

YOUTH WORLD



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Hi everyone!

This is the year of the International Youth Convocation, which will take place from August 9-15. Are you prepared for it?

It is also election year for a new International Youth Representative. Do you know the meaning of YR? It's someone who is an "Idealist", who is active and eager, unafraid to say what he/she thinks and good at communicating with other young people. If you know anyone with these characteristics, please ask them to apply to be the next IYR.

I would also like to know if your country that you can going to be fun! Please send forward to receiving them.



there are any dance steps from teach us during the IYC. It's your ideas to me. I'm looking

February is the TOF month! Please go to www.ysmen.org, click on "Downloads" and pick a TOF Calendar in a language that suits you. Try to raise as much money as possible for a Y's Youth Project!

The Youth Internship Application deadline has been extended to 31 March. Why don't you apply for it?

Cristhiane Bakos



Issued by
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STEP REPORT: "Worthy Experiences, never gained by money"

What a great chance for me and my younger brother to participate in STEP through Germany and Denmark in this summer vacation! Initially I applied in Spring to visit North Europe, about the middle of June I heard my destinations were 2 Germany for 1 month and Denmark for 1 week. I prepared materials & photos concerning the Y's Men's movement, especially Dongrae YMC, looking forward to meet members and sight-seeing.



When we arrived late in the evening 29th of June at Frankfurt Airport Y's Man Wronna and Menette Gabriele welcomed us with name plates written in Korean. We arrived at Magdeburg, where we began life in Germany, after 4 hours' driving. On weekdays they were busy working for their living together. We had meal times with them talking about our countries every evening. We went to famous places for sightseeing and German culture at the weekend. We had a chance to take part in a Gospel school at the YMCA and several families invited us during the month. Through Sakskina Ling who we met at the meeting by chance we could participate in many programs. We attended several Y's Men's Meeting I felt those were different from the Korean ones because they involved both middle school

students and adults cooking together and the meeting was informal. After 4 weeks in Germany we visited RSD YEEP/STEP Hoffmann's house on the road to Denmark. He acted as an intermediary for us to stay in the house of Wronna & Gabriele in Germany. He welcomed us by hoisting the Korean flag on the roof. PIP Godfred Nissen welcomed us in Denmark. I remember him now as a great uncle with a smile.

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How I discovered Y's Men International

I was fortunate in getting to know about Y's Men through my parents who are members of YMI. Since childhood, I helped in Y's Men's events, but had no deep knowledge about our movement. When I was 16 I participated in the LAC Area Youth Convocation where I met many people involved in our movement and at the age of 18, I was blessed by being a YEEP student in Canada.

I went there without speaking English. It was very difficult, because I was used to living with my family, used to my own country, my own way of life, my friends. When my parents and sisters drove me to the airport, I was sad and I cried during the flight because I felt that I didn't belong any more to the life that I was used to. I knew that everything was going to change. I started missing my family. I was very nervous, but thanks to God and the support of my family and the Y's Men Club I had the strength to carry on. When I landed I felt totally lost and I asked myself "What am I doing here?" I felt it was a dream, but then the host family waved and called me, and I realized that it was too late to go back to Brazil. On the 1 1/2 hour drive from Toronto to Niagara Falls I was ashamed at my lack of English and when they asked me questions I just answered "Yes".

I lived for a year with the Pitul family, a couple and one daughter. Their son was in Denmark as a YEEP Student, and we only met in my last month in Canada. I had more contact with their daughter, Sarah. I was 5 years older and she was like a little sister for me. When I came back from school, we used to talk about our day, our secrets. She helped me a lot with the slang and corrected my pronunciation. I spent the most time with her. I started to communicate through sign language and the dictionary and after a few months I was used to the English language and the Canadian culture. My experience proves that everything becomes easy if we practice it frequently.

I participated in several meetings of the Niagara Falls Y's Men's Club and I helped them to sell seeds in order to fundraise for the Club's projects. I visited different Clubs in Canada, where I made short presentations about my country and city and about the Y's Men's Clubs of Brazil. I also participated in the Area Convention in Ottawa and Maritimes Regional Convention. I had the opportunity to meet wonderful Y's Men and Y's Menettes; they are very dedicated to our movement. I was impressed with their enthusiasm and commitment to the YMI. When the day of my return to Brazil arrived, I started missing my Canadian life, my host family, and the friendships that I had made. It was very difficult to say goodbye. My year as a YEEP student in Canada was one of the most important experiences in my life!

During my time in Canada, Sarah, my little sister, was hospitalised 3 times with liver problems, but she was a normal child, pretty and intelligent, and my feeling for her has always been as a sister—respect, tenderness and love! Three months after my return to Brazil I received a call from Sarah's aunt telling me that she had died. I was shocked and very sad. That was one of the most difficult periods of my life, I didn't want to believe that a young girl who had much to live for had died. We had planned that one day she would visit me in Brazil and that when we got older we would tell our children about our experiences as a YEEP student and a host sister. I miss her very much. She'll always be in my heart!



Almost 3 and a half years later, I met AP-LAC Cecilia in a Y's Men meeting and we talked for a long time about our movement. I told her about my experience in Canada, how great it was, and she told me about the position as Youth Intern at IHQ. I thought it sounded very interesting and as usual she encouraged me to apply and later sent me the application form. At the last minute I finally decided to send the forms to IHQ.

