



Dear Y's Friends

As this message reaches you we will almost be winding up the hectic activities of a Y's year committed to a big forward leap to strengthen the movement and also shaping the future with more focus in today's challenging scenario for the existence of service clubs. I have been interacting with you every month and I am happy to state that my theme 'Be the Light of Hope' is accepted with great enthusiasm by the International Y's Men and they recognize the deep meaning of the theme applicable in every walk of life.

It is inspiring to note that the challenge **Extension! Extension!! Extension!!!** for 35,000 members by 30th June 09 has raised the thinking frame of the global Y's Men with confidence for such ambitious targets. The results of their efforts are pouring in with the 1st April 09 reports. The chartering of a large number of new clubs during the year are indications that we are not far from the target, if not achieved.

The global recession and terrorism in many countries are forces against service clubs functioning, but because of our concentrated efforts on new vision and thinking the feedback from the Areas is positive. Since 1922 we have been focusing on service for the development of our movement. Considering the growth rate during all these years vis-a-vis that of other organizations we are required to re-look at our focus. This is further compelled by the history of some of the Areas where the membership is either static or decreasing. We have taken for granted the most important section of our

organization - members - through whom the programmes and projects are executed. This year our focus has been to address this important function by introducing **Extension! Extension!! Extension!!!**

My visits in the Areas, presentations and interactions have instilled a new confidence and motivation in our members and one could hear the echoes of IP's theme and challenge in Y's Men gatherings. I am glad to note that next year IPE Kevin will be focusing on the 35,000 target and also concerned for our vision 2020 programme. Let this thinking for a new horizon be retained in our minds, requiring introspection for change as otherwise the coming generation will not forgive. Otherwise we would become passengers simply enjoying the organisation without any positive contribution for future benefits.

Yes, you are the **Light of Hope** for the future.
Sincerely yours
V.S. Bashir, International President

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IP Bulletin and IHQ News

From the IPIP

Dear Y's Men

This will be the last time I, as a member of the IEOs, write to you. I will use the opportunity to thank each and all of you for the chance you gave me to be your IP 2007/08. It has been a great honour and pleasure to serve you – and our organisation.

During these 3 years I have met many Y's Men - and I have really felt the value of friendship. I have been met with open arms wherever I went and all did their utmost to give me good experiences. For that I can only say THANK YOU! It goes to each and every one of you. I will hope that some day I will get the opportunity to pay back. I am sorry that I didn't get the chance to visit Area Latin America and Area Africa. I hope I will get the possibility later on.

This year we set a new ship in the sea. 'Roll Back Malaria'. From many Regions I have heard that this project has been well received and many fine ideas have been used to reach the goal we have set. At the time I write this I don't know the result, but I am sure that all the malaria nets we have promised will be achieved – and even more! In some places we have also got new partners. It has been a chance to cooperate with other groups in our communities – and if you follow up it could mean new members for our clubs.

To be a Y's Man means a lot for me and I am grateful to those who, many years ago, asked me to be one. What an opportunity for personal development. I have surely learned a lot. I feel very humble when I look back because as it is said in a Danish hymn: "You can do nothing because everything you got from God."

God bless you all
Lasse Bergstedt, IPIP (2008-09)

Little Act of Kindness

By Jacob Thomas SWIR, India Area

Service has no borders with South West India Region as far as our Community Services go and we share them with a smile. Our Regional theme is 'Let us Care, Let us Share'. Let me share with the readers a shining example of share and care for the agonies of a family of five.

They were dejected, facing extinction, drowning in the deep sea of disease, despair and poverty with everything going against them. They could not swim against the tides and hardships of life. The family consists of a 'Poojari' (Temple Priest) aged 78, mentally upset wife, ailing mother-in-law, daughter deserted by her husband and another daughter partially blind due to diseases. Moreover there was no income even for hand to mouth existence.



Newspapers carried their pathetic story. Swift came the visit to the poor family by members of Puthoor Y's Men's

Club (Dist VI, SWIR) led by their energetic Club President Philip Thomas. They found the unfortunates under a dilapidated roof and all down with hunger and poor clothing. The family were consoled, provided with food and grocery, clothes and a cash payment. Arrangements have been made for a monthly relief of Rs.1000 to reach them on the first of every month and assured a good home to live in. Prompt came a chain of donations and relief. The house owner waived monthly rentals and an NGO offered some land for a house. Now the family of Poojari is limping back to normality with assured support.

Our services are based on the teachings of Jesus Christ - "Love your neighbour as you love yourself" and "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" Let our deeds speak louder than words and practise what we preach.

Introductory Words from the International President Elect



In the spring of 1983 I had a life changing experience. I attended my first Y's Men's function. In April of 1984 I attended the Charter Anniversary celebration of the Amherst Y's Men's Club. I was impressed by the incredible

fellowship that this group enjoyed. I was so impressed that the following October I was inducted as a Y's Man. Twenty-five years later, and after a great number of hours of fellowship with many Y's Men throughout the world, I am your International President. What a journey this has been!

