

Y's Men's World



Communication - The Oil in our Movement



Y's Men's World is the only means we have to reach all our members and in this issue you will find instances where communicating directly with the membership is very valuable.

The Roll Back Malaria project has caught the imagination of many clubs and it is hoped that the stories here will encourage all to participate in this UN sponsored project. Will you?

In the last issue an important new programme, YES, was launched. It is for the expansion of Y'sdom and will be a valuable source of funds if it

receives the support it deserves. On the back page is a competition to design a YES logo and YES awards. Do you have an inspiring idea?

We have a good IHQ website but it is now several years old and styles change very rapidly in the electronic world. The Danish Church Media Center has given us the opportunity to have a new look website. However the site design is only part of the work of changing the image of Y'sdom on the web. We need someone to take control of the content and regular updating of the site. *Yours in Y'sdom
Wally*
Are you this person?

Roll Back Malaria Project News

By Ole Hansen, on behalf of the UN Committee

Roll Back Malaria is the first Y's Men International project in partnership with the United Nations and it looks as though the project is receiving great attention in our movement, which the UN Committee appreciates very much. Many clubs have developed local projects that are continuing through the entire campaign, which ends on March 31st 2009.

One sample project involved forming a partnership with a local high school. The Carondelet Y Service Club in St. Louis (US Area) invited high school students from their local school district to join in the project. The students decided to bake and sell 1000 bags of chocolate chip cookies at 2.00 US\$ each to their fellow students, setting a goal of 2000 US\$. They decided to package them in a net wrapping to match the idea of the mosquito nets. They also stitched small black threads within the netting, imitating mosquitoes.

To publicise the campaign, the students performed an original humorous play encouraging the audience to use some of their personal money for this worthy project during an all school auditorium session. They presented the international

PowerPoint programme for complete information and involved members of the Carondelet Club in the promotion. Within four weeks they had reached their goal. The club will invite student representatives to receive appreciation and a plaque to be placed in their display case for school achievements at a future club meeting.



We do not hear of all events initiated by clubs to support the project but examples we have heard about include: Y's Men's Club Harderne is selling mosquito swatters. Kingswood Y's Men's Club sold Christmas cards and is holding a Big Band concert. We also are aware that Ottawa YMC – Owen Sound YMC – Seal Beach Leisure World YMC – Y Service Club of Bendigo – Silver State Y Service Club - YMC Vejle Vadedstedet – Montevideo Y's Menettes Club – Sandefjord YMC – Thika YMC and Nairobi YMC have all developed projects for collecting money for the RBM Project.

Thank you. The UN Committee appreciates the effort done by the mentioned clubs and all those we have no knowledge about - we know that many clubs are involved in projects around the world.

International President Speaks



We started our first semester with great hopes and vibrant activities. Effective steps were initiated at the International level to address the ever-challenging issues of decreasing membership in some Areas. We are in the jubilation on reversing trends due to corrective measures giving happiness and great expectations. I am excited to see the dream of 35,000 members through **Extension! Extension!! Extension!!!** the main talk among global Y's Men and their active desire to meet this target. Unlike in the past, this positive awareness throughout Y'sdom has started yielding results. I am happy to note that my visits in the Areas and follow up actions also have catalysed this. The terrorist attacks in many countries and collapse of the world economy are some of the forces playing against our march. However, we are confident of overcoming these effects.

More than before, the demands of the Areas for change have effects to reorient the minds of members for survival and competitiveness for

marketing our motto. The drafting of **Vision 2020** and 35,000 members are examples of our commitments to work on the organisation. I am glad to inform that the MYM-09 at St. Louis USA has reaffirmed to go with the above in the coming years.

It gives us inspiration to see that IP's theme 'Be the Light of Hope' is received well by Y'sdom. We can be proud to market this theme through our activities at any occasions as it radiates hope for the future.

We cannot ignore the drifting of expectations of the present population compared to the past due to change in technology, social structure and new definition of time and employment etc. It has become a difficult task to arouse interest and keep youngsters attracted in Y'sdom amidst this new definition of spare time and service. This is where the Y's Men who keep the movement in their hearts play their role to strengthen it.

I am placing my hopes in you.
IP Bashir

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**Deadline for the Editor to receive material
for the next full issue is
August 23rd 2009**

**Thanks to Thoppumpady YMC, MWIR,
India Area for the front-page picture and
inspiring story on page 14.**

Election Results

765 valid votes were received in time, plus 22 late votes (as of 19 January) and 68 invalid. Based on the membership as at 31st December 2008 of 1,552 clubs the valid participation was therefore 50%, but 56% of clubs responded to the call to vote.



