Fragile Earth

Published by The Rotarian Initiative for Population & Development **February 2000**

3-H Child Spacing Grant Approved for Nigeria

At its November 1999 meeting, Trustees of the Rotary Foundation approved a US $500,000 Grant for a three- year Child Spacing Program in Northern Nigeria. The 3-H (Health, Hunger and Humanity) grant will build upon two earlier Rotary Foundation Matching Grant child spacing projects. The current project will be a joint effort between Rotary District 9120 in Nigeria and Districts 1860 and 1840 of Germany. The goal of the grant is to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates, by impressing on mothers the related health benefits of greater spacing between children. The project will support reproductive health training programs and expects to increase contraceptive prevalence from 6% to 15% in the first three years, with a ten year goal of 50% contraceptive use.

The demographic numbers in Nigeria are startling, and convincingly justify the need for such an educational program. The 113.8 million population of Nigeria is the largest in Africa, and it is set to double in 23 years. GNP per capita is US$280. The fertility rate is 6.2 children per family. With 45% of the female population in their child bearing years (aged 15 to 49), only 37% of births are attended by health professionals. Infant mortality is 8.4% and maternal mortality is 1%. One-third of the total population does not have access to basic health care services.

The 3-H Project will work to educate not only the general population of Northern Nigeria on these issues, but also to train doctors, midwives and other health workers on a variety of health care topics. Specific project objectives are to:

- Educate and inform families in the project area about health care and family child spacing through public awareness campaigns.
- Train doctors, nurses, midwives, providers, female and male health workers, traditional birth attendants (TBA) and town criers in traditional and modern child spacing methods. Before any method of child spacing is offered, clients will be thoroughly counselled. When a woman voluntarily makes a decision, she will be provided with all information about the method she prefers.
- Supply needed medical and health equipment to selected hospitals.
- Establish child spacing services in these hospitals and at the grassroots level in existing health centers.
- Guarantee the supply of contraceptives to those who voluntarily desire them, through a partnership with UNFPA and USAID, donations-in-kind and other suppliers to the project hospitals and local government clinics.

L-R) PDG Dr. Emmaneul Adedolapo Lufadeju of Nigeria (left), PDG Dr. Robert Zinser of Germany (center) and PDG Steve Kitchener of Nigeria (right), with Town Criers in front of the Emir's Palace.

"We have involved state and local governments, religious leaders, teaching hospitals and the UNFPA."

"Community involvement at all levels is critical to the success of this project," stated Past District Governor (PDG) Robert Zinser of Germany. "We have involved state and local governments, religious leaders, teaching hospitals and the UNFPA. We will all work together to inform the general population of the health benefits that child spacing brings to mothers, children and families, and of the health care options available to them."

Local Rotary clubs from District 9120 will

- supervise the implementation committees,
- select the teaching and general hospitals,
- negotiate with state and local governments,
- maintain contact with traditional rulers,
- organize delivery of medical equipment,
- manage the public awareness campaign,
- organize and supervise the training sessions, and
- establish the child spacing service

Arithmetic, Population & Energy

by Dr. Albert A. Bartlett

"The greatest shortcoming of the human race is our inability to understand the exponential function."

With these true words, Professor Bartlett starts part one of a presentation in which he shows that the forgotten fundamental of the Population & Development crisis is the elementary arithmetic of growth.

Human populations have often grown in a pattern described as "exponential". Exponential growth occurs in bank accounts when interest is left to accumulate and itself earns interest. Exponential growth occurs in populations because children, the analogue of interest, remain in the population and themselves have children.

Our world's technological societies operate on an assumption of continued steady growth of populations, resource consumption and the gross national product. Can these growths continue? This question is answered by explaining the arithmetic of steady growth.

Professor Bartlett explains "doubling time", which is the time it takes for a growing quantity to double in size. He uses doubling time to show how one can predict the consequences of steady growth in examples such as inflation, investments, and the population growth of our communities, our nation and the world.

In part two, the program turns to the problem of steady growth in a finite environment: the situation we face as we deplete our fossil fuel resources. When steady growth occurs in a finite environment, the end of these resources comes frighteningly fast.

