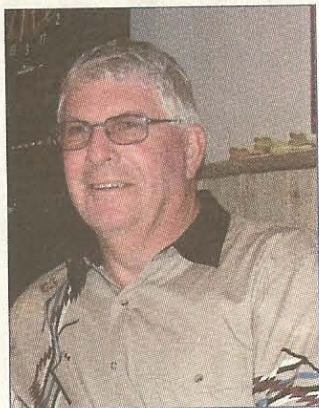


A VISIT WITH GLENN CHAMBERLAIN



Glenn Chamberlain

The Venue Magazine asked Glenn Chamberlain to tell us about his world. We knew that it extends beyond the boundaries of home here in Ephrata. In fact the world of Glenn Chamberlain and his wife includes sharing their heart and hard work with the children of Guatemala.

VM: Glenn, can you please tell us about your background here locally? What have been your involvements here at home?

Glenn: I have been a member of the Ephrata Rotary Club since 1972 (16 years). I have been the club president twice and am currently the club World Community Service Chair.

I have been married for 44 years, have 8 children (all married) and have 23 grandchildren with one more on the way. I moved to Moses Lake in 1962 from Bremerton WA., where I was born and went to school. I served 4 years in the Air Force from 1962 to 1966. I attended Big Bend Community Collage during this time.

I went to work for the Grant County PUD in 1966 after the Air Force and worked there for 6 years. In 1972 I purchased a local business in Ephrata, Enterprise Oxygen Company, and operated it until 1996. We grew that

business from three stores to nine stores including three medical equipment rental stores. In 1979 we built the Cylinder filling plant at the Port of Ephrata. When I sold the business we employed 44 people.

We served 4 years on the Grant County Fair Board.

Twelve years as a member of the Ephrata City Council.

Four years as a Grant County Commissioner.

I was one of the founders of Grant National Bank in Ephrata. (Now American West Bank).

I was one of the founders of the Grant County Economic Development Council and served as Chairman for the first two years.

I have served on numerous boards and committees in the county.

I am an active member of my church in Ephrata and have served in numerous capacities in the Church.

I currently own a large apartment complex in Ephrata and the largest Equestrian Center in the state. It is located in Spokane. My wife and I have been involved in breeding, training and showing horses for the last 20 years. We currently have a small, 15 acre farm just South of Ephrata.

VM: How did you become interested in



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Profile: Glenn Chamberlain

the country of Guatemala and the children there?

Glenn: I became interested in the Guatemala Literacy Project in 1999 when a member of the Moses Lake Rotary Club put on a program for the Ephrata Rotary Club. In February of 2000 I made my first trip to Guatemala to work on the project. Since then I have been back 13 times and my wife has gone with me 6 times.

The Guatemala Literacy Project is a joint effort by more than 170 Rotary Clubs in the United States and Canada to bring badly needed Text Books to rural Guatemalan schools. Nearly 70% of the adult rural population of Guatemala cannot read or write.

Guatemala is located on the southern border of Mexico and has a population of about 14 million people. About 60% of the population is native Mayan people and they live mostly in the Western Highlands of Guatemala. 70% of the population is directly involved in agriculture. Most of this is subsistence farming by individual families. The average income for a Guatemalan family is two to three dollars a day.

After 36 years of war the Guatemalan people threw off their dictator and elected their first President in 1996, just 12 years ago. The government still has not been able to fund schools beyond the building of building and paying for teachers. School after school that we visit have no books or any other class room materials in the schools. The teachers don't even have books to teach from. 80% of the children drop out of school after the sixth grade to work in the fields or in the home to support the family.

Rotary Clubs have raised money and purchased 148,857 text books for 170 schools in the poorest areas of Guatemala.

The following is a list of the total accomplishments to date:

170 schools now have text books in Math, Science, Social Studies and Spanish.

31,991 students study each day with Rotary Text Books.

148,857 books are now in circulation.
29 computer centers have been installed in Schools.

12,300 Guatemalan students are now learning computer technology.
39 school mini-libraries.

284 students have been able to go to school because of a scholarship.

43 students are currently attending school on a scholarship paid for by a U.S. sponsor.

