

# Y's Men's World



Editorial

You should not read the heading of this page as referring to this section; after struggling to learn the technology of preparing the magazine and corresponding with so many willing contributors I am too confused to offer wisdom. I leave this to our International President.



Silva did a magnificent job over the last three years with a major change to the look and content of Y's Men's World. It is hard to follow such success and I hope you like the small changes I have made to try to stamp my own personality on the look of the pages.

I may control the look of the magazine but you control the content. We are always in need of articles on the ideas and events of Y'sdom, with pictures if possible. Y's Men's World is only published twice a year but I am always available on email at editor@ysmen.co.uk to discuss possible articles. Fluent English is not necessary as we can always find someone to translate. After all we are an international organisation, and my job includes helping with the English words and phrases. I look forward to hearing from YOU.

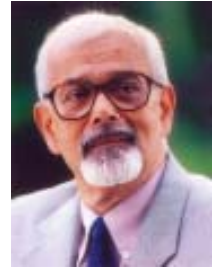
Yours in Y'sdom  
Wally

My thanks to East Kauai Club, Hawaii for the front page picture.

The International President

Dear fellow Y's Men. Greetings.

Let me begin by thanking GOD ALMIGHTY for giving me this honour to serve Y'sdom as its International President this year and I look up to Him for His grace to guide me through my term in office.



My theme for the year is "BE AGENTS OF CHANGE" - to meet the emerging challenges.

We live in a world of rapid change. Change is natural, but unfamiliar. We try to ignore it, avoid it and often try to resist it. If we don't anticipate change and learn to absorb and master it, we may suffer unnecessary losses and miss unseen opportunities. But there is a potential danger that some times in the changing process values can be lost or compromised. So make sure that we reaffirm our core values - our openness and honesty, our mutual trust, our unity in diversity and our non-negotiable love for one another. Each of us should be independent thinkers and move in the direction we feel right and so "BE AGENTS OF CHANGE"- to meet the emerging challenges.

What are our challenges?

1. The stagnated membership during the last two decades. To me the reason may be our over dependence on YMCAs in starting new clubs and doing community projects. This may be so in some Areas only. I feel that all Y's Men should get involved with the community when we do service projects. Make ourselves available - otherwise ours will be an INVISIBLE Organisation. People like to join VIBRANT Organisations. Y's Men should take initiative in identifying new communities where we can charter new clubs rather than leaving it to Y professionals.

2. Lack of desirable level of world outlook among the members is another challenge. YMI is spread over 70 countries. This emphasizes the importance of a better level of world outlook among our members. My thrust this year is to give our IBC program a different look. We must have strong and effective IBC relationships. The brother club partners should plan joint community projects in their respective communities. Here clubs in the developed countries can play a major role. The clubs in the West European countries like Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland now enjoy the pleasure of assisting their brother clubs in the East European countries to do community projects there. Why can't we introduce this system globally to create better world understanding among Y's Men? For YMI this can be a very effective programme since the majority of our clubs are in the third world countries. We can use our BF delegates to promote IBC and in turn can revive our STEP/YEEP programs.

3. ICM 03 has approved the recommendation of the Task Force on EMC to recognize clubs in good standing which think Internationally and act locally. The Task Force has suggested 11 criteria and clubs which implement 7 out of those 11 criteria will be recognized with the International President's Commendation award. All the information and details are published on my new web site at <www.ipysmenjacob2003-2004.com>

Please remember me in your prayers.

IP Jacob



Deadline for Editor to receive material for the next issue is January 31st 2004 Focus: INTERNATIONAL BROTHER CLUBS

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## ICM 03 HIGHLIGHTS

ICM 03 was held in Manila, Philippines, from 21-24 September 2003. It was four days of intensive work. The highlights of the ICM 03 were:

### Looking into the past year (2002/03):

The Operating Account had a positive balance of SFR 13,131 and the programme contributions largely surpassed the 2001/02 contributions.

- TOF received 29% more contributions than last year and surpassed the goal by 27%.
- EF received 132% more contributions than last year and surpassed the goal by 125%.
- BF received 1% more contributions than last year but did not reach the goal by 10%.
- ASF received 60% more contributions than last year but did not reach the goal by 1%.
- The total programme contributions surpassed by 30% the 01/02 programme contributions. In figures we have the following results: received in 01/02 US\$ 429,030, received in 02/03 US\$ 559,343; difference + US\$ 130,313.

### Looking into the current year (2003/04) and beyond:

The **Y's Men International Forward Plan** was approved for the coming years. The objectives of the plan are: a) to extend Y's Men in some geographical areas and/or countries declared as priorities by YMI, b) to strengthen Y's Men at the global level as it relates to the institution and the mission, c) to offer relevant service to the YMCA and the community and as a consequence of that, d) to improve and expand the Y's Men image and identity in the community, and e) to improve our members' perception of YMI and our international operation in general. Five programme areas are included in this plan: 1) Relationship with the YMCA, 2) Membership growth, 3) Y's Men development in new/economically less developed countries, 4) Leadership training and 5) Youth Involvement.

**Extension** is one of the priorities for Y's Men International. An allocation of SFR 69,000 was made in the 2003/04 Operating Account Budget to support the Areas in their efforts in Extension.

**TOF Projects** are growing in number and the public relations image of Y's Men International has grown in the communities through them. Twelve projects were declared as "successfully completed" in Vietnam, Sri Lanka, India, Rwanda and Ecuador. Eleven new projects and three ongoing projects (2<sup>nd</sup> year) were approved for a total of US\$ 230,329.

**Endowment Fund Contributions.** To be an Honour Roll Member, a person can make EF contributions in instalments. Upon reaching US\$ 1,000 or more, he/she qualifies to be an Honour Roll Member. All payments in this regard will be accounted starting 1<sup>st</sup> July 2001.

A Task Force on **Youth Clubs** to study the formation of Youth Clubs was appointed with the commission to recommend: a) a new International Dues structure for the members of Youth Clubs, b) age range of the youth members for their eligibility to be enrolled as such and c) membership status of these members in Y's Men International if they receive any special dues consideration.

The status of **Y's Menettes** as part of Y's Men International will be revised by a task force chaired by the Y's Menettes International Director. The objective of the task force is to improve the coordination and make more efficient the co-participation between the two organisations.

**International Headquarters.** The international leaders expressed their concern about the location of IHQ in Geneva, which is considered to be a city with a high cost of living. A task force was formed to collect information about the feasibility of relocating IHQ.

The **International Webmaster** position for the IHQ website was approved by the Council. Each Area is expected to appoint its own Webmaster to work with the International Webmaster in monitoring the standard of our website. The positions of the International and Area Webmasters will be included on the Official Family Lists.

An "**IP Commendation Award**" was approved for this year (2003/04). To be eligible for this award, clubs have to meet certain criteria emphasising their participation at the international level.

