

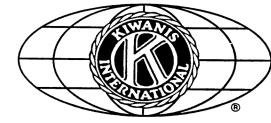
# The Kiwanis Chronicles

**News of the Club and the Community it Serves**

**February, 18 2009**

**Volume 8-9, Issue 23**

**"A Record of Tomorrow's  
Good Fortunes"**



**Serving the Children of the  
World**

**La Mirada Kiwanis Club,  
La Mirada, CA**

## Pulling Teeth in India

Our speaker of the morning was Dr. MIKE WINTER who just returned from India where he worked with a group of volunteers to treat groups that receive little or no routine medical help. This is the second trip he has made with the first being two years ago. The group was led by Biola's Dr. Rick Bee and his wife Julie. Mike was the only dentist in the group. There were five nurses and an M.D plus some support people making a total of fourteen. They were treating the Dalits who are better known as the Untouchables. There are 300 million Untouchables in India (Roughly the population of the United States) out of a total population of one billion people.

The Untouchables do all the menial labor. They clean the sewers; they butcher the animals; they do all the "unclean" things that need to be done. There are four groups in the caste system and they are not even in the four. They are below that. They are not allowed to marry upward. If they drink from a cup, the cup is broken so as not to be used by anyone else.

The Dalits earn about 200 rupees a day. There is a service group with whom Mike is associated who are trying to help the Dalits. They are building schools and teaching crafts. At the moment they supply the labor to crush rocks and concrete with a sledge hammer. Mike noted that you see them as you drive by and you begin to realize they will be doing this all day, all year, maybe all their lives.

The church he works with concentrates all their monies and energies toward India. They teach skills to the women so that they can make the saris that will help them break the cycle of poverty. The group that does this is called Operation Mobilization. Now they are teaching computer skills. Mike suggests that maybe one day they may be the ones answering the phone to give us tech service.

Mike brought out a map of India to show us where he was during his trip. (It was in the Southern part.) He mentioned that each state has its own language. Their destination was about a four hour drive. The roads are pretty much potholes and of questionable standards. Some are like our Imperial Highway. The roads are filled with pedestrians, animals and conveyances. There is never a dull moment as the driver tries to work his way along the road.

He ran a short video and noted that the dental work was quite primitive. He brought an album of tooth extractions that would not be on the front page of a morning newspaper. The use of a numbing agent was the only way they could get the teeth pulled.

They had translators and sometimes it would take two translators to talk to the patient. (One from English to a second language and a second one to a third one that could be understood by the patient.) They stayed in hotels; the weather was nice. The food was great; it wasn't all curry and rice.

They saw some two thousand patients in the two week trip. There were some 450 eye glasses fitted out of the 600 they took. The eye glasses were the only items they had trouble getting through customs. The inspector wanted to know how much they were selling them for. Once he was told nothing and when he asked for a pair, they were given to him, everything was OK.

They had wound care, some health screening, blood work and blood pressure checks. If the person had teeth problems or a tooth ache they were directed to Mike. He saw around 300 persons. He pulled eighty three with only two that were beyond what he could do with the tools he had.

Mike told that the counseling center was often the bottleneck. There were many instances of domestic violence to the women from their husbands. Sometimes the husband would be the town or area policeman which would give the wife no place to turn. Sometimes just touching an untouchable was healing in itself. They would refer them to persons in the community who were a part of the service group and they would find them a way out.

Before they left, the team went out and bought 300 pounds of rice and a supply of soya based formula to help those who were malnourished. There were almost 200 converts, some of whom would face criticism from their family for their action. They do no hard sell of religion.

We thank Dr. Mike for a report on this trip where he gives so much.

## February 11 Dollars and Nonsense

The title was left but there were no dollars and nonsense so as to give Dr. Mike more time to talk of his trip. The meeting started with Valentine's Day Guest Rita Leslie leading us in the Pledge and PAT RUIZ and Dr. MIKE WINTER leading us in "America." Dr. ED NORMAN led us in the Invocation. There were announcements that included the start up time for the March 5th Pancake Breakfast (Serving starts at 7:00 AM.) The National Day of Prayer is going to be held the First Thursday in May. On the 19th there will be the Business to Business Expo at the La Mirada Country Club Clubhouse. The spouses and significant others were invited to this morning's breakfast to celebrate St. Valentine's Day. Five members, including TED CEAUSU, ART LESLIE, Pastor JACK MIRANDA, GERALD PEEBLER, CHRIS STAPLES and REED TAYLOR introduced their valentines.

### La Mirada Carnival

The Kiwanis Club has been invited to expand our activities at this venue. Besides the back gate and the front gate we can also handle the ticket booth. After a bit of banter, it was decided to ask for all three.

### Interclub

TONY ARMAS announced an Interclub at Anaheim on Thursday, February 26 at 7:30 AM.

### New Member Inducted

Well, actually an old member was brought back into the Club. ART LESLIE was a mainstay in the Club's early days and was responsible for many of its programs. Dr. ED NORMAN did the honors and we all welcomed Art back.



President Debbie supplies the hardware.



Rita Leslie does the pinning while Dr. Ed looks on.

### Spaghetti Dinner

The Key Club, as always, help make the Spaghetti Dinner a success. The Key Club Members who worked were: Stephanie Chan, Diane Ly, Steven Soto, Patricia Yoo, Jennifer Shin, Margaret Han, Jackie Tavera, Sammi Lee, Bianca Ceballos, and Brandon Suan

### Trivia Quiz

Why do they call elementary school "Grade School"? Why not "Level Ground School" or "Up Hill School. Why Grade School?

Answer: Next week or maybe someone wants to take a shot at it.

### Hand Puppets

We had a letter from Maddi's Closet thanking us for donating the hand puppets for the use of the children. (Actually they came from REED TAYLOR's warehouse.)

### Who Am I?

I attended UCLA (the University of Cerritos, Left on Alondra.)

I was a long distance runner as a Pilot at Excelsior High.

I plan on dying young as late as possible. Who Am I?

(Don't forget the evening members.)

### Last Week's Who Am I?

I received a scholarship to attend a music university upon my high school graduation.

I am holder of a U.S. Patent.

I once flew a bi-wing open cockpit airplane upside down.

Who am I?

Mark Royston