Pierr Casimir penned those words as part of his final
Pierre Casimir accepts the rewards of winning an essay contest sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Bruxelles Europe, Belgium.

The Kiwanis club and the Athénée Royale de Watermael Boitsfort asked rhetoric students to write essays about Kiwanis’ six Objects. Students were given a few days to reflect on the topic and 2½ hours to write the dissertation. A jury of six Kiwanis club members evaluated the submissions and selected Pierre Casimir’s “The Values of Kiwanis Club” as the winning essay.

Winning writers won a trip to Avignon, France, where they were welcomed by the Kiwanis Club of Avignon (French).

Read the essay.

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Cold cash

When temperatures drop, snow begins to fall and ponds and lakes begin to freeze, conditions are just right for the Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada, Kiwanis Club to start raising money. That’s when it’s time for the Kiwanis Club of Nanaimo, British Columbia’s annual Polar Bear Bathtub Race.

Inspired by the community’s summer full-size bathtub races, club members conceived a toy-size version for late January.

“It was just a stupid crazy idea that everyone fell in love with,” says Nanaimo Kiwanian Ray Burley. He explains that retailers and the local media like it because it fills the Christmas-to-Easter void of business and social news events.

Children register to participate and receive a balsam-wood kit to carve into the shape of a
Kiwanis International's Rose Parade entry cruises down a Pasadena, California, street. Titled "Sharing the Great Outdoors," the craft was designed by the Phoenix Decorating Company and decorated by Kiwanis-family volunteers. This past year, 6,000 Kiwanis-family members helped the Phoenix Decorating Company decorate 14 Rose Parade floats.

Most beautiful

A mother bear watches over her young cub sitting in a glade of carnations, daisies and roses. An eagle soars above a stream of iris, statice, roses and orchids. A scene from paradise? Judges at the 120th Rose Parade thought so. Kiwanis International’s entry into the annual Pasadena, California, New Year’s Day celebration won the Princess Trophy as the “Most Beautiful Float Under 35 Feet.”

The design for Kiwanis' 2010 float (at right) already has been selected, featuring a treehouse and swing in a wooded setting. It will hold 16 riders.

The Kiwanis International Foundation’s Rose Float Fellowship was established to support the organization’s entry into the annual event.

2010 Kiwanis Rose Parade float
Share your story

Kiwanis International is always looking for Kiwanis-family stories. The organization’s magazine, Web sites and other publications receive many submissions from clubs worldwide, so it can never promise if or when a story will appear. However, your club’s story just may be the one we need. Simply post or e-mail a brief description and don’t forget to submit great storytelling photographs.

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President’s Message

See you in Music City USA

By Don Canaday, President, Kiwanis International

The 94th Annual Kiwanis International Convention is just around the corner, which means it’s time to make sure you are a part of an amazing celebration of service.

This year, we are gathering in Nashville, Tennessee—Music City USA! For three days, you will have the chance to make new friends, elect new officers, update our Bylaws to keep Kiwanis current and relevant and sharpen your service skills in workshops, forums and business sessions.

Oh, and you will have some fun too. Lots of it!

You will have a chance to make a change—to be the change—in a child’s life while you’re in Nashville and to make a lasting impact on the community and how it sees the Kiwanis organization.

Register now for convention. Make your plans to join us in Nashville this year, and in Las Vegas, Nevada, in 2010. Meanwhile, sign up to receive the latest convention news.

I look forward to seeing you there!

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Convention updates

'Chris' is back

“Chris”—Kiwanis’ virtual tour guide—once again is calling Kiwanis members to the annual international convention. The online video host is eager to see you in Nashville, Tennessee, June 25-28. He also wants to introduce you to host committee chairman James T. Mann. Watch the video.

Make plans for 2011

Where in the world will Kiwanis International go for its 96th Annual Convention? Here’s a clue: It’s not in the United States or Canada.

The Kiwanis International Board has approved Geneva, Switzerland, as the host city for the organization’s 2011 convention. Reserve July 7-10 on your calendar, and visit these Web sites will help you start your travel plans:

- Geneva Tourism and Convention Bureau
- Welcome to Geneva

Fill the gap

A doctor, a banker, a candlestick maker. Does your club have a mix of members that represents your community?

Kiwanis International now offers corporate memberships, which allow a club to designate a membership spot for an employee of a specific company or organization. If the employee changes jobs or transfers to a new location, another employee can be designated to fill the company’s membership spot without being charged a new-member fee.

What is a corporate membership?

A corporate membership allows a club to designate an individual membership spot in a Kiwanis club for an employee of a specific company or organization. As an employee changes jobs or is transferred to a new location, a new employee can be designated to take the place of the previous member without being charged a new member fee by the organization.

Why would a club want to offer a corporate membership?

Corporate membership will appeal to large organizations with employees at multiple locations, especially where employees tend to be transferred every few years: bank branches, financial service companies, retail stores, restaurant chains, public school
Can an employer have a corporate membership and send different employees to the meetings each week?

Yes. Different employees from the same employer can attend meetings. However, only the designated person can hold office or vote on club business.

Does a corporate member pay regular dues?

Yes. The member pays all associated club dues just like any other club member. The employer may choose to pay the dues on behalf of the employee; however, this is not required.

Can a corporate member hold office?

Yes. Corporate members are entitled to all club benefits of any other member in good standing.

Can a corporate member be part of a club satellite?

Yes.

Can one employer have two corporate memberships?

Yes. Each corporate membership would have a specific person named to the membership. There is no limit to the number of corporate memberships in a club.

Does a corporate membership require a change to the club bylaws?

No. The club secretary will need to denote on the member application that this person is a corporate member and identify the company or organization.

