

# Y's Men's World



## From You to You

The Y's Men's World magazine is written by the members for the members. The Editor does not write the articles, he 'polishes' them and does the layout but YOU are responsible for the content!



All Areas have an Assistant Editor whose job is to search out interesting stories and pictures to illustrate the activities in his or her Area; hopefully these will educate or entertain readers around the world and contribute to the feeling of belonging to an International Family. The list of Assistant Editors can be found below. In addition each International Service Director is invited to submit some news. The Editor also welcomes contributions directly from members for consideration, but cannot promise publication although good pictures increase the chance of acceptance.

Once the articles and photographs are available the task falls to the Editor to select, sub-edit and layout the magazine. This takes about four weeks, but can take

longer if people need chasing up for contributions. The master CD of the English language version is sent to India for printing and copies of the CD to a team of translators who translate for Chinese, Danish, Finnish, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish editions. We are now trying to arrange for a Russian edition. The English, Danish and Spanish editions are printed and distributed from India but all other versions are translated, printed and distributed by the Area or Region involved.

Printing of the English edition takes about another four weeks. It is after this that time goes out of central control. The main distribution system relies on Regional Directors creating a set of address labels for each club in their Region with the name and address of club Presidents and a nominated number of copies for each club. Some Regions order bulk copies and arrange distribution themselves. IHQ send the club labels or Regional bulk orders to the Distribution Manager in India, Josey Joseph, who collates the copies and posts to the nominated Club President or Regional Director. If you do not get a regular copy, complain to your President and Regional Director. If you think the content is not good enough, submit your contribution!

*Yours in Y'sdom  
Wally*

The front-page picture is from a Brother Club Quadrangle signing. See the article on page 6

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**Deadline for the Editor to receive material  
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## A Continuing Service

I was visiting Lausanne Club, Switzerland for my Regional Convention this year when I was shown some Y's Men's World issues from the 1960's. They were a most interesting read for me as editor and I was struck by the similarity of projects then and now. Christmas Tree sales, auctions, clearing litter, and other schemes to raise money and serve the YMCA and community.

The best example was from March 1968 where it is recorded that Cochin Y's Men's Club, India had held a Free Eye Operations Camp. 500 in-patients received surgical treatment and 5,000 outpatients were given food and free medicine. I know this service of Medical Camps in India continues to this day and was reported by the Y's Men's Club of Ranchi in Y's Men's World issue one of 2005/06.

Alan Wallington, Editor Y's Men's World

## My Priorities



I put before you my theme, vision, slogan and priorities. My theme is "ACTIVE PARTICIPATION WITH LOVE", my vision is "TO BUILD A CORNERSTONE FOR 10 YEARS FUTURE"; and my slogan is "OVER 30,000 IN 06."

As you well know, Y's Men International has many programmes and projects and all are important. However, my priorities in my term are community service, membership conservation, public relations (PR) and effective communication. Especially, I would like to emphasize a "one-day nationwide community service" related to national and international disasters. Service is our mission and also it is a good way to promote PR. I also recommend you to utilize the "Support Call Network" in every country when you are travelling overseas. This is a new initiative to provide support by Y's Men to other Y's Men who have problems when visiting other countries.

Along with this is the practice for effective communication. We can exchange messages from IP to IEOs, APs, ICMs, ISDs; from AP to AEOs, ASDs; from RDs to RSDs and DGs; and from CPs to club members at the end of every month from August. Let's make it short yet with substance and meaning. I will evaluate the result of this communication initiative and check sometime in January 2007 and June 2007.

One day last year, I received an email from Y's Menette Jennifer from Australia asking me two very timely questions: (1) What is the future of Y's Men International? Where do you see the organization going in the next 3, 5, 10, 30 years? 2) With there being so many business groups and community groups such as Lions and Rotary, is there a place for Y's Men in the future?

My answer? "Yes, yes, yes." Please don't worry. Y's Men International is a unique service organisation promoting cultural awareness leading to brotherhood and peace based on the teaching of Jesus Christ. As long as Christianity and the YMCA remain in the world we will remain forever. At first we started our action supporting only the YMCA, now our service extends to local communities and international levels. The world is wide, and there is a large workload for us. There are a lot of poor people needing our help and assistance in times of disasters happening all over the world.

We need a lot of members from our Y'sdom family to help build better communities, nations, and the world. The more, the better. That is why Y's Men leaders at all levels have set their goals, and we have to achieve these goals.

Lastly, I would like to stress that we should trust, understand, and create harmony together at any given place and for any given circumstance. We should do it. We can do it. Let's do it, Y's Men International is forever.

Choi Han-ki, International President

## Support Call Network

Nowadays, a lot of our Y's Men enjoy taking trips abroad. During these trips they may find some trouble or inconvenience ranging from health problems, accidents, guides, language, hotel bookings, flight cancellation, misplaced belongings and robbery, to seeking places for homestay and short club visitation. It is in this light, therefore, that the 'Support Call Network' was created to help fellow Y's Men, their relatives and friends when they visit other countries, whether on an official Y's Men function, vacationing or for pleasure.

The Support Call Network is being assisted by 'Emergency Contact Persons' who have been assigned through the cooperation of our Area Presidents worldwide. If faced with any inconvenience, you may ask for assistance from any of our contact persons listed opposite. Obtain the address and phone details from IHQ before you leave home. I wish you all a safe and happy trip abroad!

