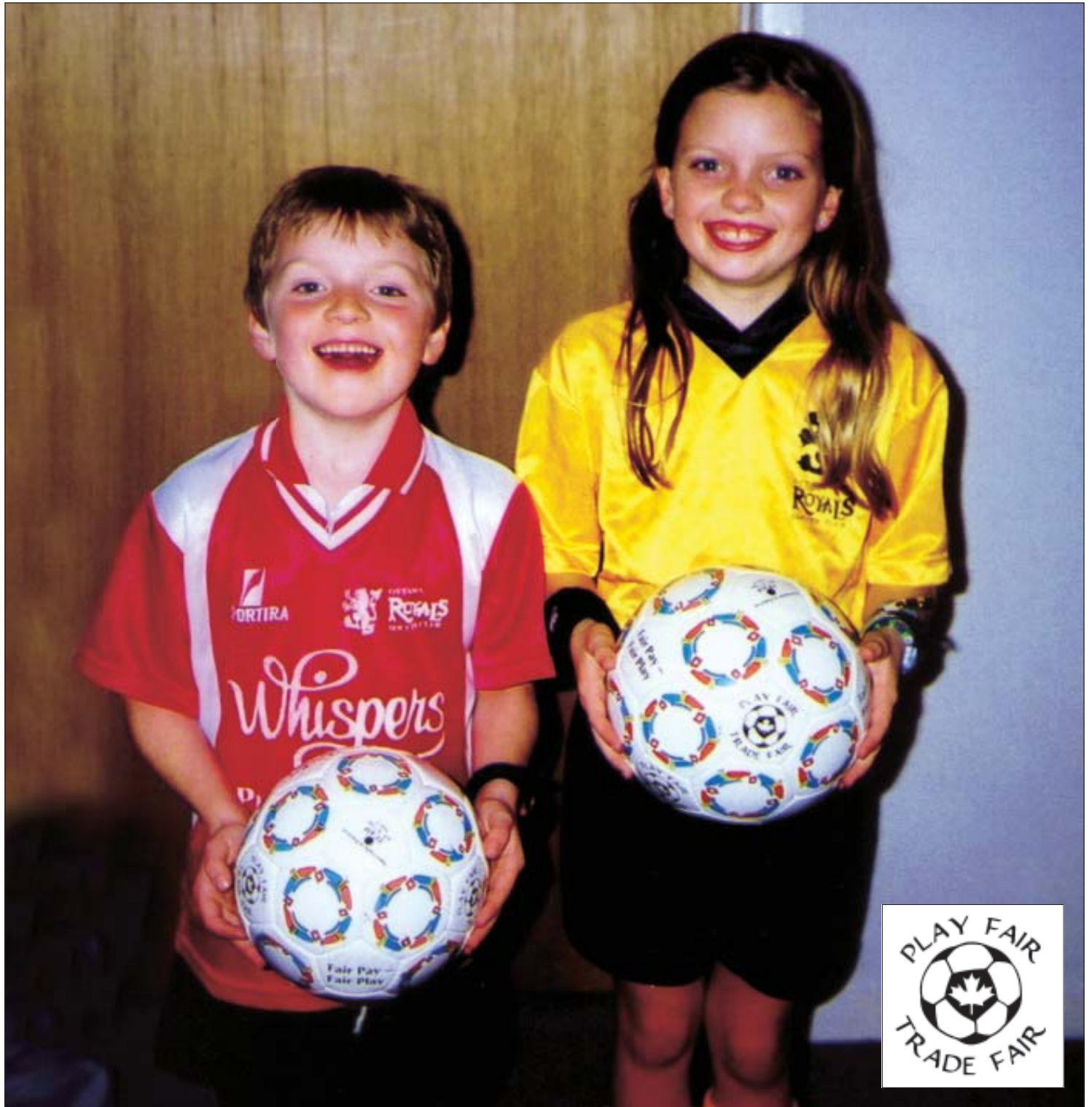


Y's Men's World





Editorial

My thanks to those who commented on my first issue. It was a steep learning curve and I am still on the way up. Contact with many people around the world is a wonderful experience and there are a few articles in this issue which encourage such activity. I welcome your comments, good or bad, as I can only improve with feedback from you the readers.

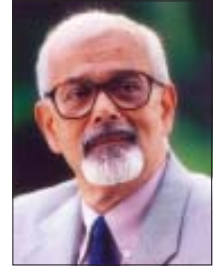
Producing the Y's Men's World is a team effort. Contributors, Assistant Editors, Proof Readers, Printing and Distribution all play essential parts and I thank them all. Trivandrum North Y's Men's Club undertakes the job of actually sending out the finished magazine and for quite a few years this has been organised by Y's Man P George. I am sorry to report he died suddenly in February. He was a dedicated Y's Man and tireless worker doing what was needed in a very efficient way but never claiming any fame, or even appreciation for what he did. He gave unselfish service to help the less fortunate and was an example to us all.

I hope many of you will be at the International Convention in Kochi, India. I look forward to meeting you there.

*Yours in Y'sdom
Walker*

Thanks to Ottawa Y Service Club, Canada for the front cover picture. See page 7 for the accompanying article.

The International President



My dear friends in Y'sdom

I had my apprehensions that this year we would be disadvantaged because our International Council Meeting was postponed by two months to the end of September. I was proved wrong when we had the reports to the Mid Year Meeting 2004 from our Area Presidents and officers. I thank them all.

In the first issue of YMW I shared with you a few of our challenges and I am glad to note that quite a few of our clubs have created IBC relationships to take up my vision to improve the 'world outlook' of our members, but we have a long way to go. I had the privilege to visit Area US and saw their incredible commitment to service to the community, often through the YMCA. The US Area clubs are experts in fundraising. These funds are used for various YMCA programs like 'boys to the camps' etc. My only concern is whether YMI is getting due recognition from the Y. Is this the reason why there is a decline in the membership in US? During my visit to Area US I urged the clubs to develop IBC relationship with clubs in third world countries, take up joint community projects and contribute to our Endowment Fund. I am glad to note a few clubs have already responded positively.

Our purpose and objectives say we are 'a worldwide fellowship of persons of all faiths working together in mutual respect and affection, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ'. Here I would like to refer to a letter written by our Founder President, Judge Paul William Alexander, to the YMCA and Y's Men leaders in 1951 (see page 7). The basic thrust of the ethical teachings of Jesus Christ, to me, is 'UNIVERSAL LOVE' - LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF. We live in a global village, thanks to technological developments. In this present day world who is your neighbour? Our neighbour lives next-door and in the remotest places of Africa, Latin America, the Far East and East European countries, who may be in utter poverty, without even one square meal a day. There are two types of sin - the sin of commission and the sin of omission, the latter being more grievous than the former. Closing your eyes to these problems of your neighbours is a sin of omission. Each one of us should be a role model to both our own Christian brethren and our brethren of other faiths. Your Christian love and living must demonstrate what Jesus has taught us, to be a good human being.

Once somebody asked a great evangelist, Dr. Stanley Jones, whether Mahatma Gandhi will be in Heaven and his response was that Heaven will be poorer if he is not there. What we do is more important than what we believe. So I urged all of you to make Y's Men International a universal movement acceptable to people of all faiths.

I am in another pair of shoes now. I am the Host Committee Chairman of International Convention 2004 to be held in Kochi from August 12th to 15th. In the Y's Men's map this is the centrally located destination, except for the North and South American Y's Men, and to them distance is less of a problem. Many of them don't miss a Convention if possible. I welcome you to this Convention.

