



District Governors February Newsletter.

For circulation to all Rotarians in District 1220.

Dear Rotarian

The Tsunami 5 years ago killed a quarter of a million people and many Rotarians continue to help the affected areas. This New Year has started with possibly an even greater challenge in terms of a natural disaster. The earthquake in Haiti involves a capital city and has destroyed the government as well as killing up to 200,000 people. What can we few Rotarians do to help? This is a question I don't have to ask, your response has been outstanding. The clubs and individual Rotarians have not needed to be asked, you have raised a fantastic amount of money from the public for the Rotary "Box" projects. These have again been in the forefront of the relief effort and will be for many months if not years to come. I am proud to be a Rotarian and privileged to be your Governor at this time.

By chance our RI President John Kenny has answered the question "What is Rotary" in this month's "The Rotarian" magazine. I recommend his answer to you all: It is a network of people who care - people who are both realists and optimists. We recognise the challenges before us and our own limitations; we also recognise our abilities and responsibility to use them to the fullest. If we are ever to realise Paul Harris' vision for Rotary as an organisation that promotes goodwill among nations, then, as he wrote, "the hearts of men must be so touched and molded that mutual understanding and goodwill take the place of fear and hatred." We do well to remember these words - and to remember as well that in all of our service, we reach for the larger goal of fellowship, understanding, and peace.

Thank you all on behalf of the Rotarians and people of Haiti who will be making full use of the clean water and shelter we will provide.

Yours in Rotary.

Best wishes.

Tony Stimpson