Choi Han-ki, International President

Africa	Nigeria	Femi Oduntan
Asia	Japan	Takao Nishimura
Asia	Japan	Takao Asami
Asia	Korea	Choi Han-ki
Asia	Korea	Yang Hyun-kook
Asia	Korea	Lee Joo-min
Asia	Thailand	Wichian Boonmapajorn
Asia	Philippines	Larry Chan
Asia	Taiwan	David Hsiao
Asia	Singapore	Henry Siew
Asia	Malaysia	Andrew Tan
Canada	Canada	Bill Irwin
Europe	Denmark	Roger Nielsen
India	India	O. Srinivas Reddy
S. Pacific	Australia	Alan Knott
S. Pacific	Australia	Dale Fotheringham
S. Pacific	Australia	Don McGill
USA	USA	Fred Leonard
USA	USA	Faye Johnson

## Recognition for Y's Men International

I have had the privilege on behalf of Y's Men International to be responsible, together with ISG Rolando Dalmas, for applying for consultative status with the United Nations (UN). It has not been an easy task - our first application was not accepted because of a lack of projects related to the UN.

The work on our next application started over 2 years ago. Our application was in the hands of the UN on May 30<sup>th</sup> 2005. In the papers attached to the application form it was mentioned that they need one year to go through our application and those of many other organisations. We received our long awaited notification on July 21<sup>st</sup> 2006. The UN Non Governmental Organisation Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs informed us that they had decided to give 'Special Consultative Status' to the organisation 'International Association of Y's Men's Clubs'. I am quite sure that it will be of great help for Y's Men International worldwide.

In the letter from UN they also mentioned, and I quote:

"Finally, should you wish to indicate your status with the United Nations on your letterhead, please use the following wording: '*NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*'. The United Nations emblem may not be used, unless express approval has been granted by the Legal Office of the United Nations. This is neither granted for stationery use, nor for any printed materials describing your organization."

Since it is not yet clear how we can best utilise our new status I ask all the clubs, Regions, Areas to wait until the Task Force investigates and can give you more exact information. Until then do nothing.

But, you have the right to tell all that we have the Consultative Status - it is not a secret. I ask all Area, Region, District and Club bulletin editors to include a copy of this article in their publications to tell our members.

We promise you, that as soon as we have more information, we will send it to the Regions. Until you have received more information - enjoy our Special Consultative Status.

*Ole Hansen, Chairman of the Task Force*

NGO in Special Consultative Status  
with the  
Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

## Fostering Community Development

The Y's Men's Club of Lagos, Nigeria, remains focused in fostering community development support and partnership with the YMCA. Partaking in the Welfare programme of the YMCA of Lagos, the officers of the Y's Men's Club joined other YMCA volunteers in paying a working visit to the inmates of the Ikoyi Prison which is just next door to the YMCA. Led by the Chairman of the Y, Deacon W. Adeniji Vaughan, the delegation had fellowship with these inmates while gifts were donated to the inmates and staff. The visit turned out to be very revealing as some of the inmates have been 'awaiting trial' for upwards of five years without being charged. The visit is now planned to be carried out on a regular basis with recreation activities, while attempts are to be made for some possible redress.



The Annual Wuraola Day Celebration opened with a charity walk on HIV/AIDS in accord with the Unified Global Project. The day was marked this year with plenty of pomp and pageantry with over 100 students and guests in attendance. The event, which took place in May 2006 at the Romney Hall of Lagos YMCA, featured a Talk on HIV/AIDS by Prof. O. A. Ladipo of University Teaching Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria. Other activities included an Awards presentation, Dance drama and Drama sketches.



*Tunji Makinde, Club President, Lagos Club, Nigeria*

## Changing Profile –

### *A Challenge for Y's Men International*

The world is changing very rapidly and the profile of Y's Men is also changing quite fast. New responses, in line with the emerging needs, are expected from movements like ours. At the same time new structures are needed to adapt to the new profile of Y's Men.

The last International Council Meeting that took place in Busan, Korea, at the end of July and beginning of August 2006 was a clear expression of these changes and the effort of our Movement to be in tune with the changing reality. Let me share some examples of what I am saying.

- The extension of Y's Men into several new countries and territories, such as the Arabian Peninsula, Russia, and other places, has necessitated a new zoning definition of the Y's Men Areas and Regions.

- The fast growing membership in Areas like India and Asia, and the declining membership in Areas such as USA and Latin America/Caribbean implies a new "power balance" in the International Council if we want to have a balanced representation. A Task Force dealt with this important issue and the last International Council Meeting made a deep analysis of its report and gave new input to the Task Force, which will continue this study until the International Council Meeting 07.

- The Y's Men membership has changed dramatically in the last three decades. If we take the four larger Areas and compare the percentage of their membership in relation to the total membership we see a movement switching from having 35% of its membership in USA, 23% in Asia, 20% in Europe and 8% in India, to a movement whose membership is 33% in Asia, 28% in India, 24% in Europe and 8% in USA.

- This new membership profile has of course brought a new international leadership profile. The members of the International Council went from: USA 7 to 1; Asia 3 to 7; Europe 3 to 5; Canada 2 to 1; Latin America/ Caribbean 2 to 1; South Pacific 2 to 1; Africa 1 (no change) and India from 1 to 4.

- This trend in membership has also led to changes in the origins of our International Presidents. From 1922 through 1929 all were from USA; from 1930 through 1970 they came from Canada and USA, and from 1971 to date our Movement has been under the leadership of International Presidents from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, India, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Norway, Philippines, Sweden and USA.

- The participation of women in Y's Men is also changing the profile on our membership. Women's membership in Latin America/Caribbean – 66% – is higher than men's membership. Africa and USA Areas also have a high percentage of women, 40% and 32% respectively.

