I have just returned from the International Council Meeting in Orlando, Florida. The District Secretaries were invited along with the Governors of all the Districts worldwide. Governor David and I were able to get much information that will help us serve you better for the rest of this year.

There was a significant amount of time in the meetings dealing with the topic of growing clubs. This topic took into account all aspects of club growth. For example, there are currently 3,700 Kiwanis clubs that are losing members. This is a very large number. It was suggested that we spend time trying to strengthen those clubs that are losing 1-5 members. Practice has shown that clubs in this range are most likely to show progress toward improvement. Ways to strengthen clubs were discussed. For example, there are still 400 clubs who have no women members. Those clubs could be strengthened by the addition of women. There is a need to build clubs in ethnic neighborhoods. There are many neighborhoods that need a Kiwanis club but do not have one because we have not reached out sufficiently to various ethnic groups.

There was also much discussion about getting Kiwanis working again. That means giving the clubs something to do. There are many programs that are available to the clubs. For example; Kiwanis in a Box, Bringing up Grades, Read Around the World, the Flu Shot Program, K-Kids, Terrific Kids, and more. We need to take advantage of all possibilities to allow Clubs to serve.

The last portion of the meeting was the goal of 1,000,000 members by 2015. This was discussed at length, with many ideas presented as to how to achieve this goal. We will all hear more about this in Montreal.

All in all it was a very good meeting. The work accomplished will benefit our organization, if we can include many of the goals that were set forth into our District.

The Mid-Year Conference is just around the corner. It will be a chance for all of us to learn more about how to make our Clubs better in the job of providing service to our respective communities. Send in your registration form now and be prepared to have a blast. You will have information and a surprise or two. See you at the conference will be, as always, informative. Governor David has “Wine Tasting” and “Food Prep Demonstration” planned and a Texas Holdem for those of you that want to play.

God has provided for our family most abundantly. His grace has truly been amazing! We hope you have had a blessed Christmas and will enjoy the fulfillment of God’s promises for the New Year! - Adam, Dodi, Christen, Evan, and Seth.