### IN SERVICE ABOVE SELF

# Special Edition Claremont Rotary Year 93 | Week 6 | August 13,

## Are We Better United or Divided?

Saturday, July 31st, the Bari community world-wide conducted a four-hour zoom meeting by an organizing team that is called "a land of ancestors." The organizer's name is Lowala Sule, and I was the guest speaker as the acting chairman of the Bari Community Global (BCG), USA. This article summarizes the meeting. (The Bari are a tribe of East African people living along the Nile inhabiting South Sudan, and increasingly are emigrating around the world due to political and environmental pressure.)

The agenda of the meeting included discussion of:

- The best strategy to strengthen the unity of the Bari community worldwide and especially those in southern Sudan.
- The roles of BC Global to support the youth who are stranded in Uganda, Sudan, or Southern Sudan
- The unity of the Bari community in diaspora, and
- How the Bari community can help the local indigenous under their chiefdom to support them in any of their development projects.

I reviewed the role of intellectuals who have emphasized the differences among those in the Bari community, particularly from 2013 to the present as South Sudan has been in politi-



cal turmoil. A divisive spirit and political struggles have led to divisions of the community into different parties which cannot sustain the unity of local communities. I urged Bari intellectuals to resolve their differences in order to bring unity. It is very important that each one should recognize their mistakes and narrow the integrity gap between the parties.

It is clear that in order to effectively achieve unity, people have to work at the grassroots, providing necessary support to the youth and challenging the political elite to be focused on public concerns. This is what BCG is doing.

I also talked about agriculture and the challenges facing farmers in getting loans to increase their agricultural productivity.



Above all, the biggest barrier to carrying out activities to support development is the lack of finance. Without access to loans and investment, it is very difficult for the organization to achieve its sustainable goals.

I ended with an appeal to all International NGOs and corporate partners to support the Bari community in order to help the members of South Sudanese communities to support sustainable development goals. Support from Rotary International in areas of common concern would be a tremendous boost to the Bari community.



Among the key speakers for the meeting were: previous chairman of the BC Global Federation, Louis Nyarsuk from Canada; Honorable Omar Woshong from Khartoum; and Reverent father, Charles Sebit in Uganda; Massimenio Gore from the UK, and many more.

If you want to know more about the needs of the Bari community, please contact <u>me</u> or view the <u>Bari Community</u> Global website.



Mark Carson
Claremont Rotary
President
2021-2022



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Bacon Bits
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Sergeants committee gathers before each meeting by email.
Anyone is welcome to share information!!

Nona Tirre, chair

#### **Clarifier Committee**

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#### Website

Information about the club and back editions of this newsletter are always available on DACdb and www.claremontRotary.org

#### Join us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RotaryofClaremont
Club Bylaws and Policies are posted for
member access on DACdb

#### **August Birthdays**

Bill Burrows 8/4
Brett O'Connor 8/5
Susie Ilsley 8/8
John Tulac 8/9
Don Ralls 8/11
Juli Minoves-Triquell 8/15
Jeff Bonhus 8/22
Ned Paniagua 8/23
Bob Siliciano and Peter Weinberger 8/25
Kelly Carson 8/26 Armando Armenta 8/27

Notes by Jim Lehman and Mike DeWees; Photos by Steve Schenck
The Claremont Rotary Club meets on Zoom at 12:00 on Friday until further notice