

Y's Men's World



Guidance from the Editor

I have mentioned many times the problem I have getting articles and pictures suitable for publication so in this issue I am using my space to publicise a guide I have written for potential contributors.

How to catch the editor's eye

Good pictures make an article more acceptable. I am always short of usable pictures. *Please try to avoid posed groups of members sitting or standing in rows looking at the camera.* I get too many of those. These are wonderful for Club, District or Regional bulletins but have little interest to those who do not recognise the individuals. An action picture or a close up of one, two or three people doing something works best. *It's even better if there is a Y's Men's logo on display.*

If you send the photos to me as e-mail attachments it is important that you scan them in such a way that the resolution is sufficiently good to be used for publication in our magazine. For the quality necessary for printing it is essential to select a resolution of at least **300 dpi** when you scan the photo. Scan the photo **actual size**, save it **maximum quality** and send it by e-mail attachment in **.jpg** format.

If the photo is taken on a digital camera do not reduce for email - send the original. Please try to use 1600 x 1200 pixels or larger. As a guide, if the electronic file is under 200Kb it is not likely to be sharp enough to appear in *Y's Men's World*.

If you cannot send your photos in the way described above please send them to me by airmail post. I will gladly return them if you need your original photos once I have scanned them.

As the editor I do not write the *Y's Men's World*, that is the task of the membership. My job is to encourage contributors, assist in any way I can, finally select from the available articles and layout the publication. I welcome articles at any time, the earlier before the deadline the better. To give some help I offer the following advice:

The article should aim to be of about 300 words to improve the chance of acceptance. Make the message or news as clear as possible to ensure it is read by members all over the world. Be sure you have a clear idea of how your message or news will help others to benefit from Y'sdom. Will it educate, enlighten, interest and/or entertain the readership? Simple club news or an anniversary is not likely to be of interest on the other side of the world. What have you done that was *special*, how was it *different*, what can others *learn* from your experience? Do not worry too much about 'correct' English spelling or grammar, one of my tasks is to help with this and sub-edit where needed. If you would like to send a draft of anything for my comments I will be pleased to help.



A last tip is to study previous issues of YMW where you will see examples that 'caught my eye'.

Thanks...
East Kauai Y's Men's Club, Hawai'i
for the front cover picture
See the story on page 15

*Yours in Y'sdom
Wally*

Forward Together

Dear Y's Men



I am happy to see, that many Regions have taken my slogan very seriously:

'Let's Show – Let's Grow'

Looking at the applications for charter that come into our Headquarters it looks good and I hope this year we can again

pass the 30.000+. Thanks to all of you who work with extension.

We have had the Mid Year Meeting in Geneva at the end of January. It is always exciting to come to the MYM. One of the reasons is that we get the election results. Who is going to be the next IPE and who will be the new International Council Members? You will see on page 4 who was elected by our members. I welcome IPE 2008/09 Kevin Cummings from Area Canada. He is well known as ISD Leadership Training and Organisation Development. You will also see the newly elected Council members and we wish them best of luck. It is a very important job they have to fulfill. It is my hope that they all will do their outmost to work together in good fellowship with peace in their hearts so our beloved organisation will grow stronger. We can do it – we can go forward – if we do it together!

In the middle of March the little team who worked towards our acceptance as an NGO organisation by UN will meet in Vejle. PIP Ole Hansen, PIP Rachele Reeg, ISG Rolando and I will gather at the Hansen home. We will discuss how best to use this UN acceptance. There has been a lot of talk about mosquito nets to Africa in order to help exterminate the malaria disease caused by the mosquito. We could do a fine job and all clubs in our organisation would be able to support it. Of course the International Council has to accept the proposal from the committee before we can do anything.

The Forward Plan team has been with us now for 3 years. It has been a hard working team and the result has been excellent. It is useable on all levels, but it is also important that the team continuously develop the programme. Use it; see what is useable for you. The last meeting will take place in Singapore at the end of May. The members of the team will be able to review progress and make changes if needed.

THANK YOU! You have given me

'Service Without Borders'

God bless you all.

Lasse Bergstedt, International President 2007-08

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Election Results

595 valid votes were received in time, plus 27 late votes (as of 14 February) and 120 invalid. Based on the membership as at 1 October 2007 of 1,590 clubs the valid participation was therefore 45.0%, but 46.4% of clubs responded to the call to vote.

