



**DISTRICT 5030**

**NEWSLETTER**

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## **Club '51'**

**A column of happenings and doings by  
the Rotary Clubs of District 5030.**

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### **Lynnwood**

#### **Bridges to Prosperity**

Recently, the Rotary Club of Lynnwood was introduced to an innovative and exciting project benefiting the people of Ethiopia. Rotarian **Bill Morton** is helping to spread the word for this project. "This is an intriguing project for Rotary that could also be a cooperative program with other organizations, such as USAID. The project is called Bridges to Prosperity."



**Ken Frantz**, a Rotarian of Gloucester Point, VA (District 7610), has erected a steel truss bridge across a broken bridge on the Blue Nile River in Ethiopia. From his own resources, Frantz has given the population in that area of the world the opportunity to develop trade, access health centers, schools for children, and community wells.

In a letter to William G.B. Gant, Vice Chairperson of the RI World Community Service Committee, Morton continued: "Several of us Rotarians in District 5030 have agreed to assist Ken in raising money (\$75,000) to build 2 suspension foot bridges (wide enough for loaded donkeys) as models for the Ethiopians to learn to build. The plan is to build at least 50 per year, similar to over 1200 bridges that have been built in Nepal and Indonesia with a model designed by Swiss engineers. Bridges would eventually cost only \$10,000 each. The Blue Nile runs 650 miles through the highlands in Ethiopia, with only two highway bridges in that length and several million people on both sides not able to trade across."

Further, Morton said that contact with **Floyd Olson**, RI Director, has brought a suggestion "that we begin by presenting the program to the District Governors, Governor-Elect,s and Past District Governors within the ten districts in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia that meet for the yearly PETS and Blue Denim conferences. Our current DG, **Rosemary Aragon**, is the program chairperson for the 'blue denims' conference and will get Bridges to Prosperity on the agenda. Floyd was highly interested in the prospects because we could also include clean water wells, schools, health clinics, and a boost to the economy. We have scheduled Ken Frantz for a presentation at our 5030 spring conference in Victoria, BC, in April."

Frantz' project was the subject of an article in National Geographic, October 2002 issue. The Bridges to Prosperity project maintains a website at <http://www.bridgestoprosperty.org> that contains many photos of the venture, as well as about 30 photos which are on the Washington State University magazine's website at <http://washington-state-magazine.wsu.edu> .

Several Rotary Clubs have seen a presentation on the project, receiving "enthusiastic interest and support. In addition, 65 Rotarians from District 5030 returned in early November from a National Immunization Day project for the Polio Eradication Campaign and are eager to continue "making a difference" in Ethiopia.

For a presentation of Bridges to Prosperity, contact [Bill Morton](#) of the Rotary Club of Lynnwood.

**(News Story filed by CIO Ralph Pehrson)**



**Top L-R: Randy Stacey, cable; Hussein, nurse; Burre, security; Ken, founder; Amar, camp**

**Bottom L-R: Dr. Mengistu, medical clinic; Zoe Keone, logistics; Gary, Masonry**