



**Y's Men
International**



Issue 35, May 2005

IPE BEN'S MESSAGE TO THE YOUTH



As I prepare to assume the position of International President of Y's Men International on 1st July 2005 I have pleasure in sending this goodwill message to all the Y's Youth in all the Areas of our Movement.

I am looking forward to working closely with the Youth and to supporting their initiatives and involvement in Y'sdom. In particular I shall call upon all Y's Men to give support to the youth so their involvement in the movement is in the best interest of the development of the youth and the growth and success of Y's Men International.

It is my desire to see youth clubs established at least in every place where there is a Y's Men's Club. The youth clubs will need committed youth leadership to ensure such clubs address the concerns of the youth and how the youth can successfully execute their programmes throughout the world.

The emphasis, as far as youth is concerned, during my leadership of our noble movement will be to enable the youth to successfully carry out their plans which were so clearly emphasized by them during the Youth Convocation and the 66th International Convention held in Kochi, India, in August 2004. These include, among others, formation of youth clubs, execution of projects, undertaking leadership training, promotion of exchange programmes, enhancing electronic communication and promoting a culture of peace.

I call upon all the Youth to work closely with Y's Men throughout the world in giving service to the community, in looking around their environment and identifying the needs of their society and in endeavouring to satisfy those needs in whatever way possible.

My Theme as IP is "**Be Y's Men in Deed not Y's Men in Need**". For the youth your good **Deeds** in the community will attract support for you and for your programmes.

Go to page 2

Youth Intern 2005/06



Name: Michel Jubin

Country: Uruguay

Age: 24 years old

Those of you who attended the previous International Youth Convocation in India must have fresh memories of Michel Jubin. Having seen him play a major role in the Youth Convocation in displaying some of customary wear and dance of Uruguayans, we now wait his able and talented personality in Youth matters to steer the Youth movement in Y'sdom for one year. There is no doubt Michel will perform to his best as Youth Intern 2005/06.

"... one summer day, from nowhere, I got this phone call from the President of the local Y's Men Club, asking me if I would like to go to Australia to a Youth Convocation of Y's Men's Clubs. The President told me my name popped up in a meeting which was between the Y's Men and some YMCA Directors, and that I had the profile to represent them in the Youth Convocation. I was thrilled because not only I had the chance to go to an International meeting but it was a chance to serve in a service club with my volunteer space. I accepted immediately, and since then I became a Y's Youth myself", Michel says.

"... I have to be honest. I did not know what the Y's Men was. So, when I was getting ready to go to Australia, I wanted to know what it was all about. And after a while getting information, I fell in love with this organization. And it is because of that that I feel I can do a lot of things for the Youth, and I will do whatever it takes to improve the movement across the world ..." he added.

Go to page 2

Inside this issue:

Ingvar and Rolando ...	3
Carol and Pauline ..	4
Read about Ryan ...	4
Rosanna & Nancy ...	5
Kennedy ...	5
Marianne Goh ...	6
Cristhiane ...	7
Solidarity Tree ...	7
My India experience	8
My Commitment ...	8

Send your stories and pictures for the next issue to the next Youth World Editor



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Message from IPE

From page 1

Youth represents vibrancy, boundless energy and hope and gives you the opportunity to do something and to become somebody. Youth is a mirror of what you will be in future. Do good things now and you will be a success in life.

BENSON WABULE
International President Elect

Youth Intern 2005/06

From page 1



Besides that, Michel believes the internship will equip him with tools to improve his working skills in life and Y's Men. He says he will apply those skills for the improvement of the organiza-

tion in his community, region, area and Y's Men Internationally.

With all your support, he believes he can make a difference in the Youth Movement in Y'sdom.

Congratulations Michel!

Farewell to all the Youth

Eight months ago I arrived at Y's Men International IHQ, Geneva Switzerland and was treated to a big welcome by the staff. Being my first time in Europe, everything I saw was very new to me not forgetting the weather which was then changing to winter, and already too cold for me then since I was used to the Ugandan weather which averages 28°C throughout the year.

The staff made arrangements to help me to fit into the community and with messages from very many of you all congratulating me and pledging your support during my time as Youth Intern, life was quite easy and I managed to settle down to work quickly, though that could not carry me away from feeling homesick.

