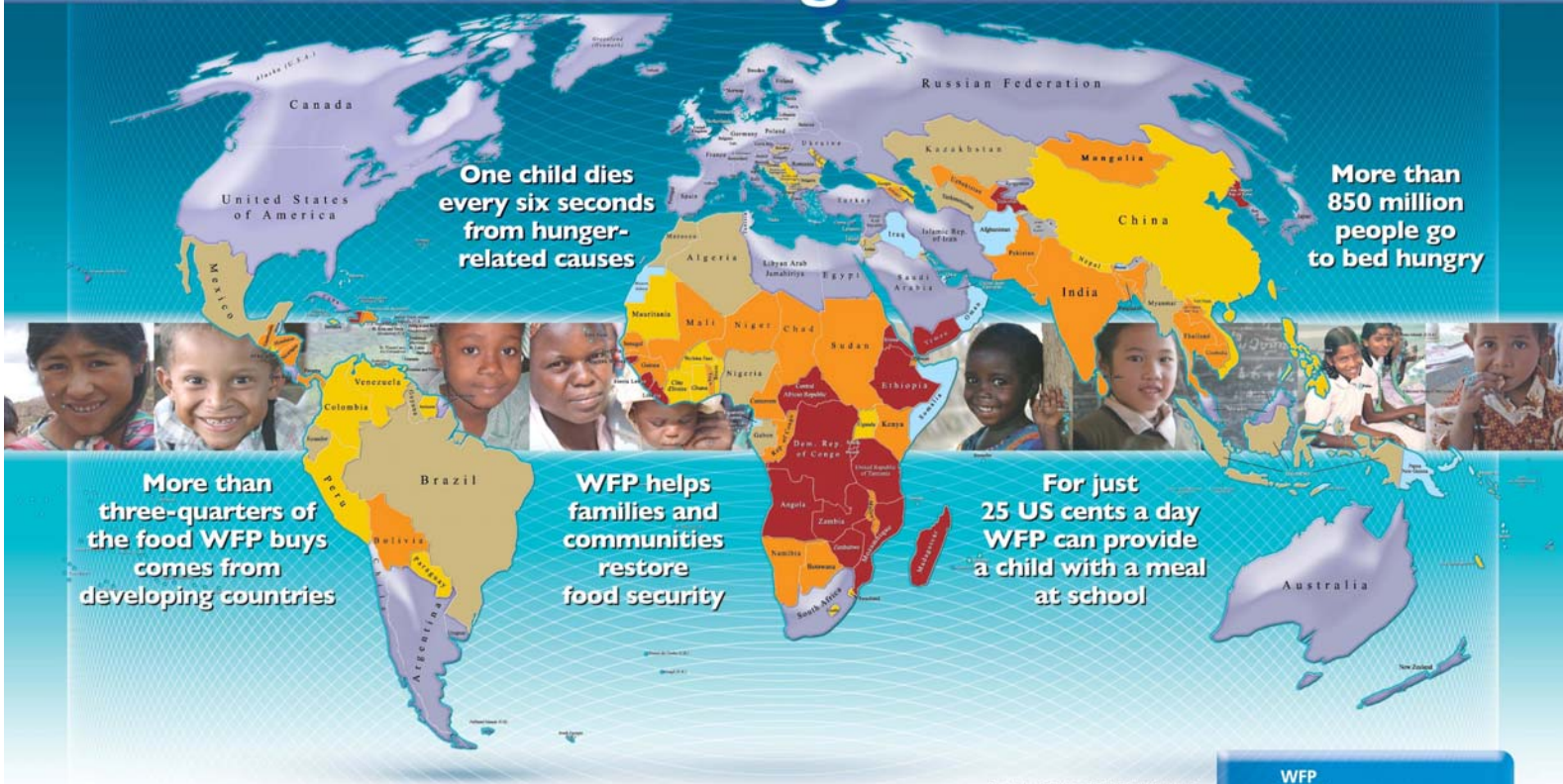
Do we lobby our governments to help, to develop solutions? Or do Rotarians take action and begin grassroots initiatives?

