

Y's Men's World



Editorial

A decision was taken at ICM 05 to move the International Headquarters from Geneva, Switzerland to Prague, Czech Republic. The International Constitution requires that such a change be endorsed by two thirds (2/3) of Y's Men's Clubs in a postal ballot. A Task Force on 'Investigating moving IHQ to Prague' has been established to visit Prague and look into the detail of the proposed move. It will report to the Mid Year Meeting in January 2006. Details of this report will be issued with the ballot in February 2006.



Please contact your Area and Regional officers to ensure you are in possession of all available facts and then exercise your democratic right by using your club vote.

I am most disappointed not to be able to publish stories and pictures showing how the Tsunami appeal money has been spent but unfortunately few have been made available to YMW. I look forward to good reports (with pictures) for inclusion in the next issue.

*Yours in Y'sdom
Walker*

**Deadline for Editor to receive material
for the next issue is
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Y'sdom's Magnificent Response

I want to share with you the results to date of the Tsunami Appeal.

Following the dreadful disaster on December 26th Y'sdom rose to the occasion magnificently and responded to my call to "Let Your Light Shine". Donations came from all corners of the world and a total of 432,000 US\$ has been reported to IHQ, some through IHQ and some directly to the affected areas. In addition, the famous Green Doctors of Korea with a total of 9 Doctors and Rescuers and 6 Nurses, spent 2 weeks in Sri-Lanka to personally assist and attend to the victims of Tsunami.

There are still many other donations that were not reported. My personal estimate is that the total amount raised in response to my Clarion call to "Let Your Light Shine" to help in the relief and assistance of the Tsunami victims, would reach a total amount of well over 600,000 US\$

This is a very proud moment for us Y's Men, who, within a short period of time, were able to rise to the occasion and collectively raised and contributed over half a million dollars for the victims of Tsunami, one of the biggest fund raising, if not the biggest, undertaken by YMI.

I thank all our Y's Men all over the world for their kind and generous heart in sharing their blessings to the less fortunate among us. Truly, we have collectively "Let Our Light Shine" for the glory of our Father in heaven.

To all of you. I say a million thanks and I am proud to have had the opportunity to lead our Y's movement as your International President in 2004/05. May almighty God continue to shower His blessings upon all of us and keep us free from harm and calamity. Let us continue to devote and dedicate ourselves in the service to our beloved Y's movement and support the new leadership of Benson Wabule as our International President.

With my warm regards and best wishes.

Y'sly and cordially, John L. Choa, IPIP

Did You Know?

There are links to well over 100 Area, Region,
District and Club web sites and bulletins
on the IHQ web site at
<www.ysmen.org>

Focus on the Individual Y's Man



In July 2005 I made a most rewarding visit to Canada and Europe accompanied by my wife Mary. In Canada I attended a well-organised and successful joint USA/Canada Area Convention held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. In Europe I had the privilege to preside over meetings of our International Executive Officers and International Council as well as attending a

memorable European Area Convention held in Västerås, Sweden, where I was installed, in a truly colourful and historic ceremony, as the 80th International President of our beloved movement and, proudly, the first from the continent of Africa.

Throughout my trip I was overwhelmed by the sheer love shown to me by all the Y's Men I met. I experienced the emotional friendship, solidarity and fellowship which binds Y's Men together despite the fact we come from different parts of the world, are of different races, faiths, creeds and cultures. All these factors, which have caused so much strife to other organizations and humanity, are the same factors that solidly bind the Y's Men together. Ours is a truly unique movement which has the magic of transforming total strangers into solid friends in a split second. Y's Men International is a truly global family with characteristics which defy description and explanation. Otherwise, how can you explain the strong love and bond which develops between you and a total stranger the moment you learn the stranger is a Y's Man. Our movement has its own magnet, its own charm and its own chemistry which takes control of your mind and body and makes a true Y's Man a devoted member of the global family of Y's Men.

We should all be grateful that we belong to this unique movement

which gives us the opportunity to experience supreme fellowship and participate in the fulfilment of its objectives. As you are aware, these objectives include providing service to the YMCA and the community, supporting other worthy organizations, bringing justice in the world, ensuring members are actively involved in religious, civic, economic, social and International matters, cultivating good fellowship and being involved in both local and international projects.

My Theme as International President for the year 2005/06 is **"Be Y's Men in Deed not Y's Men in Need"**. The focus is on the individual Y's Man and his or her **Deeds** at club level. A Y's Man in **Deed** is a Y's Man who is on the front line providing service to the community, one who initiates and takes part in carrying out projects, one who accepts responsibility, actively participates in club activities, pays dues, understands our movement and works closely with other local and international organizations. He or she is a Y's Man who recognizes the importance of the youth and our valued partnership with the Y's Menettes and the YMCA. A Y's Man in Deed places the needs of others before his or her own needs.

There is no unemployment in Y'sdom. The unemployed are looking for someone to whom to sell their labour. They are looking for wages. Our service is free and selfless. Our wages are the satisfaction we get from accomplishing our projects. There is a lot of work out there in the form of community needs.

I call upon all Y's Men in all our 8 Areas of the world to **"Be Y's Men in Deed not Y's Men in Need"**.

Benson Wabule, International President

A 'STEP' in a New Direction

Participation in the Short Term Exchange Programme (STEP) by youths in India Area is rare. A major reason is the stiff academic competition they face during the transition from High School to University. Hard pressed for time, they can ill-afford to spend even a fortnight (as against the normal 3 to 11 weeks) to participate in such a rewarding programme.

Intent on bringing the benefits of STEP to such youth, District II, South West India Region (SWIR), embarked on a novel experiment in the form of a "Mini Intra-Region STEP" with the Mid West India Region (MWIR). Stony Cherian of Trivandrum North Club was hosted by the family of V.T.Thomas, President

YMC of Kalamassery Academic Circle, District II, MWIR. From 28th March to 8th April 2005. Stony interacted not only with the youths, but many families in the host club community and Senior Leaders. He also visited a couple of local YMCAs in and around Kochi. This motivated many youths and families from the Region to ask for more such STEP exchanges between Regions in India.