The time has come for me to leave for home and give room to the next Youth Intern 2005/06 and ensure continuity of the Youth Intern opportunity.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you for the support you have given me as Youth Intern since October last year and will continue to give me till the end of my internship.

Those interesting articles, reports and pictures made my work very simple. I can not forget to commend the cooperation of all the Youth. You all did a great job. Whenever I asked for articles, there they were in big numbers. The AYRs also did a great job of mobilizing the youth in their various Areas. That was really great and I hope you continue giving the same support.

IYR Yoriko and Mentor Nishimura did a great job. Those quick responses and many ideas were very good. The youth must be proud of you and I hope you continue extending the same services to the Youth even after the end of your term as IYR and Mentor in 2006.

I can't afford not to mention the role of the International Youth Committee, International President John Choa and International Secretary General Rolando Dalmas for the guidance rendered in steering the youth movement. The contribution is remarkable and hardly needs mention as it is evident from the exchanges of emails among the Youth and other communication media like "Youth World". We the youth have to continue with this spirit of volunteerism and teamwork being emphasized by our leaders in Y'sdom.

However, I have to say sorry to those whose articles could not be published. It was a matter of space but all the articles and reports were very good and may help the next Youth Intern. Perhaps they will feature in one of the next issues of "Youth World".

Thank you very much once again for the trust and confidence put in me as Youth Intern 2004/05 and for your support and involvement in all the youth activities.

Moses H. Kyemba
Youth Intern 04/05



The experience of having Youth Interns at IHQ

Eleven years ago, the International Council meeting in Singapore, gave authority to the then **ISG Ingvar Wallin** to employ a Youth Intern at IHQ for up to one year.

Since 1995, Y's Men International has embarked on an Internship program which gives an opportunity to a young person in Y'sdom aged between 20 and 28 to work at IHQ as Youth Intern.

In this issue of Youth World, I bring you a cross section of their experience, the memories of independent living for a year and working with other colleagues from different backgrounds and nationalities and the impact of the Youth Intern program in the lives of the Past Youth Interns, Staff at IHQ and Y's Men International.



"Papa" Ingvar (Past ISG)

Upon request from IP 93/94 Duarte Vaz Pacheco de Castro Jr., the International Council 1994 decided that we should have a Youth Intern every year at IHQ. Y's Men International thus became the first among Service Club organisations to have a Youth Intern at its Headquarters – and we are to my knowledge still the only one. The process to select the first Youth Intern was

started immediately after the ICM and out of 21 candidates from 7 of our 8 Areas, Ryan Metcalfe from Canada was chosen to start working in August 1995.

In preparing for his coming, we at IHQ were aware that this would be a challenge. We had worked together for several years and everyone knew what to do and how to do it, so that we were able to smoothly operate even under stress. We understood – and to a certain degree even apprehended – that a young person coming into this smooth working team could upset our working methods and habits through challenging questions.

Ryan arrived – and he was immediately “adopted” by us at IHQ. In fact, he became the first of a number of new “kids” (the Youth Interns) that I got – “not as a result of a love affair with their mothers, but as a result of a love affair with Y'sdom”, as I said in my farewell speech in Hong Kong. With my own kids spread all over the world, it was nice to again hear the word “Papa” almost every day.

We did not have any Internet connection at that time – and thus no E-mail – much to Ryan's disappointment. All communication was by letters and there were some that seemed to be of more interest to Ryan than others – and that is an understatement. They always came from an address in Denmark – and all from a young girl named **Betina**, whom he had met through YEOP! It was a joy for us at IHQ to follow this real love affair – and one of his “little brothers” (Kennedy) was able to take part in their wedding some years later.

Of course, Ryan asked questions and challenged us many times, but always in a very constructive way and that pattern continued with the other Youth Interns – even though the style was some-

times different from what we were used to. I remember Rossana, who came after Ryan, who one day came dashing into my office with a new idea, which she just “poured over me” – even before I looked up from whatever I was doing (probably a report of some kind needing my full concentration). I listened to what she said and responded: “That sounds like a good idea, but don't you think that ...”. Her response to my hesitation was rapid and clear: “Ingvar, that's how you old people think, but not how we young people think.” Not all Youth Interns were as outspoken as Rossana, but they all brought in new and refreshing ideas – and for that I want to say, **THANK YOU!!**



ISG Rolando Dalmás

Each year the Staff at the International Headquarters Office goes through the process of selecting a new Youth Intern. This is a very special activity in which we have always great expectation because to make the final selection of a Youth Intern through her/his curriculum is one thing and to meet her/him personally at the beginning

of the term is another thing.