With warmest regards

Jacob Cherian

**Deadline for Editor to receive material
for the next issue is
August 13th 2004**

**Y's Men's World
Nº 1, 2003-2004
EDITORIAL BOARD**

Editor

Alan Wallington
21 Overdale Road, Downend, Bristol BS16 2RU, England
Tel: +44 (117) 9568285 email: editor@ysmen.co.uk

Graphic Design Support
Graham Walker & Mike Bendrey

Assistant Editors

AFRICA

Frank Okuthe
P.O. Box 60856, Nairobi, Kenya

CANADA

David Ing
45 Admiral Street, Charlottetown,
Prince Edward Island, CIA 2C5, Canada

KOREA

Oh Chang-Rock
102-801 Sunkyung Apt. Sadong Ansan-si,
Kyungki-do 425-747, Korea

INDIA

Benjamin Joseph
Chempakom, Kunnukuzhy,
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 037, India

JAPAN

Ichiro Yamakawa
168 Shiromicho, Himeji, 670-0831, Japan

LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN

Mariela Navarrete Castro
El Quisco 648, Playa Blanca,
Antofagasta, Chile

SOUTH PACIFIC

Gerard Hueting
9 Langford Drive, Mapua,
Nelson, New Zealand

USA

Wayne Smith
5801 8th Street S.E., East Wenatchee, WA
98802-8708, USA

Distribution

Josey Joseph
Pallamkulam, PTR A 96
Plamood, Trivandrum 695 004, India

Reprinted at

St. Joseph's Press
Trivandrum 695 014,
India

ONLY FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION TO MEMBERS

Mid Year Meeting 04 Highlights

MYM 04 took place in Geneva, 24-28 January 2004, starting with a get-together dinner on Saturday 24th. That first dinner was a wonderful opportunity for participants to introduce themselves and meet each other, developing a good atmosphere for the next four working days.

The meeting was attended by all APs or APEs, with the exception of the Asian APE, and by the IEOs, ITE, BFEC, YMW Editor and ISG. It was an excellent opportunity for participants to develop a working and personal relationship with ITE Klaus Dietzel and to know his approach to financial matters. The meeting was also a chance to express gratitude to IT Hong Kwan-sik for his commitment and professional support to our Movement as IT during almost six years as this was his last official meeting.



PIP Bill Ward, IP Jacob Cherian and IPE John Choa at MYM 04

PIP Bill Ward, who is nearing the end of his term on the IP Troika, was also given special recognition for his loyal support to Y's Men International. We recognize how blessed our Movement is with the participation and support of so many strong and capable international leaders. All AP/Es are conscious of their tremendous challenge, especially at this historic time when the existence of service organisations is more and more difficult and financial constraints limit the capacity to respond through community service.

Differences in reported and paid membership and membership instability in certain Areas were two ever-present topics during discussions. Each AP/E is aware that the great challenge is to reach the goal of 100% paid membership; making reported and paid membership one and the same. As ISD for Extension and Membership-Conservation Isaac Palathinkal said in his report to MYM: "There can be only one type of membership, that is "paid membership". Stability of membership, avoiding big variations from one semester to the next, which is another challenge for some Areas, is essential for the present and future of our Movement.

The meeting was characterized by the wish and commitment to continue the emphasis on leadership training as a base to make our Movement grow, to actively involve youth in Y'sdom, giving a new dimension to our membership and action, to improve our programmes at local levels in order to retain and extend our membership, to enhance our image and identity to get better recognition from our communities. All this clearly expresses the quality of our leadership.

Though wishes and commitments are not always easy to transform into realities, we should not be demoralised. APE Donna Ward, in her Opening Devotion, said: "If we were being perfectly honest, we would admit being a little apprehensive, or afraid, of the responsibilities we face. Many of these fears are based on previous frustrations over the futility of 'getting the job done' whatever it may have been. Futility is a fact of life for us all. Your futility will not be mine nor mine yours. But everyone has some frustration. Is there a solution? There may not be a simple one. Sometimes we just have to keep on keeping on. Don't give up. Don't quit. Whatever your futility may be, be assured that God can help you in this area of your need. Turn your life over to Him. Seek His guidance and strength. As leaders we should always try to set examples of service and success".

Why not keep in touch with the YMCA?

YMCA WORLD

The magazine of the World Alliance of YMCAs

YMCA World provides:

- Understanding of the work of the world-wide YMCA movement
- Insight into key global issues
- Christian perspectives on social justice
- A grassroots and a global view

YMCA World is published quarterly.

Each issue explores a contemporary theme such as the digital revolution, HIV/AIDS, the environment and migration.

Subscription details from ruth@ymca.int

Results of Elections 03/04



497 valid votes were received in time with 54 late votes and 93 invalid. Based on membership as at 1 October 2003 of 1,505 clubs, the valid participation was therefore 33% but 43% of clubs responded to the call to vote.

Benson Wabule, of Kenya, was elected International President Elect 2004/05 and will take office in July 2004.

New International Council Members to serve from 1 July 2004 are:
Mr V S Bashir for India Area.
Mr M V Gopalan for India Area.
Mr Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen (Denmark) for Europe Area.
Mrs Aslaug Gilje (Norway) for Europe Area.

New International Council Members Elect from 1 July 2004 are:
Mr Robert Wilby for USA Area (Area President Elect)
Mr Ron Perry for Canada Area (Area President Elect)

A telling story of care in Y'sdom

Club President S K Ngu recruited an enthusiastic and jubilant lady Mary Ng in her early 50s in July 2003. When attending our Club meeting for the second time, Mary however showed signs of anxiety and worry. She confided with us that her daughter Moureen Moon studying in Sydney had met with a car accident in Melbourne. Mary and her husband were not able to get air tickets from Malaysia to Australia for at least a week. Obviously she encountered a sense of helplessness and despair. Club members consoled her and promised to do something through the Y's Men's network.

Club Vice President Andrew Tan managed to find a few e-mail addresses in Melbourne and quickly e-mailed a message for help to visit Moureen in her hostel near a hospital in Melbourne. There was a miraculous response.



Moureen with Maria and 'Captain' Knott

Here is Y's ling M o u r e e n ' s testimony. *"I had a nasty car accident in Melbourne in 2003. After informing my parents about this a couple of days later someone from Y's Men's Club here called me. She was Maria, Captain Alan Knott's wife.*

Although she lives 40 minutes away from town, she came to accompany me to my physiotherapy sessions. The rehabilitation centre is just across the road from my place, but walking was difficult for me. Having Maria with me not only had an added support like a tongkat (walking stick), her moral support, wit and humour were precious gifts especially when I was all alone in Melbourne. I met uncle Alan at lunch when my mobility was much improved. I call him Captain, and he surely is one! We got along very well and had a great time together eating and chatting. When mom arrived in Melbourne, the Knott couple received her at the airport and invited us to their place. I brought a bottle of late picked Shiraz wine and we had a pleasant night.

At times of crisis and being away from home, I believe I received two special gifts from my parents. An upbringing to be able to endure bad times and to look beyond it; and a network overseas with the Y's Men's Club. I am still very impressed with my mommy that she was able to help her little girl remotely in the most practical way. Bravo!"

Moureen has since recovered and is back to normal, with a fond memory of love and affinity to cherish.

Lady Y's Man Mary was later elected as Director of Membership in the Club. With her enthusiasm and personal encounter of love and care in Y'sdom, she has since then recruited no less than ten new club members with her telling story of care in the movement!

Andrew Tan. *Berbakti International Y's Men's of KL, Malaysia*

Caring for both the young and the old

The range of activities of India Area extends far beyond the age group of its membership - they have service projects aimed at building up the leadership qualities of our youth, as well as projects that bring in a smile on the faces of those lonely senior citizens who have no families that care for them.

Caring for the young:

During this year's Christmas holidays 51 youths selected from different parts of India attended a 4-day Youth Camp at Wyanad, a Hill station in North Kerala. Under the theme "Youth – Leaders of Tomorrow", the campers deliberated about such diverse topics as 'Need Assessment / Self Analysis', 'Human Relations Skills', 'Communication Skills' and 'Team Work'. There were classes on 'How to develop Memory Power', 'How to face an interview' and 'ABC of Y'sdom', all handled by experts. The participants enjoyed an afternoon of trekking followed by a boat ride in Poomkudy Lake and the Camp Fire extended to late hours of the night. "I never imagined that I could remember 40 random words in the correct sequence before I attended the class on memory and now I will have no difficulty in remembering the names of all the friends I have picked up here" said a participant.

