

MESA

Worldwide



A NEWSLETTER OF MESA, A DISTRICT 6600 PROJECT, #8

**NEXT MEETING: July 12, 2005
Findlay Ford, 4 P.M.
1 P.M. Warehouse Work Session**

Highlights from May 17th Meeting

Jim Heinrich, in his treasurer's report, stated that year to date contributions of \$107,000 are running well ahead of last year's to date contributions of \$67,000. This increase can be attributed to Rotary District 6600 clubs contributing at a higher level than any other time in the past, and to increases in donations in restricted funds, primarily tsunami relief.

Ron Stoner stated that since the last report in March, MESA has 7 containers to Africa, Haiti and Central America. Shipments included everything from school desks and food corn to sophisticated medical equipment. There are four more containers now ready to ship. A ladder fire truck donated by the Marion Rotary Club is now on its way to Guatemala. Ron has been very busy since his return from Mongolia moving from our old warehouse into new quarters. This move is probably only temporary as MESA continues to search for an appropriate storage facility. Ron would like to thank Chuck Bills (Findlay Rotary) for supplying the temporary storage space and trucks, with drivers, needed to make this move. **Please read Ron's report that follows on his discovery trip to Mongolia.**

Stan Kajawa and **Ron Stoner** went to the Hancock County jail to thank inmates for their help at the warehouse, and also give them a brief presentation on the cause MESA is championing. Sharing pizza and soda with the inmates over two thirds of the inmate population came to hear Stan's presentation. Stan was moved by the inmates interest in the MESA program, and their willingness to help others who are also in need.

Dr Tom Brumley, although not able to go himself, is sending another ophthalmology team to Zambia at the end of May. Tom has also put together another container (this time to be filled with dental equipment) to be sent to the clinic in Zambia.

Several initiatives for raising money for MESA were announced at the meeting, one old, one new and one challenge.

- Again this year there will be a raffle of an automobile (a new Mustang GT), generously donated by **Stan Kujawa** and Findlay Ford. The drawing will be October 22, 2005. Tickets will be \$20.00 each, 3 for \$50.00, or 6 for \$100.00.
- Six Elyria Rotarians, in conjunction with Rotary's 100th Anniversary, will be biking the 350 miles to Chicago. **Please read the article that follows to see how you can be a part of this special fund raising event.**
- The Findlay club has made a challenge to all the other Rotary Clubs in District 6600. They will donate \$10,000 to MESA each year for the next three years if these funds would be matched by all of the other clubs in the district combined. The only condition is that this must be 'new money', above and beyond amounts already pledged (e.g. the suggested \$5.00 per member donation). If met, this challenge will add \$20,000 a year to the MESA budget. The challenge will be for the next three fiscal years starting July 1, 2005.

In conjunction with the Mustang Sally Raffle, Jim Shrader would like to visit each and every District 6600 Rotary Club to update them on MESA, and also give each member an opportunity to win the Mustang convertible.

ROTARY TOUR FOR MESA

On to Chicago! In conjunction with the 100 Year Rotary Celebration, five Elyria Rotarians and one future Rotarian will be bicycling the 350 miles from their hometown of Elyria to the birthplace of Rotary, Chicago, Illinois. Leaving on June 12, the four-night, five-day trip will take them through 3 states. With each mile the cyclists will be raising money for District 6600's **MESA** program.

The '**Rotary Tour for MESA**' is the brainchild of bicycling enthusiast Ed Stewart, President Elect of the Elyria Noon Rotary. Getting together with fellow Noon Rotarian Tom Herberger, and three Elyria Sunrise Rotarians, Herb de la Porte, Rick Dakters, Kurt Anderson and his 13 year old son Kelton, a cycling plan was formulated. The adventure was designed not only to heighten awareness of the Rotary motto of 'Service Above Self' but also to provide much needed funding for **MESA**, while involving other District Rotary Clubs in the effort.

Their plan to raise money is three fold. You can pledge money for each mile bicycled by the group. As little as a one-cent pledge per mile will mean a \$3.50 donation to MESA. Ten cents would be \$35.00, fifty cents \$175.00 etc. For each dollar pledged, the Elyria Noon and Elyria Sunrise Rotaries will donate an equal amount. Finally, all Rotary Clubs in District 6600 are invited to participate, through donations, or by bicycling a leg or part of a leg of the tour. Your help is needed to reach the goal of raising \$20,000 for **MESA**.