Each time my wife Gloria and I go to the airport to meet the new Youth Intern there is the same expectation: what will she/he look like? how communicative will she/he be? and many other questions.

Each Youth Intern brings to the office new fresh air, new ideas and new culture and each of them very quickly becomes one of us. Each brings different gifts; some of them are technically skilled in computers, others in communication, socialisation, in specific Y's Men topics, in leadership (becoming real leaders in the Foyer where they live), etc.

The responsibility of the Youth Intern is not an easy one. To involve youth in our Movement is a slow global process and during the term of each youth intern the progress can be seen in varying degrees.

Strong conviction about youth involvement in Y'sdom is needed from each Youth Intern, as well as perseverance and motivation to accomplish her/his job. The communication with the AYRs and other youth leaders around the world is not always as fluid as is expected from this joint effort, and sometimes the lack of reply from the AYRs brings frustration to the Youth Intern in her/ his challenge to get youth involved in Y'sdom.

But youth need to be challenged in their life, to make it attractive. And to become the Youth Intern in the IHQ office in Geneva is one of the great challenges of a lifetime. The opportunity is there.

Go to page 4

The experience of having Youth Interns at IHQ, Cont ...

Carol Lunt



I have shared an office with all except the first Youth Intern and it has been a pleasant and educational experience for me and I think also for them.

The earlier YIs were older than my own "children" at the time and I got many valuable tips from them but now that my son and daughter are 27 and 24, it is sometimes the other way round. PIP Ingvar has often been called "Papa" and I in turn often feel, if not quite like "Mum," at least like an honorary aunt who has the freedom to offer advice and help and to enjoy their company without any parental responsibility. If at times I have scolded them I have been forgiven.

One of my particular responsibilities has been to help the Youth Interns produce *Youth World*. Each of them arrived full of enthusiasm and bright ideas but sometimes needed help in putting them into words, especially as English was often not their mother tongue. I think it was Nancy who first christened me "Red Pen Carol" and the name has stuck.

We didn't only work together and my photo album provides many happy memories of barbecues and raclette evenings at my home. I hope to see many of the YIs in my home again and to say "Bon Appetit" and "Santé" once more.

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Pauline Gross



I do look forward to meeting each new Youth Intern but always with some apprehensiveness. I am sure each Youth Intern too must have felt some nervousness about meeting the IHQ staff. After all, we would be co-workers for eleven months and see each other five days a week/seven hours a day. Then, getting along and liking each other is very important for a harmonious atmosphere.

Moses is our tenth Youth Intern and I have to say that we have been incredibly lucky because all ten Youth Interns have been very likeable and easy to get along with. They have learned from us and gained experience, but so have we. Personally, I have enjoyed tremendously the little and sometimes longer chats with Ryan, Rossana, Nancy, Kennedy, Marianne, Tony, Nanami, June-ho, Cristhiane and Moses about their family, country, customs, traditions and local cuisine.

I believe many of the Youth Interns did feel homesick at times, and talking about their life back home brought their loved ones closer.

I have been told about arranged marriages, how long it takes to have a "corn rows" hairdo (tressed hair, and it takes between 2-3 hours), how to cook a risotto, mate (infusion of herbs served in a gourd), etc., etc. To some people this might be useless information but I find all this extremely interesting.

I sincerely hope all the hopes and dreams of these young people who came into our life for a year will come true. Many are still in contact with us and it is so good to know that they are doing well.

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Ryan Metcalfe, Youth Intern 1995/06 from Canada



1995



... today

It is hard to believe that it has now been almost 10 years since I was fortunate to work at the International Headquarters of Y's Men International in Geneva Switzerland as the first youth intern.

My experiences during that year were unforgettable and inspiring. One of my favourite experiences was to see that my work was important and had an impact in Y's Men International. I saw my articles published in many different languages in diverse club bulletins. The Time of Fast material that I helped to produce was being used by clubs all over the world. I remember being warmly welcomed as part of the office staff and had wonderful times spent with Ingvar, Hillevi, Pauline and Carol. I am most proud of the fact that *Youth World* still exists many years later.

I have my fellow Interns to thank for carrying on the tradition and doing a great job!