- Youth Participation is becoming each year a more relevant programme focus in Y'sdom. However, it is vital to take more steps to further promote and facilitate the incorporation of youth into Y's Men at all levels.

These changes have also led to the need to update our International Constitution; several amendments were given preliminary approval by the International Council 2006.

What kind of Movement do we envisage? I would like to see a Movement that:

- Has continuous growth in membership so we can extend our service to the YMCA and to many more people in need.

- Has diversification in its membership: economic, cultural, ethnic, gender and age.

- Involves youth and women in more important roles.

- Has creativity and innovation as its identity.

My vision for the future is a movement deeply focused on people and programmes.

*Rolando Dalmas, International Secretary General*

### ***Did You Know?***

The 06 International Council in Busan agreed that we should print extra copies of the English and Danish editions of Y's Men's World to be used for publicity purposes.

A copy for your YMCA?  
A copy for your local library?  
A copy for a potential member?  
A copy for the doctor's waiting room?

If you need extra copies contact IHQ  
9 Avenue Sainte Clotilde  
CH-1205 Geneva  
Switzerland  
email: <ihq@ysmen.org>

## How can Brother Clubbing be Organised?

Select a committee of reliable and enthusiastic Club Members led by an able Chairman who has the ability to communicate. Your Regional Service Director for International Brother Clubs (RSD-IBC) can assist in finding a suitable partner club. The Committee should plan immediately the initial operation of the IBC programme involving maximum members of the club. As soon as the club takes a formal decision on this matter, particularly the countries preferred, the Chairman of the Committee or an appointed IBC Correspondent can start communication. When two or more communications are exchanged favourably between the partner clubs you can consider that the linkup is materialised. Now the partner clubs can request their RSD-IBC to recommend the case for IBC Certification. The RSD-IBC will provide the partner clubs with blank IBC Certificate. The Presidents of the partner clubs will fill up the certificates and affix the signatures. The RSD will again forward these certificates (with the knowledge of his ASD-IBC) to ISD-IBC for his signature. It is the responsibility of ISD-IBC to put his signature on these certificates and forward the same to RSD-IBC or he can send one certificate each to the club concerned. ISD-IBC will also officially send the details of this IBC linkup to the IBC Official Directory for final official registration.

Once the official registration is effected it is the responsibility of the partner clubs to safeguard and maintain the relationship by frequent correspondence, exchange of club bulletins, District newsletters, Regional publications, photographs of different club functions, Community projects, etc. Members having the same professions in the partner clubs can exchange their topic of interest for their mutual benefit. Occasionally they can make mutual visits to the country in which the partner club belongs. In nutshell, find out ways and means to maintain a lasting and interesting IBC relationship with the partner club using your own imagination.

At the International Convention in Busan, Korea a ceremony took place sealing the Brother Club friendship of Andong (Korea East), East Valley (Pacific Southwest, USA), Megapolis (Russia,) and Ansan Evergreen (Korea Center). All four Club Presidents were attending the Convention and led by PIP Eric Kim and ASD-IBC Asia Wichian Boonmapajorn they signed the Quadrangle Certificate at a most enjoyable ceremony. Club Presidents Lae Hee-wook, Susan Chi, Yury Sokurenko and Choi Joo-sang confirmed their belief in the great value of the Brother Club programme in promoting closer relationships within the movement, exchanging ideas and experiences and improving understanding between different cultures.

*Josey Joseph. ISD International Brother Clubs*

## Brotherhood Presents become a Project

In May twenty-five years ago two clubs were chartered on the same day: S. Bjert YMC in Denmark and Nøtterøy YMC in Norway. The two clubs have since then been Brother Clubs. Roughly every second year one club has visited the other club and warm friendships have been built.

When the 25 year anniversary was planned the thought grew up not to exchange presents for the occasion, but to find a more meaningful use for the money. Earlier the clubs had a common Brother Club in Sri Lanka, but after the unrest in the country this club was closed. Through other contacts in Sri Lanka we were informed that Colombo YMC had been asked to contribute to a nursery school in the slum districts in the outskirts of Colombo. Due to the other commitments they had after the tsunami catastrophe they were not able to support this project and sent the request over to us in Scandinavia.



Nøtterøy YMC has had a project for several years filling sand into plastic bags. The bags were sold through petrol stations and the sand used by car drivers to prevent wheel spinning on icy roads. Each of the clubs decided to follow up this call, and an amount of 1,200 US\$ was sent to Sri Lanka. This amount covers the salaries for two nursery school teachers for two years. The project is overseen by Colombo YMC.

*Knut Inge Tysnes, Nøtterøy YMC, Norway*



*Brother Club Quadrangle Signing in Busan*

## Time of Fast - A Great Possibility

Time of Fast is a great programme that deserves the best. It is really possible to show we care for people in need and it has been a great pleasure - and hard work - to serve as chair for the TOF committee for two years.

Fifteen projects were sent for consideration to the TOF Committee this year. Three from Africa, one from Asia, two from Europe, seven from India, one from Latin America/Caribbean and one from USA. Before we could choose among the projects we had to have in mind that there are 8 ongoing projects and the total funding available was about 250,000 US\$. All the Areas are represented in the TOF Committee and it was a pleasure that the ICMs followed their recommendations. The projects approved were two from Africa, two from India and one each from Asia and Europe.