**The highlights above are extracted from the ICM minutes. Your Regional Director has a full copy if you need further information.**

Dear Editor

## Letters

This publication is a sharing tool of communication and gives all Clubs around the World the opportunity to share experiences and to get ideas on subjects that will assist in Club development. I truly hope that you get the support needed to keep this publication alive. Through this letter, I am asking all of our membership to please take a few minutes and share some of our Club activities and maybe some concerns we may have with our Movement.

Speaking of a concern; your focus of SUPPORTING THE YMCA is why I am writing. I realize that our Organization's prime function is support of the YMCA, *but*, I have a concern about those communities where there is no YMCA, though there is either a Y's Men's Club or a need for one. Our clubs throughout the world do a lot more for communities than YMCAs and I think this is the way we should be promoting ourselves.

I get publications from World YMCA, as well as one from Canada, and I fail to see in these publications many words about our organization. We give hundreds of thousands of dollars and endless amount of volunteer hours to our YMCAs, but I do not see us getting recognition from them. I am not proposing that we stop working for our YMCAs, if we have one in our community, but I am suggesting that maybe we advertise more the work that can be done in a community by a Y's Men's Club that improves the image of our movement. There are Clubs here in the Maritimes that do not have a YMCA in their community but they do commit to a lot of programs within their community with areas such as youth and seniors.

Again, good luck and I will support you as best I can.

*Sandy Reynolds*  
Regional Director, Maritimes Region, Area Canada

## ALEXANDER SCHOLARSHIP FUND - Supporting YMCA staff training

The Alexander Scholarship Fund (ASF), named after Y's Men International's founder, Judge Paul William Alexander, was started in 1954 at Y's Men's International Convention in Lansing, Michigan. Y's Men had collected money for a famous painter to do a portrait of Judge Paul. He thought this a waste of money, but agreed to sit for a photograph by a famous photographer at less cost. The US\$905 surplus was to be placed in a trust to meet training costs of YMCA secretaries. The photo portrait was presented to the international gathering at Lansing and a trust agreement was approved, creating the Fund.



Now each Area of Y'sdom raises funds for the training of YMCA personnel or prospective YMCA candidates in the area. Goals are usually set through discussion at club, district, region and area levels and subsequently approved by the International Council. The Y's Men and their leaders, especially the Service Director for ASF at each level, then plan how to achieve the goals. In many regions and areas this is done through collective effort with the Area Service Director for ASF working closely with Y's Men at club level and the regional and area leaders, as well as the local YMCA, for maximum results.

In line with ASF policy, 90% of the funds are used for training of YMCA personnel at the local level, while 10% goes to the International Headquarters (IHQ) in Geneva for allocation.

Utilisation of the funds varies. In some areas the funds are used for training in professional full-time, part-time or correspondence courses ranging from 1-4 years and leading to a recognised qualification. In others they are used for shorter non-qualification courses to increase knowledge relevant to the work of the YMCA. Other YMCAs use the funds for seminars, conferences, conventions and leadership programmes considered useful for the professional development of the recipients.

The International Selection Panel allocates the 10% funds remitted to the IHQ, working closely with the Y's Men leadership. The allocation is made to national or area YMCA movements who are required to submit applications for ASF funding. In recent years US\$ 2,000-4,000 has been awarded annually to the Africa, Asia and Pacific, and European Alliances of YMCAs, and the Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of YMCAs to support their training programmes.

The ASF has helped to cement cooperation and partnership between Y's Men and the YMCA. It has assisted the YMCA in training staff for a better understanding of the YMCA and its role in society, for career development and for more effective performance of their work. In many areas the YMCA staff have, in turn, helped Y's Men in various ways, including recruitment of new Y's Men, formation of new Y's Men's Clubs, provision of offices for meetings and Y's Men activities, conservation of membership and joint service to their communities. The current revision of the ASF Guidelines aims at enabling the YMCA and Y's Men everywhere to work together in promotion, fund-raising and allocation of funds to support the YMCA in line with the purpose of the ASF. A data bank of ASF fund recipients and a standard form for reporting on the utilisation and usefulness of funds are essential tools in our quest to make the ASF Programme better understood by all Y's Men and YMCAs, as partners in service.

*Benson Wabule, ASF International Service Director*

**This article first appeared in YMCA World June 2003 and is reprinted with acknowledgement.**

### Our Partnership -

#### *Y's Men in Chile, a view from the YMCA*

Antofagasta YMCA is a product of the work of the Y's Men's Club. It has been a successful, fruitful and long partnership between them in this city of Northern Chile in South America. A group of seven outstanding people of our city decided to create a YMCA to provide for the young people a space to practise sports and to form people under the teachings of Jesus Christ.

For 42 years the Y's Men's Club has been supporting us with our leaders, participating in the board of the YMCA, helping with our social programmes with adolescents in social risk and young delinquents. On the other side the YMCA has always been ready to assist the Y's Men when necessary. The most recent work of Y's Men was to provide the money to renew the YMCA with a new appearance. Our common challenge for these next years is to enroll new leaders to serve in our Association and in the Y's Men's Club.

*Oswaldo Gallardo, Executive Secretary of YMCA, Antofagasta Chile*

### Congratulations!

Last August 3rd, Panama Y's Men's Club celebrated its 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary serving with continuous work in the community and the YMCA. As they do at all their Anniversaries, the Y's Men went to the Public Hospitals to give away 'babies baskets' to the poorest mothers. Every year they choose a baby girl and a baby boy. This year they chose one mother who did not have any clothes for a baby boy because she was expecting a girl!



*Mrs. Emily Gonzalez with her baby Jesus Anel.  
From the club - Adan and Maria Isabel Luzcando, Enrique and Leyla Telles and Noriel Carrera.*

*Marilela Navarette, Assistant Editor LAC*

## East Kauai Y's Men 'Make a Difference'

The 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of October is 'Make A Difference Day' in the U.S. — a celebration of neighbours helping neighbours. Everyone can participate. Created by *USA WEEKEND Magazine*, Make A Difference Day is an annual event. In 2002 three million people cared enough about their communities to volunteer on that day, accomplishing thousands of projects in hundreds of towns.

Hawaii, the 50th state, is very much a part of the U.S. However, I always have to chuckle when I overhear some of our visitors from the mainland who forget this and often refer to their flight home as flying back to the 'States'.



Last year the East Kauai Y's Men Club decided to 'Make a Difference' at our YMCA CAMP NAUE. The camp is located on the north shore of our little island and for many of our members was an hour's drive over rural roads. We rolled up our sleeves and spent the morning painting, cutting shrubs, repairing signs and much more. The work was followed by a potluck at the camp's pavilion with Hawaiian music and fellowship.

Our plan for 2003 is to add another component to our partnership with the YMCA and ask teens from our West Side YMCA Teen Club to join us this year in 'making a difference' at the Y camp.

Last year's project contributed to the success the Club had at the Hawaiian Regional Convention when we were chosen as Club of the Year.

Remember 'Who We Are Makes A Difference'.