Kevin Cummings of Canada was elected International President Elect 2008/09 and will take office in July 2008.

New International Council Members to serve from 1 July 2008 are:

Mr Chon Byung-koo (Korea) for Area Asia
Mr Jimmy Liu (Taiwan) for Area Asia
Mr Koo Jung-mo (Korea) for Area Asia
Mr Hideyasu Tanimoto (Japan) for Area Asia
Mr Anto K Antony for Area India
Mr Philip Mathai for Area India



Kevin Cummings

New International Council Members Elect from 1 July 2008 are:

Mr Wayne Jarvis for Area Canada
Mr Phil Sammer for Area USA

Living with your Brother

By Peter Gilbert, ISD, Christian Emphasis

2007 was not a good year for Peace on Earth, with many conflicts causing much heartache to a great many people in many countries who struggle to survive from day to day.

Jesus said the heart of Christianity was "Do unto others as you would have them do to you"

Buddha said his Golden Rule was "Consider others as yourself. Remember that you are like other men"

We continue to treat each other with disrespect, country against country and tribe against tribe. We are all related to each other and we come from the one tribe. We must learn to live in harmony with each other.

In Ephesians Chapter 4 Verses 31-32 we read "Get rid of all bitterness, passion and anger. No more shouting or insults, no more hateful feelings of any sort. Instead, be kind and tender-hearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ".

The great statesman Nelson Mandela is a wonderful example for all to follow. He fought for what was right, spent many years in prison, rose to the highest position in his country then forgave those who had persecuted him. He is a man who stands tall in our troubled world today.

Our international movement consists of many members from many countries, religion and colour, but we are one family, striving to make this a better world for all to enjoy, and to live in harmony with each other.

Community Service Bonus

By John L. Choa, PIP

In *Y's Men's World 2007/08 Issue 1* you will have read of the efforts of Area Asia, under AP Lee Joo-min, to assist after the typhoon Durian hit the Philippines in November 2006. The work of constructing eight units of concrete houses for the poor victims was made possible by the TH500 project.

This Community Service project of Asia Area, through the Philippines Region, generated a lot of goodwill and good publicity for our Y's movement and when I challenged the good people in Legaspi City to organise a Y's Men's Club. They immediately responded positively. I am pleased to inform you that the Philippines Region chartered a new Y's Men's Club, the Mayon Y's Men's Club of Legaspi City, in November 2007.

This is a classic example where a good and effective community service project can serve as a medium for good publicity for our Y's movement. This is why community service projects should always be the number one priority for us. All TOF projects must be able to generate goodwill and good publicity for our Y's movement, and so encourage the community that benefits from the project to organise a Y's Men's Club in their locality.

A Time of Fast Service

By Ichiro Yamakawa, Assistant Editor, Japan

Himeji Global Y's Men's Club, Japan, started a free meal programme in 2002 as a regular programme for February, the month of TOF. At first we planned to cook the meal at the big park where the World Cultural Heritage Himeji Castle is situated but cooking was banned in parks by the municipality. However we cooked it in big pots at the Himeji YMCA and carried them to the park in a van in the evening.

A couple of days before the event we contacted some homeless who were living in the park and informed them about our programme. They distributed this information to other homeless people nearby and about 30 people participated in the first event. They were very pleased to be able to eat the hot Butajiru (Pork and Vegetable Miso) Soup with a lot of fresh vegetables in it. They also enjoyed the taste of friendship after a long time. In addition we started collecting donations such as blankets, underwear or clothes for the homeless.

Himeji YMCA high school is a special school for the students who dropped out from the ordinary school or who don't like ordinary schooling. From 2005 the students from the school started to participate in this programme and experience the joy of voluntary service themselves. This programme was copied by a few other volunteer groups in this city doing the same service. Now every month the homeless people are served with a fresh meal.



85 Years a Club

By Sandy Reynolds, Sydney Y's Men's Club, Canada

Sydney Y's Men's Club, Canada celebrated a special birthday this year. The club was chartered on Jan 10th 1923 and thus made Y's Men International, as the first club chartered outside of the United States of America.

We are the second oldest club in Y'sdom and only Toledo Central, Ohio, USA is older, as they were chartered 22nd December 1922. This is the first time the members can remember the actual date of the charter being on the same night as a meeting.