Encouraged by the response and results, the Dist. II, SWIR is already planning to launch more such programs which do not make much demand on participants' time or resources, yet achieve some of the core objectives of STEP.

E. Justus, Dist II, SWIR, India

Area Asia responding to the Tsunami

At the Mid Year Meeting in Tozanso Japan (Asia Area) we decided to have a 3-year continuity long range rehabilitation programme. A Committee for Tsunami was appointed by the AP under the chairmanship of David Wong, ASD YMCA Liaison. We will work with the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs for the rehabilitation programme.

With 3,000 US\$ from Asia (Japan East 1,000 US\$ and Taiwan Region 2,000 US\$), which we have collected for the second phase rehabilitation programme we have decided, with the General Secretary, to purchase and provide Simultaneous Interpretation Transmitters. The Asia and Pacific Alliance has grand schemes for a rehabilitation program (Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia), such as training counsellors for children suffering from Post Traumatic Stress (PTS). Professional staff will come from Israel YMCA and from England (Y Care). However, we anticipate that there will be language barriers. Trainers from abroad will speak in English and the trainees only understand their native language. To make the training easier without language difficulties Y's Men will provide the required equipment for translation work. We are now in the process of purchasing this.

In addition to the above, every region in Asia responded immediately after the Tsunami following individual decisions. For that phase most of our Asia Y's Men cooperated with local and National YMCA while I, as AP, sent my comment to Regions to collaborate with YMCA. Some worked with Red Cross, some with the Japanese National YMCA. Korea East immediately sent Green Medical Doctors from Busan YMCA to Sri Lanka. This medical team consists of doctors who are mainly Y's Men. PIP Dr. Kim Bong-hee, IPE Choi Han-ki and Dr. Park (IPRD of Korea East) took part in this immediate response.

Hiromi Nagao, IPAP, Area Asia

Region Denmark Reacts to the Tsunami

The television pictures of the devastation caused by the Tsunami in Asia and India created a huge surge of sympathy for the affected areas and there was no doubt about support from the Danish Y's Men's Clubs to the victims. More than 70 clubs in Region Denmark have contributed to the Region Project for help and about 120,000 US\$ was given. The greatest part of the money has been sent to IHQ in Geneva. IHQ will take care to distribute the money with a half part to India and a half part to Sri Lanka.

Some of the Danish clubs have brother club connections to clubs in India and Sri Lanka and, as soon as possible, the Danish clubs made contact and asked in which way the help could be most effective. The answer from Asia was different, so some clubs sent their help directly to contact persons and other clubs were recommended to use the Region project.

Many of the Danish clubs were quick to make special initiatives to add to the collection. Some arranged extra flea markets. Other clubs made an advertising campaign in second hand shops telling the Danish population that a shopping visit and a purchase in the shop will give immediate support to the people in Asia and India. The effect was enormous. When a customer asked for the price of a purchase it was suggested they pay more for the appeal and they often paid 50% extra.

The Regional Project was advertised on the Danish television, websites and other media. This had two benefits – first, that people who were not members in the Y's Men's movement sent money to the project – and second, Y's Men International got a PR effect, showing us as a movement that is ready to contribute to people in dire need.

Paul Erik Didriksen, Area Bulletin Editor, Europe.

Hearts from Kagoshima Club, Japan

Kagoshima Club of Japan West Region became Brother Club with Kotte Club of Sri Lanka in February 2004. On December 26, 2004, the Tsunami assaulted Sri Lanka, and the news of this had a strong impact on the Kagoshima Club. An e-mail inquiry to Sandra Gomez, the Brother Club coordinator of the Kotte Club, confirmed to their relief there were no victims among people related to the club, but they learned that a lot of casualties and disasters involving tens of thousands of people were seen, especially in the eastern part of the country. According to Ms. Gomez, what was most needed there was counselling care for children who had lost parents or families as well as water, disinfectant, vinyl sheets, etc.

Being far away from the site, Kagoshima Club was at a loss to know what they could do for these people and decided to send 1,000 US\$ to Kotte Club as a symbol of their sympathy. Together with this they attached consoling and encouraging messages though they knew that these actions might not be a great help to the people in Sri Lanka. However, receiving a response letter telling that the money and their messages were safely received by them and carrying their hearty gratitude, the club members felt relieved.

After that, the prayer for the earliest possible recovery of the people in Sri Lanka both physically and mentally has always been in the mind of Kagoshima Club members.

Katsuro Yoshimatsu, Kagoshima Club, Japan West Region

Mid West India Region Tsunami Response

The Y's Men in India Area have never come across a wide spread disaster like the one that occurred on the night of 26th December 2004. The wrath of the Tsunami waves, which swept away the homes and belongings of thousands all along the Eastern and Western coasts of South India, posed a great challenge to all the service organizations having their presence in India. The geographical terrain that comes under the Mid West India Region (MWIR) was very badly hit. Since many of the clubs in MWIR are located in the coastal belts, the members of these clubs had to bear the brunt of the sufferings of their neighbours, who were living under flimsy roofs and weak structures.

Even before large scale relief operations could be started, many of the Y's Men in District 1 and District 2 rose to the occasion and shifted very badly affected families to their own houses and nearby schools, where temporary relief camps were set up. Members from other Districts far from the affected areas also came and joined the service by distributing food and clothes to the needy people. The selfless service of many Y's Men families on the eventful night and the immediately following days will be gratefully remembered by the affected people in the years to come. The gravity of the situation was brought to the attention of the International President John. L. Choa by the RD of MWIR and the IP immediately released an amount of 500 US\$ from his emergency fund. The amount was used to purchase food grains and clothes for the victims of the disaster in the refuge camps.

