

INDUCTION: **LESLIE BROOKS**  
February 19, 2009



### **THE ROTARY YOU JOIN**

Rotary is 104 years old. Rotary has 35,000 clubs all over the world. Rotary has 1.2 million members. All of that is rah-rah. Who cares how old Rotary is, or how many other Rotarians there are? I don't.

I only care if there are people in the world who choose to do good, rather than sit on their hands or do evil. In Rotary, there are many people doing good. That is why I value Rotary. This does not mean that all Rotary does is good. You still have to discriminate and have half-a-brain at least. But there is much intentional good being done.

**Rotary World Peace Fellowships.** Sixty students from around the world (34 countries and diverse cultural backgrounds) will be Rotary Peace Fellows. This is a two-year masters degree program aimed to equip leaders with skills that reduce the threat of war and violence. Some examples:

- Abu Sifian Taj Elassfia from Sudan, age 28, has worked in Darfur to help displaced persons make income. He will attend Rotary Center at Duke University.
- Sara Sarno from Naples, Italy, age 28, works as a volunteer coordinator combating commercial sexual exploitation of and trafficking in children in Bangladesh. She previously was a Rotary Ambassadorial scholar in Quito Ecuador. She will attend Rotary Center at Universidad de Salvador, located in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Glenn Ian Raynor, from Victoria, British Columbia, age 40, works as executive director of Pacific People's Partnership, which develops sustainable economic structures in developing states in Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia. He will attend Rotary Center at International Christian University, in Tokyo, Japan.

**Nithi River Bridge.** The Kenyan village of Mutino was cut off from Kajuki, the town where they got medical services and supplies, by the Nithi River. In summer, it could be forded, at some risk. Villagers frequently drowned. The rest of the year, the Nithi was impassible, and a thirty mile round trip to another fording location was needed. The Rotary Club of Meru, Kenya, joined with the Rotary Club of Middleton, Greater Manchester, England, to build a bridge at Nithi, saving lives and transforming the local economy.

Leslie, this is what you join: large numbers of people, connected all over the world, finding something good to do and doing it—on purpose.

Welcome to Rotary, Leslie Brooks.

BRAD LANCASTER  
Membership Chairperson