

# Unposted letter

Convert  
acquaintances  
into friends

Dear Club Presidents,

“A man or woman” says, Gordon Byron, “who does not know how to make friends stands little or no chance in the modern world.” The Holy book of the Christians, the Bible, speaking on friendship says, “A faithful friend is something beyond price. There is no measuring his worth.” Volumes have been written about love and friendship. In the secret core of every human being there is a longing for love and friendship. Real friendship is a caring, trusting and affirming inter-relationship; it is a rare pearl, a sure shelter, an elixir of life.

You have a “one-in-a lifetime” opportunity to not only steer your club to newer heights, but also to acquire new friends. You have this unique chance of getting to know your “batch-mates” and also to foster very close relationship with your club members and their families. This is the time to convert acquaintances into friends and no person is rich enough to have a friend less. The friends that you make will make your life richer, mellowed and happier.

There was an accident on a national highway and a Rotarian travelling by his car was injured. People on a highway do not necessarily stop to help others. Many cars sped after slowing down a little to glance and notice that the injury was not a very serious one. A car stopped by the side of the upturned car and a man alighted, walked to the injured Rotarian and helped him on to his car to drive to the nearest hospital. When the injured Rotarian asked about his behaviour, the rescuer replied “I saw the Rotary Wheel on the rear glass panel and I realised that a Rotarian was in trouble. I am a Rotarian too and I could not drive away without helping you.” As the injured Rotarian was being attended to, the helping hand of another Rotarian was contacting a local garage after learning the location of the garage from the First Aid Post. Imagine the comfort obtained by the injured from a fellow Rotarian who was totally unknown to him. If the helper had known personally the injured, there would have been a much strengthened bond of friendship.

Rotary provides us all a rare opportunity to make solid friends who would be a source of happiness and contentment in future.

I urge you to wield the magic wand of friendship and strengthen not only your future, but the future of Rotary too.



*Rtn. Ashok Mahajan*  
*Trustee, The Rotary Foundation 2009–2013*  
*Director, Rotary International 2007–2009*