Fellow Rotarians, Christmas is a time when we celebrate Jesus’ birth. It is a time when we are reminded that Jesus came into this world to bring hope and to spread peace on earth and goodwill to all of us.

It is also the time of the year when we have friends and family visiting and we demonstrate a spirit of togetherness in our community. Our Rotary traditions have always included bringing cheer to the less fortunate such as the Cardin Home residents, the Foster Care children and the needy in our community, through our annual Christmas luncheon, Christmas party and care packages respectively. Let us continue to remember these and other persons who are in need because Christmas is a time for giving.

Giving and sharing, however, does not always mean giving money or material things. Sometimes taking time to help and give comfort to someone in need is worth as much or more. As individuals, let us find time in our busy schedules to give a word of encouragement to another individual with a broken spirit, a neighbour, a relative, a friend going through a particularly difficult time. Let us give of ourselves, not as an obligation, but as a desire.

We can all agree that times are harder now than they have ever been. We are all aware of the increase in crime in our Federation and we need to do what we can to put an end to it. Obesity, diabetes and HIV/AIDS are becoming more prevalent in our society. Educating the young and old alike about these diseases has become a necessity. The youth are not respecting their elders and there is no other time than now for us to be our brothers’ keepers. The world is suffering from high oil and commodity prices, and our Federation is not immune to these economic influences. Therefore, we are left to find creative solutions to provide a comfortable life for ourselves and for those who are dependent on us – family, employees and the community.

As we reflect on the year that has passed and approach a new year, ponder on what we can do as a club to continue to make a difference in our community. As Gandhi said, “you must be the change you want to see in this world”. What changes do you personally plan to make to see changes in our Federation? Let us remind ourselves once again why Jesus came into this world and I would say it seems apt to pray now more than ever “let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me”.

I pray we will have a peaceful, enjoyable and safe Christmas.

I wish for you, your families and visiting friends, peace, love, happiness and prosperity this Christmas and always.
Christmas Messages from the Board of Directors, 2007 - 2008

I wish all Rotarians and their Families a very Merry, Blessed and Joyous Christmas and a Prosperous and Service filled 2008

*Director and PP Percy*

It is the time of year when we think of friends and loved ones. Hopefully, we would have touched lives in some way and made it better for the less fortunate. I would like to wish my fellow Rotarians and their families a safe Christmas season and a Productive and Healthy 2008.

*PE Betty-Ann*

The “Management and Staff” of the Brisbane family would like to take this opportunity to wish President Leah, the Board of Directors and all Rotarians and their families Happiness and Joy throughout this Christmas Season.

As Rotarians, it is important that we reflect on the projects that have taken place to date and the many who are not as privileged as we are.

Our hearts and prayers extend out to those at the Cardin Home, Children’s Home and the many who have received care packages over the past years.

*MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!* 

*Director Max*

I am indeed honored to have shared the past year with all of you, my fellow Rotarians. I wish you all a magical festive season filled with lots of “Joy, Love and Beautiful Thoughts”.

May 2008 be the commencement of greater desire and commitment to Rotary.

May we have successes with happiness and love for each other. I wish all of you a bright future.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

*VP Charles*

May the joy and peace of Christmas remain with each Rotarian and family throughout the New Year.

*Sergeant-at-Arms and PP Denzil*

This Christmas:

“Mend a quarrel; Seek out a forgotten friend;
Write a love letter; Encourage youth;
Keep a promise; Forgive an enemy;
Listen; Apologise if you were wrong;
Laugh a little more; Express your gratitude;
Think first of someone else; Be kind and gentle;
Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth;
Share some treasure; Speak your love”

Joy to you this Christmas and throughout the coming year!

*Director Avonel*

Fellow Rotarians, I hope that each of you has a memorable Christmas, full of all the things and feelings, the sights and sounds which make “the season” a very special time for you and your loved ones.

As we reflect on our relative good fortune let us recommit to effective membership of our Club with all which that entails. After all, this is what affords us a grand opportunity to share a little bit of the Christmas spirit with the needy in our community all through the year. Happy Holidays!

*Director and PP Lawrie*

Warm Christmas Greetings to all as this festive Season approaches. May we be so inspired by the message of hope and fellowship that we bring a renewed sense of commitment to 2008!

*IPP Tapley*

The holidays are a time to reconnect and enjoy the company of friends and family. My thoughts and prayers are with you for the Season's Holidays and the New Year.

*Secretary Robin*

Fellow Rotarians, as we come to the end of another year, we reflect on all that we have accomplished this year, and we look forward to improving our service and fellowship. Here’s to continued success in all our endeavours!

