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My Fellow Kiwanians:

Happy February to you all! I hope you are all keeping well.

For some of us, January has been the most dynamic month of the administrative year so far. Certainly for the Lt. Governors in Jamaica with Divisional Visits, planning for the Mid Year Conference and KI President Visit, Growth Events, Quarterly Reports etc., they have experienced a month of high Kiwanis energy culminating in extraordinary successes.

It was a pleasure visiting Divisions 25, 24 and 23E during January. I must say a big thank you to Lt. Governors Oliver Lotha, Angella Strudwick and Leighton McKnight for leading their respective divisions in such a positive way. I have seen a level of passion and enthusiasm that has not been seen in years. Congratulations to you all!

Our Mid Year Conference was a tremendous success. I think every participant left the conference rejuvenated and reenergized. The careful blend of activities coupled with a superb property (Sunset Jamaica Grande Hotel) and excellent service left everyone wanting more and looking forward to the next. (Highlights of the conference will be in the next issue.)

Our KI International President Don Canaday made his second visit to our district. It was a historic moment at the Hilton Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica when he presided over an induction of 75 new members from divisions 23E & 23W. Also at the function, were 45 prospective Kiwanians. There were over 500 persons in attendance. That is larger than some of our district conventions.

President Don has challenged the divisions in our district to repeat that induction and divisions have answered "YES WE CAN." There is already a date set for Division 22 (Bahamas – June 14 or 15, 2009), Divisions 23E, 23W, 24 & 25 (Jamaica – June 16, 17 & 18, 2009) and tentative date for Divisions 10, 12 & 13 combined (Ottawa – May 9, 2009). I look forward to hearing from other divisions rising to the occasion.

As you continue to serve and extend the hand of kindness to others, please know that the recipients are grateful for what you are doing. Never be dissuaded because of challenges. Instead, use your challenges to create opportunities. Keep the joy of helping in your heart and always remember the smile of that child whose life you touched.

Lots of love and blessings for 2009!

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