

## *Kiwanis Club of Barbados South*

### *President's Message - December 2020*

It is said that "Christmas is for children", and we say that Kiwanis is all about children, "Serving the Children of the World," that's our motto, but if I were to ask you what it means to be a Kiwanian at Christmas, what would your response be? I started writing this article for the bulletin a few days ago, it has not been easy. I've started over quite a few times but I think this time, this is it. I'm asking myself the same question I'm asking you now, "What does it mean to be a Kiwanian at Christmas?"

Kiwanis isn't a movement or a Club to me, it's a feeling. True, I love the protocols, I love the "IPPs, PLGs, DLGs, PPs and all the other titles, in fact I could very easily go through an entire fellowship meeting without referring to anyone by their given names. That's fun to me. But then there is a serious side to being a Kiwanian, it's the responsibility of knowing that somewhere out there is a child who needs us to step up, a child who is counting on one or all of us to fight for them. They may not know who we are, they don't need to, that's not important. What is important is that by fighting for that child we have earned the right to wear the "K" that we all hold so dear.

These are hard times, for a lot of people COVID-19 has cut them off at the knees. Without thinking too hard I'm sure that each of us can identify a family or two in need, with children. "If you need - ask, if you have - offer." That's a quote from the Council meeting at the beginning of this administrative year and its simply perfect. That statement to me demands that we look after each other and share what we are blessed with, with others.

Recently, I threw out a challenge to, in your "houses", source devices for some of our children who need them. The response from most of you was heart-warming. Not one of you asked which children, you have absolutely no idea how that made me feel, how much it meant and I want to say "thank you, thank you and thank you!!" To the ones who didn't respond, that's OK, there is no judgement here, not every activity will resonate with everyone. We are a strong group, and each and every one of you should celebrate that. As a group we can do so much.

So fellow Ks its Christmas and we are Kiwanians. Two challenges today. By the time you read this we would hopefully have received the names, sexes and ages of a group of children we need to give a gift to this Christmas. Our gift to them will be reading books, that's as a group. Individually though, I task you with helping a child on your own, who is better off this Christmas because YOU are here.

So, what does it mean to me to be a Kiwanian at Christmas? It means giving just a little bit more of me. It means coaxing a smile from a tiny person's face.... especially the toothless ones.

Merry Christmas Fellow Kiwanians, may the season bring you joy, peace and hope for the coming year.

*President Sandra*