These facts are compared to the wildly optimistic estimates and public pronouncements that appear in many highly regarded sources. This discrepancy between fact and opinion creates confusion about the energy situation.

The presentation concludes with recommendations of a course of action which we must adopt in order to make a smooth, rather than a painful, transition to a future of reduced population and reduced energy usage.

The talk takes 60 minutes and requires an overhead projector and screen. The talk is easily divided into two parts for groups where time is limited or you may order a video of the presentation.

Dr. Al Bartlett may be reached at:
Department of Physics
University of Colorado at Boulder
Boulder, CO 80309-0390
e-mail: albert.bartlett@colorado.edu

RIFPD Annual General Meeting Bueno Aires June 5, 2000

RIFPD will hold its Annual General Meeting in Bueno Aires, Argentina, during Rotary International's Annual Convention. The meeting will be on Monday, June 5th, at the Marriott Plaza Hotel in the Florida Room at 1:30 pm. The Marriott Plaza Hotel is located within walking distance of the Convention Center. All RIFPD members and friends are invited to attend.

RIFPD plans will be reviewed, reports delivered by Country Chairmen and a feature speaker will address the gathering. The Nafis Sadik Award for Courage will be presented at the Annual General Meeting. Project updates will be provided on various population and development projects, including the Integrated Family Welfare Centers in India and the 3-H Child Spacing Grant in Northern Nigeria.

IMPORTANT DATES

RIFPD Annual General Meeting
June 5, 2000 Bueno Aires
Rotary/UNFPA Conference
July 28-30, 2000 Zurich

Roster of RIFPD Country Chairs

Argentina	_____
Australia	Glenda Hedley
Austria	Karl-Heinz Wolff
Bangladesh	Habin Khan
Belgium	Hessell Danser
Belize	Marcelo Coyi
Bermuda	Charlie Batson-Sylan
Botswana	_____
Brazil	_____
Canada	Rob McLeod
China (Taiwan)	_____
Congo	Victor Kanyinda
Cote d'Ivoire	Claude Danho
Denmark	Niels Falkenberg
Ecuador	Hector Plaza
Egypt	Salem Mashhour
England	Alan Bruce
Finland	Yrjo Helanen
France	_____
Germany	Robert Zinser
Ghana	Mike Asafo-Boakye
Guatemala	Steve Dudenhoeffer
Guinea	Amadou Diarra
India	Hari Reddy
Indonesia	_____
Ireland	_____
Isreal	David Neumann
Italy	Piero Marcenaro
Japan	Tario Kanno
Kenya	Eric Krystall
Korea	Kee Hyong Kim
Lebanon	Gilbert Boghossian
Malaysia	Kewg-Bin Lee
Mali	Amategue Dolo
Mexico	Andres Robles
Mozambique	Ismael Amade
Nepal	Lachhe Bahadur K. C.
Netherlands	Warner de Putter
New Zealand	Mark Tregidga
Nigeria	Adedolapo Lufadeju
Norway	Christian Eitzen
Panama	_____
Pakastan	Mohamad Akbar
Phillippines	Joseph Arias
Portugal	_____
Romania	Cezer Belteu
Russia	Alexandre Makatsaria
Samoa	Marco Kappenberger
Senegal	Alassane Mar
Scotland	_____
Singapore	Rosy Nakhooda
Spain	Victor Auz
Sri Lanka	Janaka Edirisinghe
Sweden	Rolf Svensson
Switzerland	Peter Gut
Tanzania	J. K. Chande
Thailand	_____
Turkey	Turgut Gokyigit
Uganda	Jotham Musinguzi
Ukraine	Anatolly Shyrokov
USA	Buck Lindsay
Venezuela	Petro Figuero
Zambia	Patrick Chisanga
Zambabue	Robin Evans

Blanks indicate Country Chairmen are needed. If you are interested in serving or have a recommendation of an individual to serve as Country Chairman, please contact RIFPD at address listed on page 8.

A Gift to the World's Children

The United Nations Foundation recently announced the largest round of grants yet from the $1 billion gift to the U.N. from businessman Ted Turner: $51 million dollars in grants dedicated primarily to improving the health of children around the world.

