

# Oration from 1993

## **Oration Title:**

*The Children of Chernobyl*

## **Orator:**

Edward L. Amaral, M.D.

## **Abstract of Oration:**

Dr. Amaral traveled to the Ukraine in 1992 to set up a Rotary Club in Kiev in order to facilitate the donation of money and medical supplies to aid the victims of the Chernobyl reactor meltdown a few years earlier with its subsequent release of radiation into the environment. He describes the heart-wrenching scenes he witnessed, especially those of children dying of cancer. He gives dozens of astoundingly horrific statistics of the increased rates of cancers and immune deficiency disorders, especially in children. These conditions were all brought on by the staggeringly high levels of radiation in the bodies of the children of the area surrounding Chernobyl. He describes the government's appalling and inappropriate reaction to the disaster. In closing, he stresses the need for monetary donations to help assuage the medical needs of these children. In closing, he shows an edited clip of the documentary *Children of Chernobyl* and reminds his audience to think of their place in humanity globally instead of regionally.