Hirotooshi Fujii

Hirotooshi Fujii of Japan was elected International President Elect 2009/10 and T M Mathew of India was elected International Treasurer Elect 2009/10. Both will take office in July 2009.

New International Council Members to serve from 1 July 2009 are:

Mr Kim Han-kyung (Korea) for Area Asia
Mr Kazuhiko Takata (Japan) for Area Asia
Mr Wichian Boonmapajorn (Thailand) for Area Asia

Mrs Marit Torp (Norway) for Area Europe
Mrs Elfie Musil (Germany) for Area Europe
Mr Isaac Palathinkal for Area India
Mr Martin Dand for Canada/Caribbean

New International Council Members Elect and Area Presidents Elect from 1 July 2009 are:
Mr Olufemi Oduntan for Area Africa
Mr Hector Ortigas Salinas for Area Latin America
Mr John Pontefract for Area South Pacific

Did You Know?

There is a **BOOSTER PLAN** which awards members who recruit three or more new members during 2008/09

Your Region must provide the evidence to ISD Membership Conservation, contact your Regional Director for details.

Applications must be in by May 15th.

Y Service Club of Tonga

By Colin Lambie, South Pacific Area President

The South Pacific Area is about to Charter another new club in another new country, Tonga. The club is to be called the Y Service Club of Tonga. The first project is to provide second hand computers to a school in Tonga. The computers have been donated by organisations in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia and shipping has been organised by the Y Service Club of Bendigo.



The new club consists of people from small and large business. There is no YMCA in Tonga, but there are many community projects that will keep this club busy for many years. One project some of the members have worked on already is to build a wall to stop sea storms flooding cropland. Tonga is one of many countries that will suffer from minor increases in sea levels resulting from Climate Change.

Tonga has a population of 100,000, which is the same as the city of Bendigo in Australia. Tonga is about 4 hours flying time east of Sydney, Australia. Although the South Pacific Area is small in numbers of members, it is very large in geographical size. The South Pacific Area has been able to use Special Development Support (SDS) to fund visits to Tonga to start this new club. The South Pacific Area wish to express appreciation for the support of Y's Men around the world in helping financially through SDS funds.

Sweet Welcome of Japan

By Tatiana Smagina, Y's Men's Club Ekaterinburg-1, Russia

To visit Japan was for me, a person from Russia – a country of severe winters and short summers – a great dream. I had actually a very obscure idea of what Japan in general and Japanese culture and people in particular are. It seemed to me a very far away country and totally different in terms of mentality. I studied cross-cultural communication at the University and a visit to Japan was the greatest opportunity to experience it for real. And certainly, I was interested in what the Y's Men's Movement in Japan is in comparison to that in Russia.



Japanese hospitality turned out to be beyond all my expectations. These great people tried and really did their best to make my stay the most pleasant and essential in terms of communication with other Y's Men and sightseeing. Everyone I met was very friendly and always shared a smile with me. The main thing that made my visit more than just a tourist visit was home-stay by Mr. and Mrs. Itoh-san who gave me an insight into Japanese regular life in a typical Japanese house. I had an opportunity to communicate with genuine Japanese people and ask questions about their culture and traditions. I would never have learned so many new things being just on tour, the best is when you learn something at first hand, and they gave that to me. It makes you feel like a Japanese when you sit at a table on your knees and eat with Japanese sticks (they

call them Hashi). Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Maruo-san for taking me to the world heritage site Himeji Castle and taking care of me during my whole stay.



My greatest adventure was to be dressed in a true Japanese kimono. One of the Y's Men, Yuichi Hiragane, a famous artist and designer in Japan, granted this opportunity to me. It was so unexpected and so fabulous that I could hardly believe I was not a character of a fairytale. This extremely beautiful kimono was designed by Hiragane-san himself. It was a great honour to me.



I am deeply grateful to all the Japanese Y's Men I have got to know for giving me this opportunity. My horizon has broadened and it was the first time that I fully appreciated the global brotherhood of Y's Men. I will always keep the memory of those warm-hearted, sincere, considerate, dignified and noble-minded people. I was truly honoured to be invited and welcomed by the members of Osaka Kawachi and Senboku Y's Men's Clubs.

Art Serves a Purpose

By Helen Sharrock, Kangaroo Flat Y Service Club, Australia

The Y Service Club of Kangaroo Flat, Australia, started holding an Art Show three years ago and have gone from strength to strength since. This year over 40 artists presented their paintings for exhibition and sale. Over the weekend we were visited by art enthusiasts from far and wide.