The list of grants was announced at the Foundation's annual board meeting in Mozambique. A representative of the board identified children's health as one of the few areas where the Foundation could make a difference. To date, the Foundation has disbursed $200 million. Turner will donate $100 million dollars a year for ten years to the United Nations Foundation.

Former Colorado Senator Tim Wirth, the Foundation's president, cited the large number of the grants as necessary due to the proposals being more in line with the Foundation's desire that they be innovative and promote cooperation between different U. N. agencies.

All of the new grants will go to one or more U.N. agencies. The areas covered by the grants are children's health, environmental protection, helping women and controlling population.

The children's health grants were:

- A total of $8.2 million to five interrelated projects to prevent the leading causes of death for children younger than 5 in Africa.
- $5 million to strengthen monitoring of vaccine-preventable diseases, primarily in West Africa. Three additional grants totalling $3.1 million were also provided to strengthen delivery of vaccinations in African countries.
- $4.4 million will go to three projects to supplement the diet of children in Africa with micronutrients, including Vitamin A, iron and zinc.
- $1.3 million in two programs to fight HIV infections and AIDS in Africa.
- $2.7 million to protect young people from tobacco.
- $1.5 million to help eradicate Guinea worm in Africa.

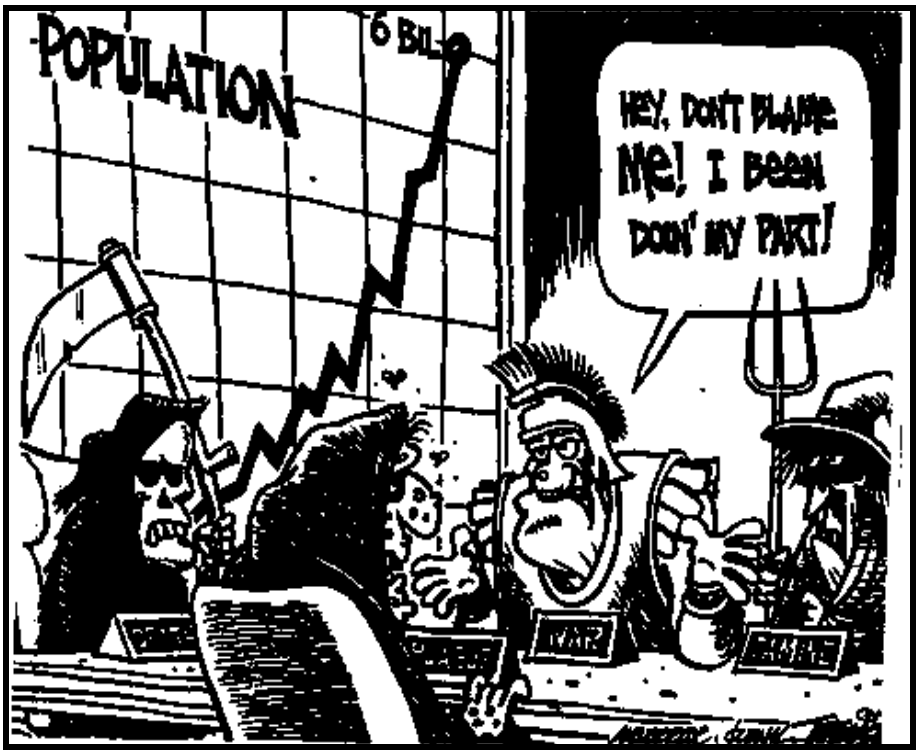
Environmental Grants were:

- $2.9 million to help protect the biodiversity from the ravages of war in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- $3 million to support community efforts to conserve biodiversity at six to eight
- $1.8 million to protect the tropical forest wilderness in the newly created Central Suriname Nature Reserve.
- $2 million to establish an alliance to develop and finance clean, self-sustaining energy enterprises in rural Africa.
- $50,000 to study ways of reducing the environmental impact created by fossil fuel subsidies.
- $3 million to standardize the way companies around the world report on their environmental and social performance.
- $1.6 million to speed development of energy efficiency standards and labels for appliance, equipment and lighting in developing countries.
- $264,000 to help developing countries gain the ability to negotiate more effectively over sustainable development.