A few months later, at a Regional meeting in São Paulo, I was told that I would be the next Youth Intern at IHQ. I was happy but at the same time very anxious. However, the Y's Men and my family encouraged and supported me!

Two months before leaving for Switzerland I attended the LAC Area Youth Convocation, where I met enthusiastic young people from Youth Clubs in Brazil and Peru, and also some from the YMCA. We shared our thoughts, and the idea of building a SNTV web site was born there. When I arrived in Geneva I SG Rolando and his wife Gloria picked me up at the airport and took me to the place where I'd pass my year as Youth Intern. Next day I met the staff members (Carol, Pauline and Yvonne) and we had lunch together. The first month was a time of adaptation, getting used to Swiss life and the work at IHQ. My first issue of "Youth World" was in September. It is interesting that in this position I can be in touch with people from all over the world. Being here at IHQ, I have the opportunity to see our movement with other eyes, and I'm sure that until the very end of my year as Youth Intern I'll learn more about Y's Men International, because each day is a new experience, new knowledge!

I always advise others to try life abroad. I know it's very hard to be away from the ones you love. However, you will change for better and grow up a lot. One day you meet new people and another day you have to say goodbye. It's part of life. I'd like to ask all of you to apply for programmes such as YEEP/STEP and also the Youth Intern position. I'm sure that it will be an excellent opportunity in your life. You will gain new friends, contacts and experiences that will enrich your life and opportunities you'll never get anywhere else! So, it's worth it.

Photo taken with Mid Year Meeting participants in Geneva, January 2004.

Cristhiane Bakos
(Youth Intern 03/04)

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There is a different culture in every country. This country is very unique. We moved to an island, rafting, singing songs and getting to know each other. We had a Barbecue party and spent happy times with the family. The farewell time soon came. Taking part in STEP for 1 month I've gained many things: Reflecting with eyes wide open to the world and warm reception for others I learned worthy experiences never gained by money. Mr. Wronna & Mrs. Gabriel promised to visit Korea in October this year. I'll repay their kindness and they'll know about the Korean Y's Men's Movement and about Korea. Before ending my report I express appreciation for the kind efforts to help us participate in STEP by ASD BE/DG Oh Chang-rock and RSD YEEP/STEP Heinrich Hoffmann.

So-ra, Lee and Choog-bok, Lee
Club: Dongrae YMC of Pusan District in Korea East Region

Conquering Mount Kinabalu, Malaysia

16th October 2003 was a historic date for me and I'd say the Y's Men movement too! I managed to take our Club banner to Low's Peak of Mount Kinabalu, the highest mountain in Southeast Asia, located in Sabah (4,095 metres above sea level). The peak is named after Sir Hugh Low, who made the first recorded attempt to scale the peak in 1851. He never made it to the top, but got the peak named after him anyway. Arriving a night before, I'd never have guessed the scale of those majestic peaks hidden by the clouds. Just



after sunset, the clouds lifted for a few minutes and I got a first glimpse of the mountain. Climbing began the next day. I was at the registration check-in by 07:45 and arranged for a guide and climbing permits. I managed to team up with 3 others (an Italian couple and an Englishman). Our destination for the day was Laban Rata base camp located 3973m above sea level. The length of

the entire trail to the summit is 8.5 km and it starts at a height of 1900m.

The summit trail is well marked and eased in places with man-made steps and even wooden ladders but is quite steep right from the start. As we climbed higher, it was a sheer test of strength and stamina! And the trees grew more gnarled. Its cool climate with its rich flora and fauna was enchanting. Short stops were only for the chocolate/energy bars we brought, which helped a lot. The air had grown perceptibly thinner and we had to rest up every now and then. Of course, we were routinely overtaken by the locals who were carrying loads of up to 25 kg, including things like

cooking gas cylinders, to the Laban Rata rest house, our overnight stop.

By now, all our attention was focussed on reaching Laban Rata. The welcome sight of the gleaming white and yellow structure of Laban Rata gave me a second wind. It was approximately 2 pm.

The Y's Men's Club of Ipoh banner made its debut here! Most slept early after dinner as we needed to continue hiking/attempting the summit at 2 a.m. after a light breakfast. The climb up to the summit started off well. In the dark we managed to grasp the ropes and mostly wooden ladders. The temperature was down to freezing point. It was pitch dark and torches were absolutely essential. Those unfit and unwell did take a U-turn back. It dampened our spirits a little but my buddies and I were not easily defeated. Halfway up my torch went out! Chris Hopkins, my team-mate, assisted with his torch. My goal was in sight though it looked agonizingly far away. The summit is a barren rocky plain with only a few stunted plants managing to cling to the cracks among the rocks. There is no soil as everything gets washed away in the torrential rains. The last few meters to the summit were slow and exhausting but exhilarating at the same time. I managed to reach the peak just in time to watch the sunrise. Happy and joyful of course! On a clear day one can see the sun's rays lighting up the land right from the coastline and racing towards the summit. However, I was not so lucky. The land below us was carpeted in a thick blanket of cloud. But the view was stunning enough. Once atop the summit, everyone went about the serious job of clicking away. I displayed my club banner and Chris his Beckham shirt. I left the summit as it started getting mistier. Fortunately my trusted guide said it was only rain clouds and Chris was there too and we all stood the test of descending. A lot of effort and all you get is a certificate! However the memories are priceless. Any takers for a climb next year? Y's Men's Club of Ipoh? Y's Men International?

Sri Ram, Ipoh Y's Men's Club, Malaysia

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