Two years ago, as you may be aware, we gained a new programme under the TOF hat, Unified Global Project with HIV/AIDS as the main theme. We all know that HIV/AIDS is a growing problem with many millions infected. Of course we can't help them all, but every time we can help one we have made a difference. Four of the six projects this year belong to UGP - HIV/AIDS and from the ongoing projects five out of eight deal with HIV/AIDS. It is a fine theme and it is a fine purpose but many other organisations like ours are working in the same field. I think we have here some possibilities to find organisations we can cooperate with. Especially now we have Consultative Status with the UN as an NGO.

BUT we are not to forget our traditional TOF projects. Through this program we have been able to help many poor people to a better future and there are still more poor people than people with HIV/AIDS. Don't forget them!

I look forward to my year as IP for 2007/08 and my theme will be **Service Without Borders**. I think it is exactly what Time of Fast is about.

Lasse Bergstedt, IPE, Past TOF Committee Chairperson



## A Regional Conference with a Difference

The first day of the 48<sup>th</sup> Korea Center Regional Convention started routinely with devotion, opening ceremony, a special lecture by AP Lee, REOs inauguration, the announcement of RD's theme and policy, plus there were plenty of reunions of old friends and making of new ones. The second day's functions were entirely different and devoted to a 'Festival with Migrant Workers'.



Korea has a large migrant population who find it hard to integrate and Y'sdom is playing a part in making them welcome. Around 500 migrants got together at the Festival for games, recreation, folk dances, bazaar, and lottery. Football and tug-of-war was arranged from nine o'clock in the morning at the Kwang-Jang Primary School Ground. They played and formed four tournament teams of Mongol Team, Iran Team, Philippines Team and Southwest Team.



An afternoon Cultural Festival especially prepared by migrants was



performed and greatly enjoyed. To entertain the guests Seoul Han Yang Club Members played Korean traditional percussion quartet 'Samulnori' (folk music accompanied by four percussion instruments).

Yang Hyun-kook, RD Korea Center Region

## Welcome Home

The Welcome Home is an orphanage for children affected by AIDS and infected by HIV, it is situated in Ubon Ratchatani, north east of Thailand, bordering Cambodia.

A Thai Christian woman, Pradtana Jularangsi, was led by God to take care of orphan children in the town, and started to do so back in 1995. Over the 10 years the orphanage, House of Blessing, was home to over 16 children who have been brought up in a loving Christian environment.

Even though the children in the House of Blessing were doing well, Pradtana's heart was still burdened for a specific group of children, those made orphans owing to AIDS, some even infected with HIV. So in 2003 an orphanage especially for children affected by AIDS, was opened. Over the next two years, the children in the Welcome Home were able to gain a better quality of life. They also learned from the Word of God, and from the lives of those caring for them, to trust in the Lord Jesus, who loves and cares for them.

But the biggest problem they face is the prejudice and suspicion of the neighborhood. Again and again their landlords were under pressure to evict them from their rented places. The Home had to move 3 times! Then in early 2005, a Christian brother was moved to donate a small block of land to them. A design for the new home was made with a modest budget of about 25,000 US\$.

By the end of 2005, most of the exterior was completed. To complete the building, interior and to furnish the Home would cost almost 10,000 US\$. An urgent appeal was flashed. Asia Area President Janet Siew, with the consent of the Area Committee, remitted 6,000 US\$ out of the proceeds of the HIV/AIDS Pin Project, to support the Home. The Y's Men's Club of Singapore Beta Chapter has been the regular supporter of this Home. The Southeast Asia Region has also adopted the Welcome Home as the Region's community service project.



Andrew Tan, Past Regional Director, Southeast Asia

## A Young Club in Peru

The "George Williams" Y's Men's Club of Lima, Peru (Area LAC), chartered in August 2004, with the full support of the Peruvian YMCA, is a co-ed young Y's Men's Club: not a Y's Youth Club, but a fully fledged Y's Men's Club whose members happen to be under 25 years old, facing the challenge of meeting even when their studies take most of their time and pull them in different directions.

Jose Octavio Ramos, its President, highlights the good rapport among Club members, most of whom share a common past as leaders in the YMCA. They have held a meeting with Leader Trainer Silvyta Reyes de Croci, which served to remind them of the difficulties of a too closed circle when trying to fully integrate the few members of non-YMCA extraction, who don't speak their same "language" nor are so quick to perceive their unspoken agreements.

On attending their District Conference, the Club had the opportunity to share its work with the rest of the Clubs in Peru Siglo XXI District and to profit from the leadership training session that preceded it. Jose voiced his and his club mates' opinion on the training: it was indeed different and, up to now, the most enjoyable opportunity they have had to learn about Y'sdom in depth... and they learnt a lot!

Nora Seculi, Rosario Club, Argentina

## A Real Community Project

While throngs of families ambled through the Northwest YMCA in Cupertino, California, during Family Fun and a Wellness Open House, 18 volunteers, supporters and newcomers gathered inside the sparkling, newly completed iron-gated playground on the YMCA property. Kids wasted no time, climbing, swinging and exploring the colourful new play equipment. Even a member of the board of managers was observed speeding down one of the new red slides.

Five years in the planning, at a cost of 75,000 US\$ and with over 100 volunteers participating, the 3,400 square foot playground is a dream come true. Northwest Y Service Club President Bruce Parsons saluted the club of 30 members for their persevering lead role in both the labour and financial contributions (45,000 US\$). The club with Ron Ohlfs' leadership was recognized for efforts in planning, construction and recruiting volunteers to work on the project. But Parsons said the playground is "a community gift from everyone in Cupertino. The service club was just a catalyst - this was a real community project."