An extra-ordinary Regional Council was convened and it was unanimously decided to raise a Regional Tsunami Relief Fund through contributions from the clubs in MWIR. It was also decided to utilize the fund for making available to the genuinely affected families equipment for their day-to-day use at the time of occupying their reconstructed or repaired houses. Reconstruction of houses and providing means of livelihood had

already been taken up by the Governmental machinery, and our help was not required for the same.

13,600 US\$ was raised through the contributions made by various clubs, well-wishers and money released by the Area President from Area funds in two instalments. To identify the most deserving families, to whom our help had to be extended, a survey was conducted by the officials of District 1 and 2 and a list of 150 affected families requiring our assistance was prepared. Keeping in view the nature of governmental assistance it was finally decided to construct and supply to the maximum possible number of families a set of furniture, consisting of a wooden cot, a table and a bench for their day to day use. The furniture

was procured at a cost of 100 US\$ per set. 125 sets of such furniture were given to the first 125 families in the list already prepared.



The inauguration of the distribution of furniture by the State Minister of

Fisheries was held in May at a public meeting which was presided over by the Regional Director, P J Abraham. Ipe Jacob, India Area President, was the Guest of Honour. This occasion was really a relief day for the affected victims. We also provided to the beneficiaries expenses to transport the furniture to their homes. Such a large scale service project at the Regional level was the first of its kind in MWIR and will go a long way in projecting the service of Y's Men to the people in distress.

Brotherhood in Y's Men and YMCA

I am a Y's Man of Bangkok Club, Thailand and recently took my daughter Tirawan to Boston USA to start a two-year MBA course at Babson College. There are over 100,000 students in Boston and we had great worries about how she would settle and find accommodation. Into the breach stepped Janet and Pete Smorgan of Wakefield and Reading Y's Men's Club. Pete had been a volunteer worker in the Bangkok YMCA in 1966-1968 and he willingly filled the gap in the logistics, helping to find the housing when the campus dorm had a long waiting list, driving us every where, putting me up for home stay on the last day before flying back to Bangkok and waking up at 4.00am with a

cup of coffee and donuts to take me back to the airport. I could not help but to say to myself "Thank you Lord". To make the story short, without the assistance of Y's Men and YMCA organization, it is hard to understand all of the efforts and time rendered to each other from the outsiders but in the Y'sdom fraternal nature, it is developed through the instrument of the IBC Program.

We really appreciated both Janet and Pete of Y's Men's Club of Wakefield and Reading and always told ourselves that we are fortunate to be Y's Men.

Wichian Boonmapajorn, Bangkok Club, Thailand - ASD IBC
Vice President-YMCA Bangkok

Cowboys in Hawaii

'Unified in Purpose, Strategic in Action', was the theme for the 69th Hawaii Regional Convention held on the beautiful Garden Island of Kauai in 2005. A pre-convention Luau on Thursday evening welcomed members of the Atami Glory, and Wakayama Kinokawa Brother clubs from Japan. Having travelled all the way from Japan to Hawaii the visitors were surprised to find the Convention was decorated with cowboy features. By Friday night, the convention was in "full swing" to the tune of the Texas Two-Step.



As they entered the dining room, delegates were given red bandannas to carry on the western theme and were treated to a country and western barbeque—a first for many of our visitors. Master of Ceremonies Frank Olsen gave a brief history of the *paniolo* (Hawaiian cowboy) and Ted Shanks recited some cowboy poetry. In the spirit of good fun, our Hawaiian cowboys mounted their horse—a full size rocking horse—compliments of the Tannery household, and tried their hand at roping.



After dinner, the dance floor quickly filled to the sound of country and western music.

Bev Olsen, East Kauai Y's Men's Club, Hawaii

Water for Life

In Africa the supply of water is a major problem in many areas. In a simple bid to render relevant community based service projects to the less privileged, Ikeja Y's Men's Club donated two boreholes in a single day. Each of the boreholes has a capacity of 2,500 litres of pipe borne water. The first went to the Old People's Home at Onike Yaba, Lagos where residents have been in dire need of clean water of for a long time. The second borehole was donated to the Aba Johnson/Badagry Street Community in Ikeja. More than 100 officials, members and guests witnessed these momentous occasions in Yaba and Ikeja, both in Lagos State. On hand to cover the event were the Press Crew of the Governor's Office and Lagos State Television. This has boosted the image of the Club which will yield good dividends in terms of membership growth.

It has indeed been a year of service to humanity and unprecedented fulfilment for us at Ikeja Y's Men's Club.

Afolabi Ajomale, Club President, Ikeja Y's Men's Club, Nigeria

Hungary on the Map

The Y's Men Club in Szombathely, Hungary, was founded based on Danish initiative in the spring of 1997. At present the club is in the Danube District and has 23 members. The club aims to help people in need as well as to establish international relationships. It also considers it important to include young people in the helping activities as well as prepare them for these tasks. When planning the yearly programme the ideas and suggestions of the members are taken into consideration and 'the host of the month' programme means that every month a different club member is in charge of the programme.

Twice a year the Danish Regional leaders visit the club, and once we had the chance to welcome Bill Ward, who was the International President in 2002/3 in Szombathely together with his wife. We often have taken part in the activities of the Slovakian clubs as well as in the chartering of other clubs in different countries.

Every year on the day of St. Martin we organise a charity market for Christmas presents prepared by the members and the children of the members. The income was given to an orphanage in Transylvania and to the Early Developing Centre and Winnie-the-Pooh's nursery for buying toys. We also helped disabled young people by purchasing educational tools for them. This year the income has been given to the Hospice Foundation who care for people suffering from malignant tumours physically and psychologically.