A cocktail party set the scene for the Official Opening and Award Presentation on the Friday evening. We were delighted that Bendigo City's Mayor, David Jones officially opened the evening before the judge, Darren Crowthers, announced the

exhibition winners. We were lucky to have a wonderful raffle prize of a holiday for two to the Gold Coast donated by Travelaction and this greatly increased the profit from the weekend.

The hard work involved in staging the exhibition resulted in a grand total of \$2,500 being raised and in line with the club's main motto, 'Supporting Youth, the YMCA and the Community', the funds will provide citizenship awards for primary schools of Bendigo, and sponsor the YMCA UNO-Y programme for Youth Leadership.



The Exhibition Committee worked many hours to arrange the event but acknowledge that without the support of many artists, sponsors and club members this 3rd annual exhibition would not have been able to put Y'sdom in the public eye.

Where is our History?

By PIP Harold Westerberg, USA

Y'sdom was started in the USA and it is there that the earliest records were maintained by the International Secretaries until the IHQ moved to Geneva in 1972. Some records were moved there but the majority remained in the US in the care of the YMCA of the USA office.

When PIP Jim Mueller learned that the YMCA of the USA had made arrangements to store their, and the YMI, collection in University of Minnesota facilities, he obtained permission for him and his wife to visit Chicago and to search through the files.

When the University of Minnesota erected the state-of-the-art Andersen Library in Minneapolis, two huge caverns were carved out of rock, creating a large storage area for records. The Library has storage space below ground level and a three-story office building above ground level. In 1999 The Kautz Family YMCA collection moved into the building and is one of eight collections of rare and unique research materials in the Library. The YMCA occupies over 3,000 cubic feet of material in the archives – Y'sdom occupies over 87 cubic feet of the YMCA's space.

The History/Advisory Task Force provides ongoing liaison with the Kautz Family YMCA Archives in the Andersen Library on the campus of the University of Minnesota. The devotion and interest of the Task Force has been remarkable. Our assignment has been to delve through all of the YMI collection to remove duplication; to remove metal staples from the collection to eliminate any rusting on the records; to reorganise the material in the collection to conform with archival standards – oldest material first; and to develop a Finding Aid, listing and describing all of the material in the collection. The Finding Aid is on the University of Minnesota's web site and can be located at <<http://special.lib.umn.edu/ymca>>.

2008 International Youth Convocation

By James Olle, International Youth Representative 2008/10

In August last year, the International Youth Convocation returned home. Twenty-two years since the inaugural IYC in Århus, Denmark, eighty-two delegates representing nineteen countries arrived at the Agroskole in Hammerum under the banner of 'Gathering for a Sustainable Future'.

During the weekend before the IYC, the Youth members of the International Youth Committee were able to meet together, face to face, for the sole purpose of discussing the current Youth agenda, clarifying the representative roles and finalising the Convocation programme. The Committee members were hosted by the Y's Men's Club of Trehøje and we will be forever grateful for their hospitality and assistance. Holding such a meeting had long been suggested but was only realised thanks in most part to the dedication of Past Youth Intern Aeree Baik, ISG Rolando Dalmás and IYC Host Committee Chairperson Ivar Dalsgaard.



The main programme item of this IYC was a series of project development sessions based on the Build a Culture of Peace flagship. They were

aimed at guiding participants through an entire development process, including goal setting, advocacy, campaigning, and fundraising. Delegates were offered five different topics from which they could choose.

Moreover, leadership development continues to be a priority at the youth level. IPE Kevin Cummings facilitated a workshop, which highlighted the importance of being open to change and being prepared to take risks. An interesting discussion on the definition of what makes good leaders and communicators followed and this gave rise to comprehensive lists of the qualities we believe are required of our leaders. The opportunity to interact with an International Officer with the skills and experience of Kevin was not lost on the delegates!



This year we presented fourteen suggested motions to the International Council during the IYC special session. These

motions are outlined in the 2008 Youth Report, available for download in the 'Youth Involvement' section of the IHQ web site. <www.ysmen.org>

A motion was passed during the International Council Meeting as follows:

*Motion 22 – Alan Wallington/Fred Leonard
That ISG inform the International Youth Committee of ICM's gratitude for the work in preparing the 14 motions presented. That ICM endorse the direction of the motions and endeavour to implement as many as possible and practicable.*

The 2008 IYC delegates enjoyed many diverse experiences during our meeting. Our challenge remains to ensure that we continue the good work now that we have long arrived home. As planning for the next meeting in Yokohama goes ahead, we must continue to think outside the box, continue to take risks and to keep in touch.