*Bev Olsen, East Kauai Club, Hawaii*

## Brother Clubbing in Action

The North York (Toronto) Y's Men's Club celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary this year with a special dinner. Sixty-five Y's Men, Menettes and guests enjoyed a super evening of memories. Two of the original Charter Members were guests of honour.

The Y's Men's Club of Wellawatte, Sri Lanka, has been a Brother Club of the North York (Toronto) Y's Men's Club since 1992 and they sent a commemorative plaque to their Brother Club to mark this occasion.

Devane Perera is a Past President of both North York (Toronto) and Wellawatte Y's Men's Clubs and he presented the plaque to Jim Wise, who has been a member of North York (Toronto) for 50 years and who headed the organizing committee for the anniversary celebrations.

*Devane Perera, President Wellawatte Club*



## The Great Tree of Korea

Pusan Alpha Y's Men's Club recently celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a wonderful gathering at the Crown Hotel in Pusan City. The proudest achievement of the 45 years has been their contribution to the growth of Y'sdom in Korea. From the seed planted on July 7<sup>th</sup> 1958 has grown a further 55 Clubs. Pusan Alpha has sponsored 11 new Clubs who in turn have sponsored a further 13 clubs. The spread of the Great Tree continues with a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of 13 Clubs, 4<sup>th</sup> generation 11 Clubs, 5<sup>th</sup> 6 Clubs and now a 6<sup>th</sup> generation Club. Club President Han Byung-ho leads a Club which may be getting older but has not lost its passion for continuous service.

*Oh Chang-rock, Assistant Editor Korea*

## Y's Men Support Landmine Clearance Milestone

On the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2003 the last stockpile of anti-personnel landmines in Japan was finally destroyed. The Japanese government started the destruction of anti-personnel landmines in 1999 after it ratified the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty in Ottawa in 1998. It accomplished the destruction of approximately one million pieces of anti-personnel landmines in four years.

Prime Minister Koizumi attended the commemorative ceremony of final destruction held at Shin-Asahi town near the lake Biwako in Shiga prefecture. Immediately after this he attended 'Ban Landmines! Children's Summit Talk'. Two children from Afghanistan, Mr. Nadile and Miss Mulsal, who were injured by landmines took part in the Children's Summit Talk and talked with 120 Japanese children about these horrible landmines. The Children's Summit Talk was closed after two days discussion by children and the adoption of a declaration that says "We will not stop our effort to realize complete abolition of landmines all over the world."

Mr. Yamamoto, Y's Men's District Governor of Chuseibu, Japan West Region, and other members were also working together with the event by displaying campaign panels of 'No Landmines on the Earth' cartoons.



Even though the destruction of anti-personnel landmines in Japan was achieved, it is said that more than one hundred million landmines are still held by governments around the world. Moreover 56 governments have not even signed the treaty, including such key mine-possessing nations as the United States, Russia, China and India.

We have to proceed more and more strongly with the Mine Ban Movement toward the Mine-Free World as the above declaration says.

*Kazuyoshi Aoki, Chiba Club, Japan East Region*

## STARFISH

Millions upon millions are starving. Untold victims of AIDS, women and children, are dying. Natural disasters claim the lives of so many. Unimaginable misery.

Governments and organizations like Save the Children pour millions of dollars into the stricken areas, trying to alleviate some of the suffering. Y's men and women also give money via our TOF programme.

So then we may ask:

"What difference does this make to the suffering of so many?"

"What difference do the few dollars that we donate make to a need so great?"

Maybe you have heard this story told before:

**Once there was a great storm along the coast and thousands and thousands of starfish were washed upon the beach. The next morning a young boy came on the beach and he found starfish strewn all over the beach. A man taking a walk along the beach saw the boy, stooping down and picking up a starfish and throwing it back into the sea. He saw the boy doing this again and again.**

*When the man got close to the boy he asked:*

*"Boy, what are you doing that for? There are so many of these starfish on the beach, when the sun gets hot they will all die." He said.*

*"Throwing a few back into the sea won't make any difference." The boy threw another starfish in the water, looked up and answered;*

*"Maybe, but it makes a lot of difference to this one!"*



So your donation makes all the difference to the life of an orphan cared for by a project that we have supported through our TOF programme. It makes a lot of difference to the teenager who, through a YMCA run education sponsored by us, now has a future when there was none otherwise. It makes the difference between life and death to the people who through better sanitation now see their children grow up, instead of dying from waterborne diseases. Your contributions make a difference to so many people in so many ways.

Differences that can not be expressed in dollars, but if you like to see some figures: This last year you contributed more than US\$240,000, that is US\$ 40,000 more than the year before. This makes it possible to help that many more people. Thank you.

Remember; every dollar you donate makes a difference to a person in need.



By Gerard Heuting ISD Time of Fast

**Remember; every dollar you donate makes a difference to a person in need.**

Gerard Heuting, ISD Time of Fast

## Time of Fast Festival

This year the 16 Y's Men's Clubs of Busan District, Korea joined together for a special Time of Fast event at the great auditorium of Busan City Hall. District Governor Choi Chan-ki coordinated a family concert with the youth orchestra of Busan YMCA, the choir of Amaran cosmetic company and many performers from 12 Busan District clubs. A TOF contribution envelope and 3 different postcards were prepared to support the collection of donations which totalled over US\$4150.

Oh Chang-rock, Assistant Editor Asia



Y'sling Choir of Kimhae Y's Men's Club, Korea

## The Miracle of the Twelve Baskets

*Everyone ate, and were filled. Then the disciples took up twelve baskets full of what was left of the bread and fish. The number of those who were fed was five thousand. – Mark 6:42-44.*

The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand was not God's ability to do so – God does that every day. The miracle was the twelve baskets that mysteriously appeared among the hungry when a child offered up his only lunch to the multitude. His demonstration of generosity unleashed a flood of previously withheld resources, and it quickly became evident that there was food and to spare if everyone shared their hidden baskets.

Feeding the hungry sometimes seems an impossible task. But if we become like children, not counting the cost of generosity, suddenly the miracle happens once again.

This year is an example. Donations to 'Time of Fast' have far exceeded anything we have come to expect or even to hope for. In the last 12 months nearly US\$ 260,000 has been contributed. Major contributors have been Denmark (\$86,086) and Japan West (\$32,468), but many others have significantly increased their donations to a remarkable level. Three regions have hit the 'gold' (4 or more meals donated per member): Midwest India (a 300% increase over last year), Sri Lanka (also a major giver last year), and Central Canada. Eight other regions achieved the 'silver' level (donating 2 or 3 meals per member) and all of the regions in India and USA met or exceeded the 'bronze' level (donating 1 meal per member). Will YOU join them?

Andy Hamilton, Chair "Time of Fast" Committee

*“Love One Another as I have Loved You”*

*John 15.12*

The accomplishments of the present day man almost defy description. He has developed the technological capacity to eradicate poverty, slums and disease. His techniques of production could lift the standard of living for all the peoples of the world. He has constructed means of communication and transportation that have turned the vast reaches of this globe into a neighbourhood.