Pictured left to right: Harry Henderson (54 years as a member), President Peter Long (4 years as a member), Ted Woolgar (50 years as a member), Bucky Buchanan (50 years as a member)

Y'sdom is 85 Years Young

By Tatyana Piskuryova, Kirovsk Vudyavr Y's Men's Club, Russia

At Kirovsk, Russia, we decided to celebrate the 85th birthday of Y'sdom in 2007 with some special events.



Parents Y's Men's Club arranged a meeting with students of Alta Folk School, North Norway. Vudyavr Y's Men's Club invited guests from 5 clubs to share joy and pride on the occasion of the birthday of Y'sdom. Kirovsk YMCA and the Y's Men organised a seminar aiming to attract new members to strengthen existing clubs and to form new ones. Organisers of the seminar did their best to involve local authorities, deputies, journalists and potential members. There was a useful exchange of views and fresh ideas at the seminar. Attendees were interested in the Y's Men's movement and it is hoped that the seminar will stimulate fresh membership. We were delighted that two Y's Men from Arendal Y's Men's Club, Norway - Egil Odd Halvorsen and Leif Walle - were able to participate in our seminar and bring much encouragement.

At a special meeting of Vudyavr YMC we spoke about the history and geography of Y'sdom, the fundamental principles, its main funds and the role the founder Paul William Alexander played in the development of the organisation. At the meeting two people joined as Y's Men members.

During his visit RSD for North of Russia Egil Odd and Club Presidents worked out the forward plan for further development of Barents District, including training as a very important aspect of our movement. It was mentioned that Vudyavr YMC is willing to enrich the Y's Men's library for every club in Region Russia with necessary manuals, pamphlets, booklets, guidelines, etc. It is due to assistance received from Region Norway that it became possible to translate, publish and distribute printed materials among clubs during recent years. Young Y's Men ended the meeting with a great concert for our enjoyment. We agreed to hold further such meetings.

Endowment Fund Promotion

By Phil Sammer, ISD Endowment Fund Promotion

The Endowment Fund is the principal means by which our movement expands in both existing and new Regions. Its goals are:

- To extend and develop clubs affiliated with Y's Men International around the world
- To provide funds to solve special problems or carry out special projects which strengthen, extend and develop Y'sdom in Areas or Regions.

Each year fund trustees make available to the International Council an amount not exceeding 5% of the market value of the fund in the previous year for these projects, so it is vital to keep adding to the capital through annual donations. The most common way of donating is for a club to give a minimum of 100 US\$ as a tribute to, or in memory of, a Y's Man or Woman, a club or any person involved in some way with Y'sdom. There is another popular method of contributing called the Honor Roll. Any individual can contribute 1,000 US\$ and receive a commemorative 'Iceberg' and lapel pin. The donation can be made as part of a will or trust or in instalments that are recorded and tracked by Y's Men International in Geneva. Clubs are also allowed to earn recognition in this fashion and so far we have eleven Honor Roll clubs in Asia, Latin America/Caribbean and the USA.

Our goal for EF contributions for 2007/08 is 85,850 Swiss Francs. I am urging the ASDs for Endowment to increase their efforts to promote the Fund in their regions and I look forward to reporting 100% success for our goal.

A Unique Club

By Pauline Gross, IHQ

In 1989 it was decided the title of 'Paul William Alexander Fellow' (PWAFF) should be bestowed upon any person who donates 100 US\$ (or its equivalent) to the Endowment Fund. These names are listed on special pages in the Golden Book held at International Headquarters, Geneva. Each PWAFF receives a certificate and a pin and to date there are more than 3,300 PWAFFs.

A unique event occurred in India in February 2008. A new club was chartered and the 17 charter members all became PWAFFs. The club took the name 'The Y's Men's Club of Bangalore Central PWAFF' to commemorate the occasion.

Brotherhood Fund Awards

By Kunio Goto, ISD Brotherhood Fund Promotion

The Brotherhood Fund is supported by most clubs either through collecting stamps or with donations of money. There are a number of awards given each year to clubs who make exceptional contributions.

The Ernie Bell Award is named after the International Director of Philately 1941–1964. It is a banner patch given to the ten clubs with the highest number of stamps contributed. This year the top club was the Odin Y's Men's Club of Odense, Denmark with 2,650 US\$ worth of stamps. The Director's Award is given to the Region with the highest total contribution per club and it went to Maritimes Region, Canada with 730 US\$ per club.

