



Dear Y's Men

One of the enjoyable tasks of the International President is to attend Conventions and visit clubs where it is possible to gain a wonderful insight into the wide variety of activities carried out by members. Such an occasion was my recent visit to the Convention of Area Latin America/Caribbean. I was also privileged to be able to visit Region Brazil through the invitation of RD Sionides in March, prior to the Area Convention

During the visit I had a luncheon meeting with the General Secretary of the YMCA of Sao Paulo, YMCA professionals, YMCA and Y's Men leaders including PIP Duarte. The good partnership with YMCA in Brazil and Y'sdom is a model for the development of Y'sdom. Brazil Region has a 100 member increase in the April 07 report compared with April 06. I was able to visit several projects including a crèche, supported by Y's Men's Club Annejarvis.

I was impressed by the work I saw at Community Development Centres at Jabaquara (supported by Y's Men's Club Jabaquara), Pinheiros (supported by Y's Men's Club Omaguas), Vila Maria and Carapicula.



At the Community Development Centre of Uriapuru (supported by Y's Men's Club of Uriapuru) I saw the facilities with several classrooms for studying before and after the regular school hours, a place for students to practice on-the-job training, and a playground. I enjoyed helping the youths there in a tee shirt printing workshop where they produce shirts for sale.

I think our TOF projects in Brazil Region have been a success, have penetrated into local society, and have contributed to an improved partnership with the YMCA. I would like to extend my deep appreciation to Y's Man Roberto (RD Sionides' husband) and other Y's Men leaders in Sao Paulo for their hospitality during my visit to Sao Paulo.

IP Choi Han-Ki, International President

IP Bulletin and IHQ News

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Outlines of the Forward Plan

Have you ever heard about the Forward Plan? If not, here is a summary of its content – and some advice on how to use it.

The FORWARD PLAN is a tool for strengthening your club and the movement. Its objectives are:

- * to improve your member perception and our international operation in general
- * to offer relevant service to the YMCA or your community
- * to improve and expand your local Y's Men's image and identify it in your community
- * to strengthen Y's Men at local and global levels
- * to extend Y's Men in some areas and/or countries as declared by Y's Men International

This all should happen in/with 6 different programmes which are related to, and dependent on, each other:

Membership Conservation and growth

This is the basis of all our activities. Successful membership growth is dependent on fellowship in the club, joint service and more international contacts. Perhaps organise awards for recruiting new members and ensure training of members and leaders. Beside that you may invite foreign students and immigrants, organise a core group for membership growth and show the YMI sign where you meet, at village entrance and/or shop doors.

Leadership Training and Organisation

Training of Y's Men at all levels about Y'sdom, its international aspects, project management and our organisation is very helpful to maintain informed members and create and run good leadership in our movement. Training methods and brochures are developed for every level of Y's Men structure.

Service - to YMCA and/or to Community

Service to your local YMCA and community is in several aspects a key programme for your club. Experience shows that joint work is the

best glue to keep members together. Moreover, good projects will give you excellent connections to the YMCA and community. And last but not least - good projects with good PR will build up prestige in the community for your club. So what is your next project?

Youth

Youth involvement is an important programme to renew your club against ageing; to bring new young members into the club – and that is not necessarily young people of 30-35, but also the age-group lower than most of your members, to lower the average age of the club and gain a lot of new ideas (for better service). Youth and younger members can also become leaders on every level and become better aware of policies and operations in Y'sdom.

Relation with the YMCA

The relation to your local YMCA is one very important issue you have keep in mind. Following very long experience, a club without a good relationship to the YMCA is a dying club (provided there is a YMCA). A good relationship with your local YMCA makes it much easier also to find new members.

Y's Development/Extension

This programme will ensure the viability and long life of our movement. Certainly we cannot in all cases avoid the fact that some clubs are dying, some because of loss of members, some simply because of death. Therefore we have to work on development and starting new clubs on any occasion possible. In case of falling membership or loosing clubs you should work hard to gain new members or to establish a new club.

Of course not all the programmes fit every condition of all clubs around the globe. For some of the programmes Y's Men International is providing funds to Area/Regions (especially in small Areas/Regions).

And now, good luck for your work.

Let's Show – Let's Grow

Spring has come in Europe early this year and with spring a renewed optimism. After a dark period days are getting lighter – time for flowers and leaves on the trees. But it is also a signal to us. It is time for training of all our officers at club level. It is now we are going to give them the tools to make the life in the clubs blossom.

I have been fortunate to participate in three RDE training seminars. It has been a great and promising experience to see how serious that has been – even if it was in very different ways. But let it be said, the main item at all the training sessions was extension. We all have a dream of getting more members – and also of a younger age. We don't want to let it be only a dream. That is why it is so important to give our club officers the best tools we can.