Many of the campers here were selected from similar camps organized this year at the Regional level. We expect many from this Area Camp to attend the International Youth Convocation 2004.



Caring for the old:

In addition to our concern for the youth and the Lings, our clubs join hands in our efforts for helping the old people. The Area has adopted "Care for the Aged" as the Common Project for this year. The clubs in all the 5 Regions in India help the Old Age Homes and Institutions for the Senior Citizens in their local communities by catering to some of their needs, either financially or by supplying medicines or other materials they require. But more than this, it is the occasional visits of the club members and their willingness to spend time with them that the old people appreciate most.

"When are you coming again?" This is a frequent question our members hear when they leave the old-age homes after a visit. The feeling that there are people who accept them and care for them, place a smile on the faces of many senior citizens.

M V Mathew. *Area President, India*

International President Elect

One Unified Theme And Global Signature Project



At the ICM 03 held in Manila, Philippines, I was given the opportunity by IP Jacob Cherian to share my Goal, Vision and Program Thrust for the Year 2004/05, when I assume the International Presidency of our beloved Y's movement.

Among the more salient points I envisioned was to have a Singular Unified Theme adopted for our Y's movement and a Global Signature Project.

At our Mid Year Meeting 04 at Geneva Switzerland, I am happy to report that it was unanimously agreed by all the APE's that we will adopt a Singular Unified Theme and we have chosen "Let Your Light Shine". Hence, all Areas, Regions and Districts will adopt Let Your Light Shine as the Theme for the year 2004/05. The rationale behind adopting a Singular Unified Theme is for us to have the same direction, focus, purpose and unity of thoughts and spirit.

Likewise, at the MYM 04 it was also agreed by the APE's to propose to the International Council Meeting 04 a Global Signature Project, which could have dramatic impact in the community for our Y's movement. So far, we have received the following proposals.

- Water - The Fountain of Life*
- Care for the Aged*
- Care for the Differently-Abled Child*
- Care for Mental Health*

We are now in the process of collecting more suggestions. If anyone of you has any good ideas for our Global Signature Project, which our Y's movement could adopt, kindly send your suggestions and proposals to me or to IHQ. As we have limited resources the Global Signature Project would need to be linked to our TOF Project.

My rationale behind this new approach is that it would have a better point of recognition for all the projects and endeavours of our Y's movement.

It is important that in this fast changing world, we should always be creative, dynamic and with innovative ideas manage the little resources we have to catch up with other leading International Service Organisations.

I look forward to the enthusiastic support and dedicated service of all Y's Men wherever dispersed. We will join hands together to make our beloved Y's movement be known throughout the world, as one whose burdened heart may pour out its sorrows; one to whom distress may prefer its suit; one whose hand is guided by justice, and whose heart is expanded by benevolence.

John L. Choa. International President Elect

A Convention with a difference

The count down for International Convention 2004 has started. This major event in India is round the corner. August 12th – 15th, will witness a grand gathering. Registration forms can be obtained from your RD. The last date for registration is 30th April 2004. After this date the registration fee rises by US\$ 50. Kindly send in your registration forms and request for hotel accommodation as early as possible. The Host Committee is actively engaged in going through the final touches to the venues and programmes. We hope Areas and Countries will start preparing their presentations for the cultural evenings.

Airline Fares - Several airlines have offered exclusive and attractive fares for the benefit of our delegates attending IC 2004.

Emirate Airlines - from all major points in USA, Canada, UK, Europe.

Cathay Pacific and Singapore Airlines - from Sydney, Melbourne, Seoul, Hong Kong and Manila.

Check our WEB SITE regularly - www.ysmenic2004.com and also www.keralatravels.com for all details and updated information.

P. Gopinath. General Convenor IC 2004.

Wear your pin with pride

Personal contact seems to be the best way to tell the world about Y's Men. Wear your Y's Man shirt or membership pin when you are at the market, work place, games and even walking in your neighbourhood. Someone will ask why the shirt or pin. This becomes an opening for you to tell them.

Ardith Montelius. ASD Public Relations, USA

NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW

*Available free to clubs:
TOF promotional articles, news, videos, PowerPoint presentations and much more.
All this on one new CD-ROM.
Supersedes last year's CD-ROM*



Your club can receive it by applying to your RSD TOF and, if that does not work, to IHQ
(e-mail: ihq@ysmen.org)

Lasting legacy of our Founder President

IP Jacob has asked that we all read and consider this text. It is an extract from a letter written by Our Founder President, Judge Paul William Alexander, in November 1951 to the Leaders of the YMCA and Y's Men's movement in America. He believes it is quite relevant even today. A pointer to our Purpose and Objective, our Vision and Mission.

Dear Gents:

I have always thought that the young and vigorous Y's Men's movement should be in the vanguard of the liberals. This is because I have an undying hatred of the divisiveness of theology..... I think the YMCA hurts itself, limits its effectiveness, and in the long run will be able to do less good in this world if it adheres to strict theological lines of demarcation than if it opens its door and admits to membership — and I mean purposeful membership — those who are striving to practice the teachings of Christ — whether or not they accept Him theologically as a personal savior, etc., etc. This way membership would be open to right-thinking Jews, Hindus, Unitarians, Moslems, Shintoists, etc. — but of course they must be right-thinking and must subscribe to the teachings of Christ, although not the theology that has so divided Christianity and cursed mankind.

Yes, theology as such has, in my judgment, been a curse of mankind. You will notice how I steered away from theology in framing our induction ritual and how carefully we avoided any reference to it in all of our statements of purpose and constitutional provisions, etc. We say, in Section 2 of the Induction Ritual, that the Y is 'a union of persons acting together for a common purpose. The persons are young men who strive to practice the teachings of Christ'. This has always been construed, as far as I know, to mean the ethical teachings of Christ and not the theological dogmas which have been built up around his sayings. This is emphasized by the fact that to be a Y's Man has never been predicated upon what a man believes, but upon what he does.

Righteousness is not created by theology. Morality is not born of theological dogma. The virtue of unselfish service which we insist shall be the hall-mark of the Y's Man is an exemplification of love for one's fellow man as taught by Christ, and as demonstrated, by Christ on the Cross. But — to exemplify that virtue one must accept that teaching, which is ethical, but need not accept Jesus as his personal savior, which is theological. Else, how could so many Jews and other non-Christians whom it is proposed to exclude be so much better 'Christians' than a lot of us Episcopalians, etc.....

If any of us also want to keep our belief in the various theological dogmas..... we may do so. But must we therefore scorn and spurn others who cannot or will not accept these beliefs? Can we never learn not to let theology keep dividing us? The point I am emphasizing is not that we should change our beliefs or our faiths, but that we should not deprive ourselves of the benefits of companionship, fellowship, support, co-operation and collaboration of somebody else who happens not to believe quite all of these dogmas and doctrines or perhaps even not any of them — provided always — and I can't make this too emphatic — that they accept and strive to practice the ethical teachings of Jesus — which are acceptable to Hindus, Moslems, Buddhists, Jews and Unitarians.....

And right here is where the Y's Men come in. I think it is up to us to summon the courage and develop the strength to come out and help the Y to assume its rightful position of not only interdenominational leadership but interfaith and inter-religious leadership throughout the world! And I am convinced the Y is the only institution or movement ever created upon which we should pin our faith in this respect.

Your Y's Men's Room

This is adapted from an article written in 'The Rotarian' in 1991 by the then International President of Rotary, Rajenda K. Saboo.

Once a kind hearted man, wise but poor, lived in a tiny hut. One rainy night he had just returned from a hard day's work and was warming himself near the fire on which he had cooked his humble supper. Suddenly there was knock at the door. A man had lost his way. "Could he have shelter?" "Come in", the wise man said "My place is big enough for two".

