

Dear fellow Rotarians, partners and children of the Rotarians, guests, neighbors, my management team from Rains Fishes all very welcome here today at the Presidents new years party. A special welcome to our honorable member Mr. Glen Thode and his wife Machteld Thode and the BES commissioner Mr. Kamp and Misses Kamp.

Even that this is a little bit late new years party, still I think that its always nice to be together as Rotarians and friends on another location and another time than our regular Wednesday meetings.

The year 2009 is over and we are already almost on the end of the first month of 2010. As we sometimes saying, time is flying.

Also my first 8 month to be a president of the Rotary, was finished before I know.

I review these months and the promises which I did and my board did in the beginning of my year as a president, and my conclusion was this morning we are on the right way, but we are not there yet and we didn't work out yet well the statement of my presidents year Back To the Barrio.

Of course we made some changes already and through the monthly raffle donations we support direct local barrio projects.

Also we had the last 8 month very interesting speakers, such as Prime minister de Jong Elhage, Mr. Kamp, some kwartiermakers, several representatives from local organizations such as, Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds, Zeilvereniging Bonaire, Public Library, Stichting Minder Valide Bonaire, Parko Publico and many more. Often there were good and sometimes fanatical discussions about the internal rules of the Rotary Club Bonaire, and the way to manage the club, and also even after a lot of years we changed the location for the lunch meetings.

And most important the BIS project is still going on and is unfortunely even more necessary then before. This BIS project is something that we can proud of and I want to say a special thanks

to Ruud Vermeulen and Pieter Groenendal who are the engines of this project.

So this Rotary Club Bonaire is not a silent, doing nothing, just sit back and relax club, no we are still active in the community, and that's something we can proud of, all the 28 members of this club. All 28 members with their own background, their own private & business schedules and their own thoughts, as well as support by their partners and colleges.

Still there is a lot of work to do as Rotarians this coming year 2010 and 2011, we need to try to be more active in the Bario's, we need to support and help the community where is possible.

We need to use our wisdom, expertise and connections to advise and help the whole community, from bario's to government , from private persons to public organizations and where is possible to use the international strength of a organization as Rotary International.

I want to mention two examples of the great cooperation and strength of our club, the Haiti funding and the wheelchairs for the stichting which supports the handicapped on Bonaire. We supported the Help for Haiti through ..... with 10.000 dollars and the wheelchairs are already on their way.

These are examples of fast acting , using our connections. These are things to look back at with pride.

I am proud of Rotary Club of Bonaire.

Especially during this year and the year 2011 the community need us maybe more then other years. There will be all kind of changes coming up, good ones, important ones and maybe also some not so good ones, but our task is to help where possible in the community.

We are Rotary Bonaire, we know our strength, we know what we can accomplish and THAT we all love Bonaire, so for 2010 let's go back to work as a team and let us take our private, business, social and our Rotarian responsibility!

Thank you Happy New Year enjoy the afternoon