During my Intern year I fell in love with a Danish girl who had also been a YEPP exchange student. 10 years later, I am married to that Danish girl and living in Denmark. We have a cute little 2 year old daughter and we have just bought our first house together. Since leaving Geneva I worked part time at the YMCA in my hometown of Sault Ste. Marie, Canada. I also spent a few months coordinating a fundraising campaign for the Canadian Diabetes Association. I was fortunate again to get a job in Switzerland and spent a year working at the office of the European Alliance of YMCAs.

We were engaged during that year and I moved to Denmark. In Denmark I spent a few years learning the language and culture and then took some additional education to upgrade my qualifications. I am now working as an environmental technician for the city of Varde, Denmark.

In my spare time I have been active in the local Y's Men's Club. A couple of years ago I was Regional Director for YEPP and STEP in Denmark. Until recently I was a board member at the local YMCA.

Go to Page 5

The Experience of Youth Interns continues ...

From page 4

Last summer I was involved in coordinating the activities for an international group at a Danish teen summer camp. As you can see my experience as a Youth Intern has inspired me to stay active and involved as a part of Y's Men International and the YMCA.

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Rossana C. Reyes, Youth Intern 1996/97 from Uruguay



1996

I am blessed to be one of those lucky few people who have been selected as Youth Intern to work at the Y's Men headquarters in Geneva. My year as Youth Intern was a turning point in my life as it opened many opportunities in my life – thanks to Y's Men International.



... today

I am such a busy person and married. Just to tell you about myself. I have two full time jobs, yes it is incredible but it is like this. I have to work everyday during the year and some days I have to work in both jobs so I go from one to another without having time to rest. I am happy with both but I am not sure I will continue with both jobs, it is too much for my health... and then I also have another job that I go to

when I can, that is nice and easy, just the accounting of a public agency. Just to keep me interested in finances as I like.

Finally last September Guillermo, my husband, found a job after two years of inactivity due to the economic situation in Uruguay. He is very happy and at this moment he is at our summer house fishing and enjoying the week by himself... the rest of the family went on a car trip to Florianopolis, Brazil. I am the only one working these days...

It is a pleasure to hear from you... as always... Ryan and Bettina thanks so much for your mails, I enjoy reading your news, I have Denmark always in my mind and I wish to go there again. Marianne, hello, are you there! Michel was sharing his experience in Cochin during the Convocation and of course you were there as well as Kennedy (correct?), good for you, I wish to continue being young to participate in all these events that are part of what all of us as YI shared some time.... long time ago I can say.

Last weekend was the Area Convention for Latin America and Caribbean. I had the chance to be with Rolando as well as with some friends from the area such as Tati (do you remember her? she is Duarte's wife, and Denise's mother, then also Cecilia Tosta Eid was there).

To all, best wishes during these special days!

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Nancy Hainsworth, Youth Intern 1997/98 from Canada



1997

Hello, I am contestant number 3! I have been very involved in Y'sdom for as long as I can remember—including being YEOP in Norway. I applied for Intern 2 years after another Canadian, Ryan, had left the position. I had not expected to be Intern as I knew IHQ wanted someone from another country. There must have been some magic in the air as I was soon whisked off to Geneva! I think my internship was the best job I've had. My colleagues were (and still are) the greatest. Carol, with her red pen was my 'English professor—extraordinaire' and Hillevi was always there to talk to. Pauline was queen of the files—whenever I needed something she was there for the rescue! Ingvar thought of himself as 'papa' and tried to keep me under control—little did he know how impossible a task that was!! I spent my days e-mailing friends (in



... today

Y'sdom) and meeting youth around the world and learning about world issues. The only downfall to the job was my hobby became my job.

My internship led me to another internship this time at the YMCA of Greater New York—International Branch. I taught cultural awareness to kids across the city and helped run a teen travel programme for the 4 months I was there.

I am now working in a call centre of an insurance company—answering questions about medical and dental insurance. In the fall I took my 6th trip back to Norway to visit my host family and to see AYR Martin Dahle. In Central Canada we are planning the 4th annual Peace Conference in Central Canada Area, which I am helping to develop and it is beginning to create some excitement amongst youth, YMCAs and Y's Men alike.

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Kennedy Wabule Youth Intern 1998/99, from Kenya



1998

Jambo!!