Then came a second knock. Another stranger had lost his way. Again the wise man said, "Come in," thinking to himself that two strangers could share his cot and he would sleep on the floor. A third knock sounded, and he welcomed another refugee from the storm." Come in. We will squeeze together. We will be warmer that way." There was fourth knock. "Come in. We can all stand comfortably in the hut". A fifth person was welcomed and the hut was crowded indeed. But the wise man was undisturbed "Let us sing hymns and thank God for our shelter". But when the sixth knock came, he opened the door to welcome another person, ready to make a place by going out himself. Then all at once the room became larger, aglow with a divine light.

The sixth caller was the Lord Himself.

Where there is love there is always room. And the same is said of service, because service is love in action. Now is a perfect time to show and share the happiness of service - to expand the house of Y's Men - to open our doors and our hearts to new members and welcome them into our wonderful world of service. Indeed Y's Men cannot be constrained by walls.

You can strengthen Y's Men by bringing new members into the club. The opportunity to have good men of our community become good and serving Y's Men should not be lost. Invite them and see what happens. You will be surprised. When new members come through your door you will discover new dimensions of the Y's Men's room. Remember the hut of the wise man.

Look Beyond Yourself and you will find the truth in the words of Thomas Moore. "Where there is room in the heart, there is always room in the house".

Arthur Cowling. PIP Australia
Taken from the Bendigo Bulletin December 2003

Journey Towards a Culture of Peace

Build a Culture of Peace—Say NO to Violence was chosen in 1999 as the 'flag' of our 'flagship', a focus for our priorities in community service, our goals in strengthening our organization, and the way we speak of ourselves and our work in public relations.

Where we have been: This flagship project was to be promoted to clubs as fitting the vision that we would be known globally as an organisation promoting cultural awareness and fostering brotherhood and world peace. 'Say NO To Violence' was to be a component of family membership. Children's projects were to be emphasized. We were to explore the work of the YMCA and how to work beside them in such work. It was noted that the UN Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the World's Children was related to this focus, and should be an encouragement for seeking consultative status.

In 2000, the 'Say NO to Violence' Work Group was appointed for a 3-year trial at promoting the 'flagship' project. Success has been variable, but the international cooperation has been a wonder. Many of our projects, including those selected for Time of Fast, help build a culture of peace for children and youth. Publications, especially Y's Men's World (YMW), are being used effectively to report creative community service, and portray and encourage our role as peace-builders. We are grateful for help, ideas, and technical advice that have come from people not on the Task Force.

What we have done most recently:

Members of the 'Say NO to Violence' Task Force and MYM 04 have looked at graphics changed to emphasize 'Build a Culture of Peace', and possibilities for additional posters. Some graphics have been re-worked, giving 'Build a Culture of Peace' prominence, and samples of posters have been distributed. Some of them use a new graphic, which is 'peace', written as if it were a Chinese character. A draft leaflet has been produced outlining positive actions that can be taken.



Where you are needed: The service of volunteers will make affordable all aspects of producing brochures, posters, and the like. We realize that it would be better to communicate without words. Where words must be used, we would like good translations to be available as soon as possible. So support in translation, design, imaging, and electronic communication has been appreciated and remains important. Web resources are listed on the Y's Men's International Web site under 'Programmes'. We have brochures, posters, bookmarks, and a club-year calendar. We need your opinions and would appreciate pictures that illustrate our objectives. Your technical skill could make ideas a reality more quickly.

Where we go from here: We continue our service work and use our various publications to report it as a way of building a culture of peace. We work with our service directors to broaden and deepen our skills and knowledge of peace-making, especially in communication and conflict-resolution. We hope for your company and participation on the journey.

Marilyn Hamilton. Task Force on 'Say NO to Violence'

Building a Culture of Peace with Soccer Balls



Canada has become just the fourth country to import Fair Trade certified sports balls thanks to the Ottawa Y Service Club, Y FOCUS. Fair Trade soccer balls will now be available for sale across Canada since the club has just been licensed to import and sell them. The soccer balls are made by a company in Pakistan that has agreed to pay their workers a fair wage and not to employ children under 15. In addition they will make sure youth above that age can still attend school while working part-time.

Other Y Service clubs in Canada will be given the first option to sell Fair Trade certified sports balls. Proceeds from the sale of sports balls will be used to continue projects already established in Sierra Leone and to send educational and sports equipment to schools in other war-torn countries where sport and education are vital tools in 'Building a culture of peace'. In Canada, this theme is used to complement the 'Say No To Violence' theme in the international work of Y's Men's Clubs.

What's fair about Fair Trade? Products that carry a Fair Trade label have been certified that their manufacturing process meets certain social, economic and environmental standards. Our soccer balls carry the Transfair Canada label, which means that our supplier has agreed to meet the requirements of the Fairtrade Labelling Organization (FLO) and to co-operate fully with their monitoring teams when they visit. The manufacturer's price includes a 'fair-trade premium' of about 20%, which is to be used for improvement of the socio-economic situation of the workers, their families and communities. Workers and management decide jointly on the use of the premium such as providing an after-school program or a community clinic.

Red Hart. Assistant Editor, Canada

Afghan Picture Book Project

The Y's Menettes of Japan heard about a project to create, print and distribute books of Afghan folk tales to children in Afghanistan. The stories chosen convey messages of mutual help and friendship and go with a prayer that they may heal the wounded hearts from the long-lasting conflicts. The work needs about 4 million Yen, approximately US\$ 36,000, which they have agreed to fund.

A volunteer painter has prepared pictures to accompany the stories and the National Council of YMCAs of Japan has offered to liaise with printers in Lahore who can print the Afghan local language, Pashto. After completion 10,000 copies will be distributed among school children, mainly in Kandahar, with the message:



"We, living in Japan which is a far away country, send this book to you because we want to see your smiling face. This book will convey wonderful stories which have been inherited in your country since a long time ago. We hope you will read this book to your children too when you grow up and all of you will long remember that there are people who are always sending warmest regards to you from Japan."

Ichiro Yamakawa. Assistant Editor, Japan

International Brother Clubs (IBC)

– more practical advice

Projects

When co-operating with projects the Brother Club Programme will have an International flavour and touch. On this matter, International President Jacob Cherian appeals to clubs in developed and developing countries to involve the IBC Programme with a meaningful vision. If a club in a developed country and one in a developing country make IBC friendship and are involved in one or more community based projects, it would establish a deep imprint eternally in the relationship between both the partners. Partner clubs can effectively motivate YEEP & STEP Programmes, which would be useful to the next generation. Y's Youth can be sent to partner clubs for educational purposes especially to learn the English language and technical studies like computer literacy and other modern electronic communication media. In such cases the partner clubs' members could arrange hospitality and make arrangements for their training. The exchange of e-mails, letters, postcards, videos, audios, pictures, slides and prints can be used as effective tools for cementing the partnership. Exchange club bulletins, journals, commemorative stamps, magazines and newspapers. Small gifts, season's greetings, birthday and wedding anniversary felicitations are excellent tools for communication between the IBC partners.

More Than One Brother Club?

If a club has successfully maintained its Brother Club, then that club can have as many Brother Clubs as it wants. One successful partnership is preferable to two or more superficial relationships. If both the partners of a Brother Club link invite a third club into their partnership and if it succeeds, then a Triangle Brother Club is born. This is also an opportunity to link with a newly chartered club to Y'sdom for support and encouragement.

Conclusion

The IBC programme is a golden opportunity and a great challenge to the partner clubs. It ties together Y's Men and their family members from the world over into a common purpose of Brotherhood. Every club should have a list of members who can maintain the communication and fellowship links with the other clubs. It is always good not to leave communication work to one person alone. Encourage members of each club with similar vocations or professions to exchange ideas and experiences frequently and help to maintain the smooth relationship. All these members may share the contents of communication in the club meetings. If a member of the partner clubs travels abroad, try to arrange visits to their partner clubs. This would certainly be a very effective stimulus and motivation to the partnership. However, in our enthusiasm to promote this idea, it is important to keep in mind that countries and the people are used to various ways of life. A quick enthusiastic endeavour from a partner club may be counteracted by an equally sincere but more cautious approach by another. When it is winter in the Northern Hemisphere, summer is in full swing in the Southern Hemisphere. The best way to carry out a successful Brother Club relationship is to make it an on-going programme, throughout the year. Let's get active with Brother Clubbing.