What are some of the actions needed?

1. **Providing cash to buy foods locally:** This would stimulate farming in those countries that need food.
2. **Help to increase food production:** Provide aid for new and updated technologies and newer seeds (aid for research) to boost yields. Provide assistance to develop new agricultural markets.
3. **Emergency Aid now:** Since the 1990s Western Europe has provided all of its food aid in cash while the USA buys all of its food aid from American Farmers and then also pays for shipping — wasting millions of dollars! The American Farm Lobby supports food aid as long as it gets the profit. The developing world needs to develop its own ability to feed itself. For that to happen, American farmers will have to stop taking subsidies and be weaned out of the food aid program.
4. **Population Awareness:** There is an ongoing major threat of global over-population with estimates of a 10 billion person world population. How will we feed them all with billions born and guaranteed to live in poverty, squalor and hunger? It is imperative to educate (especially the girl-child) in population awareness. Rotarians, are there ways we can help?



World Hunger



Category	1	2	3	4	5	no data	incomplete data
Undernourished	≥35%	20-34%	10-19%	5-9%	<5%		
Description	Very high	Moderately high	Moderately low	Very low	Extremely low		

World Food Programme
www.wfp.org

Sources: The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2006, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and FAO/IFAD. © 2007 United Nations World Food Programme

Start with Rotary
and good things happen.



Rotary. Humanity in motion.

rotary.org





REACH

Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger

At the International Assembly in San Diego, *Rotary International President-elect Dong Kurn Lee* said he was in disbelief when he learned that 30,000 children under the age of five die every day from preventable diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhea, measles, and malaria.

"Once I understood the issues behind that terrible number, I knew what I needed to do," Lee said. He told the incoming governors that Rotary will keep the service emphases of recent years – water, health and hunger, and literacy – but asked them to focus their efforts in each of these areas – on children.



*Rotary International President-elect
Dong Kurn Lee*

CHRONIC HUNGER AND UNDERNUTRITION

Rotary International's Health and Hunger Resource Group will be sharing information with clubs and districts regarding a new United Nations initiative called REACH (*Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger*).

- Millions of children worldwide are victims of chronic hunger and undernutrition:
- Currently, undernutrition contributes to more than three million preventable child deaths each year.
- The poverty cycle is perpetuated by undernutrition and hunger through reduced physical growth, lower capacity for intellectual development, and poor economic productivity.
- The UN estimates that the direct cost of *not* addressing child hunger and undernutrition is US\$20 to \$30 billion annually.

To tackle these issues, the UN World Food Program (WFP), UNICEF, and WHO are launching *Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger (REACH)*, which is aimed at halving the number of underweight children by 2015,

REACH will help achieve the first Millennium Development Goal, which is to: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

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UNDERNUTRITION

The initiative will mobilize political support, secure financial resources, and establish partnerships to raise awareness - and promote solutions - to curtail child hunger and undernutrition.

➔ **REACH** will focus on reducing undernutrition and hunger among children in target countries, which may include one or more polio-endemic countries.

IPDs ...

**Rotary is now doing
IMMUNIZATION PLUS DAYS.**

**We don't just do polio.
We do all the other things,
including malaria nets,
de-worming medication,
measles, etc. And this
has been tremendously
successful.**

WFP, UNICEF, WHO, and other key agencies will lead efforts to support cost-effective national and community programs that can have an immediate impact on children and mothers, such as:

- Micronutrient fortification and supplementation;
- Ready-to-use therapeutic foods
- Household water treatment;
- Hand-washing with soap;
- Parasite control measures (particularly de-worming and bed nets); and
- Household food security measures such as homestead food production.

Are your clubs and districts involved in health, hunger or water service projects? Please consider forwarding this information to Rotarians who may consider organizing related REACH projects in the future.

For more detailed information about REACH, please read the next five pages.