Marton Lazary, Szombathely Y's Men Club, Hungary

Malta Homeless Initiative

Valletta YMCA in Malta had been assisting homeless people for a number of years by providing temporary shelter in a couple of small apartments. In 2001 out of the blue, a benefactor provided the YMCA with a building for a period of 10 years at no rental charge. The building was in a bad state. Who will provide the funds to refurbish it? Who will run it? The problem looked enormous but it is written that "He who asks shall receive". After much lobbying, the Ministry of Social Policy made a grant to convert the place into a 22-bed shelter. The Lions' Club provided all the beds, other donors supplied a complete kitchen, the bathroom ware.....slowly and surely, over a period of two years, a core of helpers managed to secure almost all the necessities for the project. With the help of a grant from Y's Men



International (Time of Fast) and another timely award from an American company, Baxter Healthcare, the YMCA was able to employ a team of professional social and care workers to operate the shelter on a 24 hour, 7 day a week basis.

The support of Y'sdom through the Time of Fast and a chance meeting with Poul-Henrik Hove Jacobsen from Denmark at a European YMCA meeting led the supporters of Valletta YMCA to form a Y's Men's Club, chartered in March 2004 and the shelter, Dar Niki Cassar, opened in July of that year.

In the first 6 months Valletta YMCA provided 1560 bed nights to a total of 52 individuals. In the following 5 months the numbers doubled bringing the bed nights to 2817 and assisting 100 individuals. Numbers are numbers but each number is a person, each with their own story and each one looking for a brighter tomorrow and a future for their children, a future far from social stigma and feelings of inferiority.

YMCA Valletta's mission is to provide assistance and professional services to work with the individual to overcome their difficult situation and to assist those in need. Dar Niki Cassar, YMCA Valletta's residential shelter, offers social work and psychological services to individuals in need and ensures that people have a safe haven to rest and the chance to get back on their feet. Valletta Y Service club is proud to support this worthy venture.

Tom Cusens, President, Valletta Y's Men's Club, Malta

Free Medical Help

India is a poor country and at least 20% of the population lives below the poverty line; they do not have means to go for medical check ups or get treatment for their illness. Ranchi Y's Men's Club of Central India Region holds free Medical Check Up Camps and we provide the services of 2 to 4 generous and efficient doctors. These camps are not organised within any building but at the roadside and we use removable tents to build the camps. To get the desired audience we give a press release giving date, time and venue of each Medical Camp to the leading newspapers of the city and we are happy that they support us by publishing news of the forthcoming Camps. We also install a sound system at the venue and when we start the Medical Camp, our members keep making announcements inviting poor people for their free medical check-up, advice and treatment.



We take help from doctors, medicine manufacturing companies and medicine retailers who provide us with the "sample medicines" used by them for sales promotional

purposes; these we are able to supply free of charge. Some over the counter medicines, which are frequently prescribed for common illness, are purchased and stocked by us. Usually, about 10 to 15 Y's Men of our Club gather at such camps and help in registering the patients, making regular announcements through the sound system, dispensing medicines to the patients and maintaining the camp procedures. In 2004/5 we held four camps and provided the service to 430 patients.

Sanjay Kumar Chhaparia, Y's Men's Club of Ranchi, India

Menette News



'Hats off to the past, Coats off to the future'. Our leader IP Benson Wabule has a very appealing slogan for us this year. The idea is to be respectful and grateful to the past and gather strength from their work for the future. IPID Jennifer Cameron and her team did an excellent job for our Y's Menettes movement in the past years and we want to place on record their dedicated service.

We Y's Menettes throughout the world thank them profusely for the same.

We have 542 Y's Menettes clubs with 8202 members on record. It is difficult to give accurate figures as they change quickly. In 2004/05 there was an increase of 135 clubs and 1343 members. 93 charter certificates were issued during the past year around the world. 84 clubs in India have taken steps to be recognized internationally and registered with the International. Eight clubs in Korea have been issued with charter certificates.

A one year project to provide employment opportunities to 20 families, mainly for women in Kuttanellur, India was last year's International project for Y's Menettes. Direct beneficiaries were 20 families. Indirect beneficiaries were 100 other people, Cutters, tailors, embroidery workers and helpers will be trained and our contribution of 4,000 US\$ will be used to buy equipment and fabrics.

Proposed plan of action:

Not to deviate from our ongoing programmes and to pursue them. Contribution of 1 US\$ by each and every Y's Menette to the International Fund and a voluntary contribution to the International Project Fund to be emphasized in all Areas and collection to be well coordinated.

Y's Menettes to continue financial and service support to Y's Men, YMCAs, and local communities. Y's Menettes also should go for independent programs and activities in the community for distinct identity and image for Y's Menettes. It helps build leadership potentials and empowers Y's Menettes in the organization.

Knowledge is power. Educate Y's Menettes about organization: More and more training and education to Y's Menettes at the grass root level (club level). Leaders should devise and systematically organize such programs more for common members. Knowledge about Y'sdom is essential. Area Directors can produce literature in the local language and suited to local conditions.

The "Family Ingredient" in our Clubs is unique. In our organization Y's Men and Y's Menettes avail opportunities to develop themselves in body, mind and spirit (the red triangle). It also says about the balanced participation of the family (man, woman and children). Let us promote the 'family ingredient' to attract new members. We have to promote family/cultural meets locally, help the aged and extend support to youth, especially in education exchange programs and through Sister Club relations.

Most importantly, to give Y's Menettes their due. Our crusade to issue CHARTERS to all the Y's Menettes clubs in all the eight Areas must be prioritised. We have to motivate clubs to apply for issue of CHARTERS.

HIV/AIDS prevention is our Unified Global Project in Y's Men International. Y's Menettes will also be using the same theme as we support communities working towards prevention of HIV/AIDS through education. New International Projects in Uganda, Russia and Costa Rica were approved at ICM 05. All focus on HIV/AIDS and a total of 33,480 US\$ has been pledged.

As your new International Director for Y's Menettes I once again remind you of our leader's clarion call. "Be Y's Men in Deed not Y's Men in Need." let's be Y's Menettes in Deed not Y's Menettes in Need.