Yet man stands in jeopardy. Fear, mistrust, greed, corruption, prejudice and despair still abound. Love in the world is an empty sound. The people of God turn terrorist and threaten the very foundation of social fabric. Thousands of innocent people are being tortured in different parts of the world due to various conflicts. God's plan for the world is to make it a family where all live in peace and harmony and bring about a world of love.

History teaches us that much blood has been shed in the name of religion. Instead of generating love, religions have bred fundamentalists and fanatics who have fanned the fire of hatred between religions. This must change once and for all. For this all people should understand the need for the absolute reign of love all over the world. They should be ready to sublimate their animal passion and enter into a dialogue with others.

The essence of all religion is love. In his book *'The Greatest Thing in the World'* Professor Drummond tells of meeting with locals in the interior of Africa who remembered David Livingstone. They could not remember a word he said but they recognised the universal language of love through which he appealed to them. It is the same language of love we must have in this world.

Y's Men's Clubs must become agents of change to bring about a globalisation of love. People of different faiths must be welcomed as members of our Clubs. In fact Y's Men International is not an exclusively Christian organisation. It is an organisation based on the ethical teachings of Jesus Christ and they are acceptable to all. We must realise that the whole creation belongs to the Lord and that we are in a dialogical pilgrimage towards the Kingdom of God. It is to be admitted that different religious faiths exist in the world but each religion should be drawn to the religion of love. The love and care we have for each of the members of our Clubs irrespective of their religious faiths would become a shining example of how we could live in a pluralistic society. Again it will do much good if inter-religious dialogues are arranged through our Clubs in which members of the community are also invited. One should never have the feeling that his religion is the only right one and all others are wrong. If time permits, it is advisable to join in the religious services of our friends who follow other religions. In Japan there are members of the same family who practice Buddhism or Shintoism or Christianity and yet they live together in harmony.

Let us pray and work for the making of a world which shares love. The world will then be one family. Love will prevail in families, villages, cities, nations and also at the international level. Then everyone will 'Say NO to violence'.

May God help in the realisation of this goal.

*V. M. John, International Service Director for Christian Emphasis.*



*Where is our History?*

We are now 81 years old, memory plays tricks and papers get thrown away so it is important to record our past while we can. Y's Men International documents of historical value are being deposited, catalogued and preserved at the YMCA of the USA's Kautz Family YMCA archives located at the Andersen Library on the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota.

A team from the History/Archives Committee have been working for over a year reviewing documentation from the beginnings of the organisation including articles of incorporation, constitution, policy records, programmes and projects. Reports from Areas and IHQ are included together with newsletters, directories and biographical information on leaders of Y'sdom. The material is not only paper but includes photographs, voice tapes and video.

The archives were used extensively in the preparation of the book *'A Fellowship of Service'* which celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Y'sdom. Copies are available from the International Historian and leader of the Archive Team, Claude Bewell who can be contacted at 729 East Hawthorne Ave, St Paul, MN55106-1906 USA. Details are on the IHQ web site at <[www.ysmen.org](http://www.ysmen.org)>.

If you have any items that would be of interest to the archives, please contact Claude Bewell or your own Area Historian, whose name can be obtained from your Area President.

*Claude Bewell, International Historian*



*Members of the International History/Archives Committee.  
Chuck Holmes, Claude Bewell, Harold Westerberg & Jim Gilbert*

*Pin supplies etc.*

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## INTERNATIONAL BROTHER CLUBS (IBC)

– some practical advice

### What is a Brother Club?

The Brother Club Programme joins in partnership clubs located in different countries for their mutual benefits and better understanding. It is designed to assist fellow Y's Men, Y's Menettes and families to learn about and exchange ideas between Clubs, whether they are just over the border or right across the world. Clubs having ladies only or Y's Menettes' Clubs as IBC partners may prefer to use the term Sister Club.

### How can a Club make a link to a Brother Club?

The procedure is quite simple and involves enthusiastic Club members and the Regional Service Director for International Brother Clubs (RSD IBC). It is detailed in the excellent IHQ manual 'International Brother Clubs' obtainable from Geneva.

There are two main situations: either you know which Club you wish to link with or you want help to find a Brother Club. If a Club does not have a preference and wants to form a link up with any Club then state clearly the reasons and in which Area and/or Region you would like a Brother Club. For both situations, send your request to your RSD IBC. Your RSD reviews your request and then sends it to the relevant Area/ Region for necessary action.

### Other sources to get a Brother Club

1. At the time of the visit of BF delegates to another country.
2. Personal contacts during Area and International Conventions.
3. IBC Agencies at Conventions and other gatherings.
4. Advertisements in Area and Regional publications regarding the subject.



### How is the IBC Programme maintained?

1. Plan a forward programme involving as many members of the club as possible.
2. Keep in touch regularly. Your partner may be slow to respond, just persevere. Remember cultural differences need tolerance, patience and understanding.
3. Report activities regularly to your Club and share all contacts and exchanges with Club members, your ISD and teams interested in every partnership programme in Y'sdom. Your successful programme can help inspire other Clubs. Publicity is essential for establishing better public relations for your Club.
4. Learn as much as possible about your Brother Club – its town or city, country, people, language, climate etc from as many sources as possible.
5. Honour the partner Club by a donation in its name to the Endowment Fund (an entry in the Golden Book).
6. Host youth members from the partner Club and help them to study English language, computer literacy etc under the youth programmes YEPP and STEP.
7. Conventions are golden opportunities for strengthening Brother Club bonds, for the Clubs in the host Regions can provide hospitality to the visiting delegates from their Brother Clubs. The Clubs in India Area are planning for such a unique venture during the impending International Convention to be held in Kochi in August 2004. Remember, good communication is essential for a successful Brother Club relationship.

Our International President Jacob Cherian has as one of his prime priorities the promotion of IBC so as to add more international flavour during the year. IP Jacob Cherian appeals to Clubs the world over to involve in this challenging programme, he desires that Clubs from developed countries link up with Clubs in developing countries. As a result of this affiliation both the partner Clubs can jointly execute one or more solid community projects in either of these countries. This will serve as a visible image-building project of Y'sdom and the partner Clubs.

Josey Joseph, International Service Director - IBC

There will be a further article by Josey Joseph in the next issue of Y's Men's World, which will have Brother Clubs as its focus.

## Brother Club means more than a Certificate

When you agree to become a Brother Club you exchange a nice formal certificate, which may hang on the wall of your meeting place, but it should mean more than this.

Recently Sundsvall Y's Men's Club, Sweden visited Y-klubben Femella, Helsingfors, their Brother club in Finland. The boat from Stockholm arrived in Helsinki on an almost perfect Saturday morning. From the harbour it was only 10 minutes walk to the marketplace where we had coffee in a tent before settling in at a hotel. From there we went to a member's home and had a nice evening with food, fellowship and a lottery for Time of Fast.



