

**Why do Rotarians find it so difficult to practice Vocational Service's most important constituent – Ethics?**

I am not sure that they do. We do not talk about ethics and integrity as often as we should but they are qualities that distinguish Rotarians within a community. Sometimes ego and money get in the way of ethics but the majority of Rotarians seek to lead honest lives and to deal fairly with those with whom they came in contact.

**Should Rotarians be more transparent in all the financial dealings with Rotary? How?**

The ultimate judge of a person is themselves and Rotarians who cheat, hurt themselves as much as they hurt their fellow Rotarians. If you believe in the goodness of Rotary it is degrading to do anything that hurts our wonderful organisation.

**Can Rotary be accepted by the community if honesty is sacrificed? How can we be more relevant to the community?**

Why should our community respect us if we are dishonest? Lorna and I have seen many wonderful projects in India and individuals who bring credit to Rotary and themselves. They deserve the greatest respect and we should all despise a Rotarian who lets Rotary and the community down. Rotary service must be unselfish for it to show love and caring. We best serve our communities when we carefully assess those needs that are within our power to change and then carry out our projects unselfishly.

**In all the “messages” of Rotary propounded by RI Presidents, why is Vocational Service ignored?**

It might appear that way on the surface but I do not think they do. The theme for our year was “Lead the Way” and whenever I spoke on the theme I stressed two ways in which this is important. There is the obvious need for a club to lead the way in identifying the real needs of the community and addressing them. The first part of my speeches however would focus on the need for Rotarians to set standards in their own lives as examples to those around them. I often said that the people who are in the headlines are often there for the wrong reasons and they are celebrities who set poor examples to our communities. We need more good people to be heroes and not celebrities and that involves all the key words—integrity,

honesty, ethics—that make up Vocational Service.

**Has the Four-Way Test become redundant? Why is it displayed with vigour but practiced so seldomly?**

I do not think it redundant. I like to apply another test first. This was highlighted by Past President Richard Evans, who said that the first question we should ask ourselves is “Is it right?” for if the answer is no then there is no need to apply the Four Way Test. Just being able to recite the Four Way Test does not make you a better person, but living it does!

**Can RI institute and “award” on the lines of “Service above Self Award” recognising the honest, the ethical and the “clean” Rotarian?**

The importance of awards varies from culture to culture and



New Zealanders are not very often motivated by them but I accept that others are. We could have another award but I still think that the greatest reward for living a good life is what it makes you.

**If Rotary has to remain relevant in this century, what changes do you recommend?**

The biggest challenge in many parts of the Rotary world is to ensure a constant flow of quality new members. This is happily not so much of a problem for India but Rotary will not represent its communities and will find it harder to identify community needs if it does not have membership spanning all age groups and professions. If we keep our membership right we will remain relevant because we will evolve with the changes to our society. We will recognise today's needs and the techniques to address them.

**What is the future of TRF?**

In one word, golden! I am excited at the way in which The Foundation is reshaping itself to serve Rotarians and the world into the future. When you read the Future Vision's plan and think through the changes that it makes and the reasons why then I think you will be excited too.

**What new areas can be incorporated in the programmes of TRF to make it more relevant?**

One of the very sensible ideas that the Future Vision's plan targets is the need for focus. We have often tried to address every problem in the world and no one organisation can succeed at doing that. The areas of focus will be broad but we will be able to channel our educational and humanitarian programmes to work together to achieve even more. The philosophy of our Rotary Foundation does not change, for it has stood the test of more than

100 years, but our delivery of service can and will improve.

**What role has India played in the promotion of vision of TRF?**

India has a proud place in the work of The Rotary Foundation. You have developed projects that have set examples to the rest of the Rotary world and you are increasingly generous in your giving. Rotary achieves because we are a team and you are key players in the team.

**Ethics and honesty being areas of questions and criticisms, do you think TRF will be able to evolve a more transparent and a more realistic game plan?**

The Trustees have an obligation to ensure that funds donated are properly used and so stewardship is important. Why would people give to a Foundation that allows its money to be misused or stolen? I believe that over recent years the emphasis on stewardship has reassured many donors of the good work that their money has been able to achieve and what greater endorsement could we have of the perception of Rotary than the gifts from the Gates Foundation. They trust us and we will show that their faith is well placed. For myself I find it hard to understand that any Rotarian could steal from the needy of the world.

**If misuse of funds of TRF given to clubs under "grants" heading is so disturbing, have you a blueprint which can reduce the incidence of this misuse? Should Rotary Clubs be "punished" for their dishonesty?**

I think you know my views! There are very few club and district projects that do not use their grants properly, and I have no problem with "punishing" those who do not. We do not need members of Rotary who misuse Rotary funds, for their actions reflect on the rest of us. I would hope that every district will take responsibility

for ensuring the project funds in its area are handled honestly. We all share a responsibility for ensuring that no misuse of funds will be accepted.

**Will Polio be eradicated from the face this earth in the next 10 years?**

Yes. It will not be easy, but then only the optimists ever thought that it would be. The problem is that the longer that it takes the more money it costs and the more children are killed or paralysed. We know that the vaccines exist to eradicate polio and that logistics are the challenge. I would think that every Rotarian wants their grandchildren to grow up in a world without polio.

**With multiple immunisation drives by Government of India promoting National Immunisation Days every year, the involvement of Rotary is decreasing. Your comments.**

I can understand the "battle fatigue" and I would not be critical of those who are getting tired of the effort required, but I can only plead for the effort to be maintained. Our partners do a good job but there is a special place for Rotary in the eradication of polio and it will take longer if we hold back. I salute all of you who have worked so hard in the polio effort, often alongside other worthy projects in your community, but please keep going. The type one results from India this year should be an encouragement.

**Do you believe that greater emphasis be placed on literacy, ecology, water conservation, global warming, etc., whilst we continue to promote polio eradication?**

We already are addressing these issues and you can see this in India with the many water and literacy projects amongst the excellent projects that you have, but we are so close to polio eradication that we must always keep it in the front of our thinking.

**With excellent contributions being received in these last years, do you think that new “pilot projects” must be started in various countries to address other acute needs of the community?**

We have probably covered that. In a way every new project is a “pilot” but the needs are different around the world and we have to accept that.

**What can Rotary do to stop membership attrition? Why have we stopped growing?**

There are many reasons for this but the most frustrating is that we do not invite potential Rotarians to join us. Sometimes we decide that they are too busy or sometimes we do just overlook those who are close to us, but we certainly lose opportunities. If we had more time to talk I would discuss the importance of keeping our clubs interesting, the need for fellowship and the need for worthwhile projects in gaining and retaining members.

**Could you suggest some ways cost of Rotary can be reduced?**

We need to keep the administration costs as low as possible, consistent with good performance, at all levels of our organisation and in many parts of the world we need to watch the costs of our social activities. It is not easy but we risk turning away potential members if our costs are too high. Another cost is time, and we must ensure that what we ask of our members is a worthwhile investment of their time.

**What is the health of Rotary worldwide?**

Excellent. As Lorna and I travelled the world we were constantly impressed by the quality of the people and projects. It is a humbling experience to meet so many people who are giving of themselves to serve humanity.

**Your message to Rotarians?**

Everyone of us should be proud to be a Rotarian. Let us continue to lead the way as we make Rotary the finest service organisation in the world.