QUESTIONS? ... please contact : Christine Sanders (RI/TRF External Relations): christine.sanders@rotary.org, Tel: +1 847 866 3254



**END
CHILD
HUNGER**





end child hunger & undernutrition

- Worldwide, up to 400 million children are today suffering from hunger,
- undernutrition is a key contributor in the deaths of over 3.5 million children under 5 every year.
- And yet the causes of child hunger are:
 - predictable,
 - preventable and can be addressed through
 - affordable means.
- International agencies, NGOs, civil society and the private sector are working with affected countries, communities and families in a renewed effort to eliminate child hunger and undernutrition.



REACH *Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger*

Ending child hunger and undernutrition

Reaching out in response to the global emergency in child undernutrition

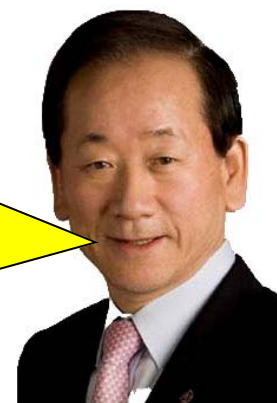
Today, about 150 million children under five worldwide are undernourished, and undernutrition is a key contributor to more than 3 million preventable child deaths every year.

While current global rates of progress in reducing undernutrition are positive, they are insufficient to reach the Millennium Development Goals on hunger. Many countries are off track and need urgent action to turn things around, while globally, existing efforts must be more than doubled to meet the MDGs.

Reaching the [Millennium Development Goals \(MDG\)](#) through effective joint action

In the spirit of the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, REACH is a global coalition seeking better coordination, more coherence and better targeting of efforts, coupled with the promotion of a menu of proven interventions, to get affected countries back on track to meet the MDGs. Our mid-term goal (MDG-1) is to halve, by 2015, the proportion of underweight children.

In 2008-09, I will ask you all to Make Dreams Real for the world's children. This will be our theme and my challenge to all of you.



Five other MDGs depend on our progress on hunger: education (MDG-2), gender (MDG-3), child mortality (MDG-4), maternal health (MDG-5), and diseases (MDG-6). These goals can only be achieved through effective, cooperative joint action at all levels.

Reaching MDG-1 by putting nutrition at the centre of national development

To reach MDG-1, countries of highest undernutrition burden and prevalence need an urgent **acceleration of progress**. REACH seeks to achieve this acceleration sufficient to end child hunger and undernutrition within a generation, by promoting renewed commitment and enhanced capacity for acting at scale with well-targeted and effective solutions.

**THE FOCUS IS ON
NUTRITION TO
ADDRESS CHILD
HUNGER**

The **evidence base** for mounting a renewed, coordinated global effort to reach MDG-1 is laid out in the *REACH Global Framework for Action to End Child Hunger and Undernutrition*, our key strategy document that places a **focus on nutrition** at the centre of national development efforts, reflecting recent World Bank analysis, and documented successful national experiences.

Developed over two years by a broad group of partners and technical experts, the *Global Framework* is designed to promote, inform and help strengthen both regional strategies and national action plans to address child hunger. It will guide **REACH** through the launch phase in 2008 to 2015 and beyond and will be updated periodically by partners to reflect the best available evidence and thinking.





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REACH approach: global support to country-led delivery of proven solutions

Within this framework, **REACH** will foster better alignment between national food and nutrition systems and the international nutrition system, supporting country-led efforts to address those issues that no country alone can resolve. The **REACH** approach – whereby regional, national and community-level efforts are all aligned to deliver proven, effective interventions – is already bearing fruit in West Africa.