Sunday morning we continued with sight-seeing, lunch and a walk in an old part of Helsinki until it was time for our guests to return to Sweden.

Sundsvall Club liked one of Femella's activities so much so they donated money for the Estonia/Tallinn children's home project. The Club members are really happy to have friends in a Brother Club so close to us, because it is easy to meet each other and have 'live' contact with each other. As you see, you can have a lot of fun with friends from other Clubs.

Christine Gammals, Y-klubben Femella, Finland

## TEN SING – One Club's Story

Ten Sing is a youth initiative within the YMCA and is based on the ideas of the three C's – Christ, Culture and Creativity. The creativity is expressed through Music, Dance and Drama letting young people use and develop their body, mind and spirit. Ten Sing encourages youth to believe in God and in themselves as unique and valuable human beings.



There has been a Ten Sing group in Kingswood, England for the past 13 years. This is a story about their joy and enthusiasm for singing around the world.

### 'INSPIRED TO SERVE'

was the theme of the Prague 2003 Festival arranged by the European Alliance of YMCAs (EAY). Over 7,500 young people, staff and lay members of the YMCA gathered in Letna Park, Prague in August 2003. The aim of the event was to celebrate 30 years of EAY, the breaking down of barriers between East and West Europe and the re-birth of YMCAs in Eastern Europe. People came from all over the world and YMCA Kingswood Ten Sing took an active part in the running of the event and programme. Jason Worlock, one of our members, was one of the key organisers of the programme and April Scott volunteered to organise the many workshops that took place. I was also involved as part of the Editorial Team for a European Ten Sing Information book published for the event and the future. Members of Kingswood Ten Sing also organised three Ten Sing Forums and ran workshops in face and body painting, hair braiding, friendship bracelets and Indian Head Massage. The workshops were very popular with people of many nationalities.

The Kingswood group also came together with a few Ten Singers from Cambridge and Doncaster to perform on five occasions as 'Ten Sing England'. Although small, the group was very well received and some people were heard to say that they were proud to be British when the group performed on the main stage.



It is only when one attends an event like this that one can observe the tremendous sense of unity that makes the YMCA the 'special' international movement that it is. The success of the event was largely due to the enthusiasm and motivation of people from all nations who worked on their small parts of the programme to produce an exciting and full programme for the event. Friendships were renewed and many new friendships were made. People were truly 'inspired to serve'. The Kingswood Ten Sing group have a close relationship with members of the Kingswood Y's Men and perhaps as they get older they too will become involved with Y's Men International.

Mary Hastings, Key Youth Worker for Kingswood Ten Sing.

## A Brighter Childhood with Polish Y's Men

Y's Men's Club Smok, Kraków in Poland is a very young Club with almost no experience in constitutional activities but we try hard to make up for this. Almost all of our Club members are members of the YMCA. Because of this, it is much easier to understand YMCA needs and to support the projects.



We organize summer and winter camps in the mountains and some other activities for children who have to stay in the city during holidays. The projects are: 'Summer in the city' in July and August and 'Winter in the city' in January and February. Last year there were 460 children in summer and 960 children in winter attending the meetings, plays and one-day trips. This year, together with the YMCA in Kraków, we will support not only holiday projects but we will also take care of school needs. Poor children need schoolbooks, pencils, pens, exercise books and many other things to feel comfortable at school and to have an opportunity to learn just like their friends from families who are better situated. We hope the help we can offer will make their childhood happier and brighter.

Dagmara Pacholska, Y's Men's Club SMOK, Poland

## African Youth Success

Amidst a lot of cheer and clatter, the 1<sup>st</sup> Africa Northwest Regional Youth Convocation took place at the Lagos YMCA Youth Camp on Tarkwa Bay Island, Lagos, Nigeria in June 2003. Twenty-three Youth were in attendance representing Lagos, Ibadan (Nigeria) and Accra Central (Ghana).

The Convocation featured exhilarating activities including lectures on the YMCA and Y's Men Relationship, History of Y'sdom, Internet and Communication Skills. The youth also had a wonderful time on the beach, perfecting swimming skills and crab hunting. A major highpoint of the convocation was the initiative exhibited by the youth when they set up a fund raising activity washing cars at a wedding.

Funding support came from the Africa Area administration for the organization of the Convocation, which was the first of its kind. Experienced Y's Men of the Region were on hand to give clear explanations on the theme of the Convocation, "Building a Peaceful Future - with and for the Youth."

Tunji Makinde, Youth Rep, Africa Northwest Region

## Partners in Building a Culture of Peace

Does your YMCA, YMCA-YWCA, or Family Y 'build peace'?

If your answer was not an enthusiastic "Yes," perhaps some 'homework' is required. You probably began this club year by hearing a presentation from someone at your Y about a new programme or project, or the long-range plans for work in your community. Careful reading of YMCA World or a visit to the World Alliance of YMCAs web site <<http://www.ymca.int>> will give you a global perspective on the work of the YMCA internationally, and the work your Y is doing with international partners. Reading publications of your national or area YMCAs and visiting any related web sites will give you additional information.

How do you support your Y in peace-building?

Whatever your faith, prayer makes difficult work go better. Participation in the World YMCA-YWCA Week of Prayer and World Fellowship is one way to be connected to others in the Y world. Prayer support for those who are directly involved in community-building work in your community, your Y and your club can make a difference.

Public relations is another aspect of the support you can give the YMCA. In your relations with Y staff, tell them how proud you are of their peace-building work. That includes anything that meets community needs and enables people to work together. Camperships and youth training programmes are just two of many kinds of work done through the YMCA.

Be proud of what your club does in carrying out or enabling Y programmes. Spread the word!

Where will you go from here? You are good at what you do. The work needs to go on. If you need to, try something different to 'make the best better' and renew your commitment. Respond to a pressing community need you have learned about, try a creative approach to existing projects, accept new members and new ideas with enthusiasm.

If your club is at a turning point and re-assessing its service work, you may need to take a new look at community needs, both local and global, what needs are being met, and the remaining needs that require action. Some issues that interest your members may require stronger partnership with your Y, or working with some other agency. If your Y is a YMCA-YWCA, or your community has a YWCA, why not find out more about YWCA priorities, particularly in relation to the needs of women and children?

We can go a long way using what we have, and becoming more deliberate in peace-building. The Y needs us to be the best people we can be! Here are some examples in specific service areas.

**Christian Emphasis.** Many of the on-going conflicts in local and global situations are faith-based. By using resources like those at <<http://beliefnet.com>> in your meetings you can increase understanding and make you better followers of whatever faith you have chosen. You may also choose to enable your YMCA to be a neutral base for interfaith dialogue - something that is already happening in some communities.

**Leadership Training.** Resources like those at the Conflict Resolution Network, <<http://www.crnhq.org>> and the University of Virginia Multicultural Pavilion <<http://edchange.org>> can be used to equip us to make our meetings examples of a culture of peace in action, and to be agents for change wherever we are.