Grants relating to women's issues and population control included:

- $3.1 million for adolescent Jordanian girls. One program will promote their health and encourage them to participate in "reproductive health activities".
- $2.1 million to two different programs adolescents in the Russian Federation.
- $2.3 million to improve adolescent reproductive health in the Pacific region.
- $917,000 to help non-governmental organizations (NGO) from developing countries participate in various global conferences.
- $2.1 million to enhance the abilities of non-governmental organizations to support human rights.
- $500,000 over three years to help train U.N. workers to build partnerships with the private sector.
- $2 million to strengthen the ability of the U.N. Development Program to "tell the story of the U.N.'s overall efforts on behalf of development and progress around the world."
- $2 million in humanitarian aid in Serba and in East Africa.

Further information regarding the United Nations Foundation may be obtained at their website: www.unf@unfoundation.org. The organization does not accept unsolicited grant applications. Turner, previously a Rotarian, is a multiple level Paul Harris Fellow.



The Horrible Practice of Female Infanticide

Some practices are so horrendous and unfathomable that many in developed countries cannot imaging the practice occurring, while it is commonly accepted in developing countries. Customs such a Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) have recently been brought to light by many articles, news reports, etc. But a more common practice has gone relatively unnoticed due to the sheer horror of the act.

Infanticide is a word that the mere mention of causes shudders. The word quite simply means the killing of an infant. Infanticide is a unspoken of practice in Asia, mainly in India. Infanticide is a female biased practice. The girl child — often described as ignored and not valued — holds so little value in these countries that they are often aborted or worse, killed within days of her birth. Why?

Pure and simply: money. Custom dictates three largely monetarily habits for female children. Investment in girl children, as dictated by social, cultural and governmental norms, is calculated by parents to be in excess of returns that the girl child can provide, either as a child or as a grown woman. In India parents cite the ear piercing ceremony in childhood, the puberty ceremony and dowry, as just some of the expense incurred with a girl child.

The largest of these expenses is the dowry. While this custom was outlawed in 1961 and is formally frowned up, it is still widely practiced in India. Whereas the practice was once practiced only by the higher classes, it is now common throughout Indian society. The class system of India also dictitates that a woman be married to a man of higher, or at least equal, status. The man's family often uses this as a tool to obtain otherwise unaffordable luxuries as a telivision or some other modern convenience. The dowry practice affirms the woman's lowly status in Indian society, by "paying" for someone to take their daughter. While marrying off a daughter is not considered sinful, it is considered a lesser evil to killing her at birth or preventing her from being born.

The girl child is also valued less because she does not providing for the family line to be carried on as a boy child does. She does not remain part of the family, as a boy child does. Nor will she light the funeral pyre upon her parents death. The value of a son is reflected in a common blessing of "May you be the mother of a hundred sons." Mothers of sons are treated better, given more food, more time to rest and more respect by their husbands and in-laws. Preference for sons exists in both Hindu and Muslin communities, which suggests that the preference is based upon economic rather than religious reasons.

A survey of 1,250 women in the Salem district of India found that "only" 111 (9%) admitted to having committed infanticide. However, 38% said they would have to resort to murder if more than one girl was born to their family. In one district of Northern India, out of 600 female births, 570 vanished. Hospital staff estimated that 450 had been killed. In another survey in the same community, 51% of 640 families admitted killing a baby girl within a week of her birth.

New technology has brought new means to kill the girl child. With the arrival of sex determination technology in India, almost 98% of all abortions performed today are aborting female fetuses. In 1993, the Government of India banned the aborting of female fetuses strictly for sex selection, in all Government of India Hospitals. However, private doctors continue to provide sex selection abortions, saying they are "helping" by protecting the abuse, for bearing a girl child and by preventing the early deaths of unwanted girls.

Legistlative efforts have been made to curb female feticide but they are riddled with loopholes and enforcement difficulties. Many Indian states have passed legislation against the use of sex determiniation tests, except for the indentification of genetic abnormalities. However, sex determination tests are still being performed under the pretext of screening for genetic abnormalities. It seems the only effect of the law is an increase in the cost of the tests.