Josey Joseph. ISD-IBC

Improving Brother Clubbing

IP Joseph Cherian has placed IBC at the top of his priorities for his year in office. To achieve progress, a dedicated Y's Man placed in charge of International Brother Clubs (IBC) at club level is by far the best practice. To further improve the situation it is best if this term of office is for at least 3 years.

I am Chairman, Brother Clubs, Pandalam Town Club S.W India Region and during my term of office have developed BC relationship with a dozen clubs in different Regions. While it is nice to have Brother Clubs in different countries it is not essential. Lack of English language sometimes makes it beneficial to seek Brother Clubs with the same language. Visits to Brother Clubs established within travelling distance enhance the bond between clubs.

K. P. Pillai. Pandalam Town Club, India

Return to the Mountains

The very first District Conference in Europe was held in the Tatra Mountains, Slovakia, in 1935 where clubs from Czechoslovakia and Poland gathered. During the dark days after 1939 Y'sdom was forbidden in the region until the fall of the 'Iron Curtain'. In 1989/90 Y'sdom returned to East Europe and in 2003 the Danube District Conference brought clubs from Slovakia and Hungary again to the Tatra Mountains.



Strbske Pleso Lake, Slovakia was the beautiful place chosen for the Conference and super sunny weather revealed to all participants thousands of beautiful sights of nature – mountains covered with first snow, never-ending valleys, frozen lakes and untouched places. Guests from Denmark and Hungary joined Slovaks to take part in several walks. All were impressed by these views and it helped to open their hearts and create a very pleasant atmosphere during the event.

Besides the reports on activities in various areas, club representatives discussed the future of all clubs and cooperation with Danish Mother Clubs in an enjoyable working atmosphere during the whole meeting, with the participants listening to each other, understanding and accepting feelings and opinions of the others.

Poul V. Thomsen, Extension Officer, expressed appreciation for the good work of the organisation team headed by Anna Angelova, District Governor, who received an Elmer Crowe Award for Outstanding District Governor from Y's Men International. At the end all 80 participants expressed their thanks for wonderful hospitality and their belief in participation in the next District Conference, soon to return to Slovakia again.

Viera Sandorova. Karpaty Y's Men's Club, Bratislava

Y's Menettes Sister Club Programme

The program of Sister Clubs for Y's Menettes was officially recognised in 1965. Since that time many clubs throughout the world have been able to learn more about each other's clubs, families, cities, countries and differing cultures, by participating in this interesting programme. Sister Clubs need not necessarily be in another country, they can also be in your own country. It is possible to have a Sister Club in another city or region within your own country. This can have the advantage of communicating in the same language as well as the possibility to meet together for a special occasion.

Many members take the opportunity to meet together at International Conventions to share a meal together, exchange souvenirs of their countries and also include a visit to a Sister Club while on interstate or overseas travels.

The following suggestions may assist your club's involvement in the sister club program:

- 1 Appoint a Sister Club correspondent, willing to give two (or more) years service, which provides a consistent address.
- 2 Allow for finance in your Club budget, to cover the cost of postage, photos and gifts.
- 3 Send your club bulletins monthly, if possible. Always attach a personal note, if you do not have time to write more fully.
- 4 Share the duty of letter writing between Club members.
- 5 Send a photo of Club members, list names as they appear in the picture. Attach a list of members' names and addresses. Suggest your Sister Club members choose their own "pen pal sister" from the photo and write personally.
- 6 Ask each club member to provide a small lightweight article (handkerchief, bookmark, picture etc.) with name and address attached. Send the parcel to your Sister Club, suggesting that the Y's Menette accepting an article write to the sender in return for the article received.
- 7 Make one of your meetings a Sister Club night, use music, food, clothes, pictures etc. from the country your Sister Club belongs to.
- 8 Exchange an album of information, including maps, photos etc., of your Club activities, your community and your country. Try sending a tape or CD of music (folk songs), a video of a special club project, festival or performance from your city.
- 9 Do not wait for a reply from your Sister Club. Try to correspond regularly. If you are experiencing difficulties, contact your Region/Area Sister Club Co-ordinator or A(S)D/R(S)D who will contact the International Sister Club Co-ordinator.
- 10 Present a report each month at your meeting and let your Bulletin Editor have items of interest for your monthly bulletin.



Would you like more information on Sister Clubs?
Contact: International Sister Club Co-ordinator or your local Sister Club Co-ordinator

Jennifer Cameron. International Director Y's Menettes

Amherst – Kangaroo Flat

Y's Menettes from Amherst, Canada have been corresponding with Y's Menettes from Kangaroo Flat, Australia for many years. Over this time many letters, bulletins, photos, etc. have been exchanged. Each club has sent the other club a subscription to the National Geographic for their country. These magazines are passed around the club and are always looked forward to.

In 1996 when the International Convention was held in Canada two Y's Menettes from Kangaroo Flat, along with their husbands, visited Amherst and spent several enjoyable days with their Sister Club. Again in 2002 another Kangaroo Flat Y's Menette, Bev Buchan, had the pleasure of visiting Amherst when her husband Ron was on a Brotherhood Trip to Canada. These visits make a special bond between clubs.



A Y's Menette's Legacy

Wuraola Delano was a member of the Lagos Y's Menettes Club and during her life showed a dedication and love for the cause of humanity, which the Club sought to commemorate with a special day each year. The Wuraola Day has been celebrated since 1991 on every 1st of May.

In the early days it was a club event but, through the enthusiasm of the then Y's Menettes President Y's Man Clara Adetuyi (Now DG Nigeria), has transformed from being a local fund-raising programme to a District and Regional affair. Youth, through Drama and Cultural performances, call the attention of the government and general public to support our noble cause.

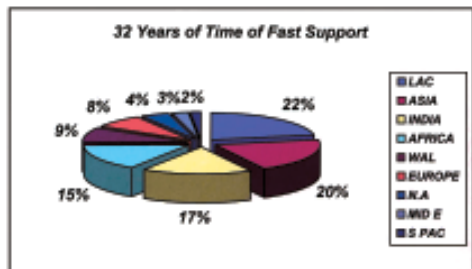
One must commend the effort of the Regional Director Kunle Delano who has also involved members of the family, the children of his late Wife Wuraola, who have in no small way contributed to the success of the Programme. They have both at home and abroad given support by reaching out to corporate organisations and friends in joining them celebrating the legacy their mother left the movement. Through company adverts and sterling greetings from companies and individuals with promotional gift items and companies' products, the Region has never been happier.

The Funds realised over the years have paid dues like the Time of Fast and money has been donated to the Motherless Babies Home, a special project of the Lagos Club.

Tunji Makinde. Lagos Club, Nigeria

Time of Fast tops US\$4 million

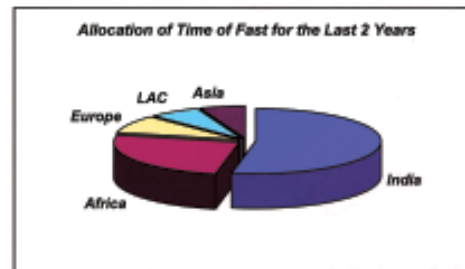
The idea of fasting in order to raise money for others began as a concept in 1969, the first Fast Day was held in 1970 and it became an official programme in 1972. Since then the programme has grown substantially. Excellent donations over the last two years have raised half a million dollars, boosting Time of Fast projects to \$4,151,000 committed since the programme's inception 32 years ago. The charts show the allocation of funds.