**Time of Fast.** Understanding the principles behind effective development projects will help us continue to develop, choose, and support excellent projects. The book '*Do No Harm; How Aid Can Support Peace—or War*' by Mary B. Anderson is a good resource.

Peace-building is not new for us or the Y. It is a different way of talking about what we do. It is something we and our Y partners do well together. If you have ideas, questions, or concerns, or would like to help, please contact me, your AP, or another member of the 'Say NO to Violence' Task Force.

Marilyn Hamilton, Chair of 'Say NO to Violence' Task Force  
[malstone@gamma.ca](mailto:malstone@gamma.ca)

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## The Path to Tolerance

There is strength in peace - strength in calmness - strength in love...but it goes unnoticed. What one cannot win with a stick, one can win with love. What one cannot win with guns, one can win through love...and this power of love needs to be realised.

One thing that is absolutely essential is to avoid fanaticism or religious terrorism. The world is a multi-cultural, multi-religious place and we need to educate our children about this. If a child grows up thinking that other religions or cultures are bad or no good, then he/she is ready to give up his/her life for that cause; but when a child grows up knowing a little bit about all other religions, cultures and customs, then a sense of belonging develops. All of us must feel that, when every child in the world learns about every other religion, the child will not have inhibitions or hatred towards other religions or cultures.

To quote, we accept food from every part of the world. We accept music from every part of the world. One doesn't have to be an Indian to listen to bhajans or sitar music! Similarly, we need to learn to accept knowledge and wisdom from every part, and this is what has been lacking in the world. We need to drive home this message because if even one part of the world is not adopting this idea, the world will not be a safe place as that little part or corner can breed terrorism. Aggression has even come into the lives of children. There is a beauty in non-violence; there is a beauty in non-aggressive behavior, which has unfortunately not been sufficiently highlighted. We need to bring back the pride in being non-violent; pride in being compassionate, a pride in being available and helpful to others around us should be our maxim. Think seriously, support our International Project - 'Say NO to violence' and build a culture of peace.

Y'sdom needs to work and unite the world, the hearts and the minds!

Dr. K. C. G. Verghese, International Council Member

## *Days to Remember*

Roger Cromwell's reminiscences as a Brotherhood Fund Delegate in the last issue reminded me of a similar experience 'only' 11 years ago in 1992. My trip covered the Mid-America Region from Cedar Falls, Iowa to Chicago/Naperville, Illinois to Indiana and to St. Louis, Missouri. At least 17 hosts or contact persons, their Clubs and families had to be visited.

Although it is not my intention to describe the entire trip, the spirit and enthusiasm which had inspired me I have not forgotten. It was not only the great feeling of meeting Y's Men friends but also their friendliness and the interest shown to me upon my arrival and what I could tell them about our own Y's Men's work in Germany. Of course, we not only talked business but there were so many personal conversations about our families and our lives. I must agree with Roger that such an international fellowship I had not experienced before. Since I came from Germany I also appreciated the interest in the German language by some friends in Naperville, Illinois, who even visited us in Hamburg a few years later.

In Vincennes, Indiana I was scheduled to speak at the luncheon of the Regional Convention which made me a little concerned until somebody said: "Fred you have the floor". They encouraged me not to bore the audience and surprisingly I must have done a good job because of the positive reaction I received. At the end somebody asked me to say the Lord's Prayer in German, which convinced me that the Christian emphasis in the Y'sdom knows no language barriers among us. I hope this wonderful opportunity will be taken by many more members of our organization today and in the future.

*Fred Rieth, Hamburg Club I, Germany*

## *What an Achievement!*

Our esteemed Past International President (1991/2), Arthur Cowling is not prepared to rest on his laurels. He has agreed to be this year's President of the Y Service Club of Bendigo Inc, Australia and we know he will put as much effort and love into this as he did as IP.



As if this were not enough for one family his wife Clarice has been coaxed out of 'retirement'. She was the inaugural President of the Bendigo Y Service Club - Women (formerly Bendigo Y's Menettes) in Australia, which is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year, and Clarice has become President again.

This is a great milestone for Clarice and Arthur, who have each contributed enormously to the Y's Men's movement over many years.

We congratulate these two "young at heart" members who are much respected throughout the Y's Men's world and trust that they each have a rewarding Presidential year.

*Phil Sparkes, Bendigo Y Service Club, Australia*

## *Goodwill Football Match*

*Silver State Y Service Club v Y's Men's Club of Ipoh, Malaysia*

The idea of a friendly football match between the two Clubs to promote better understanding and relationship between them was first mooted by President Lee Choe Khean of the Silver State Y's Service Club. Many members, Y'lings, friends, guests and potential members of the two Clubs gathered at a local school field to play the first ever football match between the more established Y's Men Club of Ipoh and the newly formed Silver State Y Service Club. Before the match started, the two Clubs' presidents exchanged Clubs' banners.



The match was played in an atmosphere of goodwill and fun. The intention was to give everyone a chance to get into the game and one of the rules stipulated that each team must have at least one lady playing at all times. However, several of the ladies became so enthusiastic that at times, there were some 8 of them on the field and they proved that they might not be the weaker gender after all. The range of skills displayed varied from proficient to comical and the age of the players ranged from 15 to 66. The two teams were equally matched and what great fun they all had on the field, punting, dribbling, kicking and sometimes falling over each other. After slugging it out for a good 50 minutes (it was supposed to be a 40 minute match but the referee forgot the time), the Y's Men's Club of Ipoh won with a hard fought 3-2 victory over the Silver State.

The main objective of the match (bonding and team building) had been achieved. Having shown to some of the invited guests that there is good fun and fellowship in joining a Y's Service Club, there is already quiet confidence that a few of them will be inducted as new members in the near future.

*Citykay, Silver State Y Service Club, Malaysia*

## *Involving Youth*

Yakima Y Service Club of the Pacific Northwest Region in Area USA has involved youth in their fund raising projects.

At a recent Triathlon competition, the Club provided a luncheon for participants and guests. The young people joined Club members to run the barbeque preparing the meat for sandwiches.



*Wayne Smith, Asst Editor USA*

## Continuing a Family Tradition



A very special installation took place at the Y's Menettes Southern District Annual Meeting held in Echuca, Australia on Saturday 5th July. At this meeting Beryl Jones, a Past International Director for Y's Menettes, had the honour of installing her daughter Jennifer Cameron, as the new International Director.

Beryl, a member of the Bendigo Y Service Club - Women was International Director for 1979 - 81 and now 24 years later her daughter Jennifer, a member of the Kangaroo Flat Y's Menettes Club will lead Y's Menettes worldwide for the next two years. Jennifer is the 5th Australian Y's Menette to hold the position of International Director.