*"I slept and dreamt that life is beauty,
I woke and found that life is duty."*

Shanti Panigrahi, International Director - Y's Menettes.

New Y-Service Club at the Heart of Tokyo

The Tokyo Centennial Y Service Club was chartered 4th June 2004. This, Japan's newest Y's Men's club was formed to give service to Korean YMCA in Tokyo! The Korean YMCA in Tokyo was founded in 1906. It had been a place for many Koreans in Japan to gather and work for the freedom and justice of Korean people and nations. 60 years have passed since new goal of peace has been set for both countries. In the past there was a Korean Y's Men's Club but this is not the revival of that club but a new Y Service Club to support the Korean YMCA in Japan with multi-national membership aiming to be a Bridge of Peace in Asia. Those who wish to have an International Brother Club link with this unique Centennial club to be recognized at the International Convention 06 in Busan, Korea should contact club secretary: Nishi (Takao Nishimura) at <T2465@aol.com>

Takao Nishimura, Japan - ICM 03-06

Happiness is a Football



On the front page of Y's Men's World issue 2 of 2003/04 we featured two young Canadians promoting the Fair Trade Soccer Balls organised by the Ottawa Y Service Club. The scheme is growing and has been extended to include the recycling of old balls from the buyers of the new balls. Chris Selig, who visited Nepal, sent us this report.

The orphanage that I stayed in Nepal was in Arubari, a small village about 8km outside of Kathmandu. The orphanage is run by Nepali staff and volunteers from all over the world and is under the general directorship of Childhaven International, a Canadian organization (see <www.childhaven.ca> for more information).



There are over 100 boys and girls who live full-time at the orphanage in Arubari. They range in age from 1 year to 18 years although the average age is probably about 8 years old. At the home they receive 3 meals a day, which consist mostly of rice, curried potatoes, lentils and a few vegetables. They also have a machine that produces soy milk from soy beans and each child gets a glass of soy milk twice a day. The children sleep on the floor, about ten to a room that is roughly the size of an average North American bedroom.

In spite of the somewhat crude living conditions the children are quite playful and affectionate and seem happy. They attend school in a nearby village and are taught in English so they are able to communicate quite well with English-speaking volunteers. They have few chores to do at the home so when they are not at school or doing their homework, they tend to spend most of their time playing various games in and around the home. They are quite fond of football (soccer) in particular but at the time of my arrival, they did not have a soccer ball to play with. When they heard that I had brought some soccer balls with me, I was immediately whisked away to a nearby "pitch" to play with them.

Their playing field was a very uneven and odd shaped surface perched on top of a ridge, surrounded by terraced rice gardens, and there were frequent jaunts down the hillside to retrieve wayward passes. Both girls and boys participated in the games although it tended to be the boys who participated more frequently.

When not being used on the soccer pitch, the soccer balls were used for other games such as basketball and volleyball. The most remarkable thing was that in spite of the fact that the balls were in high demand and in constant use, the children insisted that I not give them more than one (of the six that I brought) at a time. They wanted to use one ball until it was no longer usable and only then be given another one.

All in all, it was a very fulfilling experience and one that will not soon be forgotten. Your gracious donation was certainly much appreciated by all the children at the home. It's truly amazing how much difference a simple thing like a soccer ball can make to a group of children who have so few material possessions.

Chris Selig



As a project Fair Trade Soccer Balls provides a practical way of building a culture of peace and saying no to violence, it is a support for an important weapon against poverty, namely Fair Trade, and the fight against child labour, both projects that the YMCA supports. The project offers possible alliances with like-minded groups including churches, social action groups and YMCAs. The spin-off projects include the recycling of sports equipment, reducing garbage, helping children in poorer countries enjoy the right to play and supporting individuals and NGOs as they work to help others. Clubs could also organize Fair Trade Sports Tournaments for soccer, volleyball and beach volleyball and set up travelling soccer skills activities for special community events. The club is then promoted greatly and seen as doing something useful.

David Hall, Ottawa Y Service Club, Canada

What a Difference 55,000 US\$ Can Make !! *Visit to Julian Haranzky Community Centre, Uirapuru in São Paulo, Brazil*

In 1991 and 1999 TOF supported a project in Brazil, donating a total of 55,000 US\$. The money was spent on purchasing sewing machines, typewriters, carpentry machinery, silk screen equipment and educational requirements. Even now, when the first purchased items are as much as 14 years old, it is still in daily use and extremely well maintained. I was lucky enough to be able to visit the YMCA centre during the Mid Year Meeting 2005.



IP Benson Wabule and Council members admire the work of the centre

São Paulo slum area

The centre is located centrally in the poorest São Paulo slum area. Children and youth from the area are educated here, getting a bath and 1-2 meals a day. In this slum the best paid workers have a total family income of not more than 170 US\$ per month, and most families have considerably less. The centre is run by the YMCA and is supported by the Y's Men's clubs of São Paulo. The centre has 52 volunteer helpers. In 2003 the centre had 101,697 visits, served 119,276 meals and serviced 5,647 individuals.

Skills are certificated

Training covers the producing of clothing, furniture and silk screen prints on T-shirts and the younger children sew and make decorative items. The youth receive a certificate at the end of training. The good contacts of the centre with a number of local enterprises enables the majority of the skilled youth from the centre to get jobs.

Profits help with the running costs

What is produced is sold locally and the profit helps run the centre. The main part of the centre costs are paid by the São Paulo YMCA and the Y's Men's clubs of São Paulo. All education and training is done in cooperation with the children's parents. This way the loyal support of their parents is in the best way secured. This is enhanced by the fact that the centre runs its own pharmacy and has a nurse offering service to the families concerned.



YMCA leisure centres for funding

São Paulo has a population of 20 million people and the majority are living below the limit of poverty so the local need is substantial. The YMCA tries to meet this huge challenge by raising money running fitness, swimming and sport centres for the privileged minority of the population. The YMCA in São Paulo has more than 2,600 volunteers and is runs 16 such leisure centres. Some 25 per cent of the YMCA income is spent on social charity. Unfortunately this is far from sufficient to meet the giant needs.