Light the way

Let this flashlight guide your steps. With an LED and lithium battery, the "SmashLight" will last for years. Carry it with the wrist strap or use the magnetic back to stow it away. At US$5, it makes a great gift or giveaway item.

New features at KiwanisOne.org
Revised by popular demand, the new [www.KiwanisOne.org](http://www.KiwanisOne.org) dashboard (Member Resources home page) sports several new elements to make browsing, finding critical resources, and getting the latest news quicker and easier. Thanks to all the members who contributed great suggestions:

- Find a Club locator (top left)
- International President's Message box
- Links to supported language resources (German, Spanish, French, Italian, Dutch, Japanese, Chinese)
- Links to read blogs on leadership development and insider perspective from staff
- Archives feature for news and announcements.

**Dates to remember**

- **March 12-14, 2009**: The 34th Annual Kiwanis Asia-Pacific Convention, in Cebu City, the Philippines.
- **April 4, 2009**: [Kiwanis One Day](http://www.kiwanis.org/kiwanis-one-day). Remember to share your One Day story, photos and videos. KIWANIS magazine wants to know about your club’s Kiwanis One Day project. For a chance to be published in the June 2009 magazine, [e-mail](mailto:) your action-packed photos and story by April 7.
- **June 4-6, 2009**: The 42nd Annual Kiwanis International-European Federation Convention in Ghent, Belgium.

**Essay**

The Values of Kiwanis Club

*By Pierre Casimir, Athénée Royale de Watermael Boitsfort*

Casimir penned the winning entry in an essay contest sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Bruxelles Europe Kiwanis Club. [Read](http://www.kiwanis.org/) about the contest.

People come together in different ways at the international level, united by the same ideas, to defend human values and to try to serve society. These individuals firmly
believe that human moral values are the very foundation of a better world and they
decide to devote time, through each one of their actions, to promote these values
and to pass them on to the younger generations.

This conception calls for the definition of human moral values and how they lead to
a better society and a peaceful world.

One can give a series of examples of human values: solidarity, generosity, justice,
tolerance, honesty. All these are altruistic concepts which indicate an interest on the
part of some for the welfare of individuals who are their partners in the community.
From a general point of view, these are the moral principles which represent the
truth, the beautiful, the good and serve as a reference to a part of the population.

Thus, everyone would agree readily that they constitute the foundations of a better
society, but when it comes to scrupulously following the precepts which derive from
these values, there are only a few who show themselves to be capable of following
them. Therefore, one may ask, why these ideas whose good sense is so evident,
are nevertheless embraced with so much difficulty in human societies.

To offer an element of response to this, it is important to keep in mind that out of
sheer pride, Man has always considered himself to be different and superior to
animals. But the fact is that he is subject to the same basic natural laws: he has to
survive and reproduce. When we observe the animal world, we see for example,
that in a nest of birds, the strongest and the liveliest chick will be better fed,
whereas the weakest bird will die at the end, a prey to domination by the others.
Of course, this example is rather elementary in the face of complexity of animal
world and the complexity of the problem. And yet, the same rules of natural
selection are operative on more evolved systems and also on human societies.

But for Man, thanks to his capabilities of thinking, imagination and intelligence, there
is an additional vital preoccupation: pursuit of happiness. And an individual’s
happiness is intimately linked with that of the whole community. But the fact is that
a society’s happiness cannot be achieved unless each individual devotes himself to
the society, assumes a function in it and shows concern about its positive evolution.
From that, a whole series of moral principles flow—human values—which have
been developed by thinkers of all societies during the course of history. From the
antiquity onwards, they have been taken up, at least partly, in a number of
philosophical works which form the basis of great ideologies, particularly in sacred
books of various religions: the Bible, the Torah, the Quran. …

Thus, human moral values originate in Man’s thinking process in pursuit of greater
happiness.

In the course of one’s social life, acting under the “Golden Rule: Do unto others as
you would have them do unto you” is an exemplary application. In fact, it
encompasses by itself a number of values: respect, tolerance, generosity,
honesty…which on its own justifies its application in everyday life. And more
specifically, it is also essential in the exercise of certain professions, among those
that of medicine. The fact is that every doctor is led by his conscience to have to
weigh the pros and cons of tests and operations which he’s going to administer to
his patients. He needs to act as he would do for himself or for a member of his
family.

Thus it is with the nobility of service rendered, in this case: attempts to preserve the
health of an individual which is an indispensable condition of his happiness
(according to the World Health Organization)—it’s in this that we see the evidence
of contribution of human moral values to the welfare of society.

It’s useful to point out that their application is universal and they shouldn’t be limited
to relations between individuals. They should also apply to relations between
neighborhoods, regions, nations, cultural communities. …

Furthermore, a reflection on values is interesting and enriching in various aspects. It
is, in fact, a philosophical reflection on the nature of Man and on the pursuit of happiness. This reflection gives birth to new interests, new knowledge. And every bit of knowledge, every detail helps us complete our vision of the world, allows us to better place ourselves in it and through it, to give a purpose to our life.

Moreover, the sum of new knowledge and ideas allow us to better understand the relative importance of everything and it urges us to move toward humility as well as altruism.

On the contrary, material values focus attention of the individual to himself, to his possessions, and in this manner they are the opposite of altruism. Furthermore, material values don’t call for this effort of reflection, of introspection, and of questioning which is so enriching. That’s why it is important to ensure the primacy of human and spiritual values over material values, which are a reflection of degrading selfishness.

Finally, if reflecting on moral values is interesting, it’s particularly so for the young adults at the dawn of their social life, so that they become responsible and ensure peace, justice and balance.

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