Here the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) of the five countries in the northern Sahel – Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger – have formed the *Sahel Alliance to End Child Hunger and Undernutrition*. UNCTs are working closely with national governments, NGOs and other partners to address some of the world's most severe prevalence rates of child undernutrition, with encouraging progress. Similar approaches are being developed and applied in eastern and central Africa, in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

Reaching launch phase in 2008

In the short term, immediate needs to launch the REACH strategy in 2008 include:

- **Comprehensive analysis** of the extent of the problem, of the gaps, opportunities and readiness within priority countries to undertake the necessary changes to scale-up key interventions identified from a menu of proven, effective, evidence-based solutions;
- **Effective national coalitions** to implement **country-specific road maps** and monitor progress;
- **Processes, systems and tools** for knowledge capture and management, linking up national coalitions in a network of regional and global partners and service providers;
- **Adequate resources** at the country level to act at scale and at the international level to bring the system into a functional performance;
- **Rollout of a global campaign** to increase awareness and understanding of hunger and undernutrition and mobilise resources to deploy solutions and actions needed to address them;
- **Strengthening of advocacy and communications** efforts and capacity in affected countries, and integration of communications into country level action on child hunger and undernutrition.



The United Nations Country Teams will first focus on Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger

THERE IS A NEED TO NETWORK WITH CIVIL SOCIETY PLAYERS SUCH AS ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AND THE BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

REACH Joint action to accelerate progress on MDG-1

Reaching out in 2008 **through a global network to end child hunger**

A global network of key actors is already working to reduce child hunger and undernutrition within the *REACH Global Framework*: international agencies

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“... too often, where we need water, we find guns instead.”

BAN KI-MOON,
U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL

such as UNICEF, WFP, WHO, FAO, UNHCR and UNDP; peak NGOs such as World Vision, Care, Save the Children, Caritas, and Helen Keller International; advocates for interventions such as GAIN and the Micronutrient Initiative; civil society actors such as Rotary International and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; cross sectoral fora such as the Standing Committee for Nutrition and the private sector led World Economic Forum. All these actors support better coordination to achieve better outcomes for children and families and in 2008 REACH will seek to build a broad coalition to achieve more effective country-level action on child hunger.

One goal End child hunger and undernutrition – within a generation.

Two key objectives by 2015:

1/Halve the % in 1990 of underweight children to under 5 (MDG1, Target 2 , Indicator 4) **beyond 2015:**

2/Achieve sustainable acceleration in rate of reduction in child underweight to eliminate the problem within a generation

Three strategic approaches

1/**Partnership:** catalyse effective, coalitions of partners at national, regional and global levels.

2/**Operational:** strengthen national capacity and enhance commitment to deliver evidence-based solutions at scale in highest-burden countries, leveraged by regional and global action;

3/**Advocacy:** increase awareness of both the problem and solutions, including their cost, globally and at country level; promote the work of coalitions of partners; strategically align with existing efforts.

Four intended outcomes

1. **increased awareness** of the problem, and of potential solutions
2. **strengthened** national policies and programmes
3. **increased capacity** for direct community action
4. **more efficiency and accountability** of global efforts

Five more MDGs... ... are dependent on achievement towards the MDG “hunger target”: education (MDG-2); gender (3); child mortality (4); maternal health (5); diseases (6).

Six countries... ... contain more than 60 per cent of the world’s underweight children; and just 20 countries contain about 80 per cent of the world’s stunted children.

Seven challenges...

1. **Get ending child hunger and undernutrition onto the agenda – and keep it there;**
2. **Do the right things:** focus efforts and investment in implementing, at scale, food and nutrition solutions that are

FIVE MDG GOALS ARE DEPENDENT ON THE HUNGER TARGET:

1. EDUCATION
2. GENDER
3. CHILD MORTALITY
4. MATERNAL HEALTH
5. DISEASES





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integrated, evidence-based, and proven to be effective;

- 3. **Don't do the wrong things:** avoid duplication and dilution of focus and resources;
- 4. **Act at scale:** aim at universal access from the start for proven interventions;
- 5. **Reach those in need:** apply appropriate, equitable targeting that addresses social inequality;
- 6. **Make informed decisions:** strengthen monitoring and evaluation of impact processes;
- 7. **Build strategic and operational capacity:** increase leadership and strategic management capacity at the country level.



Global targets on child underweight:

- 1990: 33 percent
- 2005: 29 percent
- 2011: 22 percent
- 2015: 16.5 percent.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO END CHILD HUNGER AND UNDERNUTRITION?