The first leg of the tour will take the cyclists to Fremont. Spending the evening there, they will be hosted by the Fremont Rotary. The second day sees them off to Bryan, where they will be welcome guests in the homes of Bryan Rotarians. Leaving Ohio for Indiana, they will spend the third night in Goshen, Indiana as guests of the Goshen Rotary. The last leg will have the cyclists

spending the evening in Valparaiso before the final push to Chicago. So if your legs are in need of a workout, join the group somewhere along the bike path.

Ed and his Rotary Club are so excited about the ‘**Rotary Tour for MESA**’ that they are planning to make this an annual event. If you would like to support the ‘Tour’, send your check to:

MESA
Post Office Box 867
Elyria, Ohio 44036

If you prefer, you can be billed in June for your donation. Questions? Call Ed Stewart at 440 365 9655, Fax 440 365 9657, or e-mail stewart514@alltel.net. All monies collected will be immediately sent to MESA as unrestricted funds.

Mel Honig, Editor

MESA Visits Mongolia

Four District 6600 Rotarians spent the first week in May in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia, visiting health facilities and assessing ways MESA might be able to assist in improving health care there. Do Nguyen (Maumee), Dave Langendorfer (Maumee), Dr Tom Milbrodt (Bowling Green), and Ron Stoner (Bowling Green) were hosted by Rotary Club of Byan Zurkh 100, with support by an Individual Grant from the Rotary Foundation.

In a week packed with activities, this group visited and toured the Health Sciences University of Mongolia, the Ministry of Health, the Central Hospital of Ulaanbaatar, the Central Clinical Hospital of the Tuv Province (or “aimag”) of Mongolia, two clinics in Ulaanbaatar, and two clinics of Traditional Medicine in Ulaanbaatar. They met with the Minister of Health, with the American Ambassador to Mongolia; also with the President, VP of Finance, the VP of Research, Dean of Health Science, Chairman of Radiology of the University of Health Sciences, and the Project Manager of the Department of Traditional Medicine of the Health Sciences University.

One memorable activity was a meeting with the Buddhist lama who is the Chief

“Mamba Datsan” of the Traditional Medical Training Center of Mongolia, and the tour of his facility, which is housed in an active Tibetan-style Buddhist monastery. Traditional medicine taught and practiced there includes acupuncture, herbal preparations, bleeding, therapeutic massage, “moxidation,” and even “mantra therapy.” Even this traditional facility does some “Western medicine,” such as simple blood work.



Visiting Rotarians with the Lama Mamba Datsan and some of his staff.

Health facilities in Mongolia have overwhelming needs. Primary health care is delivered in small local clinics staffed almost exclusively by doctors that would be called “nurse practitioners” in the USA. The

group attended a breakfast meeting with 180 of these doctors, only one of which was male. The clinics dispense some pills, but their only equipment seems to be stethoscope, scales, sphygmomanometer, otoscope, calipers, and measuring tape. Patients judged too ill to be treated in clinics are sent to “aimag” hospitals.



A doctor in a local health clinic displays her equipment.

The Clinical Hospital of the Tuv aimag, for example, serves approximately 180,000 people; virtually all of them are nomadic “herders” of the Mongolian steppes, spread over a region that extends as far as 200 miles from the hospital and is accessible primarily by dirt roads and cow paths. The herder population is particularly susceptible to liver cancer, hepatitis B and C, other liver diseases, trauma from horseback riding and other accidents with herded animals; there has been no testing for HIV AIDS.

The Tuv hospital treats an average of over 300 patients per day with a staff of 48 doctors, 40 of who are women. There is no intensive care unit (ICU) for adults or children over six, and the ICU for infants has only two cribs. There is only one real hospital bed in the whole place – the rest are cots with thin, felt mattresses. The x-ray facilities are in a separate building and only partially functional; there is no accessibility

by wheelchair or gurney, so patients requiring x-ray needed to be wrapped and carried by stretcher outdoors, sometimes in dust storms or in temperatures that can reach as low as –40 F. The hospital building is of very poor construction, drafty, and impossible to keep clean.

Patients needing more than such hospitals can provide are referred to hospitals in Ulaanbaatar, but even these are in great need of modernization. The country has only one CT scanner and no MRI or ultrasound imaging. Thousands of seriously ill Mongolians leave the country each year to be treated in China, Russia, Korea or Japan.

Obviously, Mongolia can use almost any medical equipment MESA can send, and the Byan Zurkh 100 Rotary Club is anxious to help. To that end, the group met extensively with the Rotarian Executive Director in Mongolia of the Utah-based Swanson Family Foundation to discuss logistics of shipping needed medical equipment and supplies to the various institutions visited.



Herbs ready for grinding into a traditional Mongolian remedy.

MESA- Medical Equipment & Supplies Abroad; Leadership Committees Rotary International President

Jonathan B. Majiyagbe

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