My Job Talk

— Maithili Shaan Katari Libby

Rotarian Gopal Ratnam

The first job talk was a succinct by Rotarian Gopal Ratnam who joined Rotary in 1978. He spoke of his strong affiliation with the Rotary, his experiences, and his strong faith and belief in the good that Rotary does.

Workwise, he is an organic chemist, and continues to be one. A perfumer, he said, is rather like an AR Rahman song...you grow into it gradually.

Rotarian Anand Vurgese

A Chennai boy through and through, having been schooled here and then being a Loyola College student, Anand, his wife Anila, and daughter Annika were introduced to us via a short film.

Anand began his career in the telecom sector working with the main players: Tata, Airtel, and Reliance, before switching to starting his own concrete business. The latter is doing well. As if this were not enough to keep him busy, Anand also has a ‘night job’ as he put it...his true passion Boombox Entertainment focussing on live music events in Chennai.

Anand’s inspiration? His uncle Rtn Christopher Devaprasagam. No explanation was needed to any Rotarian in the room as to why this would be the case.
Sgt-at-arms Rtn M Srinivasan collared President Rtn Dr Arulmozhi Varman, who called the 17th meeting of RCM to order, followed by a silent invocation.

The minutes of the 18th Oct’16 meeting was duly confirmed.

President welcomed members for the meeting, probus club Pres Namasivayam, and guests introduced by members.

President extended birthday & wedding anniversary wishes to the respective Rotarians/spouses who celebrate that week and thanked for their sunshine.

Rtn R Ravishankar, Director Community Service reported on the sewing machine distribution function held at Rotary Nagar on 24th Oct’16 evening. He was pleased to say that 48 machines have been given to the women who successfully completed the tailoring course. The MLA Mr Natraj IPS retd was the chief Guest, and gave away the sewing machines to the women of Rotary Nagar Centre. He also assured the community that the pending requests for a library, Gym and a TUCS will be reinstated at the place. Director thanked members for attending the function. He also requested members to attend for the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of 206 toilets on Thursday 27th at the Paiyanoor village, funded by term gift from Rtn Dr Anuradha Ganesan and Global grant from RI. The District Governor has agreed to be the Chief Guest. He handed over a flag collected from Nairobi, Kenya to President. He said that the Combined Community service meeting will be on the 15th Nov’16 and requested members to attend to know more about our projects.

Rtn PP Ravi Katari, Chair International fellowship & Group of 1929 informed members that the Clubsof1929 Groupfellowship will be at Colombo from 19th to 25th feb’17. Requested members to be a part of the event and enjoy the fellowship.

Secretary Rtn Dr R Chandrasekhar announced that the next weekly meeting will be on 1st Nov’16 at the same place same time

Speaker: Dr Sunil Solomen
Topic: Silent Killer Hepatitis C and YRG CARE’s response
Rtns PP Gopal Ratnam & Anand Vurgese shared their ‘My Job Talk’ and made to know more about them.

An absorbing / captivating slides were shown on the recent international trip to Kenya, which was beautifully narrated by Rtn PP KK Raman in his unique style with humorous touch. He ended by saying that the 3 takeaways from the fellowship – Rtn Masud’s wife Suraiya is brilliant in tamil diction/chaste tamil; Rtn P Suresh a beautiful photographer and RCM better than Thomas Cook.

The meeting was then adjourned.
Distribution of Sewing Machines at Rotary Nagar

On Monday, the 24th October 2016, Rotary Nagar was busy with the entire community busy with arrangements for a function, where Sewing Machines were distributed to 48 women. Each of these 48 women had successfully completed a Tailoring and Embroidery Course conducted by Rotary Club of Madras at the Rotary Nagar centre. The cost of each Sewing Machine was Rs.4,800/- and of this 50% was contributed by the beneficiary, while 50% was donated by select Rotarians of RCM.

Dr.R. Nataraj, I.P.S (retd.), MLA of Mylapore Constituency presided as the Chief Guest of this function. President Dr. Arulmozhi Varman participated as the Guest of Honour, along with two leaders of the local Community. Dr. Nataraj appreciated RCM for its stupendous service at Rotary Nagar and assured his support in every possible way. He also accepted the long pending requirements of the local community for a TUCS Fair Price Shop at Rotary Nagar and a Gymnasium.

Rtn. Sundaresan Ravi, co-chairman of the Rotary Nagar project highlighted involvement of the Rotary Club of Madras since 1947 in this project, and the benefits which the local community had received over the last 69 years. President Dr. Arulmozhi Varman congratulated the 48 women for successfully completing the Course and assured the local community of RCM’s continued support.

Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan, the Chairman of Rotary Nagar project proposed the Vote of Thanks and highlighted the wonderful support being extended by Mrs. Malarvizhi and Ms. Lakhsmi, the two Teachers for the Tailoring Course.

