



Governor Dick's Drivel for November and December Editor's note—title is Dick's, not mine!

SEEING THE WORLD - Going to another part of the World as part of a Rotary project is an experience all Rotarians should try to have. It is a chance to see how things really are. You will meet Rotarians, fellow business people and professionals, who can provide you with local insight. You will experience heartfelt hospitality. And, your humanitarian effort will make a real difference.

As a testimonial, let me tell you some of the things that happened to Marty and me when we went to Peru in November. We went as part of PDG Bob Bitter's group to help distribute 280 wheelchairs. We fitted and gave out wheel chairs in six locations. It warms the heart to see a husky active double amputee suddenly regain mobility. We remember the lively artistic woman who was confined to her home for five years and who cast and painted beautiful plaster of Paris dolls to keep her hands and brain busy because she was too poor to buy a wheelchair. The wheelchairs given to the handicapped children will change their lives forever. And the two washing machines we bought for the boy's home will be invaluable. Helping others has its rewards.

But there were some unexpected benefits too. The people there are into ceremonies so I had the opportunity to sit next to a Peruvian member of Congress for a couple of hours. She was energetic, idealistic and frustrated as she told me about how things work in her country. At another location we met a General in the Army. We discovered that impressions others have of the United States aren't completely in tune with ours when a man from eastern Peru told us that since we in the US had solved all our own economic and social problems we should concentrate on giving things to his country.

These trips can also force one out his comfort zone. After a few in our group came down with flu-like symptoms I started worrying about germs and virus. While we were giving wheelchairs in Cusco I suddenly found myself face to face with a five year old child. Because of her handicap, she suddenly started to do some serious drooling. I suddenly panicked thinking I was about to catch some sickness that would not be fun to have. The only way to avoid the problem would have been to move the child backward quickly and jump out of the way. This would have scared her and she would have started crying. In the end I did the right thing which was not to frighten the child.

Meeting Rotarians is a real treat. It is comforting to know that business is business no matter where you are. The couple in charge of hosting us is in the insurance business and after a few days we discovered that their day to day challenges are pretty much the same ones faced by insurance agents here.

And of course there are lots of sights to see. We went to Machu Picchu, crossed a 15,000 foot mountain pass in the Andes on a bus, ate in a really fancy seaside restaurant, watched hang gliders, visited the cathedral, saw archeological sites, bought souvenirs, and did more things than we can remember.

International projects are a significant part of the good things this District does. Many clubs are doing hands-on projects and would welcome help from other clubs. Remember that everyone is welcome to attend the World Community Service Committee meeting each month and Dave Gallagher, dg2020@aol.com, can give you the details. (or-see page 2)

- **DON'T FORGET – The Rotary Challenge is January 26, 2008.**
 - **The District Conference is April 18, 19 and 20, 2008.**
 - **The Guatemala Rainwater Cistern is a happening project. For more information, contact**
 - **John Anderson, Modesto Sunrise, at john@jbandersonplanning.com.**
 - **Don't neglect the Family of Rotary.**
- Yours in Rotary Service, Dick and Marty Wyatt



We'll Get the Job Done By Doing Good and Having Fun!

Nov—Dec 2007

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