Gerard E Zichterman, Northwest Y Service Club, USA

## Public Relations

Friends, we are the members of a great International Service Organisation. As members of Y's Men International we enjoy special status and recognition in the society and among our friends. This movement has given us a platform to serve the community. But we can be proud of being known as Y's Men only if society accepts us and society will accept us only if it knows about our movement, its objects and purpose, and also only if we do useful, continuous quality community service projects.

Image is an impression. We must highlight our movement whenever and wherever possible. No one else is going to do it for us. Nobody 'lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead he puts it on the lamp stand, where it gives light for everyone in the house'. Similarly let our light truly shine. It is always a better idea to identify one of the active members in the club as Public Relations Officer of the club. He can cultivate relationships with local newspapers, journals, radio and television stations and try to publish any newsworthy event of the club. Let's tell the people about our TOF programmes, our Unified Global Project, our relationship with the YMCA, our Youth camps, and about our Motto. Let us brighten the corners of our communities. All these will improve our public image and as a result more and more service-minded new members will be attracted to our Movement.

Image excites the imagination. We should try to enhance our image in our community. We should wear the Y's Men's membership pin with pride whenever we are out in public function. Identify the car with a Y's Men sticker. Install signboards showing the name of club, date, time and venue of regular meetings at prominent places in town. Install hoardings or traffic signboards highlighting our UGP, Motto etc. Install a name board with the Y's Men's logo on the exterior of houses of Y's Men. Club bulletins are the best tool to project us. Bulletins should be given to local schools and libraries and other public offices if possible. Every member must keep the club bulletin or other Y's Men publications in easily visible places in their office and houses so that any one who visits these places will read it. It is a good idea to implement club service projects of clubs in co-operation with local sports and arts clubs, other social organisations, residential associations, etc. This is to make others know about our programme so that interested persons will be attracted to join us as members.

Let us give maximum importance to Public Relations in this Y'sdom year. International President Choi Han-ki has given top priority to Public Relations and our initiative will definitely strengthen his vision.

*J. Sivanandan Nair, ISD Public Relations*

## Making a Difference

ISD Public Relations Erick Kim has often urged us to 'Make a Difference' if we wish to attract the attention of the media and spread the message of Y'sdom. Silver State Y Service Club of Malaysia did this at a recent inauguration dinner for the new Club President Tu Hing Tong. Over 300 guests were present including the Asia Area President Janet Siew. The guests who interested the media most were from four charities who were invited to attend to each receive donations of 2,500 MR (680 US\$). Forty people from the charities were the guests of the club for the night and enjoyed the special fellowship and attention they received. The dinner was preceded by an impressive roll call of honour of Asian countries when Y'slings carried the flags of the various countries within the Asia Area.



The charities involved were Asrama Bintang - a home run by the nuns for unwanted girls which cares for them from cradle to grave, Agape Family - a home for wayward children, Vision Home - an orphanage and Thalassaemia Society - an association which helps people with blood disorder.

Asrama Bintang used the money to purchase wheel chairs and deck chairs for their inmates and part of the money received by Agape Home was used to provide counselling for the more difficult inmates. Vision Home purchased computers and workshop tools to provide training for the orphans. The Thalassaemia Society subsidised medicine for their patients.

In addition to the above four organisations, Silver State has been supplying groceries and fresh vegetables monthly to the home of The Good Shepherd, a home for battered women and unmarried women during their pregnancies.

*John Lim, Silver State Y Service Club, Ipoh, Malaysia*



## Service to Men is Service to God

This was the golden word from Mahatma Gandhi. So long as we are committed to serving our own fellow men and women we need not serve God in a ritualistic way. He is supreme and He understands what we do. Serving the community, which is less privileged and needs our support, is GODLY.

HIV/AIDS Prevention is our flagship project adopted by Y's Menettes internationally. We wish to continue with this project. We had a big leap forward as we supported communities working towards prevention of this deadly disease and a total of 33,480 US\$ has been pledged. A lot of good activities were undertaken in Russia through Ekaterinburg Y's Men's Club educating and training the teenagers against the menace of AIDS. They held drawing and painting competitions creating awareness about AIDS and printed booklets and posters. This programme has had 2,700 US\$ support from Y's Menettes International Projects Fund.

We have now released the first instalment of project funds for an AIDS project proposed by the Y's Men in Kampala, Uganda and implemented by the local YMCA. We have another such project in Costa Rica to be considered for support in the immediate future.

Shanti Panigrahi, ID Y's Menettes

## Novel Community Service Project

The Y Service Club of Geelong, Australia, is about to embark on a new project producing large print crosswords. The proposed project has been enthusiastically supported by Vision Australia, a provider of services to blind and low vision clients. Initially aimed at those in the community with impaired vision, the potential client base may also include those who have, for whatever reason, lost some dexterity in their hand/s and can no longer manage the standard format crosswords.

Club President Noel Hooper said, "Not only will we be providing a valuable community service, but also the project will enable those members who are unable to participate in activities involving strenuous physical effort to remain active members." He added, "There are many potential client sources, including existing Vision Australia clients, retirement village residents, hostels, rehabilitation centres and the like. It will also present a great opportunity for us to further promote our presence in the community and may have the potential to become a larger scale project extending beyond our own Club and District."

John Pontefract, Y Service Club of Geelong, Australia

## Kuttanellur Project, India

The Y's Menettes have allocated 4000 US\$ to us from the International Project Fund. The project supporting 25 families below the poverty line (mostly their women) for training in stitching, cutting, embroidery and tailoring for self-employment was launched in 2006. The Mayor of Kuttanellur inaugurated the scheme and we have received good publicity from the work.

