

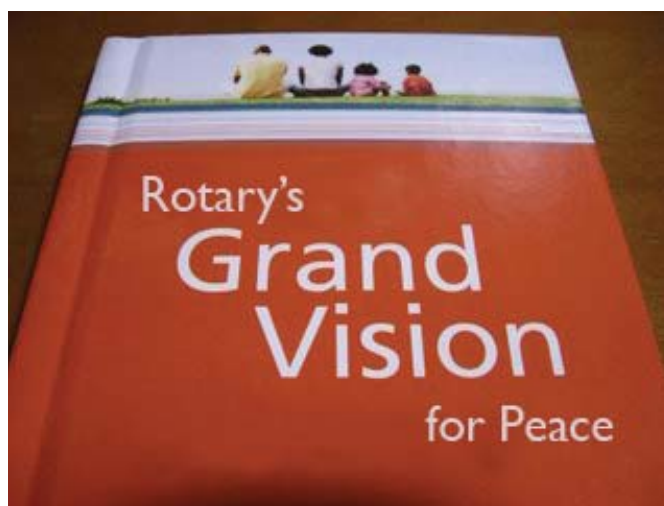
# The Visionary Rotary Foundation

Ayan Rand said, “Throughout the centuries there were men who took first steps, down new roads, armed with nothing but their own vision.” This is true for The Rotary Foundation. Rotary’s initial objectives seemed to be promoting friendship and personal acquaintances that can help in business. But this image was shed very soon when the forefathers of the movement realised that Rotary should build friendships and acquaintances to do service in this world.

Alfred A. Montapert said, “To accomplish great things we must first dream, then visualise, then plan... believe... act!” This is what the leaders who shaped The Rotary Foundation did. Today, the vision of The Rotary Foundation is to usher in an era of long lasting peace that will make the world more prosperous and the people more committed to uphold the benefits of peace.

Peace is made up of several components in the society. Rotary International’s programmes which are implemented through The Rotary Foundation is one way to bring peace. Understanding that the basic necessity of the people are health and hunger, The Rotary Foundation put in place a series of vision statements that can help the clubs to achieve the goals. Eradication of polio, which was one such vision, is now becoming a reality. Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world. The relentless battle against polio waged by The

Rotary Foundation with its partners and Governments of the world has produced the desired result.



Bob Proctor said, “To believe in the things you can see and touch is no belief at all. But to believe in the unseen is both a triumph and a blessing.” Peace is unseen and it is now the objective of The Rotary Foundation to strive to bring in this peace in areas that need it most. People have often debated about the timing of the peace programmes of The Rotary Foundation. Some have doubted whether a non-governmental agency such as Rotary can succeed in bringing in peace. Many people thought that this is not the time to try for peace since a major portion of the world seems to be in conflict with other countries and terrorists. The recent racial attack on Indians has raised the question, “Are we losing the quality of tolerance?” This time, like all times, is a very good one only if we know what to do with it. We should promote peace.

There are many paths to the top of the mountain, but the view is always the same. The need of the hour is to start climbing the mountain. That means action. If we do not act now,

destruction and cataclysm will engulf the world. With today’s weapons of mass destruction, people can be killed.

The dream of Rotary International will be buried in the debris of destruction and all what we did in the past 104 years will vanish without a trace.

You are a Rotarian with a vision. You have to act. The whole world steps aside for the man who knows where he is going. Your task is cut out. The support comes from over 1.25 million Rotarians and the visionary Rotary Foundation that has set apart funds for implementing long lasting projects. However, this fund needs to be replenished every year. You would have to contribute and also develop a data base of donors who know about the work of our Foundation. These donors must be approached periodically and given a statement of account of what the Foundation has done with their contribution. This will ensure that they continue to trust us and give more everytime.

Leaders establish the vision for the future and set the strategy for getting there; they cause change. They motivate and inspire others to go in the right direction and they, along with everyone else, sacrifice to get there. You are that leader.



*Rtn. Ashok Mahajan  
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