An Active Partnership

By *Rachelle Reeg, ISD YMCA Liaison*

The World Alliance of YMCAs gathered 23 young YMCA leaders to participate in a programme for transformational leadership in Thailand during January of 2007. At the request of the World Alliance, our International Executive Officers approved a distribution of 5,000 US\$ from the Alexander Scholarship Fund to support one or two participants.

The World Alliance website <www.ymca.int> describes the significance of the programme: "Leadership development of young people is critical in building the capacity of YMCAs to serve communities. The aim of the programme is to develop and nurture young leaders who will be committed to act as agents of transformation in their communities as well as within the YMCA movement. As part of the programme young people stayed with local families and worked with local projects for a direct experience of life in Thai communities."

One of the major goals of Y's Men International is to support the YMCA at all levels. Clubs raise funds for the Alexander Scholarship Fund to support participants attending local training programmes and scholarships for future YMCA leaders. Ten percent of what they raise becomes the international fund. The YMCA Areas of Africa, Asia, and Latin America/Caribbean annually receive allocations from this fund of around 5,000 Swiss Francs each to subsidise their training seminars.

One goal of the Forward Plan of Y's Men International is to strengthen the relationship between the clubs of Y's Men International and the YMCA at all levels. This global youth leadership programme exemplifies our dedication to youth development and community service, common service areas of both organisations. It also extends the glowing history of an active partnership with the World Alliance

Working for the ASF

By *C A Rajagopala Raja, ISD Alexander Scholarship Fund*

Ninety percent of all money collected for the Alexander Scholarship Fund is retained at the local level (country or Region) and the remaining 10% is passed on to IHQ for allocation at international level. Reporting has not always been accurate and it has been difficult to establish how much is collected each year. Plans for ASF augmentation have been introduced by Y's Men International and I have set out my plan of action in line with this procedure. A standard reporting form and procedure was prescribed to allow final analysis at the International level. I briefed the RDs, ASDs and RSDs about this vision through a circular with copies to the International executive officers and IHQ.



Northwest Y Service Club in action for ASF

I made special efforts to get in direct touch with ASDs, RSDs and club members in US and Asia Areas, especially in Pacific Southwest, Pacific Central Regions of USA and Southeast Asia, Sri Lanka Regions of Asia. I was privileged to be able to visit different parts of Pacific Central and Pacific Southwest Regions along with Buck Cox and Karl Walther, the respective RDs. I witnessed fund raising programmes by Northwest Y Service Club of USA, including gift-wrapping at Cupertino market and a sale of recyclables. They raised 300 US\$ as ASF contribution from the club. As ISD for ASF this gave me much pleasure and encouragement.

Y's Men and YMCA Together

By Julia Shcherbakova, RSD PR, Russia

In summer 2007 in the North of Russia, in a small town called Kirovsk, a modern playground was built for the children from 3 to 11 years old. It had become possible thanks to the local YMCA, YMCA Global and the Y's Men of Norway in cooperation with the local authorities. Altogether the amount of 12,000 US\$ had been collected for this purpose.

Before we could start there was much work to plan and budget for the project. We worked closely with YMCA Global and the Kirovsk administration to ensure all was ready. After the financial matters had been settled, the work on the grounds of the future children's playground was started. The sign of the local YMCA was put up on one of the walls of the play complex.

A joint meeting of the Y's Men's Clubs of Kirovsk decided to establish patronage over the playground. The first activity on the plan was cleaning the terrain of the playground. The soil was levelled, small rocks scattered and benches set up. A special sign prohibiting walking of dogs was hung over the entrance to the playground. The people who had brought their children here on that day saw Y's Men in action. They approached and asked about what Y's Men do and what kind of organisation Y's Men International is.

The new playground became a really good surprise for the town. There had not been anything like that here before. Children from all over community came to play, to climb, crawl over it, and their parents came to have a rest nearby, watching their children have fun. During the New Year and Christmas holidays Y's Men of Russia traditionally have charitable activities. So we did this time, too. There is usually a lot of snow in our area in winter, and we decided to clean the YMCA playground of snow. After that, on the next day we had a Christmas celebration for needy families' children, with a Russian Father Frost and merry games outside that were followed by a tea party with pies and presents.