Sewing machines and other equipment, including the raw materials, were purchased and a trained teacher was appointed. To start with, the families learnt to stitch school uniforms which were supplied to some schools. Now they are busy learning how to stitch ladies' garments of different designs. Periodical meetings are held with the local officials and important citizens of the town to discuss further improvement of this project that has drawn the attention of the local community. Y's Menettes Day was celebrated along with the trainees in May 2006.



Gradually they are trying to accept orders from different shops to supply ladies' garments and school uniforms. The project is certainly going to improve the financial condition of these poor families. They are now planning to distribute some dresses to the local orphanage as well. Classes in tailoring, fabric painting and glass paintings etc. are also now held.

Sheela Issac, Y's Menettes Club of Kuttanellur, India

## Taking a Look at our Partner— The World Alliance of YMCAs



The World Alliance of YMCAs is a confederation of 122 national YMCA movements. They meet every four years to set policy, to share ideas about issues, and to make decisions that will assist in strengthening the movements around the world. This year's Council met in July in Durban, South Africa with 800 delegates from 84 countries.

The Council recognized the key role of the YMCA in building peace between peoples of different faiths and ethnic groups. There was a renewed call for the YMCA to step up its peace initiatives in Israel/Palestine. Discussions on gender justice highlighted an important challenge: that YMCAs have a great potential to engage men in working for community initiatives to empower women.

As members of our clubs around the world connected to YMCA and community action, we can choose to collect and acknowledge a body of information on these topics. But this is for academics and sociologists. As members of Y's Men International we are driven by our ideals to 'start something'. What is it that your club can do to help build peace and understanding? Which other organization in your city or country can you collaborate with to address religious, ethnic, gender, or economic issues?

As International Service Director—YMCA Liaison, I have the rare opportunity to represent our whole organization to the World Alliance of YMCAs. Through communications with Regional and Area Service Directors my duty is to provide leadership to strengthen relationships with our YMCAs. Any action I can take at this level will only be significant if similar effort is made at all levels—club to local YMCA and Region and Area to national movements.

The Forward Plan for Y's Men International determines that the relationship between our two organizations at all levels be a vital portion of our thrust for the next three years. The reference above to 'start something' refers to a phrase in the Officer Installation ceremony. Something can happen only if someone takes the lead. Who will that be in your club? Who will begin the conversation?

(Information based on *Latest News from the 16<sup>th</sup> World Council of YMCAs*.)

Visit their website at <[www.ymca.int](http://www.ymca.int)>

Rachelle R. Reeg, ISD YMCA Liaison

## Canoeing Gift

Shiga-Gamohno Club of Region Japan West Region celebrated their 15th Anniversary by donating two canoes and 12 paddles to Shiga YMCA for its program at Camp Windy Valley. The Club thus expresses their thanks for a 15 year long affiliation to YMI. We wish to give the chance for young campers to make dialogue aboard with nature, and hope that their YMCA will serve the community further. Look at the children canoeing cheerfully!



Keiko Sugai, Club President, Shiga-Gamohno, Japan West  
(Translated by Kazu Aoki)

## Youth is Truly Amazing

And they are!

They have the strength that amazes everyone  
They bear hardships and they carry burdens  
But they hold happiness, love and joy with the family.

They smile when they want to scream  
They sing when they want to cry  
They cry when they are happy and laugh when they are nervous.

They fight for what they believe in  
They stand up to injustice  
They don't take 'no' for an answer  
Gone are the days for this to happen.

Their hearts break when a friend dies  
They grieve at the loss of a family member  
They know that a hug and a kiss can heal a broken heart  
They bring joy, hope and love for ALL.

K. Letchimanan, ISD YEPP

## More Football Joy

The front page of the Y's Men's World issue 1 for 2003/04 featured a Canadian Y'sdom scheme for importing and selling 'Free Trade Soccer Balls'. I am pleased to be able to add another chapter to the story.

This past April I was asked to conduct a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya of the eight Area Service Directors for Leadership Training and Organisation Development (LT&OD). During our stay we had the opportunity to visit the Thika YMCA located about 50 kilometers north of Nairobi.

When we arrived at the Y we were asked to plant trees along Y's Men Avenue. As I waited for my turn I noticed a group of young boys playing soccer or, as they call it, football. They were using what appeared to be a brown paper bag stuffed and wrapped with tape. I immediately thought of the Fair Trade Soccer Ball programme promoted by the Y's Men of Canada. I told the CEO of the Thika YMCA that I would send some new soccer balls.

My original plan was to ask each club in the Maritimes Region to donate one ball each; thirteen soccer balls. When I began contacting clubs the support began rolling in. With a renewed enthusiasm I set a new goal of 50 soccer balls. Well, with the support of a large number of Y's Men, in October 2006 one hundred soccer balls were shipped direct from the manufacturer in Pakistan to Nairobi.

The 100 soccer balls will be distributed by the Secretary General of the Kenya YMCA, Eric Kinuthia, to the YMCAs throughout Kenya. I can only imagine the look on the faces of the children as they get to play their favorite sport with a real ball! The Y's Men of Area Canada are to be congratulated for bringing joy to children who at times struggle with amazing adversities.

*Kevin Cummings, ISD LT&OD*

## Brother Club Challenge

The Charlottetown Y's Men's Club, Prince Edward Island, Canada currently has six Brother Clubs worldwide. They are the highest number in Canada.

Obviously we believe in the Brother Club program and constantly strive to exchange information about our country, city and club activities. We challenge all clubs to create a Brother Club affiliation, knowing that you won't be disappointed.