Total allocated to all areas \$4,151,000

Allocated to:

Latin America/Caribbean 22%	Asia 20%	India 17%
Africa 15%	Europe 8%	North America 4%
Middle East 3%	South Pacific 2%	
World Alliance of YMCA 9% (For Training)		



The Time of Fast Donations for the last 2 years have been allocated :-

\$278,974 to All India Projects	\$134,000 to Africa
\$46,209 to Europe	\$34,748 to Latin America
	\$31,020 for Asia

Canada also received its first ever grant for Flood Relief in Newfoundland

A Community Service Project in Sri Lanka

There was devastating flood damage suffered by most parts of Central and Southern Sri Lanka in May and October last year. Sri Lanka was within IPE John Choa's area of responsibility so he responded immediately and as Asia President issued an appeal to PIP Bill, IP Jacob and the Regions in Asia to assist the victims of the flood as a humanitarian gesture. As a result, the following Regions, Area and IP responded:

Japan East Region	US\$ 1,000
Japan West Region	US\$ 2,000
Korea Central Region	US\$ 1,000
Asia Area	US\$ 500
International President's Discretionary Fund	US\$ 1,000
Total	US\$ 5,500

A team of officers from Y's Men International Sri Lanka Region was mobilized under the leadership of Regional Director Rita Hettiarachchi, who toured the most affected areas in the country. Having assessed the overall situation and the relief assistance being received from various channels, they focused on a small hamlet in Hiniduma, where little or no assistance had been received by a small group of seven destitute families.

With the assistance of the Parish Priest of the area, they identified the basic needs of each family and set about reconstruction, renovation and rehabilitation work. This work will be followed up until the families are fully rehabilitated and are able to manage their normal lives. The total cost of the project is estimated to be around one million Rupees.

This is the story of one of the victims. Simon, the chief occupant of one of the houses is a cinnamon peeler and is disabled. His wife is a tea-plucker. The two of them, with their son, his wife and two grand children were living in the old mud hut. Due to the floods, the house was damaged and they did not have a proper income to survive after the flood. Due to the suffering they were undergoing the son committed suicide by hanging himself. The wife so heart-broken had left home for Colombo and has not been heard of since. The old couple were left to feed the two grandchildren. When the team from Y's Men International Sri Lanka Region first visited them

they had given up all hope. After the promise of relief, it can now be clearly seen that they have a purpose in life and go about resuming their daily work while helping with the building of their new home. 8 houses are nearing completion in the locale.

June Brown. Bulletin Editor, Sri Lanka Region

International President's Discretionary Fund

The project above is an excellent example of the quick reaction Y'sdom is capable of in an emergency. Initiated by the IPE it brought our assistance directly to people who could benefit most. Most of our members are aware that they can help the needy by donating money to our Time of Fast programme, which helps the funding of specially selected YMCA projects. Apparently many do not realize that our International President can make up to US\$ 5,000 available from the TOF funds for immediate relief where disaster has struck. This is the International President's Discretionary Fund.

Over the years, through your donations to TOF, you have helped in such emergencies. Victims of typhoons, floods, famine and earthquakes have been helped.

Some might say what is US\$ 5,000? It's only a drop in the ocean. I then think of the story of the Starfish, which I retold in the previous issue of the Y's Men's World. It may not be possible to save everyone and it might not make a difference to many, but it surely makes a difference to the one saved.

The Time Of Fast programme is an example where national and cultural borders vanish. For this programme to succeed, it needs your support. Not only with donations but also our members need to be told how we help. If you have photos and stories, please show us. Pass these on to your ASD or ISD for TOF or send these to the Editor of the Y's Men's World.

Gerard Huetting. ISD Time of Fast

Old from the new

Owen Sound Club of Canada joined the Fair Trade Soccer Ball Scheme and when the local soccer people were contacted it was discovered they had used soccer balls to give away. At the same time there was a Canada World Youth Exchange program taking place here in Owen Sound involving young people from Canada and Tanzania. I got to know two of the young men because they were working as volunteers at our Family YMCA. Having been to Africa (Zambia) I knew that the kids there play soccer with rolled up newspapers, and that they would be happy with the used balls. We ended up with 58 used balls.

I came to the conclusion that these people could easily take deflated soccer balls back to Tanzania as part of their luggage at no cost. They were delighted with this idea and the picture below was taken when the soccer balls were presented to them. I like to think that it is much better to have kids kicking soccer balls than to have them throwing rocks, so this is a 'Say NO to Violence' project. In addition, the local minor soccer people would like to continue this idea and one of their leaders would like to get it going with other soccer groups across the country. It would be great if all of our clubs could adopt this idea - I am sure that there are many other countries where used soccer balls would be appreciated.

Monroe Murphey. Owen Sound Y Service Club, Canada



Owen Sound Minor Soccer Association presenting the used balls

WANTED - VOLUNTEERS FOR TRANSLATION

Many of our documents, brochures and CDs would benefit from translation to help in spreading our messages.

If you can assist in any way, contact the Editor or IHQ and we will put you in touch with those who can use your skill.

Marathon cleanup

City Marathons all have the same problem with litter; they leave the city in a mess. To challenge this problem, Hikone Chateau Y's Men's Club of Japan has created a programme to involve children in the litter clearance in cooperation with the local authorities and City Marathon Committee.

526 children were recruited from local schools and organised over 7 districts along the Marathon route. The children had a great time working in teams and 10 truckloads of rubbish were collected. After hard work it was time for some play and when they returned to the gymnasium a Skipping Contest was arranged. Teams of 15 competed to see how many 'jumps' they could complete in two and a half minutes. We were surprised how much energy they had left after working so hard collecting litter. All the contestants were given awards with special ones prepared by the club for the winners.



The programme ideally matches the Club Motto 'Let's bring up a generous mind and a sound body'. Television and radio companies, national and local newspapers gave wide coverage of the children's efforts and club involvement.

Ichiro Yamakawa. Assistant Editor, Japan

Chasing Dreams

Cheboksary Club of Russia have 'adopted' a local children's home and committed ourselves to providing support at the beginning of the school year. We called to our friends with the request "Help children – orphans - clothes, writing-books, pencils, fabrics for lessons on sewing!" Our friends responded well. All members of the club have handed over money for gifts to children. My apartment became a warehouse. Clothes, footwear, fabrics, writing-books, books, carrying cases, coloured paper, beads and lots more to my home. The club secretary, Elena Ermakova, and I worked for two days stacking all things ready for delivery.

Just before term started we arrived at the children's home. Children were glad to see us! They have helped to carry bags with clothes and footwear, fabrics. We have congratulated first-graders on the beginning of the academic year. I have told them about our movement, about the Area Conference in Saint Petersburg. We have presented children with a writing-book, the cases, beads, and other things. We have worked with them for the day and asked what they would wish for. Children have asked us to bring icons, the bible, a football, cosmetics, hairpins for hair, writing-books and albums, color pencils and paints, clothes, bags. We talked to the director of the children's home and decided to wish each child 'Happy Birthday' with presents of their dreams. Now we must work to collect money and find ways to make these dreams come true.

Olga Zhuneva. Cheboksary Club, Russia

How I conquered Mount Kinabalu, Sabah

How do you gain publicity for Y'sdom and your club while combining this with fund raising?

There may be many answers to this but I managed to choose a hard one. I suggested to my Club in Ipoh, Malaysia, a sponsored climb of Low's Peak of Mount Kinabalu, the highest mountain in Southeast Asia located in Sabah (4,095 metres above sea level). The Club told me to give it a try, take the club banner to the top and when I get back they may think about following.

I managed to team-up with 3 others (1 Italian couple and 1 Englishman). Our destination for the day was Laban Rata base camp located 3973m above sea level. It is only 6km from the starting point. Just before the start our guide very innocently



pointed out the board recording the fastest time for reaching the summit and getting back. It is an incredible 2 hours and 53 minutes! The length of the entire trail to the summit is 8.5 km and it starts at a height of about 1900 m.