We are today a movement of over thirty thousand members in some sixteen hundred Clubs throughout the world. This past year we contributed many thousands of Swiss francs to international programmes. I would like to share with you some of my thoughts on the future of Y'sdom.

I see the following as our challenges over the next few years:

- * First is to continue the harmonious atmosphere within our international movement.
- * Next is to reach and maintain a membership of over 35,000.
- * There is a constant challenge of attracting youth to Y'sdom.
- * To continue the implementation and ongoing development of the Forward Plan.
- * Finally, the replacement of ISG Rolando next year on his retirement.

There are a few things that I think require immediate action:

1. The training of leaders at all levels.
2. The implementation of the Forward Plan at all levels; especially at the club level.
3. The integration of youth into our movement.
4. Improved relationship with our partner group, the Y's Menettes.

I have chosen as my theme, *'The Power of One'*. We need to believe in the Power of One; one person; one Club; one District; one Region; one Area; one International movement. It will astound you what we can accomplish when we work together as one. As an international movement we need to put aside thoughts of what is best just for our Clubs, our Districts, our Regions and our Areas. We need to work in harmony and understanding and, at times, compromising what is best for us as individuals to ensure the global development of Y'sdom.

I have chosen as my slogan, 'Ordinary people doing extraordinary things.' This, in my mind, speaks to the heart and soul of who Y's Men really are. When we look at the average Y's Man in our Clubs they are just ordinary people; people with a common interest of helping our neighbour. Sometimes this neighbour may be a continent away. They do this, for the most part, without thought of the global effect they are making on the world we live in.

For many years IPs have made Membership Extension as their goal. While I feel this is important, I also believe that we need to have well-trained Y's Men to do this extension work. Therefore I have chosen as my first priority to have well trained leaders. Club development is my second goal. This is more than just starting new clubs; it's about creating partnerships with other worthy organizations to help our YMCA and communities. We need to look at our existing Clubs. We need to ensure that our existing Clubs are making viable contributions to our communities and YMCAs. We need to make Y's Men International a movement that meets the needs of today. We need to make Y's Men International a movement that people want to join.

Come with me on my continuing journey.
Kevin Cummings.

Know Your New International President

Kevin Cummings was born in Amherst, Canada, in 1958 and he is married to Carol with a daughter Jessie. He is a newspaper manager with over twenty years experience in the printing and publishing industry.

He joined Amherst Y's Men's Club in 1984 and has been Club President, District Governor, Regional Director and Area President. His service to Y'sdom has included Regional Service Director, Area Service Director, and International Service Director. The areas of interest have included Extension, Membership Conservation and Time of Fast and his term of duty as ISD Leadership Training and Organisation Development has shown his ability to communicate well and provide good clear leadership. He was an International Council Member from 2003 to 2005. He is a member of Cumberland YMCA and serves on the Board of Directors.



IPE Kevin & PIP David Coughley

Kevin was inspired recently by PIP David Coughley of the Fredericton Epsilon Y's Men's Club. David was International President in 1947-48 and chartered the first club in Denmark.

Kevin met David at a dinner that Epsilon Club hosted for members of the Saint John River Valley District. David is an incredibly dynamic man even at the tender age of 95!

About the World Alliance of YMCAs

By Rachele R. Reeg, ISD Liaison with World YMCA

A good way to keep up with the worldwide activities of the World Alliance of YMCAs is to search its website: <www.ymca.int>. Its quarterly magazine *YMCA World* is available there by clicking 'Publications'. Y's Men International is featured in each issue as well as happenings in YMCAs around the world. The IT Corner keeps readers posted on the latest news in this ever-changing world of communication.

The next big event for the World Alliance is the 17th World Council of YMCAs to be held in Hong Kong from 19th to 24th July 2010, emphasizing the theme of 'Global Citizenship'. The 17th World Council will be hosted by the Council of YMCAs of Hong Kong which is made up of the Chinese YMCA in Hong Kong and the YMCA of Hong Kong. The last time a World Council was held in the region was in 1991 in Seoul, Korea.

The World Council brings together key YMCA leaders, both staff and lay members, from around the world and is the highest decision making body of the YMCA Movement. It is a time for celebration, building community and planning for the future.

Editorial

When Roll Back Malaria was launched on United Nations Day, 24th October 2008, we were not sure how the members would support it. We should not have worried.

All the messages coming in show how it caught the imagination of our members who have enthusiastically and creatively thought up many different ways of raising the money to get to our target 20,000 net packages. We do not know the final amount collected as I write this but will include a full report in the next issue of *Y's Men's World*. In the meantime thanks to all who took part in any way.

*Yours in Y'sdom
Wally*