(Jambo is the Swahili word for hello)

Thank you Moses for giving us this opportunity to say a little about our 1-year experience in Geneva. I still remember my one year working at IHQ with much nostalgia. I was completely elated when I got the call from Ingvar in Geneva to convey the good news of my selection & when I got to Geneva after a wonderful and successful International Youth Convocation in Finland, the "close-knit family" at the office was a welcome sight; I will never forget Papa Ingvar's undying sense of humour & fridge full of ice-cream, Hillevi's wonderful pastry and interesting coffee meetings in her office,



today

Pauline's cookery tips (many of which I desperately needed) & Carol's BBQ parties..

Go to page 6

The experience of Youth Interns, cont ...

From Page 4



2003

I got to know about Y's Men International through my parents who are members of the Y's Club in Brazil.

When I was 18 years old I went to Canada as an exchange student (YEEP Programme). It was a great experience in my life. I learnt very much with the Canadian people.

A few years later, PAP-LAC Cecilia told me about the Youth Intern position in Switzerland, she encouraged me to apply for it, and then I decided to do it in the last minute. A few months later, I received an e-mail from ISG Rolando telling me that I was chosen to be the Youth Intern 03/04. I was very happy and curious at the same time, so when the day to go to Switzerland arrived, I had a flash back about my experience in Canada, and I was thinking how blessed I am.



... today

When I got to Geneva, ISG Rolando and his wife Gloria picked me up in the airport, then they showed me some parts of the city, afterwards they took me to the place where I would live during my Internship. It is a very interesting place where there are people from all over the world, different cultures, ideas...I met many friends who I want to keep in touch with for good.

I learnt about many different things, our organization, myself, people, during my year as the Youth Intern. I had the opportunity to participate in the IYC 04 in India where I met many enthusiastic young people who shared their ideas, cultures, feelings...

I can definitely say that YMI changed my life for the better. I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart ISG Rolando, Carol and Pauline who are very nice, special people, they helped me very much, and taught me about different things (about our Organization, life, professional stuff...), there are no words to express my gratitude to all of you. You'll always be in my mind and heart.

I also would like to thank our wonderful organization (all the members) for all the opportunities which were given to me. The year as the Youth Intern was one of the most important years in my life. I am very thankful to God for everything and specially for making our organization, changing people's life for the better with all of Y's Programme. I am a very blessed person for getting to know about YMI.

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All the Youth out there, this is a challenge to you. Why not join the Past Youth Intern family?

For more information about how to apply for the Internship, log on the official website of Y's Men International: www.ysmen.org

Compiled by
Editor, Youth World, Issue 35
Moses Kyemba



THE TREE OF SOLIDARITY

I was only three years old when something very significant happened at the Thika Y.M.C.A. in Kenya that would later become as much a trademark of the institution as it is symbolic. It was a tree planting day and I had the honour of participating in the function, in the company of my parents as well as my elder brother.

On that significant day, I planted my first tree together with my father and brother. I cannot explain the feeling I felt, it being my first time, not because I lack words, but because I cannot remember. My father called it '**the tree of solidarity**'.



Fourteen years down the line, I happened to be accompanying my father to the Thika Y.M.C.A. and when I saw what is now the Y's Men Avenue, a short stretch lined with trees, I couldn't help commenting on how beautiful they looked. My father then reminded me of the day we had planted the trees and I suggested we stop and have a look at our tree of solidarity. Sure enough the tree was there. Fully grown and almost six times my height though we were almost the same height when it was planted.

This time round I can tell you what I felt. As I stood there looking at the tree I felt a sense of pride in knowing that I have been part of Y's Men activities even beyond the span of my memory.

My brother, Baraka Mwangi, who was then five years old, is now the respected Youth Chairman of the Thika Y.M.C.A Youth Club, a committee member of the Thika Y.M.C.A. branch committee and the Africa Area Youth Representative.

Kennedy Wabule, a household name in Y'sdom, was there as well on that day and I suppose he too planted a tree. I do not know if his father named it but I do know that his service to the club has been gargantuan so far. He has been the Chairman of the Y's Youth in Thika, has served as a Youth Intern at IHQ and is currently the International Service Director for Youth Involvement and Activities.

I would like to thank the leaders of the Y'sdom movement who have shown great support and given us youth their guidance and encouragement. This has inculcated in the youth right from a very early age values, virtues and principles that go with the name Y's Men. This has helped in the growth of a strong youth movement and the moulding of strong leaders of today and tomorrow.