We plan to support this project in the future and come up with different actions in order to tell about our movement by deeds and to attract new members. This is a good example of how the efforts of two Y organisations can bring a lot of good to the people of the community when working in cooperation with local authorities.



Catch Them Young

By Mathew Sebastian, Assistant Editor, India



November 14 is celebrated all over India as Children's Day. This date marks the birthday of Sri. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India. More than anything, he loved children.

For the past 26 years, Cochin West Y's Men's Club, India Mid West Region has organised a colourful children's rally involving the school children from 30 schools in Cochin. 4,700

children participated in the rally which took more than an hour to cross the entrance of the stadium. After the rally the club members distributed soft drinks and snacks to the children.



The Birth of Renaissance

By Olga Voztchikova RDE Russia

Y's Men of the Urals in Russia celebrated the remarkable date, the 85th anniversary of the foundation of Y's Men International. The official Charter ceremony of the new Y's Youth Club Renaissance was held in Ekaterinburg in November 2007.

The new young Y's Men invited many friends from our city and they had a guest from the other Ural city Perm, where there is a group of young people who are interested in the activities of our movement. The members of Y's Youth Club Renaissance have been participating in our Y's Men's life with great enthusiasm for almost 2 years. They successfully took part in the youth programmes in Poland and organised a Youth Meeting in Ekaterinburg in March 2007. Their group was one of the biggest and most active at the Youth Convention in Lappeenranta, Finland. They told about their activities, shared their thoughts, ideas, future plans and projects in a short presentation.

Old Building – New Use

By Esko Vepsä, Helsinki Katajaiset Y's Men's Club, Finland

There was an old school in Pärnu, Estonia, which had been empty for ten years. The Y's Men's Club Pärnu had the idea to get the historical school living again. A project was planned. Lots of meetings and discussions were held. Y's Men Region Finland-Balticum was involved and a part of repair works agreed as the Regional Project. The participation of the Region was needed to get support from EU funds and this in turn was necessary to find the national economic support.

Six men from Helsinki Katajaiset Y's Men's Club did some practical work for the Regional Project in a weeklong work camp. This was a small part of the large project but a symbolic and needed part. It was intended as the seed giving the start for the growing of a huge tree. Our organiser in Pärnu, Y's Man Kaljo Kaasik, found a nice figurative way to thank our men for the work. One of us got the privilege to leave his hand print on the fresh wall to tell later generations of the hand work needed to give a new life as a Community Centre for this almost 100 years old school.



Growing Strong Together

By Carol Reynolds, International Director, Y's Menettes

"Change is the law of life. And those who look away only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future."
John F. Kennedy

There seems to be some confusion about the existence of Y's Menettes Clubs or at least the chartering of such clubs. There are a lot of clubs in Y'sdom that would be very weak if it were not for their partners, the Y's Menettes. And yes we are partners and, might I say, strong partners. If you check our track record you will see just how strong. We support our local Y's Men's Clubs, we donate thousands of dollars to all Y's Men's programmes and we also donate thousands of dollars to our own Time of Fast projects. In some cases our Y's Menettes Clubs donate more dollars than their own local Y's Men's Club. Time of Fast Committee Chairperson Torbjörn Sjöqvist has stated that in the past twenty-five years the Y's Menettes have donated 289,386 US\$

That is a very impressive amount, don't you think? Over and above all the time and money we give to Y's Men's International we still do an enormous amount of good work in our communities. So yes I say we are valuable partners. Now, seeing all this don't you think that it is wise to be chartered? Being chartered means you belong to this wonderful organisation, and it also allows us as Y's Menettes to participate at the International Council Meeting. It is also for your International Director to be able to travel to these Council meetings and to allow for specific administrative costs, and one dollar per member is all it costs. We are proud of all the hard work that we do and want to shout it out that we belong to such a worldwide organisation.

I sincerely hope all Y's Men leaders who read this will encourage their members to support Y's Menettes. Maybe a session on Y's Menettes at their training meetings would be a good start. I feel that a lot of Y's Men do not know enough about the part we play within Y'sdom. To all of the groups of women who want to be Y's Menettes, PLEASE get chartered. We are stronger in numbers and it is a great feeling to belong to this organisation.