This is the article promised in issue 1 - Editor



Y's Menettes Progress

By Carol Reynolds, ID Y's Menettes

We have some very exciting news – we ended the year 2008 with the chartering of a new club, our first in Russia. The name of the club is Uralochky Y's Menettes and the contact person is Natalya Fitina. It would be great if Y's Menettes clubs could send on greetings of welcome. Contact me for her email address. This certainly shows that we are growing stronger.

Shirley Unmack has agreed to take over as the International Project Coordinator and she is going to go through everything and come up with an action plan for us. Our Sister Club Coordinator, Nancy Langille, has been working with clubs on this great programme. It is a wonderful way to share club ideas and learn of different cultures; please get involved.

One of the key issues for me over the last year and a half as your International Director was to get all Y's Menettes Clubs chartered. We are still trying to get all clubs chartered in India. This is an ongoing task and last year we were quite successful with the help of Mary Kuruvilla as we chartered 24 new clubs. It is with the dedication of Y's Menettes such as Mary that this will be accomplished.

We are trying to raise our level of recognition with our partners, the Y's Men. This too I have seen come a long way, and although we are being more appreciated for our efforts, we still need work done on this with all Y's Men. On your behalf, I attended the International Council meeting in Denmark this past July and again was amazed at all the work it takes to keep this wonderful movement going. I had asked that a database of all Y's Menettes Clubs be set up at International Headquarters and this was readily agreed to. This will allow us to have a permanent base from which to go forward each year.

Now that we are into a new year, it is my hope that we are all energised and ready to give our best to keep our organisation going in a forward motion. We belong to such a wonderful organisation with truly amazing members; keep up the great work.

Mission Ministry of the Philippines

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

There are areas near Manila where many poor people live on what are called dump-sites. Montalban is a huge new dumpsite, an extension of Payatas, the old dumpsite. We can say people living there are the poorest of the poor.



MMP is run by Pastors and Pastoras giving support to those living there. They run Sunday Services and weekly Bible lessons both for the children and their parents. There are not enough tables and chairs as the attendance is increasing. Pastors and Pastoras are making use of the Sunday service area during



weekdays for all the preschoolers to play and sing, at the same time tell Bible stories. To assist in this important work the Manila Downtown Y's Menettes have donated 100 children's monobloc chairs and 25 children's tables for their use.

YMCA/Y's Men Relationships

By Rachelle R. Reeg, ISD Liaison with World YMCA

Clubs of Y's Men International find meaningful direction from their partner – the YMCA. With our projects we work along with the World Alliance of YMCAs to create a culture of peace in places where violence affects so many each and every day. Our clubs also find great satisfaction from supporting their partner – the YMCA. This benefit is present as well where clubs may not have a YMCA in their communities.

A message from Martin Meissner, President of the World Alliance of YMCAs, and Susan Brennan, President of the World YWCA, introduced the joint 2008 Week of Prayer and World Fellowship booklet with this reference to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in 1948. *"Everyone is entitled to all rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."*

Our members of Y's Men International are called to service, reaching out with local projects touching the needs of others where we live. Joined together with other clubs in Time of Fast education and health related projects, we connect with persons whom we may never know. Our service expands as we direct our attention to one specific health issue with many outside of Y's Men International, under the umbrella of the United Nations, in our Roll Back Malaria partnership.

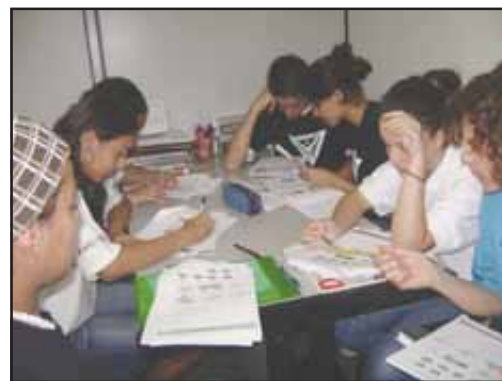
Our strength also comes from our source, those first volunteers in the Toledo YMCA in 1922. These roots continue to support our efforts as we stress the values found in them. Our aims are to promote human dignity of others and to address the harmful effects of discrimination and poverty. Within our work we fulfil the goal to guarantee human rights to all.