P.S. Eleven clubs in the Maritimes Region of Canada have a total of 25 Brother Clubs.

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

## Friendship over the Oceans

Earlier this year we spent our vacation in Australia. We were really glad to be invited to the meeting of Central Coast Y's Men's Club in Gosford. This meeting was very remarkable for us as the representatives of the Y's Men movement from the Ural-Siberian Region in Russia.

We had a chance to talk to many Y's Men. In my short report and during our conversations we told about our country Russia, our city Ekaterinburg, about the activities of our young club and we shared our problems as a new club. Central Coast Y's Men's Club has great experience of more than 26 years. Y's Men have been involved in many projects over the years. It's important for us to learn from this experience. Graeme and Lynn Wilson showed us a video film about the events in which Y's Men took part and they gave us much useful information when we were staying in their house. We are grateful for their kindness and hospitality.

We appreciate all our new friends for their open hearts and friendship. We believe in our future relations. We enjoyed our short time in Gosford and hope to host Y's Men from faraway Australia in Russia.

*Olga and Andrey Vozchikovs, Ekaterinburg-II-Enlightenment, Russia*

## All Boys Club

For the past two years, the Central Coast Y's Men's Club, Australia has supported the All Boys Club at Terrigal High School. The programme aims to assist boys who are having problems at school, by giving them a new focus. One day a week they have activities that may include visits to a workshop to get 'hands on' experience in jobs such as repairing motor mowers, carpentry and joinery etc. They are also expected to participate in community service activities such as collecting for the Red Cross and the Salvation Army annual Red Shield Appeal. They must perform their share of chores around the home and keep up with their schoolwork, including work missed on their 'day off'.

Feedback has been most positive. The Terrigal High Principal and the staff are most supportive and parents of the boys are very enthusiastic. One single mum summed it up by saying how the programme had turned her son completely around. He now enjoyed school and had a positive attitude, whereas before she was very concerned about the potential of him turning to delinquency and other social problems. The Central Coast Y's Men have assisted with the financial running expenses and with direct service hours transporting the boys to local venues when required.

*Clarrie Stevens, Y's Men's Club of the Central Coast, Australia*

## Caring - Commitment - Compassion

'A teacher should employ his gift in teaching, and one who has the gift of stirring speech should use it to stir his learners. If you give to charity, give with all your heart. If you are a leader, exert yourself to lead. If you are helping others, do it cheerfully'. *Romans 12:18*

We are a World Fraternity, united with one another and united in Christ's message. We are Caring toward each other, Caring about our Organization and ever mindful of the responsibility that we have as Y's Men to carry the message of Caring to those people who are deprived of the basic needs of life. Let us share with them the riches that we possess.

Being committed to the Teaching of Jesus Christ, we are bound to Christ through his consecration and by unity of the Spirit, unity of Action and the unity of Brotherhood. This is the source of life for the Y's Man whose behaviour must accord with the commandments of Christ and whose actions must correspond to the message of Christ.

Compassion is very important in our daily lives and where money is lacking, especially where it could help save a brother or sister in difficulty. We have an obligation as Y's Men to share our means with Brothers and Sisters who are in need. In *Deuteronomy 15:11*. 'For the poor will never cease from the land, therefore I command you saying, you shall open your hand wide to your Brother, to your poor and your needy in your land'. Our attitude to the poor and the needy is a reflection to our God. Our Time of Fast Projects, which are found in many underprivileged countries, bring out the compassion in every Y's Man. The many projects that we contribute to are testament to our commitment to help change the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves. May we continue to support these projects with open hearts and hands. Paul tells us in *1 Corinthians 13:13* 'And now abide Faith Hope and Charity these three; but the greatest of these is Charity'.

Peter Gilbert, ISD Christian Emphasis

## Back to School

Minia Club, Egypt has been serving the local poor children for several years now and this year extended their efforts thanks to support from the Y's Men of Kankakee, USA. We had a Children Day when more than 300 children in our governorate enjoyed playing and gathering in the YMCA to receive several presents. Our annual back to school programme has been completed for 2006 and this year we delivered school stationery for 111 children and paid their school fees too.

Sherif Awad, Club President, Minia Club, Egypt

## Active Participation With Love

## Harry Ballantyne Award 2005/06

At the recent International Convention in Korea I had the pleasure and honour to confer on Y's Man Kazuyuki Imamura the Harry Ballantyne Award – the highest Award in Y's Men International.

Y's Man Kazuyuki Imamura, popularly known throughout Y'sdom as 'Kai' or 'Imamura-san', joined Osaka-Tosabori Y's Men's Club, Japan, on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1962, exactly 10 years and 5 days after the club was chartered and has served the club and Y'sdom loyally for the past 45 years.

Throughout his service in Y'sdom, Kai Imamura has shown deep love for the movement. His humility, commitment and loyalty to the ideals of Y'sdom have few equals. No activity and no position has been too low or too high for him. As far as it is known, he is the only Y's Man leader who, without re-cycling, served first as Area President, then Regional Director and later District Governor. As it were, he is the only Y's Man who faithfully and cheerfully held these important leadership positions in reverse!



Kai Imamura and his loving and dear wife Yoshiko remain very active members at all levels of our movement, that is, at their famous club of Osaka-Tosabori, in Chuseibu District, in Japan West Region, in Area Asia and in Y's Men International.

Benson Wabule, International President 2005/06

### Did You Know?

The Ballantyne Award is the highest honour bestowed by Y's Men. It was named after the retired General Secretary of the Canadian National Council of YMCAs.