The summit trail is well marked and eased out in places with man-made steps and even wooden ladders. However, it is quite steep right from the start. We did almost 1km every hour and it was a test of strength and stamina! The climb took its toll when we reached 4km onwards. At each km we stopped for short breaks and chocolate/energy bars helped a lot. We had been climbing for almost 4 hours but were routinely being overtaken by the locals who were carrying loads of up to 25 kg to the Laban Rata rest house, our overnight stop. As soon as we got there the Y's Men's Club of Ipoh banner made its first debut! Most slept early after dinner as we needed to continue hiking/attempting the summit at 2.00am!

The climb up to the summit started off well but it was pitch dark. Torches were essential and the temperature was down to freezing point. The trail was mostly wooden ladders, which seemed to stretch away as far into the darkness as the eyes could see. The mountain air was crisp but really thin so one had to climb slowly to avoid getting too exhausted.

Once atop the summit everyone went about the serious job of clicking away - I displayed my Club banner. Going downhill looked easy but it strains the knees and I paid the price for occasionally running.



A lot of effort and all you get is a certificate, which you have to pay for. However the memories are priceless. Any takers for a climb next year? Y's Men's Club of Ipoh? Y's Men International?

Sri Ram Letchimanan. Y's Men's Club of Ipoh, Malaysia

Run for the money

Charity Runs are a popular way of raising funds and in 1983 the first Japanese YMCA Charity Run was organised under the auspices of the Foreign Community Supporting Committee (FCSC). Since then they have expanded to 13 cities and raised over 150 million Yen, enabling thousands of challenged children to attend summer camps.

Osaka Kawachi Y's Men's Club have supported the local Higashi YMCA in recent years by paying the entrance fee for teams of five and ensuring sponsorship. The run is suitable for able and less able runners and prizes are given for times and fancy dress. In November 2003 \$30,000 was raised for the YMCA.



Keisuke Itoh. Osaka Club, Japan

Back to School with Minia Club of Egypt

Minia Y's Men's Club of Egypt has initiated a programme called 'Back to School'. School fees are paid for needy children in the city and we supply stationery to start them off at school. Our club this year provided this service to 45 school students in primary, prep and high school education, each received some required school items and the dues were paid for them before term started. Minia Club plan to extend this service as funds allow.



Members of a committee of Minia Y's Men's Club preparing to hand over stationery and school fees to the parents of the students.

Sherif Awad. Minia Y's Men's Club, Egypt

Those Darned Machines! or 'Netiquette!'

You either love or hate them. Yes, we're talking about COMPUTERS.

If used correctly, COMMUNICATION can be fast and efficient. If used unwisely, it can lead to unintentional confusion, frustration and even legal problems. Let's look at some of these problems, first, as International Webmaster Ingvar puts it, on 'Netiquette'.

With respect to privacy, we must all be aware that we need the permission of the person whose e-mail address you want to use for setting up any published list of contacts. In some countries, it is illegal not to do so. We all know about SPAM, where our addresses are even being SOLD to people illegally using them for selling their products.

At times we get a message that mail cannot be delivered to a recipient. Either we have made our message too large according to the server, or the recipient is not good at keeping his mailbox clear. Are you guilty?

Simple guidelines can be adopted by old or new computer users to the benefit of all. There are other ideas which can be passed on and Kevin Weight from Canada realized that there were some commonsense solutions to problems that had arisen and has written a paper entitled 'Internet, Email, Attached Files and Cross-Platform Compatibility'. We offer an extract which will be helpful to many.

For efficient use of the Internet to convey our message to other members we should follow the parameters suggested below so that the recipient can receive useful files.

Consider carefully before you attach a document to your e-mail. Why?

- a) The recipient may not be on the same computer platform as you, or not have the same version of software as you are using.
- b) The e-mail becomes much larger to download. It is frustrating for those with dial-up phone line access if the attached file is incompatible with your software or hardware.
- c) There are times when sending documentation is necessary. Create it in whichever word processing software you feel most comfortable using, and then simply copy and paste the text into the body of the e-mail message you're sending rather than appending the file.

Never format text or use obscure fonts. It may look good on your computer but the recipient could end up with garbled text, or having to decipher the information from pages of computer language.

It is absolutely imperative that when you send graphically rich messages (i.e. with pictures) you make sure you send them directly to the recipient who needs them and NOT to everyone within a given mailing list.

If we follow the simple procedure outlined in point c) we will ensure ANY recipient will be able to view the message we send. Remember to use the simplest method for the least experienced computer user on the most antiquated computer system. If we fail to do this, the Internet will cease to be a useful communication medium, instead causing frustration and much use of the phrase 'Those darned machines!'

Janette Hueting. Task Force on Electronic Communication

Communication is the key

A problem of distance and language

To say that even today, four years into the Twentieth Century, the Latin America/Caribbean Area still faces problems with communication is an understatement.

Comprising 12 countries, spread from Mexico in the North to Argentina in the South, washed by the Pacific Ocean on its western side and the Atlantic on the east, with several islands dropped as jewels in the Caribbean sea, such a vast and geographically magnificent area does not allow for easy communication by air or sea travel. Even inland rail or road travel is in most countries impossible. Distances are enormous; mountains, sea and jungle insurmountable.

Written communication poses a further complication because of the diversity of languages spoken in the various countries: Spanish, Portuguese, English, and some Dutch, not to mention Papiamentu. For the most part, with the notable exception of Brazil, Clubs remain isolated and for many of the Y's Men and Y's Menettes in the Area to come together and have the kind of fellowship which may be enjoyed in most Areas in Y'sdom, is simply impossible. This results in lack of mutual support and positive exchange of experiences, problems and solutions.

Isolation nurtures itself. Single clubs in major cities (or even in a country) have difficulty perceiving the benefits of belonging to an international association and tend to live unto themselves, focusing their great service effort on the local, without perceiving their potential for extension and growth.

To break this endemic lack of communication, with Special Development Support, LAC Area will focus on the implementation of an effective web of electronic communication, one whose duration exceeds the short term of officers at the different levels. Through identification, selection and training of one member per Club, with aptitudes as an electronic communicator (a process in which the Clubs, District Governors and Regional Directors will play an important part), to act as the **Club Liaison** to Area/Region/District and back to the Club, the gap will be bridged.

The role of the Club Liaisons will be that of **communicators**, in their own languages, not interfering with any of the offices at the different levels. The Area will provide the necessary translations, plus support with special training on relevant information and uniform reporting, so that input from the different Clubs can be processed, compared and shared, with the Area President himself in charge of follow up.

Club Liaisons may well be the key to a deeper feeling in the individual member of belonging to a worldwide organisation and of sustained growth and increased efficiency at international level.

Omar Posiero. Area President, Latin America/Caribbean

How I discovered Y's Men International



I had the great happiness of getting to know about Y's Men through my parents who are members of YMI. Since I was a child I helped in some Y's Men's events and when I was 16 years old I participated in the LAC Area Youth Convocation and had the opportunity to meet some involved people in our movement.

At the age of 18, I was blessed by being a YEEP student in Canada. I went there without speaking English. For me it was very difficult, because I was used to living with my family (my parents, one brother and 2 sisters), used to my own country, my own way of life, used to my friends. I cried during my flight from Brazil to Canada. I felt shudder, fear, I started missing my family, I was very nervous, but thank God and the support of my family and the Y's Men Club I had the strength to carry on.

When I landed on Canadian ground, I felt totally lost. I was thinking that it was a dream, then the host family waved and called me and I realized that it was too late to go back to Brazil. We got in the car and travelled from Toronto to Niagara Falls. I was very ashamed for not knowing how to speak English, and they asked me some questions, and I seemed to be silly, I just answered Yes, Yes.

I lived for a year with the Pitul family, a couple and one daughter. Their son was in Denmark as a YEEP Student. I had more contact with their daughter Sarah, I was 5 years older than her, she was like a little sister for me, always when I came back from school, we used to talk about our day, our secrets. She was the one who helped me a lot with the idiom, all the time she corrected my pronunciation.