Be the Light of Hope

Language Opens the Horizon

By Nathalia Novak Vilela, Y's Men Director of Community Services - Brazil

Recently in Brazil I have done a project in Guarulhos, São Paulo, called 'English for All', to give English classes to children who do not have money to pay a common course. These children are from the YMCA. It is a small project, but with great goals. We want to teach children and teenagers today so that tomorrow they can take part in a labour market better, solving its difficulties.



Our country still lacks much help in this direction and only a small part of our population speaks English. As everyone knows, the English language is required in most parts of the world. Because of this, it is important that such projects could become reality, not only in mine, but also in other countries. I believe this kind of work can improve this situation.

I have done this work with great love and it is very gratifying to look in my students' eyes and see the joy of learning a new language. We have bigger goals. At the moment we have only 8 children, but as soon as we have a bigger room, we can create more classes. Today there is only English, but we also want to teach other languages.

Christmas Lights

By Russell Jones, ISD Christian Emphasis

Christians around the world celebrate Christmas. It is a season when they focus on the birth of Jesus. It is recorded that Jesus was born in the humblest of circumstances in a stable. But his arrival was heralded by light – the heavenly light which woke sleeping shepherds who went and saw the baby. Then there was the light of the star that led the wise men from the east to the baby.

Jesus, when he grew into a man, brought light into the world with his radical teachings, such as Love your enemies, Go the extra mile, Turn the other cheek and Love your neighbour as yourself.

These teachings give hope to the world but only as people put them into practice. What a wonderful vehicle Y'sdom is to see that done. One way Y's members are bringing hope is the *Roll Back Malaria* partnership as it protects people from the sting of the malaria-infected mosquito and from its consequences. This major focus is but one of thousands of other stars delivering hope to others. In these ways our clubs serve those in need.

From the humblest of births Jesus brought light to a dark world. In the light of our many humble projects and programs we roll back the darkness in people's lives and bring hope. IPVS Bashir sums it up in his 2008-09 theme, 'Be the Light of Hope'.

A Good Beginning Is Half the Battle

By Tatyana Karpova, YMC Ekaterinburg 2, Russia

Last summer we organised a campaign of useful and pleasant activities by our club. In August a group of our members with children and some young people from Y's Youth club Renaissance cleaned the territory of our supported Child Care. We collected a lot of rubbish into several big plastic bags. We enjoyed working in fresh air side-by-side and enjoyed chatting at the same time.



After cleaning some members visited the orphanage in the village Chernousovo we regularly support with many presents for the new school year. They gave children hundreds of copybooks, notebooks, pens and other school items. Also they wanted

orphans to get some pleasure and feel the start of school year as a holiday so they brought colourful balloons and soap bubbles, which were loved by the children. The administration of the orphanage invited our club to join their celebration of the 55th Anniversary of school in October.

We have to plan our next meeting with our friends in Chernousovo and prepare some surprises for children, supervisors and teachers. We'll try to involve some sponsors and our volunteers to help us organise an unforgettable holiday for them.

Y's Youth Prayer

By Jacob Thomas, Bulletin Editor SWIR, India Area

India has always involved youth as much as possible in Y'sdom and with the support of the India Area Council I got the good fortune of crafting this thoughtful prayer for the Y's Youth and hope others may wish to use it.

Y's Youth Prayer

*Lord our God, we thank thee for what we are today
We thank thee for our parents, elders and all whom
we hold dear*

*Guide us through the right path and hold us under
your wings*

Mould us to be merciful and empathetic

*We pray for Y's Men International and pledge to
uphold its motto*

Strengthen us to be proactive to inherit the future.

AMEN

The Magic of Stamps

By PIP Dave Morris, Canada

Saving stamps for the Brotherhood Fund is getting more difficult with the growth of email and franking machines. However fewer stamps also can result in them becoming a little more valuable, so keep saving.

Another cause of increased value of stamps is finding an 'error stamp'. An example of this came to light in a batch of stamps from Saint John Club, Canada. The Canadian postal service issued some commemorative stamps for 'Anne of Green Gables', a best selling book by Canadian author Lucy Maud Montgomery published in 1908. A normal stamp has a white border on all four sides but three stamps in the package had what is called a 'shift'. This resulted in three stamps with no border on the left side.



The stamps were offered to a dealer who offered \$25 Canadian for each. \$75 is not a bad return for stamps costing \$1.56.

WANTED!

International Webmaster

Y's Men International is looking for a new International Webmaster.