A full list of recipients since its inception in 1957 can be found on the IHQ web site under 'Downloads'

## *“ACTION! Make Peace a Reality” International Youth Convocation Theme for 2006*

Even if the outcome of attending the 11<sup>th</sup> International Youth Convocation had been nothing more than an opportunity to escape a dreary Melbourne winter it would have been worth the trip! However, my experience, and that of the 160 other delegates, was much more than abundant Korean sunshine.

The 11<sup>th</sup> International Youth Convocation was held at Kyungsung University in Busan from July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup>. Participants from 23 countries attended, representing all eight Areas. Old friendships were rekindled and new ones established throughout seven days of fellowship, great discussions and sharing of ideas. The university was an exceptional setting for the occasion, providing modern, comfortable accommodation and outstanding meeting facilities. The auditoriums were fitted with excellent multimedia equipment that ensured the delivery of enjoyable presentations all week - whether it was a group meeting, a workshop, one of the many wonderful culture nights, or an impromptu burst of karaoke.

Through our workshops and meetings, we achieved many satisfying outcomes that promise a bright future for Youth Involvement in Y'sdom and the prospects of Y's Men International. Five group meetings were held - Introduction to Y'sdom, Internal Organisation, Communication, International Youth Programs and Leadership Training. It was evident that much preparation had been devoted to these meetings and I congratulate the facilitators for their hard work towards these discussions and throughout the Convocation. A special note of appreciation goes to ISD (YIA) Kennedy Wabule for his inspiring Leadership Training presentation.



Our theme for the Convocation arose from our long-term aim, Build a Culture of Peace. We were most fortunate to have Mr. Yip Kok Choong, Secretary General of the Asia Alliance of YMCAs, as a keynote speaker at our BCP workshop. We were invited to consider the concept of peace and peace building and apply this to our planning of BCP projects. With a further defined focus of *Education and Training*, delegates have accepted the challenge of undertaking BCP projects in their own communities over the next two years.



Youth TOF fundraising was also highlighted as a priority during this period and funds raised will be committed to a single BCP International Project. The submission of proposals for the project has been invited and will be considered and decided upon in Herning, Denmark, in 2008.

It was widely commented that this had been the best Convocation to date. Delegates felt satisfied that the time spent in Busan had not only been very productive but, as always, great fun. These results could not have been possible, however, without the commitment of many people including IPYI Michel Jubin, IPIYR Yoriko Hashizaki, IYR Baraka Kinuthia, the Youth Committee, Crithiane Bakos, Grant Fryia, Baik Ae-ree, the Host Committee and of course all the delegates. Well done.

Keep up the great work everybody and we want to see as many youth as possible in Herning in 2008 for the next Convocation.

James Olle, Youth Intern 06-07

## Thank You to All Y's Men



This note conveys my profound thanks to all Y's Men for giving me the chance to serve as your International President for the year 2005/06. It was an incredible year for me, for my wife Mary and for the entire family. It is a unique and rare privilege for a Y's Man to serve as International President.

In my travels as International President during the year 2005/06, I realized the real meaning of fellowship and experienced in a truly special way the love that binds all Y's Men together. I witnessed Y's Men providing service to their communities and the YMCA with such overwhelming commitment and devotion that I asked myself what motivates a human being to do such things without expecting reward. What for example is behind a voluntary spirit? What makes people volunteer their time, talent and treasure even when they themselves are in need of these three 'Ts'. For Y's Men, I believe it is fellowship, enjoyment, fun and love for humanity that drive their voluntary spirit.

It is not for me to enumerate any achievements that may have been realized during the year. I leave that to historians and posterity. I am humbled by the kind comments made, about me and my achievements, by many Y's Men in the book that has recently been written about me, my letters, speeches and thoughts by one Y's Man leader. Some Y's Men have described my letters and speeches as legendary and thoughts as golden. Thank you to all Y's Men who have put such nice comments in the book, which the author will make available in due course.



*Tree Planting at Sendai YMCA Kindergarten, Japan East Region*

We had major challenges during the year. The most trying challenge related to whether our International Headquarters should move from Geneva, Switzerland to Prague, Czechoslovakia. Other challenges included achievement of targets set for the year, the election for International Treasurer and the need for a power balance in the International Council to stop what was emerging as block voting on nearly all issues affecting Y's Men International.

Looking back, I want to thank all Y's Men and all leaders for the part they played in all these matters. Our targets were largely achieved and from the letter I received from our International Headquarters in mid September 2006, when all programme results had been received, it showed the total contributions made by Y's Men all over the world to our major International Programmes exceeded the goals we set for the year.

Looking into the future many challenges still face our organisation. These challenges include increased service to our communities and the YMCA, reducing hunger, ignorance, disease, tension and conflict in the world, increasing and intensifying training at all levels of our organization, computerisation and increased use of electronic communication in all our systems, formulating guidelines on electronic voting, attracting many youth into our movement, breaking the elusive 30,000 barrier in our global membership, updating our manuals, policies, pamphlets and guidelines and making these available to all Y's Men, being world minded in all our activities as Y's Men, increasing collaboration with the United Nations, YMCA, Y's Menettes and other philanthropic organisations and increasing our faith in and commitment to the principles, values and ideals of Y's Men International.

I have returned to my home club of Thika in Kenya. I shall continue to play my role in Y'sdom at club, District, Region, Area and International levels.

Y'sly and thankfully,

Benson Wabule, Immediate Past International President

### ***Did You Know?***

The Editor is always looking for short items of interest to fill a small space like this one!

Has YOUR club something to share?