I must say that I am impressed by the extremely fine work the Y's Men's Clubs and YMCA in São Paulo are doing and I impressed and surprised by what just 55,000 US\$ from our TOF programme can help to bring about.

Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen, AP Europe

Guiding Youth Safely at the Cross Roads

Once a young man embarked on a walking trip to the town of Sunnyville and arrived at a fork in the road. He was annoyed to discover a signpost with one arrow marked 'Manor Town' pointing to a wide, smooth-paved road and another arrow marked 'Sunnyville' pointing to a narrow, rocky, unpaved trail. Suddenly he had a bright idea. He climbed up the post, reversed the signs, climbed down, and proceeded merrily on his way along the smooth road. On and on he walked but he never reached Sunnyville.

Every day the range and intensity of the problems facing youth are greater. At the same time failure to relate faith to life, indifference, inequality, pride, self-satisfaction, lack of love, divisions in the society, lack of mission zeal are some of the reasons for our failure to win youth to God. Many factors have caused emotional, mental, spiritual and physical imbalances among them. Tomorrow's world is filled with more uncertainties than better things. Y's Men have a vital role in helping them to reach their goal or destiny safely.

It is in between one's departure and actual destiny we must be clear in our minds about the paths that would lead youth. At a fork in their pilgrimage, we see most of them tend to act and waver like that man in the illustration. In today's life fashions and situations and by the participation and attendance in the worshipping centres one can see that a good number of them desire their journey of faith to be light, comfortable and youthful.

These youths are ignorant of the fact that they are heading nowhere or elsewhere only to regret it later. It is questionable how many in their spiritual life are ready to face the real challenges coming against them at their cross roads. Nevertheless these kinds of situations can be said are 'eventualities one cannot escape'. It is evident that even though the leader is watchful in taking the youth safely, somehow or the other missing-the-track seems inevitable.

The evils of socio-economic-culture, political science, technology, and philosophy are misleading the youth to move in a wrong direction. Their glitter, deception and attractive offers have dulled their missionary zeal and may lead them, elsewhere never to reach God's set place or plan for them. In the midst of all impediments and mottos, God expects that His young people at a fork in their journey of faith would pause and proceed watchfully. Therefore, as Y's Men, let us examine ourselves in our responsibilities. The journey of faith towards the wonderful destiny is enjoyable with thanks and praises to God in every step on His way. If we head in the wrong direction. God allows us to take a U-turn.

C. Thomas Mathew, Immediate Past Area Bulletin Editor, India

Long Term Community Commitment

In Charlottetown, Canada, the University of Prince Edward Island together with various governments and major contributors got together to form a company, C.A.R.I., to create a huge Aquatics Centre on the local University campus. Charlottetown Y's Men's Club has a keen interest in supporting the local community and undertook a series of major fund raising activities for the project. Seven after school programmes are run throughout the city. A raffle for a trip for two to Barbados was very successful, a Shrove Tuesday pancake breakfast brought in more money.

Due to these lucrative operations we were able to accumulate sufficient funds to offer a 5-year commitment to the Capital Area Recreation Inc (C.A.R.I.) of \$250,000. This funding created a "kick-start" and we feel very confident that without our commitment, this project might not have become a reality. Suffice to say we are most proud of this vital and important accomplishment.

David Ing, Charlottetown Y's Men's Club, Canada

Menettes in a New Country

Mauritius is a beautiful Island about 65km long and 48km wide off the coast of Madagascar. I travelled to Mauritius in March 2005 in my capacity as International Director for Y's Menettes, to charter the first Y's Menettes Club in Mauritius, the Quatre-Bornes Y's Menettes Club.

I was met at the Airport by members of the Y's Menettes and YMCA staff and enjoyed a wonderful week planned and hosted by club members. Besides seeing the sights of Mauritius and meeting up with many Y's Menette members, I visited many YMCA and community projects. I learnt much about the local communities from visits with the Deputy Mayor of Quatre-Bornes and Bishop Ian Ernest, Head of the Anglican Diocese of Mauritius.

The Charter Night was a very special occasion and I would like to especially thank the Y's Menettes for conducting the whole ceremony in English so I could understand. The Charter Ceremony was held first followed by an excellent evening of food and fellowship.

I spent a week in Mauritius and while it was not long enough to fit in all the visits that had been planned, I certainly saw a lot of the country and the people. I feel that Y's Menettes have a great future in supporting the YMCA and the local community. Thank you to the Y's Menettes of Quatre-Bornes and to Jean-Maurice Rangasamy, National General Secretary of the YMCA-Mauritius for your hospitality.

Jennifer Cameron, ID Y's Menettes 2003-05

Golden Opportunity

The 'Grass Roots' local club is the backbone of our movement. The International level provides strategies and resources to help in achieving goals, but unless there is the committed support of an active club membership our plans will have minimal success and goals will not be realized.

Local Club

The local club builds a budget each year which should include the Endowment Fund.

Region

The Regional Director at the Regional Board meeting or Regional Convention sets a goal for the Endowment Fund for the region based on local clubs goals.

Area

At the Area Council meeting the Area President builds a budget for the Endowment Fund based on what each Regional Director reports as a goal for their region.

International

Area Presidents report to the International Council on what their goal is for each area for Endowment Fund.

A Goal Setting Committee then submits the goals for adoption by the 1CM for the Endowment Fund. The goal for 2005-06 will be 69,028 US\$

Investment in the Endowment Fund NOW will pay dividends in the future. Bequests and gifts to this fund are invested and safeguarded for preservation to produce investment interest that will help to ensure the continuance of services to our communities, countries and fellow human beings.