Service with Lugaw

By Lucia Lee Chun, Downtown Y's Menettes Club, Philippines

Soler Volunteer Fire Brigade is one of several such teams who serve Manila, capital city of the Philippines. The president of the brigade is a member of the Manila Downtown Y's Men's Club and when he decided to organise a Medical Mission in the Chinatown district he naturally involved Y'sdom. Manila Downtown Y's Men's Club handled all the administration and a medical room was set up and manned by volunteer doctors and dentists. Good local publicity resulted in 320 people attending for the free check up and free medication.

Manila Downtown Y's Menettes Club has a long tradition of serving the community and undertook the task of feeding the visitors and volunteers. The district is a very poor one and it was decided to provide lugaw, a local dish of rice porridge with meat, for all who attended. The Y's Menettes prepared and paid for the food and served it after the consultation. The food was very popular and it all disappeared so quickly that, despite providing eight thermo buckets of lugaw, there was not enough for some volunteer workers to eat after their time on duty.



From the Mid Year Meeting 08

By Rolando Dalmás, International Secretary General

The Mid-Year Meeting 08 (MYM) was held in Geneva at the end of January. The International Executive Officers Meeting and the Area President Elect Training took place prior to MYM. From these three events I want to highlight the following:

The IEOs scrutinised the results of the International Election for International President Elect. PAP and ISD LTOD Kevin Cummings from Canada was elected IPE 2008/09. Voting participation was 45% of the total number of Clubs. This percentage of participation is similar to previous years but it would be better if all clubs were aware of the importance of their participation in International Elections. In this way we would have more active voting participation.

The International Secretary General presented to the IEOs a primary plan outlining the process to select a new ISG during 2010 (the termination of the contract of the present ISG is December 2010). This process is in two stages: 1) An "ISG Replacement Committee" was appointed to work from February 08 until ICM 09. This committee will discuss and make recommendations about the structure of IHQ for the future, its future role, staff needed, profile of the new ISG and other related matters; 2) From ICM 09 until ICM 10 it will be the responsibility of the Personnel Committee to announce the upcoming vacancy of the ISG position, receive the applications, interview the short listed candidates and make the final recommendation to ICM 10.



MYM participants received reports from the ISDs responsible for the programme areas of the Forward Plan. Discussion took place on the importance of the plan in guiding the clubs in the implementation of activities to strengthen and develop our Movement. The Forward Plan was considered as one of the most important tools for the International President to give direction to the Movement and to follow up on her/his emphasis. The Forward Plan Team (IP, IPE, ISG and the six ISDs responsible for

the six programme areas of the plan) will have a workshop next May to evaluate the first 3-year term of the plan and work on the second 3-year term.

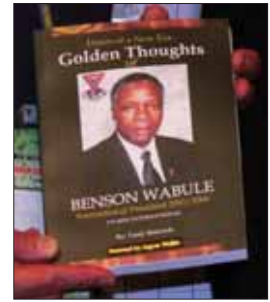
The Area President of Canada reported on the progress of the discussions with Region Caribbean for their possible incorporation into Area Canada. A 'letter of intention' for this purpose was signed by Canada Area and Caribbean Region during the Caribbean Regional Convention last November. The incorporation will be discussed and submitted for approval during ICM 08.

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, the Area President Elect Training took place prior to MYM. This one-day training is proving to be valuable for the AP/Es to be better informed and equipped for a more fruitful participation and discussion during MYM. This training also helps in having the meeting in a very friendly atmosphere, which should be the Y'sdom spirit in all gatherings at all levels of our Movement.

The Youth Fund

By James Olle, Past Youth Intern (2006-07)

In recent years considerable attention has been given to the establishment of a 'Youth Fund'. Having advocated the need for financial reserves to develop youth involvement in Y'sdom for more than 20 years, PIP Benson Wabule ensured the realisation of the fund after donating all proceeds from his book *Dawn of a New Era - Golden Thoughts of Benson Wabule* sold during the 2006 Busan Convention.



During the same Convention the youth delegates organised and ran a market stall called the 'Youth Bazaar'. Small cultural items were brought to Korea by the participants from all around the world and sold. With the funds raised from the bazaar, together with the book sales proceeds, more than 540 US\$ was banked. PIP Benson's dedication to the involvement of Youth in Y'sdom is unmistakable. In consultation with the book's author, Tunji Makinde, PIP Benson has further increased his support and has agreed to donate 20% of all book sales to the fund. As the book is retailing at 10 US\$ this means that 2 US\$ will go to the Youth Fund each time a book is sold.