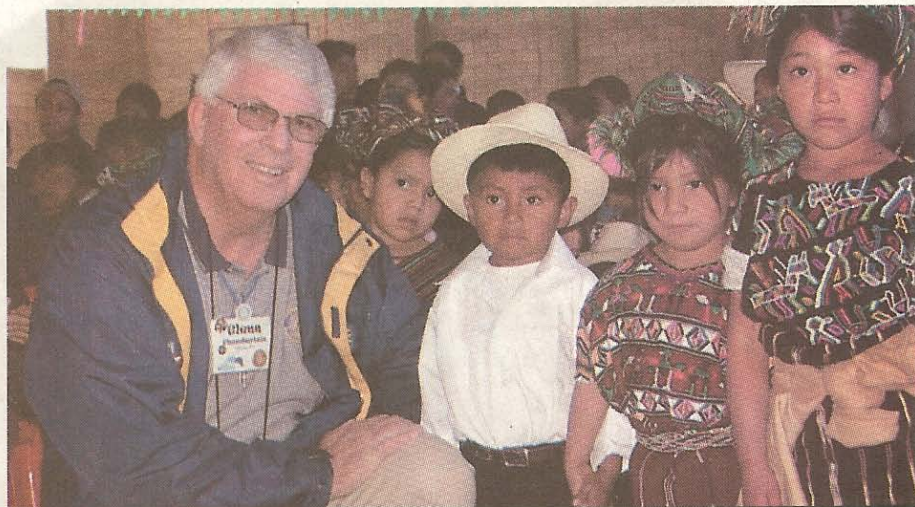
Guatemala is the most illiterate country in all of the Americas. It is our goal to try to change that statistic one school at a time. This is a long term project. Rotarians have been at it for 11 years and we now have text books in the four core subjects of Math, Science, Social Studies and Spanish in 11% of the schools we are targeting. We have seen the drop out rate in the schools that we have placed text books drop by 46%.

Guatemalan schools are not like American schools. The parents must pay for their children's education. They have to pay a tuition, pay for all schools materials and in some cases the teachers salary. The average rural Guatemalan teacher makes about \$125.00 American per month. Most of the schools are either morning schools or afternoon schools. There is only four hours of school per day. One hour in each

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The schools where I took this photo is called "San Antonio Sacatepequez" It is in the Wester Highlands of Guatemala. A very poor area of the Country. The little girl is a Mayan Indian. There were about 150 children at this school from The first through sixth grades. We drove about an hour over very rough dirt roads to get to this school. - Glenn



Profile: Glenn Chamberlain – continued from page 11



subject. Many of the teachers will travel to another school and teach in the afternoon in order to make a living.

A total of 330 Rotary clubs have contributed to this project over the 11 years of its existence. We have raised more than a million dollars to purchase books and computers. A total of 126 Rotary Club members and their spouses from across the United States and Canada have traveled to Guatemala to work on this humanitarian service project.

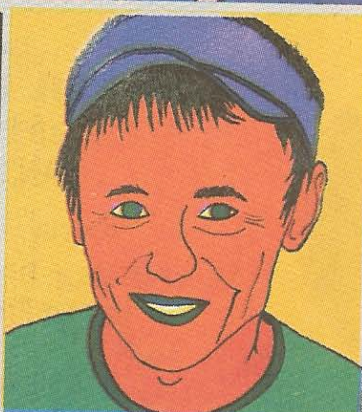
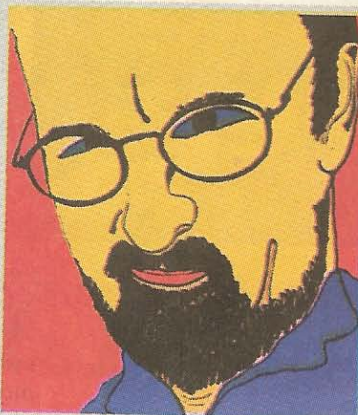
For the last three years I have been the Rotary National Coordinator for this project and the Ephrata Rotary Club has been actively supporting this project since 2000. This year we were successful in getting a \$100,000.00 matching grant from Rotary International for this project.

The success of this project and its sustainability element has drawn world wide recognition. In November of 2005 I was invited to New York to address a

United Nations conference on Health, Water quality and Literacy issues in third world countries. This project and my presentation was the only literacy project presented at this conference. It drew a great deal of attention and follow up interest from ambassadors from third world countries around the world. In February of this year representatives from the Guatemala Literacy Project met with the U.S. ambassador to Guatemala for more than two hours to discuss the success of this project.

I am glad I was born an American and have this, the greatest country on Earth to live, work and raise my family. However I believe that we have a moral obligation to do all the we can to help the people of the world who have little or nothing. More than 1.5 million children died last year in this world from starvation. We can make a difference even if it is for just one child some where in the world. My

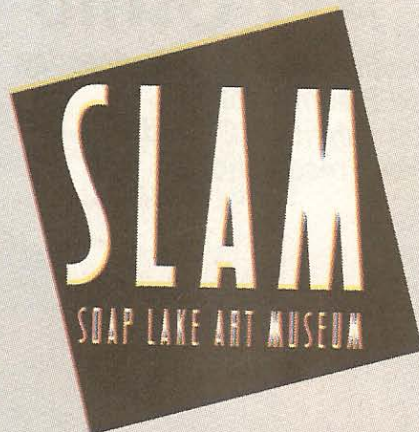
wife and I have chosen to work for the betterment of the children of Guatemala. The Ephrata Rotary club members truly practice their motto, "Service Above Self". Not just in Guatemala but in our own community of Ephrata and the Columbia Basin. Rotary is a service organization. If you want to be of service to others we invite you to join us in making the world a better place to live for all of man kind. We can't do it alone. But with 1.2 million Rotarians around the world working together we can change the world and make it a better world for all. ■



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