Individual donations to the Endowment Fund are recorded in the GOLDEN BOOK. This is a large memorial book bound in white leather with gold leaf ornament which is on permanent display at IHQ, Geneva, Switzerland. The Golden Book records the "golden deeds" of Y's Men, Y's Menettes and friends of Y'sdom as well as the name of the donor. This book provides a very special way to contribute to the Endowment Fund by honouring with written tribute the memory of someone who gave outstanding service - or a living member or club whose deed or service deserves our gratitude and remembrance. You can also honour YMCA leaders, friends, special club events, conventions, anniversaries, what ever you may want to put in the book that is special to your club.

Remember you are the 'GRASS ROOTS ' of Y'sdom

When you send in the tribute to the Regional Service Director, please include the following: a cheque, and on the tribute, name of Club, Region, Area and date.

Harold Spilde, ISD Endowment Fund

Endowment Fund Goal Beaten

Regional Director of Japan West Region, Asia Area, Yoshiro Shibata set a goal of 20,000 US\$ for the Endowment Fund for the year 2004/05 specially to support the Asia Area President Hiromi Nagao from the same Region. Although this goal was much higher than the past performance, Y's Men Clubs and Districts in the Region united their energy and resources under the strong leadership of RSD for Fund Raising, Ryuzaburo Sakai. The RSD energetically promoted the original purpose of the EF for the development of Y'sdom and implemented an active publicity programme including various awards.

In response to his appeal and efforts, the Region finally remitted 8,500 US\$ and Japanese Yen 1,276,800 to International making the total a little more than the goal and demonstrated the strong wish of Japanese Y's Men to be of help to those who are in need in the world.

Fumihiko Sakai, RD Japan West Region

Progress in Latin America/Caribbean

Leader Training is one of the important aspects of Y'sdom that is being emphasized in all Areas. Latin America/Caribbean Area has a big problem with distance between clubs and until now training for LAC leaders was held in the USA, incurring high expenses and difficulty with the language. The idea of holding training before the 7th Area Convention was put into practice for the first time at this meeting and the results were excellent. All agree that the experience will turn out to have been fully justified and will contribute greatly to the development of Y'sdom in the Area. The 7th Area LAC Convention, the 27th Latin American Regional Convention and the 7th Youth Convocation of the LAC Area, were held in March 2005 in Punta del Este, Uruguay. 70 Y's Men, Y's Menettes and youth of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay were present.



Omar Posiero, AP Latin America/Caribbean

Better Understanding around the World

My husband, Harvey Steen, and I were privileged to be selected for a Brotherhood grant for a trip to Korea and Japan in May/June 2005. We spent two wonderful weeks in Korea visiting nine clubs and attending the Korea South and Chunbuk Regional Conventions. We also visited seven YMCAs while there. On June 1 we flew to Japan and spent two equally wonderful weeks visiting six clubs and attending the Japan East Regional Convention. Y's Men from other clubs attended meetings with some of the clubs we visited, so we met them also. We also visited five YMCAs in Japan. We thank our Y's Men hosts and Y's Men friends for providing interpreters if no one in a club spoke English.

We found the Y's Men and Women to be very warm and friendly in both countries. The kind hospitality shown us was appreciated very much. We never felt like strangers even though we spoke different languages. This seems to be true wherever Y's Men are together. We were given tours of each of the communities we visited and learned many interesting things about the culture and history of each country. This makes for better understanding between people from different parts of the world. Thanks to the Y's Men who took time from their work to show us around.



In Korea we were impressed with the District and Regional offices which made it convenient to have all records in one place for tracking Extension and Membership. The data on each club was on a large chart in one

Regional office and it was updated regularly. This is a recommendation we would make for all Regions.

Christian emphasis was evident in the clubs in Korea and Japan. It is clear that Christianity is very strong in both countries. This was true at the club meetings and the Regional Conventions. We sensed a very close relationship between the YMCAs and Y's Men's Clubs. They seem to work closely together and respect each other. We were very pleased to see how highly both of these organizations are recognized and respected in their communities. In Korea Y's Men International seemed to be 'the service club to belong to' as their clubs are large and growing rapidly with members from all professions joining.

Most of the Y's Men's Club members were men, but some clubs have women as key officers. Y's Menettes Clubs are very active in both countries. We did not observe any youth involved as club members or any family programs, but the clubs all are involved with youth activities through their YMCAs. All of the clubs strongly support all of the International programs and are especially involved in International Brother Clubbing. Our club is in the process of forming Brother Club relationships with two of the clubs in Kumamoto, Japan. Our Helena YMCA and the Kumamoto YMCA are in the process of re-establishing a "Sister YMCA" relationship which was active a few years ago.



The HIV/AIDS project that was started by a Y's Menettes Club in Japan and is now an International project was discussed. We were glad to hear more about this program at the Japan East Regional Convention and how it will be implemented by the Time of Fast programme.

I strongly recommend that the itineraries for BF Delegates be set much earlier than mine was as it is very important in making travel plans. The timetable as set by the BF policy flowchart should be adhered to as closely as possible. It is easier and cheaper to book flights 4 or 5 months in advance of departure instead of six weeks before. It is important that RDs know far in advance that they are to have BF Delegates in their Regions.

I am grateful to have received this grant and to have had the opportunity to represent Helena Y Service Club, the Pacific Northwest Region, and the U.S. Area by sharing my experiences and learning much from the exchange of ideas with Y's Men and Women in Korea and Japan. I took lots of photos and will organize them into a program to present to clubs that request it. I also look forward to making presentations of my experiences in my community.

Ila Steen, BF04/05-21 delegate. Helena Y Service Club, USA

Anti-AIDS Programme in the Urals A Continuing Conversation.

We were very pleased when our article on the AIDS problem appeared in Y's Men's World Magazine (2004/5 Issue 2 page 13). We showed this magazine to friends and associates. Certainly after that our importance has risen in the estimation of others. People began to regard our club with enthusiasm. They show greater interest in public life and want to enter Y's Men's club. Clearly we cannot stop at such a moment; on the contrary, it is necessary to move further more actively. This publication has inspired us.