The sentiment is a strong commitment to the development of Youth activities and projects and I am honoured to be able to announce this additional funding. I encourage you all to buy a copy of the book for your home libraries - at the same time you will be supporting Youth Involvement in Y'sdom. *Golden Thoughts* is a book containing messages, letters and thoughts of PIP Benson Wabule. There are also many inspiring letters written by Y's Youth and ASD Tunji devoted a whole chapter in the book to the youth. For details of how to get a copy contact: Tunji Makinde

<tunjimakinde@yahoo.com>

Dancing to Success

By Daniela Pires, Area Youth Representative, Area LAC

A group was funded in 1999 as part of a cultural extension project of Comunitary Centre Leide das Neves from YMCA São Paulo, Brazil. Children, teenagers, old people and families from the local community take part. The Maracatu is a typical dance from northeast Brazil that brings about Afro-Brazilian culture by popular presentations.



The name Ilê Alafia means 'Happiness House'. It is at Jabaquara, a suburb south of São Paulo that the group gathers twice a month. The swinging and exciting rhythms attract the attention of people on the street who come to watch the presentations. Through this project the youngsters are rescuing Brazilian culture and also improving their ability to launch themselves on the market. Five of the seventy-four members have obtained jobs in cultural centres in São Paulo, where they pass on their knowledge to others.



Within seven years, they have recorded a CD with nine tracks composed by themselves. Their next production is to be a documentary about the group. Actually they are close to making their dream come true! Their community project is now on the list of TOF Approved Projects for 2007/08. Named 'Light, Camera, Youth in Action' the main purpose is development of regional productions such as the documentary about Maracatu Ilê Alafia.

The Holiday Store

By Julie Nowell, Fullerton Saturday Y's Men's Club, USA

December is always a busy time for the Fullerton Saturday Y's Men's Club of California, USA, and this year was no exception even though we were celebrating our 50th Birthday. As well as manning the Christmas Tree lot our club also provides an opportunity for a local school to purchase gifts for their family members at the Holiday Store. For this the club gathers over 3,000 gift items throughout the year with donations from YMCA Board members and club members. All of these gift items are available to the students at a cost of one dollar or less per item. Of the 500 students from kindergarten through to second grade students there are about 75 scholarships - students who receive a coupon for two items. These are students who don't even have 50 cents to purchase a gift. As one of our members said: "I think these kids are in awe when they see all that there is for them to choose". Our club members wrap each gift, the students apply tags then they have a visit with Santa (also a club member). The money raised is then given to the school to purchase much needed equipment. We were delighted and gratified to receive this letter of thanks:

Members of the Saturday AM Y's Men's Club,

The Holiday Store was a hit once again this year! The kids loved selecting just the perfect item for the special people on their Christmas lists. Thank you for all of your hard work, not only last week, but throughout the year collecting and organizing such terrific treats for the kids to purchase.

We surely appreciate the generous donation of the proceeds of the store. The \$544 will certainly go a long way as we purchase new titles for our book room. Thank you Santa, and the members of your group. You certainly make a difference in the lives of many!
Teresa (Arbolita School Principal)



Rice Distribution by Cochin Club

By Mathew Sebastian, Assistant Editor, India

Onam is the festival of the state of Kerala and is celebrated in all parts of the world where there are Keralites. It brings back to mind the good old time, when Emperor Mahabali ruled the country. Then there was only prosperity and happiness and no place for vices of any sort. Now people dress in new clothes and decorate the floor with flower carpets to receive the good old Emperor who is believed to visit his land every year during this time.



For the past 28 years the members of Cochin Y's Men's Club, Mid West India Region, have thought of their less fortunate brethren during this festive time. They distribute 5 kg of rice to all such people who assemble before the club. Started in 1980 as a small project with 2 bags of rice, the magnitude of the project has grown to gigantic proportions today. This year 4,500 families in Cochin carried in their minds the service image of Y'sdom, when they took home 5 kg packets of rice gifted by the Cochin club to celebrate Onam. The picture shows the Mayor of Cochin, Mrs. Mercy Williams, inaugurating the rice distribution project in the presence of our AP George C P Tharakan, RD Aurelian Figureido and DG C J Johnson.

