

"OUR CHALLENGE TO YOU,
OUR COMMITMENT WITH YOU"



REPORT OF THE 9th INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONVOCATION
TO
THE 65th INTERNATIONAL Y'S MEN'S CONVENTION, SYDNEY,
AUSTRALIA
4 AUGUST 2002

Introduction: "We are making a difference"

We the members of the 9th International Youth Convocation have rededicated ourselves to this movement and organization. We have committed ourselves to increasing Y'sdom throughout the world by increasing youth involvement. We have addressed the issues of communication, publicity, community service on local, regional, and international levels, and we have set forth specific plans to accomplish our goals. We held seminars with emphasis on "Saying No To Violence", "Me and My Local Y's Men" and "Changes to the Strategic Plan".

Me and my local club

We have been given the opportunity to learn more about the various Y's activities that youth from other regions and areas are involved in at their local clubs. Observance of Time of Fast in February is a major event, with local clubs setting aside one special day for fundraising projects, the proceeds of which will go to Time of Fast. Some youth actively work as camp leaders or program coordinators at the YMCA. Attending charity events and participating in fundraising programs are done in most local Y's Youth clubs.

However, we have also expressed our intention to be able to widen this range of activities by coming up with creative and concrete projects that we hope to implement in our respective clubs. One way to promote the movement is to hold charity walks while wearing Y's Men's T-shirts. We would like to become more involved in social service through volunteering at

rest/retirement homes or helping people with disabilities. Fundraising projects, whether local or international, could be organized not merely to benefit the club but more importantly to serve worthy causes like helping victims of natural disasters.

However, we believe that all of us here have God-given talents that we can share by utilizing our own knowledge and experience in different fields such as education, medical services, and Information Technology. This way we are not only extending our help to others but at the same time, we are working on our own personal growth. By reaching out to other people, we would be able to improve our skills in interpersonal relationships and leadership. By meeting others from diverse cultures we can overcome language barriers and broaden our horizons to new and exciting experiences.

What we need from you is to let us help in your local clubs so we also feel part of the Y's Men's movement.

The strategic plan for youth involvement

We have agreed upon some changes in our Strategic Plan that all of the youth at this convocation have committed themselves to implementing. The changes, which will set the tone for future youth in Y'sdom are included in the final version of this plan specified in appendix A. The changes in this strategic plan have been approved by the International Council Members and we now need YOUR help to implement this plan.

Say No To Violence

During our "*Say no to violence*" seminars we were fortunate enough to take part in a roundtable discussion featuring Dr. John Irvine as our guest speaker. Throughout this seminar we were able to touch on some of the issues our fellow Y's Youth are dealing with in their respective areas. We have touched on topics such as crime against women and children, political violence, weapons in schools, the impact of violent entertainment on young people, and domestic violence.

We were able to come up with some programs that we believe will increase awareness of violence and consequently decrease its occurrence within our communities.

The Youth Convocation members came up with these ideas as ways to promote non-violence:

- 1) Calendar showing SNTV day and various Y's Men's days.
- 2) T-shirts / badges worn with pride on SNTV day.
- 3) Incorporate promotion of Y's Men and our various programs at other organization's events.

It was proposed that we begin promoting on a regional level, and then through communication incorporate it on an international level.

Promotion of the Y's Youth activities through the following, were also looked at as ways to increase involvement and decrease violence.

- 1) A youth book containing such material as what the movement is and what it entails. It would also give contacts as to where more information can be received. Information about youth activities would also be included.
- 2) Youth fun fare. Fun day of activities directed at the youth.
- 3) And lastly by forming Y's Youth Clubs we can increase involvement and promote non-violence.

Our challenge to Y's Men's International then is for the technical and financial help we will need to instigate and continue this very important project for the whole movement. Not only is recognisable help important to us but also your continuing positive encouragement. We can work together for a united purpose to promote non-violence.

This is our challenge to you. We hope that you will accept this challenge as we all have committed ourselves to working in synergy with you.