What can be done to stop this horrendous practice? Indians generally oppose the practice of female infanticide and feticide. To improve the social status of women would require dramatic and extensive changes to deeply rooted traditions, attitudes and cultural beliefs. This horrific practice is the extreme form of gender discrimination.

Rotarian projects such as the Integrated Family Welface Centers currently under way in nine rural areas of India are starting to empower women and end this vicious cycle of discrimination in India.

Rotarians on Population Institute Board of Directors

Six Rotarians currently serve on the Population Institute's Board of Directors: From left to right: Dr. Bruce Halliday, R/C of Travistock, Ontario, Canada; Werner Fornos, President, The Population Institute, R/C Washington, D.C.; PDG Dr. Bill Leonard, R/C New Tampa, FL; PDG Buck Lindsay, R/C Gwinnett County, GA: James Fri, R/C Memphis, TN; and Nathan Schafer, R/C Flint, MI. The Population Institute is based in Washington, DC, and advocates balance between population numbers and resources. The Population Institute may be reached at: www.populationinstitute.org.

Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women

The need for women's equality is stressed throughout the 1994 International Conference on Population & Development's *Programme of Action*. The *Programme of Action* declares equality to be an ethically mandated end in itself. Improving women's political, social, and economic status and improving women's health are also essential for slowing population growth and achieving sustainable development.

Women's empowerment also means that men must take responsibility for their own fertility, for their part in preventing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and for the well-being of their partners and children

Education

While levels of education have risen a great deal during the last twenty years an estimate 960 million people are illiterate today: two-thirds of these people are women. Because education is one of the most important means of achieving self-determination for women, the *Programme of Action* urges countries to ensure that girls and women have the widest and earliest possible access to, not only primary education, but secondary and higher levels of education as well, including technical and vocational training if they so desire.

Effects of Discrimination

The effects of discrimination against females are pervasive. Women perform much of the world's labor and receive very little of the pay. They bear the chief burden of childrearing, often alone (one-third of all families worldwide are headed by women). They are frequently the financial mainstay of their families.

Their lack of education can mean that ignorance is passed on to future generations. They often have little or no say in the number, spacing and timing of their children, which puts them at the risk of disease and death.

Less obvious, but also damaging, a kind of gender-blindness has led researchers to ignore the special needs of women, so that the resulting policies do not serve their needs. Projects that women want and need badly, such as piping water into villages, thereby saving women thousands of hours of water-carrying, tend to be ignored.

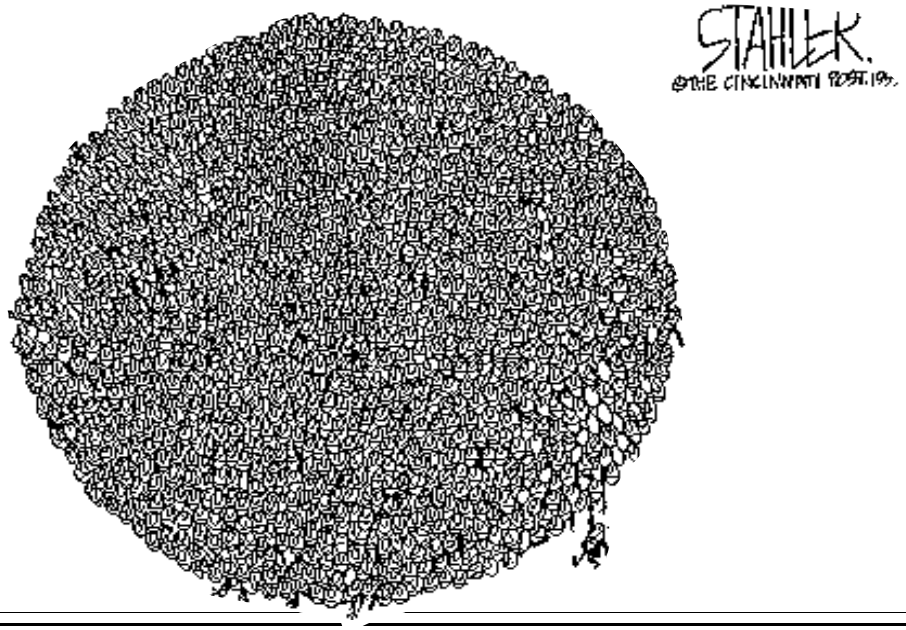
Discrimination against girl children starts even in the womb. Untold numbers of female fetuses are aborted in prenatal sex-selection. Their mothers do not always get the nutrition or care they need when pregnant. In many societies, girl children are valued less, fed less and educated less or not at all. Many are married off when they are too young, physically and emotionally, to be wives and mothers, and they have more children and poorer health as a result.