For her term of Office she has taken on the theme 'Friendship and Service go hand in hand'. She said *"To me this theme sums up Y's Menettes, for while we are all involved in giving service to our Y's Men, YMCA, as well to the local and International Community, we do this in friendship. There is friendship within our own clubs as well as around the world. Whenever we meet another Y's Menette, whether it be at a Club function, Regional or Area Convention or especially an International Convention there is a bond we share through the service we give. This is what makes Y's Menettes and Y's Men a unique and special organisation to belong to."*

## A Web of Change

Y's Menettes have chosen as their International Project to support the Cochabamba YMCA and Y's Men's Club, Bolivia. The project has a pledged budget of US\$15,000 and will unify Y's Menettes throughout the world in a common purpose. It aims to develop leadership and life skills in young people. (See 2002/3 No 2 page 14)

By December 2002 the local YMCA had completed the first phase, which was to identify and train twenty youngsters for leadership. Some of these were already attending the Y but others, who appeared to be leaders in other neighbourhoods, were selected to create links, to

build a web and reach into larger areas of impoverished Cerro Verde and Alalay.

The next stage will be ongoing for the remainder of the two-year project as the group of twenty reach out like rays of the sun in the lives of 300 adolescents to create change in their communities. Recreational events like wallyball, played on a court with rackets, were held along the way to help the youth to bond.

These 14 year olds were expected to contribute to the family income. Training in craftsmanship managed to uncover interests and abilities which will be beneficial for handicraft production as an income resource. The facilitators could see positive results in the first four months. They could see hope dawn as the youth became self-assured and trusting. They can self-evaluate and make decisions, and put their relationships with friends and family in a more positive light.

Barbara Kilburn, Y's Menettes International Project Coordinator

## Our International Mission Statement



(Adopted by vote, October 2002)

Y's Menettes is a vibrant community-based movement that successfully:

**Supports** the programs and aims of Y's Men International and the YMCA, especially upholding the Christian principles

**Encourages** youth activities

**Responds** to community needs

**Fosters** international goodwill through support of the International Project and Sister Clubs

**Promotes** personal development

**Encourages** enjoyment of life

**Keeps** members informed of local, national and worldwide matters within the movement and acts accordingly.

## Highlights from Florence

Past ID Florence Gates has written in her Annual Report;

*"This year has been one of learning and gaining much knowledge and worthwhile information about Y's Men International and our association and co-operative partnership with it as worldwide Y's Menettes. I do want to express my thanks, appreciation and affection to all Y's Menettes Clubs worldwide, as well as to Area Directors and Regional Directors for their support and cooperation and their kind words during the past year. I must say that the office and its duties have been a challenge...but a challenge which I thoroughly enjoyed.*

*It was my distinct pleasure to participate in the chartering of two clubs during my term in the role of International Director in the year 2002-03.*

1. *Y's Menettes Club of Madras, Metropolitan, South India Region, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002 with 19 members.*

2. *Y's Menettes Club of Santiago de Surco, Lima, Peru, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003 with 18 members."*

## Publicity by a Web Site Competition

The Y Service Club of Bendigo, Australia runs a web site design competition, which aims to get students creating web sites for local community groups. The competition is sponsored by government and businesses and the students can win several hundred dollars for their efforts. Software prizes are also awarded to the schools of the winning students.

The students are expected to liaise with the community group concerned when designing their web site. The student benefits by becoming more aware of what community groups do and develops skills for dealing with 'clients'. The community group benefits by learning about the process of getting a (free) web site. The Y Service Club of Bendigo achieves a higher profile in the community through running this project.

The Y Service Club of Bendigo has partnered with another not-for-profit group, an 'E-Commerce Association' which aims to promote the use of e-commerce by business.



Club President Arthur Cowling presenting prizes

So far three rounds of the competition have been run. Rounds one and two in 2002 resulted in 60 web sites being created. The first round of the competition this year saw another 20 added to this. They make a 'big thing' of the presentation of prizes, which were held the

Reception Room at the local Government office and used a local radio personality as Master of Ceremonies (MC). Last round they organised three multimedia projectors, one with rolling screen shots of all entries, one with rolling 'plugs' for sponsors, and one for presentation schedule, i.e. announcements and screen shots of winning web sites in synchronisation with MC announcements and presentations.

The local newspapers and radio stations help promote the competition and have created demand from community groups for web sites. There are 1,200 community groups in the City of Greater Bendigo alone (population 80,000). Most do not have a web site, but the interest in having one created is growing. The schools, colleges and universities are contacted directly to gain their support for the competition. Without their support the competition would not be successful. Some students enter as a result of the marketing (advert on TV, notice in newspaper, etc), but most enter as a result of encouragement by teachers / lecturers. Some schools make the task part of the assessment of the student.

The sponsors and supporters now include the Y's Men's Club of Kangaroo Flat and the Bendigo Y Service Club – Women.

<<http://communitiesites.impulse.net.au>> has more information.

Colin Lambie, Y Service Club of Bendigo, Australia

## A New Club in a New Region Makes its Mark

The first Club in Russia was started in 1991 in Kirovsk, sponsored by the Harstad Club of Norway. Region Norway took on the task of encouraging the development of Clubs in Russia, and the following years saw the creation of 26 Clubs with more than 400 members and 3 Districts. Region Russia was formally inaugurated on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2003.

A few days before the start of Region Russia - on June 27<sup>th</sup> 2003, a new Club was born; INGRRIA Y's Men's Club in the city of Vsevolozhsk has 15 young and enthusiastic members. As part of their preparation to become a Y's Men's Club they worked on programmes and activities in the spring of 2003. Club President Tatyana Butylenkova reports on one such activity.

*"In the spring of 2003 we have organized children and parents who live in houses of the Soviet street, the house N°32 and the house N°28. Our houses are not big, five floors. We went in the street with shovels, a rake and brooms on Saturday in the evening. We cleared territory around the houses and removed dust. Mums, dads, children, grandmothers and grandfathers worked together. All of us have collected money and have bought paint, brushes, nails, boards and sand for a sandbox.*

*We worked and next day was very sunny and warm. We have sawn boards. We have hammered together a sandbox and benches from these boards. Then our children have painted benches, the sandbox with brightly green and blue paint and a board for a swing. In the evening the paint has dried. We have established benches in a place, and have filled the sandbox with sand.*

*We worked all very amicably. It was interesting for all. All of us tried very much. The place has become a remarkable platform for games. All have remained pleased. We have wonderfully led and carried out these two days! We worked for ourselves and in the name of our children. We planted flowers and trees together with children. We have a very hot summer. Now we water the trees and flowers. It has become very beautiful.*

*We hope that our children will love and protect the nature."*

Tatyana Butylenkova, President of INGRRIA Y's Men's Club, Russia

## Pictures

Are you a budding photographer?



We need pictures of events and personalities to enliven the pages. To satisfy the requirements of the printers art, pictures should be 300dpi or very large at 72dpi. If you do not have a digital camera or a scanner then send the pictures to the editor who will return them if requested.