— It will need the world's attention, will and resources on understanding what is needed – when, where and by whom – and on responding to those needs with urgency; it will need country-by-country analysis, identifying what works where, to establish priorities, make policy reforms and determine appropriate interventions;

— it will need direct, coordinated and scaled-up action addressing the immediate causes of child undernutrition (through focused packages of interventions) while promoting sustainable solutions.

Partners in REACH will raise awareness of this problem and advocate for proven, effective solutions; UNICEF, WFP and WHO are joining with others to demonstrate that an end to child hunger and undernutrition is within the world's REACH. Will Rotarians join in?

**TO ATTRACT THE
WORLD'S ATTENTION
WE NEED:**

- understanding of what is needed
- responding with urgency
- establish priorities and
- have appropriate interventions

REACH → Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

email: endingchildhunger@gmail.com or visit <http://endingchildhunger.blogspot.com>



ROTARY CENTERS UPDATE

NEW FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION OPTIONS

The Rotary Foundation is pleased to announce the integration of its peace education initiatives. Rotary's World Peace Fellowships for master's degree and professional development certificate study have been consolidated into one program. This change allows applicants to apply simultaneously for both options by including all seven Rotary Centers below in their preferencing options:

- Rotary Center at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (professional development certificate)
- Rotary Center at Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA (master's degree)
- Rotary Center at International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan (master's degree)
- Rotary Center at Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires, Argentina (master's degree)
- Rotary Center at the University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, England (master's degree)
- Rotary Center at the University of California, Berkeley, USA (master's degree program)
- Rotary Center at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia (master's degree)

Part of this integration is the adjustment of the application and selection schedule for the professional development option. The Rotary Center at Chulalongkorn University will continue to offer two sessions of training each year from January-April and June-August. Applications for both sessions will now be due at the same time as applications for the master's degree option on 1 July with selection taking place one time each year for the master's degree fellows as well as both sessions of professional development fellows.

More integration news will be released as it becomes available, along with new application forms and promotional materials. Applicants should continue to use existing application forms until these new items are finalized.





SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PEACE FELLOWS PROGRAM

NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2008

The Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution and the Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program seek applications for their next sessions.

Districts must submit completed applications to The Rotary Foundation no later than 1 July. Find applications and information on the [Rotary Centers](#) and [Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program](#) pages.

And don't forget about the recruitment race for alumni and current students! Fellows and alumni can win a free trip to the 2009 RI Convention in Birmingham, England, and to the second Rotary World Peace Symposium by being the top applicant recruiter for 2009-11 Rotary World Peace Fellowships. Make sure the candidates write in your name when they state how they learned about the program on their applications.



OUR SEVEN PEACE CENTERS

Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA (joint Rotary Center)

International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan

Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires, Argentina

University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, England

University of California, Berkeley, USA

University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand

In October 2008, we'll tally the recruiters' names and announce the winner. Start recruiting now!

SOURCE:

UN OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Reporting on humanitarian events in the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia

Executive Summary

Food insecurity is an issue in many countries across the region. The humanitarian impact of the rise in food prices has been felt particularly in Egypt, Yemen and Tajikistan. In Egypt, the price of basic food staples has soared by 70%. The situation is exacerbated by Egypt's reliance on food imports and it is believed that the impact of international high prices may worsen if imports are not reduced and local production of staples increased. In Yemen, more than 6 per cent of Yemenis have dropped below the poverty line due to rising staple food prices, joining the 40 per cent of Yemenis already living on less than \$2 per day.

In some areas in Yemen and Tajikistan, there are indications that the problem could be compounded by drought and locusts. Thousands of Yemenis in the Taiz Governorate could be displaced because of drought since they rely on rain and springs for their water. In addition, there are fears of an unusually large locust outbreak in Tajikistan, which would increase food security because of damage to crops and result in more people requiring food assistance in 2008.