These problems afflict half of the human race, and their families and societies as well. They therefore affect us all.

In the name of human rights, the *Programme of Action* calls on all societies to eliminate practices that discriminate against women, to ensure women's full involvement in policy-making, and to improve their ability to earn income and achieve economic self-reliance. Discrimination against girls must also cease: girls and boys should be treated equally in their nutrition, health care, inheritance rights, education and social, economic and political activity — in short, in every facet of life.

The *Programme of Action* proclaims the need to promote gender equality in the family, noting in particular that men should take more responsibility for their own fertility and for parenting. Children, it declares, must be taught the male responsibility in family life from the beginning of their education. Parents and schools are also urged to see that attitudes are respectful of women and the idea that girls are to be regarded as equals are instilled in boys from the earliest possible age.

In addition, countries are called on to facilitate the equal participation of women in the political process; eliminate violence against women, enforce laws requiring marriage to be based on free and full consent, and prohibit female genital mutilation, infanticide, prenatal sex selection and child prostitution. Dealing with these problems will require nothing less than a social transformation. Rotary can help.



"Unlike plagues of the dark ages or contemporary diseases we do not yet understand, the modern plague of overpopulation is soluble by means we have discovered and with resources we possess. What is lacking is not sufficient knowledge of the solution, but universal consciousness of the gravity of the problem and education of the billions who are its victims."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

3-H Child Spacing Grant Approved for Nigeria

(continued from cover)

PDG Adedolpao Lufadeju will guide the planning, logistics and organizing of the project. PDG Stephen Kitchener will coordinate all activities of the 3-H Project. Rotarian Bonniface Ikimeh will assist in printing all prospect publications and PDG Joshua Hassan and PDG Tunji Funsho and current District Governor M. A. T. Gbande will supervise work with local government health clinics.

The German delegation from District 1840 will work to support the project in a variety of ways. PDG Ulrich Sprandel will coordinate funding from other sources. He will also establish a district committee of gynecologists and other medical doctors, public relations experts and general managers, to act as consultants through the duration of the project. Sprandel will also monitor and supervise the budget and complete all required financial reporting.

"Interest is strong among the population in improving maternal and infant health and family welfare in general"

The grant provides funding for such needed medical supplies as urine test kits, vitamins and contraceptives. Ultrasound, laparoscope, stethoscopes and other medical equipment will also be purchased with funds from the grant. Video cassette players and television will be used purchased to show educational materials to health care workers and to the female population.

"The public awareness campaign strategies will convince a lot of people," said PDG Lufadeju. "The interest is strong among the population in improving maternal and infant health and family welfare in general. The intensive public awareness campaign will allow us to reach the 42% of the population who are rural dwellers."

The grant will also provide for two vehicles which will be equipped with video players, monitor and video camera. These mobile classrooms will enable the educators to reach those who live in outlying areas. Even the gasoline to power the vehicles has been included in the grant budget. Forty bicycles will be purchased for educators to travel to training sessions. for the educators and the population who can read.