## *In Praise of Volunteers*

I was sitting in a bank one day when I picked up a newsletter entitled 'In Praise of Volunteers' and was both surprised and amazed at the statistics in it. According to a 1997 national survey 7.5 million Canadians donated their time and energy to make immeasurable contributions to their communities. That is almost one-third of the country's population.

Seniors top the list of volunteers with an average of 202 hours per annum per person. Organised volunteer work in Canada totals 11.1 billion hours, numbers equivalent to 578,000 full time jobs.

One of the mainstays of society is the common understanding that the stronger must share their strength with the weaker. The religions, which do so much to establish that social order in the first place, have always stressed that the individual has an obligation to his fellow beings. It is a maxim of Hinduism that "he does not live in vain who employs his wealth, his thought, his speech to advance the good of others." "The way to heaven is to benefit others", the Taoist philosophy says. According to the Prophet Mohammed, "A man's true wealth is hereafter the good he does in this world to his fellow man." In the Old Testament we find the example of Job: "I was eyes to the blind, and feet I was to the lame. I was father to the poor and the cause which I knew not I sought out." In the New Testament is the Parable of the Good Samaritan: "Go and do likewise," Jesus enjoined.

When volunteers are asked the reason why they volunteer, they usually cite the satisfaction they derive from helping others. The idea of giving something back to the community of our own free will seems to have undergone a revival among the people who were least expected to be interested in volunteering service - the members of the 'me generation'.

While there will always be a need for people to do basic chores like mailing-out fund-raising literature, pushing carts in hospitals or delivering meals to the sick, aged or disabled, there is a growing trend towards more empowering forms of help. These included the sharing of knowledge and resources to help the needy develop the self-esteem that greater self-reliance and autonomy can bring.

The late Nobel Prize winner Mother Teresa of Calcutta put the idea of service into perspective when she said: "We feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But if that drop was not in the ocean, I think the oceans would be less because of that missing drop."

We should honour the volunteers among us every day and think about what else we could be doing ourselves.

*Kevin Cummings, Area President - Canada*

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## *A New Flag to buy for your Display Stand*

In October 2003 the number of countries with Y's Men's Clubs reached 70 with the chartering of Bahrain Y's Men's Club. Sponsored by the Thiruvalla Club of South West India Region, Charter President Dr Dharmaraj Selvyn leads 15 new members who will now experience the fellowship of the Y's Men's movement.

## *"I Did It, I Did It!"*

You may be wondering what I did. What do you expect from a person who has completed the term as the International President some years ago? Of course it's about the Y's Men's Club. On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2003 East Valley Y's Men's Club, California was chartered with 36 members. The good news is that I am the oldest member. Well, it could be bad news for me, too. Guess who was elected to the Charter Club President? Do you need an answer?

It was one day in May 2002, I gathered a few friends from my church members to discuss the possibility of forming a new Y's Men's Club. To make the story short, after ten months of telephoning, visits and dinner parties the Club was chartered. There were around 200 Y's Men from all over the Region (Pacific Southwest) to celebrate this event. It has been more than a decade since a new Club was chartered in the Region.

Membership of the Y's Men's movement in the U.S. Area has been declining every year. The myth is that starting a new Club is impossible in these days. It is wrong. The key was strong commitment. Now I want to thank God who really listened to my prayer and gave me strength and wisdom.



I would like to share some of the lessons I gained from this process. Forming a new Club requires lots of personal contact by telephone, letters, visitation, small dinner gatherings and persuasion. It is immensely satisfying to provide an opportunity to those who have never heard of, nor been involved in, a Service Club, especially with an International Service Club whose purpose is based on the Teachings of Jesus Christ. And most of all, they are excited to know that there will be many chances to travel all over the world, actually to attend the Area or the International Conventions. For me, it helped to maintain my health both physically and mentally.

Why don't you try now before it gets too late! God bless you.

*Erick Kim  
Past International President (1998-1999)  
Charter Club President (2003-2004)  
East Valley Y's Men's Club (Diamond Bar, California U.S.A.)*

*'A FELLOWSHIP OF SERVICE'  
The official 75<sup>th</sup> History of Y'sdom*

This labour of love was accomplished over a five year period by a team of Y's Men working out of the Y's Men's Archives in St. Paul, Minnesota.

This is proving to be a treasured gift for clubs to present to members being honoured by entry into the Golden Book of Y'sdom. Many are also purchasing the book for gifts to others who have provided exceptional service to Y's Men or the YMCA.

Joseph Anderson, former International Historian of Y's Men, wrote in the introduction of the book:

*"The story is told in both words and pictures, and presents an easy to read perspective on our origins, growing pains, difficulties and successes which will be informative to people within and without Y'sdom".*

The book can be bought at a reduced price of US\$ 15 each (for a minimum of 3 books).

The normal price is US\$ 20. There are also a limited number of Commemorative issues, with leather cover, at US\$ 50 each.

**NO extra handling or postage charges! Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.**

**Orders, with payment included, should be sent to:  
Claude Bewell, 729 East Hawthorne, St. Paul, MN 55106, USA  
(email - cwbewell@aol.com)**

*Charlottetown D.A.R.E. To Help*



Charlottetown Y's Men's Club, Prince Edward Island, Canada spends a lot of money on kids' s p o r t s programmes, but believes in supporting the mind and spirit as well as the body. Over a year ago the Club had a talk

by Corporal Gary Clow of the Charlottetown City Police on DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), and he persuaded the Club to sponsor yearly sessions for students in Grade 6 before they get into junior high school. The course is being put on in 5 area schools.

Not only does it help students resist drugs and alcohol, it also helps to discourage smoking and, most importantly, bullying. An important side effect of this programme is to introduce the students to the police and thereby show them that they are not the enemy, but a service to help the population and support the community.

A bonus is the Y's Men's logo on the Community Police Van publicizing our support and involvement in the city. We intend to continue the work and extend it to include provision of tee shirts for their graduation of this fine programme.

*Blair Cutcliffe, President, Charlottetown Y's Men's Club*



*Today's Challenge*

Area India has adopted 'Today's Challenge – Care for the Aged' as the theme for Area wide community projects. Clubs donate money, clothes, blankets etc. to elderly peoples' homes. Members are encouraged to spend time visiting to give company to help residents in their loneliness.

Recently I was able to witness such a visit by members of Y's Men's Club of Ernakulam South in Mid West India Region. There are about 40 residents in the home, well looked after by Catholic Sisters. The service they do is great. The Club has helped the home financially for 2 years now and I was delighted to be able to witness their service in action.

*Mathew V Mathew, Area President - India*

*A BIG THANK YOU*

I was surprised and delighted by the reaction on my retirement from Y's Men International. I have been deeply touched by all the gifts and words of appreciation, love and friendship from so many people around the world. It was a pleasure to work in the family atmosphere of Y'sdom and I will treasure the memories. I have contacted those who identified themselves when writing but my thanks to all who contributed in any way.

*Hillevi Andersson*

News and information on Y'sdom is always available on the web site <[www.ysmen.org](http://www.ysmen.org)>

66th Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
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