We discussed variants of our work on the problem of AIDS in Ekaterinburg. After numerous discussions we have decided that our activity should not develop in only one direction. We can operate in different directions achieving one overall purpose.



First we continue to help the Children's Home for AIDS infected children we wrote about last time. Now, in the summer, we bring to kiddies fruit for which the administration does not have money. Certainly it is not a big help, but it is better than nothing.

Second, we held a competition for drawings and paintings on the problem of a drugs and AIDS. This competition was for teenagers who are in a colony for minors. They are there because of crimes connected with drugs. These guys of 15-17 years have already such huge negative experiences behind them. Drug traffic, larceny, robbery, these are crimes for which they now serve time. In my opinion there are very talented people among them. There is an impression that they are repentant of their errors. They have very much experience of early broken life and this pain is visible in their drawings and paintings. We have selected the best work in our opinion and have awarded the authors small gifts. We plan to make these ANTI-AIDS drawings the basis of booklets and posters. We are delighted that this programme has been offered 2,700 US\$ support from the Y's Menettes International Projects Fund and we will use this money to print and distribute the posters and booklets.



Thirdly we have found that the church is engaged with the AIDS problem in Ekaterinburg. The Tikhvin nunnery has created a shelter for orphans - children of addicts and alcoholics. It has 30 children from 2 to 6 years. We have got acquainted with Father George, the confessor and the director of a shelter. The shelter was created from donations of parishioners. We have seen that it is very cosy and clean. Children are well groomed and with cheerful personalities. We have brought clothes, toys and books. All this was accepted with pleasure. They have shown us animals that live in the shelter - donkeys, rabbits and chickens. The children touchingly care for them. As far as possible we will continue to help this shelter. Father George has told us that many children need treatment. Practically all of them are sick, paying for the sins of parents. Epilepsy, arrestment in intellectual development, stutter, heart diseases is not the full list of their illnesses therefore the doctors' and teachers' work here is very intense. All of us are deeply immersed in this problem.

If everyone will give though on a grain, we shall move mountains. Wish us success and thank you that it teaches us not to be indifferent to another's trouble.

Olga Azarian, Ekaterinburg Y's Men's Club, Russia

Did You Know?

There is a 2006 Time of Fast calendar available in 12 languages on the IHQ web site
<www.ysmen.org>
go to downloads

Extension - Extension

It is necessary to go where the people are! An example:

German and German speaking YMCAs came together at Kassel to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Paris Basis. About 6 – 8, 000 visitors of all age gathered there, amongst them were Y's Men.



Our goal was not only to show Y'sdom but also to be able to address YMCA members with the good news of our movement. So we decided to have an exhibition stand there distributing brochures and showing PowerPoint presentations. And most importantly -

To find interested people and talk to them

We were able to meet YMCA from Berlin, Bremen, Betzdorf, Hagen, Erlangen, Braunschweig, Zwickau, Zülpich and so on. Several were so interested that they promised to give us an invitation to speak - once being returned home and having talked to their friends. And of course we met nearly all YMCA



Regional Secretaries of Germany and renewed our offer to help them to create Y's Men Clubs. So we have a good number of old (refreshed) and new addresses which are now to be followed up.

We also had some unexpected visitors: Miroslav Halmo, District Governor of Danube District, Slovakia, György Luptak, Chairman of the Hungarian KIE (YMCA), from the SOVAR House (a Time of Fast project), Isabella Hua, Gen Sec. Chendu/China, Richard Tu, Gen Sec, Wuhan YMCA (with a Y's Men's Club)

'We' were Rolf Hartje, YMC + YMCA Northeim, Moses Kyemba, Youth Intern, Geneva and myself. All in all it was a great experience. Lets pray that the seed distributed will grow to become new young Y's Men's Clubs.

Klaus Dietzel, RSD-EMC Central Southern Europe

Growth from Old Roots

It is right and proper that much effort is put into engaging young people in Y'sdom but we should not forget the opportunities offered by considering older people. Members from the Y Service Clubs of Bendigo and Kangaroo Flat led by Les Jones, father of Jennifer Cameron, Immediate Past International Director of Y's Menettes, have taken this view and found success. It is many years since a new Y Service Club has been chartered in the Australian Region but in September 2005 it will happen.

The Charter Dinner of Bendigo South Y Service Club will precede the Australian Regional Convention run by the Y Service Club of Kangaroo Flat and 26 members have signed the Charter document. The Charter President is Tom Harris, ably supported by Max Blume as Vice-President. It is interesting to note that the majority of members in the club are retirees who still feel the need to participate in community activities, in addition to meeting regularly at the lunch club to renew old friendships and create new ones.

Bill Schmidt, AP South Pacific

Experiences of a new member

I am a new member of Kampala Y's Men's Club and I am still learning about Y'sdom. As a new member of the club I encourage other people out there with the same views and attitude to join the Y's Men's clubs or other service clubs.

Within our community we try to help the young and old. During May we visited an orphanage and elderly people in a nearby village. The Sanyu Babies Home is where abandoned babies and young ones are taken care of. We fed them, washed for them, mopped, ironed for them, played with them and also prayed and sang songs of praise with them. This is one day each Y's Man will never forget. Some of the kids are abandoned by their parents when they are just one day old and this home becomes their home for good. Other abandoned children become a family and live like sisters and brothers. It is a pity not to belong to any family and we were very sorry for these children.

We believe we should contribute to our community. Our objectives include ensuring sustainable livelihood - security like food and accommodation, contributing towards humanitarian protection against wars, sickness, communal violence and natural disasters and improving the right to be heard as marginalized people in communities. This can be through radio programs, television broadcasts or skills and resources. My club is dedicated to fulfilling these obligations.

Rosemary Agyo, Kampala Y's Men's Club, Uganda



Welcome to the Land of Wonders

67th International Convention

August 3~6 2006

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