Ground-breaking ceremony @ Paiyanoor Village

Thursday, 27th October 2016 will be an important date in the history of Paiyanoor village, for it is on this date, the first step was taken towards making this Village an “Open Defecation Free Village”. The ground-breaking ceremony was held on this date for construction of 206 toilets by the Rotary Club of Madras. This project is being undertaken by RCM thanks to a generous Term Gift from Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan and Global Grant from Rotary International.

District Governor of Dist 3230 Rtn. Natarajan Nagoji presided as the Chief Guest, in the presence of our President Rtn. Dr. Arulmozhi Varman. Chairman of the Sanitation Project Rtn. Sundaresan Ravi in his speech, gave highlights of the Water and Sanitation Project being implemented by RCM. He said that RCM was not restricting its involvement with merely constructing the Toilets, but was also undertaking Awareness Campaign to bring about Behavioural Change among the Community on usage of Toilets and clean Hygiene habits.

Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan, as the Principal Donor for this project in Paiyanoor, spoke on involvement of Vinayaka Missions University and Aaru Paadai Veedu Institute of Technology’s Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives along with Rotary Club of Madras in the Paiyanoor Village. She said that along with providing good education, the University was also providing a good opportunity through this project for the Students of Civil Engineering to gain practical experience, and encouraged the Students to make good use of this.

President of RCM, Dr. Arulmozhi Varman informed that this project, along with the 175 toilets being constructed by RCM in Periya Puliyar Village at Gumidipundi, with financial support of a Term Gift from Rtn. Markand Desai and a Global Grant from Rotary International, would result in RCM constructing almost 500 toilets during 2016-17.

The District Governor Rtn. Natarajan Nagoji appreciated RCM for undertaking this noteworthy project and said such projects, which were in line with Hon’ble Prime Minister’s Vision for making India healthy and a cleaner place, were very important. He also advised the Paiyanoor Villagers to appreciate the need for Clean Hygiene and use the Toilets which were now available for them.

RCM Hony Secretary Rtn. Dr. Chandrasekhar proposed the Vote of Thanks.

The Bhoomi Puja was performed in the presence of the Rotarians Dr. Arulmozhi Varman, Venkhat Ramani, Dr. Chandrasekhar, Indra Subramanian, P. N. Mohan, Dr. Anuradha Ganesan, Balaji Chinni, Deepak Chander, Vijay Kumar Kadel, Sundaresan Ravi and Ravishankar.

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OUT OF AFRICA

This week, we feature the beauty of African wild through the lenses of Rtn M. Balasubramanian. Watch this space for more by other Rotarians, in the coming weeks.
The tiger by the tail

- Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar

Oops! Of course, this was not tiger country. But, it was promised - there would be lions, leopards and cheetahs galore not to mention the beauteous gazelle, giraffes, zebras, ostriches... Sigh!

Having landed in Nairobi, the African experience began. We piled into safari-style Land Rovers, and felt very much Indie Jones as we hurtled to our first destination, a beautiful Mountain Lodge overlooking a watering hole.

So the morning after a good snooze in a cabin-like room with all amenities so that we don’t miss our homes, down we went to the little underground watch hole only to see a fearsome sight!

It took us a minute to collect our wits and drag our daring Rotarian back into the confines of the watch hole - but the predators we had come to see had vanished, obviously from fear of the greater fear! We saw some wildcats, some gazelle... but this was indeed a promising Promised Land.

Rested and refreshed, we moved on to a beautiful tented resort, 01-Pejeta (on the equator if you please), many miles down, to our accommodation again overlooking a watering hole. Amazing indeed it was to share, for so it seemed, our world with the magical creatures who came time and again, to drink their fill from the watering hole.

Rich in wildlife, 01-Pejeta was where we sighted a spectrum of species and, where we had seen our fill of zebra, giraffe, gazelle or different kinds, wilderbeest, etc, etc so much so that they soon become passé. We would remark, “Oh, that’s only a zebra!” while passing one.

It was as if God had opened his fist and had thrown into this wonderful landscape, every beautiful creature that He could create.

After a night in Nairobi, we headed towards, what else, but Mara, better known for the Masai tribe that lives there.

Lion, cheetah, leopard... the predators were endless. One evening, we watched amazed as three lions so seamlessly plotted a kill, while the magnificent lion ‘supervised’ the operation.

A bird’s eye view of the landscape, the animals and a rising sun, thanks to a balloon ride, completed our experience. Wait - I used the wrong expression. Can an experience like this ever be truly complete? Heading out into the wilds with a group of your good friends is like holding the tiger by its tail - you just cannot let go!

Next issue: Fellowship in the bush!