The Danish Church Media Center is developing a new website for our movement and the new Webmaster will be responsible for updating material. Training and support for the maintenance of the site will be provided.

If you have experience in maintaining a web page and are up to the challenge please send us your résumé today. This is strictly a volunteer position. Contact ihq@ysmen.org

My Life in Another Country

By Aki Katayama as told to David Hall, RDE
Central Canada

My parents are members of Kyoto Century Y's Men's Club, Japan, and through them and the STEP (Short Term Exchange Programme) I was privileged to be able to spend three weeks with Y's Men families of the Ottawa, Kingston, Owen Sound, Cambridge and North York Y's Men's Clubs in Central Canada Region. I would like to tell you some of the lessons I learnt.

People are very different and very friendly. People shake hands and hug each other. Japanese people don't hug but I love to hug. In Japan people don't talk to strangers but my host families all talked to strangers, in the pet shop, at the beach, in the supermarket, everywhere. I was very surprised at this. Everything is very big, the cars, buildings, lakes, parks, and the food. There is so much nature with lakes and parks; every house has a garden and grass and people eat outside.

I enjoyed meeting so many people, staying with different families and sharing meals. Every experience was very interesting and everything was my first time. I went to church for the first time and enjoyed it, singing songs, listening to stories, meeting and talking to people. (Note: Aki's family are Buddhists)

To my host families, thank you very, very, much. My English is not good but my host families were very kind to me. I really appreciate it. I will come back to Canada. This is my first trip with home stays so I was very nervous at first. I will never forget this experience and I will talk about it to my own club members in Kyoto and I would encourage any young person in Y'sdom to try to get a STEP Experience.

For more information on the STEP programme visit the international web site www.ysmen.org and download the STEP Manual. If you have any young people in your club or YMCA who would like to travel through the STEP programme, please contact your Regional Service Director STEP or your Regional Director.

Activities of Y's Men in Macau

By Rita Hettiarachchi, Asia Area President

I was delighted to be able to visit the YMCA and Y's Men's Club of Macau, People's Republic of China, since I felt that they were isolated. We hardly heard of their activities and when I visited this club, which had been chartered in 2005, I found them as hard working as any other club. I was very happy to observe their enthusiasm and you can imagine how happy they were to have me amongst them. They work hand in hand with the Macau YMCA, again demonstrating the importance of the partnership between a YMCA and a Y's Men's club.

One of their major ongoing joint projects is a Photography Course organising the youth, through a series of activities, to increase their writing and compiling skills. Macau Y's Men have been supporting the photography course tremendously. Every month they invite the youth participants to join their club meeting so that they may recognize the motto and the purpose of Y's Men, and that they may have more understanding of the needs that the Y's Men are reaching out to.

At the meeting I attended, a brilliant young speaker delivered a stunning speech on the grievous sufferings in the aftermath of the earthquake in China. He gave a striking presentation, which moved Macau Y's Men to set up another service project.



Every year, before Christmas, Macau Y's Men visit the paediatric wards in the Macau General Hospital. They greet them with

carols to bless them, prepare gifts for them, and talk to their parents to warm their hearts. In the month of December, I was privileged to join them in this project too. Before we entered the wards, we were instructed with the usual procedure – washing of hands and wearing masks to prevent transfer of germs.

Boxes for the Troops Project

By Henry G. Meier, Indianapolis Y's Men and Women's Club, USA

This project began as a personal effort by Peggy Meier with the help of her husband, Henry. The stimuli for the project came in 2004. The Meier's son Tom had led the training of a contingent of soldiers preparatory to their going to Iraq. In the beginning boxes were sent to these troops.

Tom himself was deployed to Iraq in 2005 and his office staff was added to the list. At this point the Club was challenged to take up the project. The club, which meets each Wednesday noon, agreed to devote one meeting each month to packing the boxes. Each month 20 to 30 boxes are prepared and mailed. These boxes contain a variety of items including magazines, books, snacks of all kinds, band-aids, baby wipes, swabs, and the real favorite, homemade cookies and peanut brittle.



Several individuals have donated many of the items as well as cash to purchase bulk goods. Also, a local Lutheran church group has provided grant money which helps cover the mailing costs, using Flat Rate boxes provided by the Post Office assists this.

The project is heart-warming and is justified by the letters, notes and photographs sent by the recipients. Our list includes personnel in Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Alaska and has expanded to include British and Australian servicemen. The most gratifying thank you note received was from a woman soldier who said it was 'the first box she had received with her name on it'. Although the boxes are mailed to individuals we know they are shared within the units as well as, in many cases, locals – particularly children.

Public Relations in Y'sdom

By Josey Joseph ISD-PR

A static organisation without the periodical inflow of new members sooner or later dies, since due to various factors the old timers get disinterested, dejected, retire or die. It is thus essential to create and generate a constant periodical inflow of new blood and new enthusiasm for any organisation to sustain and survive. How can we succeed in this?

Each of us should be prepared to do some systematic PR actions. It is not an easy task to increase the number by simple canvassing or direct enrolment. We have to create a favorable atmosphere for extension of clubs or membership development in the concerned locality by attracting the eligible persons through image building programmes. Talk about what your club does. Implementation of community service projects for the benefit of underprivileged and differently-abled persons in the locality would be an ideal instrument for attracting others to the movement. Our unique motto 'To Acknowledge the Duty that Accompanies Every Right' can be projected. Y's Men International's Special Consultative Status with the UN should also to be publicised extensively.

The existing members have a special responsibility. They should see that the new members feel completely comfortable and involved in the club. They should also feel that they are really wanted in the club and let them realise that we enjoy their fellowship and company. We should ensure they are drawn into the various programmes, so that they develop a sense of pride and participation. In this way we can provide them sufficient opportunity to display and develop talents. With members of good quality, the club can function in new dimensions with added enthusiasm. Kindly enrol members with commitment and good calibre. Please remember our IP desires to increase the membership with 5000 globally to reach the magic figure 35000 by June 2009.

Be the Light of Hope

Did You Know?

Carol Lunt retired in December 2008.

Carol started working for Y's Men International at IHQ in May 1989 and after nearly 20 years of service is hoping to enjoy retirement with her husband, and supporter, Frank



Thank you Carol

Recognition for Excellence

By Silvoja Reyes de Croci, Assistant Editor Latin America



For the last 16 years, the Cochabamba (Bolivia) Y's Men's Club in Region Latin America has held a yearly Gala Dinner to host and

honour the best graduate students from high schools. This year, 120 students attended, among them some from the interior of the country. Not only the young graduates and their families attend; the Club also invites professors, deans, vice-deans and also members of Universities and Technical Institutes (these latter even make some grants for advanced studies available, 40 this year - distributed that same night).

The Cochabamba YMC Gala Dinner means a great deal to the young people as they get the opportunity to meet honoured guests and thrive in this public recognition. The event provides high visibility for the Club and is an effective tool for its public relations. They all enjoy the excellent meal that the Cochabamba Y's Men and Women provide and are informed about the Y's Men's Club and its work in the community, which also supports rural schools.

Prathyasa – Hope

By Mathew Sebastian, Assistant Editor, India 2007/08

The care of the health of local people is a major concern of many Indian Y's Men's clubs. Thoppumpady YMC, MWIR, India Area had this concern in mind when they proposed an Aids Awareness and Counselling Centre. They raised a total of 92,000 CHF, including a TOF grant of 26,000 CHF. The counselling centre was completed in a record time of 11 months in a shining example of teamwork and time bound execution. Interestingly, the architect, structural engineer and the builder – are all members of this club.



In August 2008 IP V S Bashir opened the centre in the presence of local members of the Legislative Assembly, the general public and a galaxy of Y's Men leaders from the Area and the Region. The centre is named Prathyasa, which means hope.

A free medical polyclinic, which functions in the same building and will meet the medical needs of the local community, was also inaugurated. This will be an ongoing project and will be serviced by doctors who are members of different Y's Men's Clubs in District-1, MWIR. The club members shared the joy of the occasion with the local community by gifting rice packets to 200 poor families residing in the locality.

Peep into Bliss

By Tunji Makinde, Assistant Editor, YMW (Africa)

It was more like an April Fool joke when I received a very lengthy letter from ITC David Hsiao informing me of my selection as a Brotherhood Fund delegate to Sweden and Norway in July/August 2005. Four years down the line, the experience and memories of my four-week sojourn in Europe remain nostalgic and blissful. Among others, I had the rare opportunity of partaking in the International Council Meeting in Västerås, Sweden where history was made as Benson Wabule was installed as the first Black African International President of our Movement. I also participated in the Europe Area Convention in Västerås, the Sweden Regional Convention also in Västerås and the Norway Regional Convention in Lillehammer.

During my trip to Europe, I was hosted by very hospitable Y's Men in Stockholm, Västerås, Orebro, Göteborg, Biri, Lillehammer, Gjøvik, Bergen, Oslo, Haugesund and Stavanger. The list of these wonderful Y's Men is almost inexhaustible, most of them in their 70s.

