



Lend a Hand

Date: May 7, 2004  
To: Assistant Governors, District Leadership Team, Presidents, Secretaries, ICO's  
District Committee Chairs, PDGs, District Rotarians  
From: Nick Mascitelli, District Governor  
Subject: Weekly District Update



## Lend a Hand

### Important Dates

May 15, District Assembly – Stockton  
May 23-26 Osaka, Japan  
June 19, Transitional Cabinet Meeting

### Two Keynote Speakers at the District Assembly

Saturday morning Rotarian Jane Wiebe will deliver a powerful presentation titled "What will your Dash stand for?"

After lunch we will hear from Darla Calhoun, Founder, of the Agape Boys Home in Kisumu, Kenya, Africa, the subject of our "Project Hope".

### Sign up now for a Rotary License Plate – check out new Power Point Presentation

The RLP Power Point presentation has been added to our RLP website. It should answer most of the questions you and your members have about the project.

Check it out: [www.ca-rotarylicenseplates.org](http://www.ca-rotarylicenseplates.org)

It's our goal to get the Rotary License Plates on our vehicles to celebrate our 100 years of service - the year 2005.

### Mark Twain to visit Stockton Rotary - Next week, May 12

Mark Twain's characterization by Stockton Rotarian Gary Putnam presents the wit and wisdom of one of America's foremost authors. Gary's presentation is entirely derived from the writings and speeches of Mark Twain.

Samuel Langhorne Clements, who became famous under the pen name of Mark Twain, was born in Florida, Mississippi on November 30, 1835. The family shortly moved to Hannibal, Missouri, where Samuel grew up, receiving little formal schooling. He became a journeyman printer and then pilot of a riverboat. In 1861 he went to Nevada, where he wrote for the Virginia City newspaper. Then he went to San Francisco, where he achieved quick success as a humorist. Later in life a business failure forced him into a world lecture tour to pay off his debts. While disruptive for Twain, this tour provided the world with the rich gift of his satire.

Gary Putnam was drawn to Mark Twain based on the humor and critique of the world of religion. Gary first impersonated Twain while he was doing doctoral studies at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Following 26 years of service in ministry on university campuses, Gary served as the senior pastor at Central United Methodist Church on Pacific Avenue, across from UOP, until his retirement this year.

### Rotary's Centennial

Frequently, Rotarians ask what they should be doing in their Club, District and as individuals to help promote the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rotary International. The official launching of Centennial activities will be on February 23, 2005, and will continue through Rotary's Centennial Convention in Chicago from June 18 to 23, 2005. The following is a series of 12 steps that may provide guidance for Rotarians who wish to become involved in promoting this once-in-a-lifetime Rotary event. Three of the steps will be included in the next four issues of Friday Facts.

#### 1- Centennial Polio Plus Goals

Rotary District 5220 "Friday Facts"

In 1982, the Rotary's Polio Plus program was designated a "birthday gift to the children of the world" for our 2005 Centennial. Ever Rotarian's activity to help conduct National Immunization Days, supporting Polio Plus Partners projects, or maintain awareness of Polio Plus can actually assist Rotary achieve our Centennial Goal of a "Polio Free World".

## **2- Rotary Centennial Community Projects**

Every Rotarian should help and encourage their club to complete a Centennial Community Project to fulfill some significant community need. Over 5000 clubs, to date, have registered their Centennial Community Projects with Rotary International. Children's playgrounds, community parks, health clinics, groves of trees, senior centers, food banks and civic plazas are but a few of the various projects planned around to world.

## **3- Create A Centennial Twin Club**

Hundreds of clubs have established a "Twin Club" in another part of the world to promote international goodwill and friendship through joint projects, youth exchange, World Community Service, friendship exchanges and regular communication. Rotarians should seek out a "Twin Club", register the relationship and create new experiences in international fellowship

## **[GSE team member Chuck Carter is really getting what the Group Study Exchange is all about](#)**

After 2 days in Santarém, I feel like we have learned more than in the rest of the trip combined. We have learned about Brazilian and American history and how they have been entwined in ways that I never imagined. We have walked in the Amazon Rainforest for the first time and that is a learning experience in and of it. We visited a town today that Henry Ford built during the rubber boom, it was like walking through some American suburb of 100 years ago, with Brazilians in all the windows. Little square houses with little square yards and little white picket fences. Have not seen anything even remotely close to it in our time here. The town of Santarém itself is integrally tied to the American Civil War as 46 colonial families moved here in the 1850's and brought new agricultural equipment as well as cotton and watermelons. They also built a steam-powered automobile in 1872, 20 years before Peugeot (sp?) showed up in the south of Brazil. We learned much of this information from a man they call, "the walking library", as we sat in the house he built himself 70 years ago. He took us to the local museum and explained the differences between the two tribes which had inhabited this area; he showed us some of their artifacts as well as gave us the background on several local legends, including that of the "Amazons", a tribe consisting only of women. It has been difficult to keep all of this information straight, but it has been a fascinating couple of days.

At first, it did not seem as if we would be given access to the rainforest, it's not like you can just go walk in and give yourself a tour, you would probably make it about 10 feet before being stuck by a thousand thorns and then consumed by ants. We were however taken in to a state protected area with roads cut for our walking convenience. Being the middle of the day, we didn't get to see much in the way of wildlife, but did manage to spot some amazing insect life, leaf-cutter ants of course, some great looking spiders and a giant butterfly (our guide did not seem to think it was of the famed Morphous blue variety, although that is what it looked like to me) that resembled a flying blue leaf. We ate fruit off the forest floor and had a nice little picnic lunch as we tried to get a lizard to eat a caterpillar that was about half its size. It wasn't as hungry as we wanted it to be, or maybe it just knew something about that caterpillar that we didn't. After the forest, we took a great dirt road in the pouring rain and our VW van performed admirably, as it didn't get stuck or slide off the road one time. We cut open a rubber tree and made rubber strips instantly, pretty cool. We ate a marvelous lunch with at least 4 types of fish, then went swimming in the Rio Tocantins, which meets up with the Amazon in front of Santarém and in fact, forms another meeting of the waters where two different colored rivers flow together for some ways before mixing. Just upriver from where we swam, you could not see the other side although I never heard what the actual distance was. All in all, it turned out to be my favorite day so far, smelling the life of the forest in the air and feeling the magnitude of so much water around us. I believe we are getting back on board a boat tomorrow and heading the final 500 or so miles down the river to Belem to who knows what. Whatever it turns out to be, I

can't wait, although I am sure I will have to return to Santarém in future trips as there is just something magical about this place and the people who live here. Hope you are all well.

Jungle love,

Chuck 🍷

*Nick Mascitelli*  
District Governor