It is my sincere belief and hope that with such initiatives as "Youth World" and communication links such as the yahoo user group which was a brain child of the IYC delegates of 2004, we the youth will develop a solid network where we can share experiences, ideas and information that will add value to the Y'sdom movement and see it grow from strength to strength.

Paska Kinuthia,
Harare, Zimbabwe

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My India experience



When I first arrived at Kochi International Airport, I was nicely greeted by a representative with an IYC sign. Immediately I met people that I knew from the previous convocation, we then loaded a bus and were taken to the Mermaid Hotel. Upon arrival we were greeted by our most inspirational Youth Intern Cristhiane Bakos along with our host parents. Then it was off to bed.

The next morning was for registration and meeting all the delegates. Compared to other convocations we didn't have a lot of youth, only about 70. We later had our youth opening ceremony and ice breakers were held. As the days went by, I found that we were usually busy with activities, workshops, or lectures. Some of our activities were a boat tour, visiting local shopping areas, sight seeing, a day at an amusement park, a disco night, the crazy mini taxi car rides, and of course the President's ball.

During the time of our daily workshops we formatted the new "strategic plan" to get youth involved in their Y's Men's Club or start their own clubs. Ideas were shared, emotions were expressed and a plan was created. The plan is a step by step way to start youth clubs in the communities. A small group and I made up a play that portrayed "how violence hurts the world", which was acted out in front of the International Council. Between our agenda I and 6 other people managed to get stuck in one of the hotel's elevators, which was one of my most fun but scary experiences. As the weeks went on, we got to know each other a lot better, and became almost like a family. We all soon came to notice that in order to work together we had to step out of our comfort zones, to adapt to our surroundings. We tried new things, and started to work as a team. Being in this environment we all grew and matured as young adults, we learned about each other and experienced different cultures.

As every great thing has a start, it also has an end. Tears are exchanged, good byes are said and the hope to see one another is in place. The convocation was said to be a success. Even though the youth go home and tell great stories about what happened, some people don't have high thoughts of these "youth convocations". The value of these convocations is incredible to both the youth and Y's Men. Still some think all we do is play around and have a good time. Some clubs don't believe in sending youth to these convocations, but they have no idea what it's like to be the youth who get to go. They don't see or experience what we do, they have forgotten that to get things accomplished it takes hard work, dedication, and the ability to have fun. These so-called "useless convocations" give us the chance to bond with others and help make a difference. If we all work together, we can build a culture of peace that we desire.

By, Joel Twycross - USA

My commitment to Y's Men as a Y's Youth

What is my commitment to Y's Men as a Y's Youth?



This is one question posed to us many times but we the youth try to avoid answering for as long as we possibly can. Yet we want to enjoy in totality all that Y's Men has to offer. But at the back of our mind we know that we have *To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right*. You want your presence to be acknowledged simply because you are a Y's youth but this has long happened. Do you then, therefore, leave it at that?

When we talk of youth involvement in the movement, we do so as if it is not for you and me to initiate the involvement but for the Y's Men - then we shall follow thereafter. I don't think this is the way we should perceive things. It should be you and me to initiate our involvement in the movement and let the Y's Men facilitate - which they are already doing. Youth programmes are in place to facilitate youth involvement. How well do you know about these programmes? How well do you know about *STEP, YEOP, BCP (previously SNTV), Youth Club formation, Youth Internship and Youth representation*? If you do understand in depth any of these programmes and take part in them, then I think you can proudly call yourself a Y's Youth. Some of our fellow youth fully understand these programmes and have participated and taken full advantage of what they have to offer. Then why should you be left behind?

Have you bothered to ask about any of these programmes from your club president, district governor, regional director, area president, IHQ, youth intern, international youth representative, area youth representative? Just to mention a few. However when we turn to other movements that we are members of, such as the Scouts and Girl Guide movement, Red Cross, Lions Club, etc, we know almost all there is to know about them. I therefore ask *Why not Y's Men International?* It is your commitment and mine that will make participation in our movement enjoyable and fun. Can we therefore make it our personal responsibility to understand our movement and duly serve it with the zeal and zest it deserves? We are in a great movement and let us show this by our deeds.

Baraka Mwangi
AYR Africa.