The humanitarian update is a monthly publication from UN OCHA's Regional Office in Dubai, reporting on the main humanitarian events in the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia. This update is based on information from UN Agencies, other responders and donors, and media sources. For more information on Iraq or OpT, please visit www.ochairaq.org and www.ochaopt.org

For more information, please contact: Nadia Evans, OCHA Dubai, 00971 50 2279808, evans2@un.org

Attachments:
Full_Report.pdf:

http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/retrieveattachments?openagent&docid=E8A9A9575444988485257443005926EC&file=Full_Report.pdf





WHAT PAUL HARRIS SAID...

PEACE OR WAR

"It is easier to interest men in war than in peace; it therefore requires more moral courage to talk peace than war."

Paul P. Harris

Rotary just at the Threshold,
THE ROTARIAN, February 1917

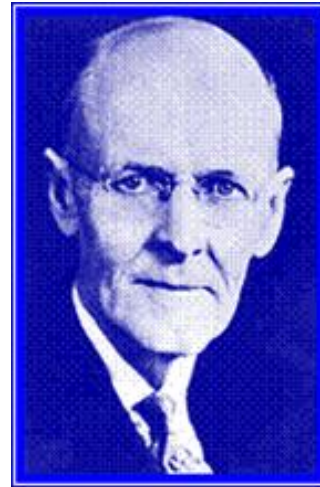
Part of the mission statement of the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International states we strive for, "... the achievement of goodwill, world understanding and peace".

Our seven Rotary Peace Centers each (in their core studies) teach mediation, peace and conflict resolution.

Rotarians believe "Peace Is Possible"

Our founder Paul Harris was explicit when he said, "It is easier to interest men in war than in peace; it therefore requires more moral courage to talk peace than war."

Harris set the course for Rotary to follow.



Paul P. Harris



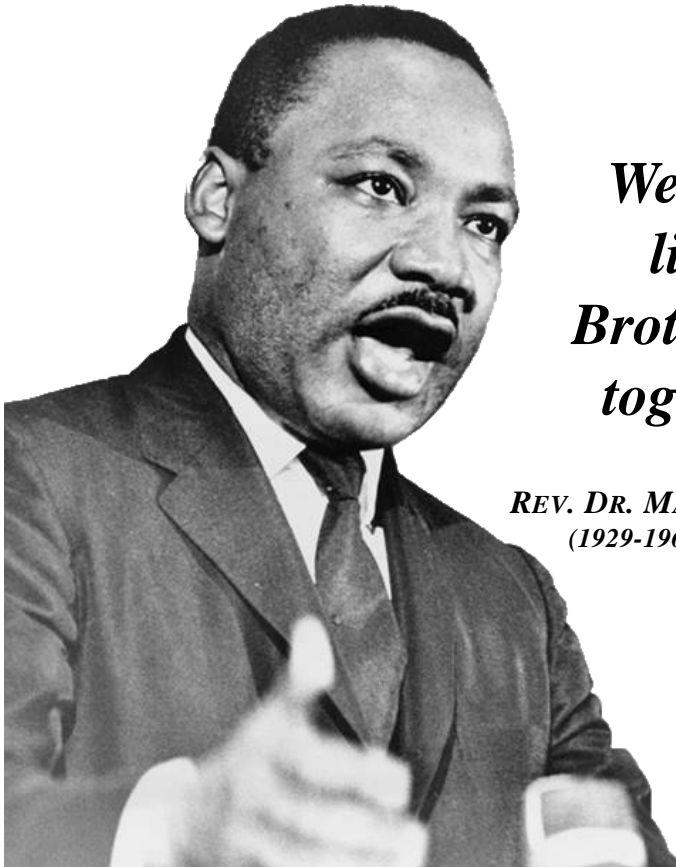
A "WHAT PAUL HARRIS SAID" message will be sent (free-of-charge) to you regularly and also to whomever you wish. Please register for this free service at: www.historycomment.org

What Paul Harris Said is a monthly feature of the Rotary Global History Fellowship

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*We must learn to
live together as
Brothers or perish
together as fools.*

REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
(1929-1968), US CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER