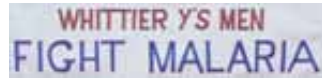
As a naive current young Club President in 2006 of the oldest Club in Africa (Lagos) and as a newcomer to Europe, the eventful experience of my 4-week trip to Norway and Sweden was nothing less than BLISS, even though laden with initial trepidation, uncertainty and anxiety.

My sojourn remains nostalgic and, only recently, I decided to re-live and share this wonderful experience with Y's Men across the globe through a 220-page book titled "Peep Into Bliss". This perhaps would be Y'sdom's first book on BF Experience, with an adequate panorama of pictures.

I remain eternally grateful to Y's Men International for sharpening my world outlook and horizon. Become a BF delegate and Ambassador of Y'sdom today. Have the opportunity to Peep into Bliss.

Serious Fun

By Terry Roznos, Whittier AM Y's Men's Club, USA



Last December the Whittier A.M. Y's Men's Club, USA, participated in the 55th Annual Uptown Whittier Christmas Parade. The City of Whittier is 12 miles southeast of Los Angeles, with a population of about 88,000. The theme of the parade this year was 'Serving Our Neighbours' - a perfect theme to promote the Whittier A.M. Y's Men's Club, Y's Men International, and the Roll Back Malaria Project to the local community.

peaking in and out of grey-coloured clouds. An estimated 25,000 people lined the parade route through Uptown Whittier. The parade featured many dozens of entrants, including a variety of civic, youth, non-profit groups, equestrians, school bands, and of course Santa Claus himself bringing up the rear.

Probably the most unique entry in the parade was our entry featuring costumed mosquitoes, mosquito swatters, medical technicians, and yes - the grim reaper. Children and their parents along the parade route were entertained and cheered the swatting of mosquitoes, chased down by our club members armed with appropriate sized swatters to do battle with the human sized mosquito pests. At the rear of our entry was a trailer filled with happy, waving children, protected from the mosquitoes by special mosquito netting.



The club applied some creativity and ingenuity in the design and implementation of the Whittier YMC parade entry; the principal club members contributing to the effort were: Tom Strout, Michael Delgado, Jim Stecklein, and John Peel.

Our entry of course had a serious message, the Y's Men International Roll Back Malaria Project. This was a call of awareness to this worldwide problem and the relative ease with which significant differences in life expectancy can be made with a small contribution. Our goal was to promote our club to the Whittier community, and to promote the Roll Back Malaria Project. Success! The Whittier YMC will continue to promote the RBM project to our local community and solicit their support through contributions.

Mother Nature gave parade-goers an early holiday gift that Saturday with the sun



A Competition

Design of a 'YES logo' and a 'YES Award'

A call for your proposal for the design of an award for contribution, including a logo symbolising the purpose of the new Y's Men Extension Support Programme, called 'YES'.

Background

From the recent edition of Y's Men's World you will know that a new programme within Y's Men International was born recently. The purpose of YES is to give clubs and individuals the possibility to contribute to Extension Activities done by Y's Men all over the world. The Programme is called 'YES'.

YES is an abbreviation for Y's Men Extension Support Programme. You will also know that those clubs and individuals who contribute to YES will receive an award, but the design of the award has not been decided yet. The Task Force setting up the programme is seeking support from you on what the YES award should look like.

YES Awards

Those clubs and individuals who contribute to YES with a certain amount will receive an award, a Gold, Silver or Bronze Award. We are inviting members to design the awards.

Conditions for the competition

The following must be included in the design of the award:

- * A drawing or logo symbolising the purpose of YES
- * Logo of Y's Men International
- * The words:
Y's Men International Extension Support Programme
'YES Award 2009'
Gold Award or Silver Award or Bronze Award

Your suggestion for the material of the award is wanted as well. The final decision on material will take into consideration the cost of material and your suggestion.

Your reward

Your reward for winning the competition is that you will receive the very first YES Award.

3 suggestions of award will be nominated by the YES Task Force

The winner will receive the very first YES Gold Award. No. 2 and 3 will receive the very first YES Silver Award and YES Bronze Award ever. The winners will be published in Y's Men's World.

Send your proposal not later than 31st June 2009 by email to hove@hovemail.dk or by ordinary mail to Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen, Rugvaenget 13, DK-7490 Aulum, Denmark
Please include your name, name of your Club and your e-mail address.

Chairman of YES Task Force, PAP Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen

YES
Don't forget to contribute