Holy Night and Hula Dance

By Yumiko Ishida, Takaraduka Y's Men's Club, West Japan Region



In December 2007 Takaraduka Y's Men's Club, West Japan Region, held a Christmas Carol Concert for Citizens in collaboration with the Takaraduka YMCA. The choir, consisting of voluntary members of churches in the community, was joined by a hand bell group and string ensemble for the performance. This is the third year of the programme, and it has widely become known to the people in the city.

In the first section of the programme, the Christmas Story in reading and music performance was presented. In the second half the audiences joined the choir for Christmas Carols and a Hula Dance team, led by the President of the Takaraduka Y's Men's Club Yumiko Ishida, was featured. At the back of the stage, all the Y's Men and Y's Menettes of this club took care of the performers and audiences for the success of this project.

140,000 Yen (about 1,300 US\$) was gathered in response to an appeal for the Unified Global Project 'Stop HIV/AIDS' campaign, and this was donated to Kobe YMCA International Volunteer Project for AIDS.

Youth Run

By Beverley Olsen, East Kauai Y's Men Group, Hawai'i

In partnership with the YMCA of Kauai, the East Kauai Y's Men's Club celebrated the 25th anniversary of their Annual Youth Run. Open to children from stroller age to teens, it is the longest running event of its kind on the island.

Runners received tee shirts and ribbons for first, second and third place in their age group and after the race refreshments were served. Contributing to the festivities a draw was held to give away 10 bicycles and 20 tickets to ride the Plantation Railway, an authentic narrow gauge railway touring almost 100 acres of Kauai agriculture.



For Y's Men members the race had a deeper meaning. Saddened by the passing of George Schulze, a long time Y's Man of 28 years, on December 31, club members dedicated the race in his memory. For twenty-five years, on the day of the race, George would arrive earlier than most to mark the race route with cones and you could always find him on the one -mile marker to turn around the youngest runners. He will be deeply missed.

My Year Ahead by the International President Elect



Dear Y's Friends

I am extremely happy to address you through these columns to convey my thoughts, aspirations etc for the year ahead. I am aware that God has given us great potential and a will to share when you chose to accept the motto 'To Acknowledge the Duty that Accompanies every Right'. My role is to challenge you to focus your potential to emphasise certain special areas.

I have chosen the theme '*Be the Light of Hope*'. If you look at it intently you can visualize in-depth meaning not only in our association in Y'sdom but also in our all walks of life, whether it is family, society, community, national or international. We all know that our resources are limited and hence cannot meet all demands. In those situations our response to the movement, family, society etc shall be relief to the demands.

I have a slogan, '*Share with a Smile*' and you will be thrilled on seeing the effect when practiced. It was Mother Teresa who said 'Peace is initiated on sharing with a smile'. A sincere smile is a good weapon for you to win over others in life and important to mention its influence in a service organisation like ours.

Our main focus for next year will be Extension ! Extension !! Extension !!! It took over 75 years for us to share our motto among 30,000 people. During these years we also saw the loss of very valuable members but can we be content with the above growth of our movement? I would request you to think about your club. Can each one of us bring one new member? When we enjoy the fellowship and pleasure of rendering service, what in return can we give to the organisation for the future generation other than making it stronger by enrolling more members? More members mean more manpower and contributions for service and opportunity for fellowship. It will be a challenge for you to look around and also to places where this motto has not reached so far, including new countries.

Membership attrition is a phenomenon in all service organisations. When it exceeds the normal limit it causes concern and needs special attention. It is my wish to address both development and membership attrition, more focused, through special attention financially and leadership wise.

I have participated in RDE training programmes in all Areas except Latin America/Caribbean and Africa. The enthusiasm and creativity of the RDEs is marvellous. It was good that I could put across my ideas and thoughts to the RDEs to tune them into our next year's activities. The feedback from these programmes was very encouraging and stimulating at this stage of planning. Can we target for 35,000 membership by June 2009? All our other avenues of activities will continue to be important next year also.

I ask that we concentrate on the IP's theme and focus on the special thrust programme and Unified Global Project, pooling our resources to make them more visible in our society.

I look forward to serving you and Y'sdom in the year ahead.

V S Bashir, IPE