Leaders have to be aware of what is going on in International, Region, District and Clubs. We have to work in a team – as a team. The best team is one that can inspire others. Or put in another way – the better we can do together – the better the result.

It is important that you can look at yourself in the mirror every evening and say: "I have done my very best". Nobody can expect more, but it is no guarantee that it is good enough. There are no easy solutions but we have some tools that can help you to be a good leader.

We have to try new ways – be creative and constructive. When you set goals – put in milestones. You can feel happy every time you reach a milestone. And remember: you don't have success if you don't take risks.

We have our traditions, but now and then we should discuss the value of the traditions. Especially if we don't remember why we have them. Maybe we could build up new traditions that better fit the world as it is today?

Lasse Bergstedt, International President Elect

News from IHQ

IC and IYC 2008. At the end of April the Host Committee of IC08 met in Denmark with ICC08 Dale Fotheringham and ISG Rolando Dalmas. A very fruitful discussion on the International Convention and International Youth Convocation 2008 programmes took place. We had the opportunity of visiting the Herning Convention Centre where the Convention will take place, as well as the venue for the Youth Convocation and different hotels.

The Host Committee chaired by Peter Leer is doing excellent work in preparing for both gatherings. The Convention Centre and the Agricultural School (venue of the Youth Convocation) are very suitable venues, with many facilities and most of the hotels are within very close walking distance. The Agricultural School is only five kilometres from downtown Herning, with regular bus transport available.

All participants in these international gatherings will experience the friendship and hospitality of the Danish Y's Men's Clubs.

Youth Intern 2007/08. Miss Aeree Baik from Korea was selected as Youth Intern 07/08. She and her family are very much involved in Y's Men, and Aeree was one of the facilitators at the International Youth Convocation 2006 in Busan. We are sure that she will make a very important contribution to our office, and at the same time she will have the opportunity of gaining experience in Y's Men issues especially related to youth.

Youth Involvement in Y'sdom. We see with great pleasure that Y's Youth Clubs are gaining momentum in our Movement. During this year 2006/07 five new Y's Youth Clubs were chartered: Yokohama-Y3 (Japan), Himeji-Y3 (Japan), Bangalore (India), Bendigo (Australia) and Peace Korea (Seoul, Korea). YI James Olle was in Japan at the beginning of May, and he came back impressed with the commitment and enthusiasm of the Yokohama-Y3 Club. There are already fifty members who provide different services to the community.

Y'sdom in our 74th Country/Territory

In a simple but moving ceremony held in Honiara, capital of the Solomon Islands, in February 2007 the Y Service Club of Honiara was chartered. Area President Bill Schmidt, Regional Director Colin Lambie and Regional Director Elect John Pontefract conducted the formalities and Charter President Drummond Tupe and 22 members were inducted into the family of Y'sdom. The club already have plans to assist in the clean up of the city as well as to assist with the relatively high education costs imposed upon parents.



Following a display by the Red Rose dance troupe and the charter dinner the members of the club were inducted into Y'sdom and the club was presented with gifts from several clubs in the Australian Region. Those gifts included a club banner from the North Central District clubs, a Y's Men International flag set from the Australian Region, briefcases for the Club President and Secretary from the Y Service Club of Bendigo, a gavel and block kindly donated by Regional Director Elect John Pontefract and a promotional banner, the cost of which was covered by donations from several clubs in the Region.

Before returning to Australia John Pontefract, in his role as Director for Leadership Training and Organisation Development, conducted a session for the new club members; it proved to be of interest as many aspects of Y Service club activities were explained.



IP at Area Convention

The Latin America/Caribbean Area Convention was held at Hotel de Almagro in Santiago and I gave the presentation on "Changing Today for 10 Years Future." I talked of fellowship, understanding and unity ~ When we unite we can live, but when we don't unite we cannot live. We have to respect and understand each other's culture and we have to understand the diversity of international historical background.

During the Area Convention Y's Men discussed together topics on increasing membership, communication, youth, PR and projects in earnest. The membership of Y's Men International is around 28,000 at present. My slogan is "Over 30,000 in 06". 30,000 is the magic number for Y'sdom. Our membership was 29,367 in 1996 and I hope we can achieve our aim with your help. I am optimistic that the future of Area LA/CAR will be bright and markedly developed.

I would also like to extend my deep appreciation to AP Adrian, RD Hernan, and RD Sionides once again for providing leadership during the Area Convention, and also to Marcia, Roberto and PIP Duarte. Thanks and appreciation also go to ISG Rolando for his excellent job during the Area Convention.

Now we, Y's Men, should build a better world for mankind based on the teaching of Jesus Christ.

IP Choi Han-Ki, International President

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