Here’s to continued friendships!

I wish the entire Rotary family a blessed Christmas, a fun-filled and responsible carnival and a marvellous and prosperous 2008

*Treasurer Louisa*
RI President’s Message

December 2007

The Rotarian

December is family month, a time when we pay special attention to our emphasis on the family of Rotary. When I speak about this, I’m often asked to explain just what the family of Rotary means and why it’s included as an emphasis.

When you put the family of Rotary idea next to such enormous needs as nutritious food and clean water, it might seem much less important. After all, as Rotarians, we’re here to help everyone and look out for all those who need us. We don’t just look after our own - that’s not what Rotary is about.

As Rotarians, we do have a great responsibility to make sure Rotary’s good work doesn’t end with us. Rotary does so much that is so important in so many ways: providing water to the thirsty, food to the hungry, medical care to the poor and sick, education to the illiterate. It’s been doing that for more than 100 years now.

But if we focused all our attention on nothing but that lifesaving and life-altering work, then that work would eventually come to an end. Rotary would die out in a generation if we did not also pay attention to the health of our own organization - our members, our clubs, and those who will join our clubs in the years to come.

One reason I’ve always felt so at home in Rotary and with the idea of the family of Rotary could be that I come from a large family myself. I’m one of 10 children - six girls and four boys. But as big as my family is, it’s nothing compared with Rotary. We’re not just 1.2 million Rotarians in 32,000 clubs. We’re 250,000 Interactors, 170,000 Rotaractors, 150,000 Rotary Community Corps members and, in the last year alone, about 8,000 young people in Rotary Youth Exchange. And, of course, we also include the spouses, widows and widowers, and children of Rotarians. Altogether, the family of Rotary is well over two million strong.

Our family is strong because it’s close, and because it’s always forming new ties. We need to ensure that Rotary keeps growing - in all the branches of our family. We should always be looking for and inviting qualified men and women to join our clubs.

Club Calendar of Events

December - Rotary Family Month
Cardin Home Christmas Luncheon - Dec 6
Foster Care Christmas Party - Dec 13
Informational Meeting for Prospective Members - Dec 18
Induction of New Members - Dec 20
Guest Speaker - Rev Dr Wycherley Gumbs

Celebration Time!

Happy Birthday to the December Crew
Rotarian Victor
Partners-in-Service Michele Blake, Jovil Rogers, Cynthia Williams, Carlene Morton

Happy Anniversary
Victor and Sheila, Keith and Patricia, O’neil and Jovil, Willie and Cynthia, Earle and Bernice, Kerryanne and Andre

Welcome our Three Newest Members!
Youlouca Armony Browne
Classification: Research Services
Sponsor: Charles Morton

Dwayne Hector
Classification: Civil Engineering
Sponsor: Stacey Hobson

Natalie John
Classification: Wedding Planning
Sponsor: Stacey Hobson

Left to Right
Dwayne, Natalie, Youlouca
Cardin Home Christmas Luncheon

6 December, 2007
Foster Care Christmas Party
13 December 2007
Christmas Luncheon Meeting  
20 December 2007

Induction of New Members by IPP Tapley

“A Christmas Message” delivered by Rev Dr Wycherley Gumbs

Christmas Bonus presentation to OTI staff

Special thanks to Petronella Edwards of the Ministry of Health for assisting the Club with the Diabetes Day Camp

President Leah pins new members and one of the sponsors
Joke of the Month

The Obedient Wife

There was a man who had worked all his life, had saved all of his money, and was a real “miser” when it came to his money. Just before he died, he said to his wife... "When I die, I want you to take all my money and put it in the casket with me. I want to take my money to the afterlife with me." And so he got his wife to promise him, with all of her heart, that when he died, she would put all of the money into the casket with him.

Well, he died. He was stretched out in the casket, his wife was sitting there - dressed in black, and her friend was sitting next to her. When they finished the ceremony, and just before the undertakers got ready to close the casket, the wife said, "Wait just a moment!" She had a small metal box with her; she came over with the box and put it in the casket.

Then the undertakers locked the casket down and they rolled it away. So her friend said, "Girl, I know you were not fool enough to put all that money in there with your husband." The loyal wife replied, "Listen, I'm a Christian; I cannot go back on my word. I promised him that I was going to put that money into the casket with him."

You mean to tell me you put that money in the casket with him!?!?!?"

"I sure did," said the wife. "I got it all together, put it into my account, and wrote him a check.... If he can cash it, then he can spend it."

Thought of the Month

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just within some of us; it is in everyone. As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

Nelson Mandela (1994 inaugural speech)
Merry Christmas