"We have tried to cover all bases when planning and applying for this grant," stated PDG Kitchener. "A project such as this with the potential to make a real, lasting effect on the health, well-being and basic dignity of our population deserves our most focused attention. The people of Nigeria will reap the benefits of this project for many generations to come. Upon completion of the three-year grant period, agreements are expected to be made with state and local governments to continue the work. "

Testominal:
"I am Jummai Mohammed, a 36-year-old woman living in the northern part of Nigeria. I live with my husband of 24 years in Zaria. When time allows, I trade small goods to help make ends meet. We have 12 children, 8 of them alive. In my neighborhood lives Hajai Hauwa who is a traditional birth attendant. She has been trained in counseling and Child Spacing through the Rotary Child Spacing project. At the local Government Health Clinic, a nurse examined me and suggested an IUCD (intra-uterine contraceptive device). This service has completely turned my life around for the better. Socially, there are better relations with my husband, now that we know that not every intercourse will result in a pregnancy. My health is better now, and I always say thanks to God and to Hajai Hauwa."

Rotarian Dr. Robert Zinser (right) with Rotary Field Officer, Ms. Kantiyok (left) supervisor of child spacing services in Health Centers and Clinics in Nigeria.

The Three Golden Keys
Population Degrowth, Economic Growth and Environmental Regrowth

"I believe that all of us should seek practical ways to bring about health, happiness, human dignity and above all understanding, goodwill and peace among all men everywhere, regardless of race, color or creed."

Third generation Zimbabwean, and legal practitioner, Bob Stumbles, wrote this in his recently published book, "The Three Golden Keys".

His book addresses three of these practicalities: population degrowth, economic growth and environmental regrowth in a series of compelling arguments based on his own experience and developments in Zimbabwe.

He is a firm believer in the rule of law and ethics in all aspects of life. "Unethical practice at any level is a menace to ethical practice at every level", he said speaking to the Chartered Institute of Secretaries in 1995. On population growth, he believes that the supreme crisis, surpassing all other sins of the world today, is that of over population. "There is a compelling obligation on all governments in all the developing countries to activate now and implement a broad population awareness program."

"Failure to do this will mean that in a world of tomorrow, younger generations will inherit dust bowls and squalid living conditions, not confined to territories like Somalia, but throughout whole continents of the earth. It would be criminal to impose such a life sentence on our children."

He believes too that each nation is part of the world monetary system and cannot survive in isolation. These and other logical, forceful arguments make up his book "The Three Golden Keys".

The book may be ordered by sending US$10 plus US$2 for shipping and handling to:

"The Three Golden Keys"
Rotarian Bob Stembles
PO Box 495
Harare, Zimbabwe

Lifetime Membership Now Available

A Lifetime Membership in the Rotarian Initiative for Population & Development is now available, due to popular demand.

The Lifetime Membership category, introduced in November of 1999, has been hugely successful with over 15 lifetime members joining in the last two months.

Please join us in thanking the following RIFPD members for their lifetime memberships:

Kris Cantrell	Brad Kendall
Jim Fri	Jim Kent
Lyons Heyman	James Manis
Charles Hight, Jr.	Ernie Niederer
David Hunter	Chip Siegel
Elisabeth Jonas	James Smulian
Ray Wells	Peyton Woodson

Call for Nominations for the Nafis Sadik Award

Nominations for RIFPD's **Nafis Sadik Award for Courage** are currently being accepted. The award is presented each year at the Annual General Meeting of RIFPD at the International Convention, to an outstanding individual who demonstrates boldness and courage in their actions to sponsor change to the conditions of over population. The award is named for Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA and leading spokesperson in the population arena.

Nominations must be received at RIFPD offices no later than May 15, 2000. The award is open to all individuals involved in the population and development movement. The winner will be selected from nominations received. If you know of a person derserving of this prestigious award, please write an explanation of qualifications and mail to:

Nafis Sadik Award Nominations
RIFPD, 270 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville GA 30045 USA
e-mail: lpbatlanta@aol.com

"Whatever God's will for humans may be, surely it is not that population is best controlled by starvation, disease and nuclear holocaust."
Clare Booth Luce

"Human history becomes more and more a race between population education & catastrophe"
Jacques Cousteau

Fragile Earth

Rotarian Initiative for Population and Development
270 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville GA 30045 USA

To join RIFPD, send US $10 for Annual Membership or US $100 for Lifetime Membership along with name, address, phone & fax numbers, Rotary Club/District to address above.

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