I participated in meetings of Niagara Falls' Y's Men's Club and visited some different Clubs in Canada, where I made some short presentations about my country, city and about the Y's Men's Clubs of Brazil. When the day of going back to Brazil arrived, I started missing my Canadian life, my host family, and the friendships that I had made. It was very difficult to say goodbye to them. Nevertheless, my year as a YEEP student in Canada was one of the most important experiences in my life! I was devastated to learn that, three months after I returned to Brazil, Sarah died from liver problems. She was a young and beautiful girl with so much to live for. I miss her very much but she will always be in my heart.

Three years later, PAP- LAC Cecilia Tosta Eid motivated me to apply for the position of Youth Intern at IHQ. When I was told that I had been successful I was happy but, at the same time, I was very anxious, however, the Y's Men and my family encouraged and supported me! My first publication of Youth World was in September. It is very interesting that in this position I am able to be in touch with people from all over the world.

I'd like to ask to all of you to advise the young people who are around you to apply for those programmes such as YEEP/STEP and Youth Intern Position as well. He/She will gain new friends, contacts and experiences that will enrich his/her life and opportunities he/she'll never get anywhere else! So, it's worth it.

From the bottom of my heart I thank all of you who contributed to this wonderful opportunity in my life, thank you so very much!

Cristhiane Bakos. (Youth Intern 03/04)

Alexander Scholarship success

The purpose of ASF is to promote the training of YMCA staff and/or those seeking to become YMCA staff members. Its aim is to alleviate the desperate shortage of YMCA professionals by encouraging young people in the various countries to take on this responsibility and making financial contributions towards their training.

You should know that 90% of all ASF donations are retained by the Regions or Countries for use within each respective Area. 10% is passed to International for allocation at International level. The 10% donations for the period 2002/03 were US\$15,203. This compares with US\$ 9,482 in 2001/02. This is the highest contribution in the last 5 years, a magnificent effort and achieving 99% of our goal. The target proposed by Area Presidents and AP Elects for 2003/04 is US\$ 15,826.

Consider, if US\$ 15,203 is 10% then this means a total of US\$ 152,030 for ASF support to the YMCA in one year.

Benson Wabule. International Service Director, ASF

Have you noticed there are many small pictures in this issue?

This is because we have not received enough good ones. Not in the picture content, but the definition of the copy sent.

For printing we need a full size scan at 300 dots per inch or a file from a digital camera set at at 1600 by 1200 pixels. As a guide a 100mm or 4 inch wide picture at 300dpi will give a file size of over 250kb. Alternatively send the original to the Editor for scanning, it will be returned if requested.

A Tradition at Christmas for Lagos Club of Nigeria

Before Christmas the Lagos Club always visits the Modupe Cole Memorial Child Care and Treatment Home at Akolka Village to serve the residents with a Christmas meal.

The Lagos Young Y's Men's Choir led the annual Carol Service and Nine Lessons at the Romney Hall of Lagos YMCA. The service is full of pomp and pageantry and was attended by the District Governor Clara Adetuyi who read the first lesson. These two events were the best in recent years and imparted a remarkable memory in the hearts of participants.



District Governor Clara Adetuyi

Mike Idowu. Lagos Club, Nigeria

The Endowment Fund – The Y's Men's Piggy Bank

Throughout the world parents try to teach their children the advantages of having some savings behind them – for that rainy day that none of us can predict. Y'sdom recognised this when, about 25 years ago, it created the Endowment Fund. Its purpose is to help provide financial aid and stability to Y'sdom now and in the future.

It aims (1) to provide funds to solve special problems or carry on special projects; (2) to provide special training or resources to strengthen, extend and develop Y's Men's Clubs and (3) to provide emergency funds if a tragedy should strike one of our Areas or Regions.

In order to have long term benefit to Y'sdom it is important that the capital remains intact but that the earnings from the Fund are available to achieve the Fund's aims. At the time the fund was created we had a goal of one million dollars. That goal has been reached and we are looking to double it now.

The Endowment funds cannot be spent without action by the International Council and the Endowment Fund Trustees Board. The Trustees decide how much of the fund can be spent. The International Council says how and where it is to be spent.

Anyone can contribute to the fund; individuals, clubs, districts, regional or area boards, and conventions. It's done by:

Making a gift in LIVING TRIBUTE to Y's Men, YMCA executives, Y's Menettes, relatives or friends of Y'sdom, with a written citation inscribed in the "Golden Book".

Making gifts in MEMORY of deceased persons with a written memorial inscribed in the "Golden Book".

Giving stocks and bonds, naming the Endowment Fund in a will, trust or annuity or by purchasing or transferring life insurance policies to the fund.

Donations of any amount can be given to the Endowment Fund. With a donation of \$100 you can have a memorial or tribute added to the 'Golden Book'. With a donation of \$1,000 you can have a tribute added to the 'Golden Book' and an iceberg crystal, which you can display at home, or the office. This iceberg states that you are a 'Y's Men International Endowment Fund Honor Roll member'. It will have your name or you and your spouse's name etched on it. You will also receive two Endowment Fund Honor Roll lapel pins, one for you and the other for your spouse. This donation can be cash, stocks or bonds worth at least \$1,000 market value at the time of transfer.

There are 5 members on the Endowment Fund board. Each member serves for five years. At any given time there must be a representative from three Areas of Y's Men International on the board of trustees.

When your club makes up its budget be sure to include the Endowment Fund as one of the projects that you will support. (In the USA all donations are tax deductible if you make your cheque payable to 'Y's Men International US Area Endowment Fund').

Bob Daniels. Endowment Fund Trustee

Y'sdom in Poland

Y'sdom arrived in Poland in 1932 but during the communist control of the country both the YMCA and Y's Men were forbidden. In the early 1990's Region Sweden undertook responsibility for reintroducing Y'sdom and in 1991 Nowy Wisnicz Y's Men's Club was chartered to start the rebirth of Y'sdom in Poland. There are now 10 clubs in Poland, which is divided in two districts, Poland North and Poland South. The credit for the pioneer-work of Y's Men in Poland should mainly be given to Past International President Lars Gustaf Winberg, who has done a tremendous job in order to restart our movement there.

For a long time the responsibility of the work in Poland has been that of a 'Poland Committee' under the leadership of a Section Leader for Poland. Until now the Committee has been 'all Swedish', working in collaboration with the two Polish District Governors. This has now changed to give the Polish members greater control over their destiny.

Currently the Section Poland is led by Swedish RD Erik Wargren but the Swedish leadership met in November 2003 and decided on a new organisation for the work in Poland. SLE (Section Leader Elect) is Darek Rogoza from the club in Jedrzejow, Poland. Further the Region leadership has appointed Beata Dabrowska as RSD Youth (Regional Service Director) and Andy Wnuk as RSD Information, both for Poland. The two Polish DGs and RSD Intakt (International Activities) Göte Wallenhammar from Sweden will also participate.

The objective is that Darek Rogoza should take over as SL (Section Leader) of Poland in January or July 2005.

What we now are trying to do is to put more of the responsibility for the future Y's Men development in Poland on the Polish leaders themselves. 'Poles know Polish business best', and are best suited to conduct their own affairs – but Poland will be dependent on (mainly economic) support from Sweden for some years yet – and we hope to be able to continue to give them that support.

I am confident that this will be a leader group that will be able to carry on in the very best way the great work of our former Poland Committees and that increased influence will lead to a positive development of Y's Men International in Poland.



Section Leader Elect Darek Rogoza with his club

Erik Wargren. Regional Director, Sweden

66th Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 12-15, 2004



A Must-attend Convention
at a Must-see Location

KOCHI INDIA 2004

Full Information Pack and Application Forms are available from:



P. Gopinath, General Convenor, Host Committee
Phone: +91 471 272 6196 Email: mangalya@vsnl.com

Host Committee Office, IC 2004,
Golf Links Road, Trivandrum 695 041 India.
Phone: +91 471 243 3335 Fax: +91 471 243 8353
Email: info@ysmenic2004.com Website: www.ysmenic2004.com

