

WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

REPORT

OF

THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONVOCATION

TO

THE 62ND Y'S MEN'S INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

3 AUGUST, 1996

We Will Make A Difference

Introduction

This is what has happened in the two years since the International Youth Convocation in Singapore in 1994:

The DREAM has become a VISION.

The ACTION has begun to be TAKEN in Y'sdom in several parts of the world.

The FUTURE is NOW!

For example, youth clubs have been established and chartered in Y's Men's Clubs in Brazil (YPE), Sri Lanka, Russia, Malaysia and Estonia.

Our first Youth Intern at IHQ in Geneva, Ryan Metcalfe (Canada) and our first Youth Representative on the International Council, Teemu Koivisto (Finland) completed their terms of office and gave a great impetus to the youth movement in Y'sdom.

We look forward to the future achievements of incoming Youth Intern Rossana Croci Reyes (Uruguay) and International Youth Representative Isabella Souza Lima (Brazil).

The Youth now have effective voices and representation at the highest levels of Y'sdom. We have elected Youth Representatives from each of the 8 Areas in Y'sdom. We are encouraging youth representation at the local club and regional levels.

Our place in Y'sdom has been supported by PIP Christian Friis' theme "Youth: Our Heritage - Our Commitment" and by the emphasis placed on youth at this Convention.

Our direction for the future is being guided by ISD YIA Rajan Panicker's "Youth Involvement Action Plan".

Our Report for the 6th International Youth Convocation in Fredericton, Canada is inspired by current International President David Morris' theme: "Learn - Implement - Impart".

LEARN

In order for the youth to succeed in achieving a higher level of participation in Y'sdom we must first begin at the local level, with your blessing and support. We must learn about Y's Men from you and from your example... You are our mentors.

The growth of youth involvement in Y'sdom should be a learning experience both for the individuals who are currently involved and for those who will follow in our footsteps. As much can be learned from our failures as from our successes. Trial and error is, by far, one of the best ways to gain valuable experiences. It is crucial that we take those very first steps now as those initial steps are often the most difficult to take.

As our parents in Y's Men, we respect your advice and guidance and appreciate your giving us the wings on which to fly, to find our own places and service in Y'sdom.

IMPLEMENT

The youth of this organisation shall participate in whatever they can to pass along the passion for more youth involvement in Y'sdom. We ask the youth of this movement to pass along the ideas and ideals of Y'sdom to their friends and peers. We can form youth clubs under the guidance of Y's Men. We can charter our own Youth Y's Men's Clubs. We can become members of existing Y's Men's Clubs. We can better understand Y'sdom for ourselves, gain important and better communication and leadership skills and learn more about ourselves through this interactive process.

The Y's Men's Movement was begun in 1922 by Paul William Alexander, a concerned individual, taking action and getting others around him involved.

Now, in 1996, this movement has become a global community encompassing some 62 countries and thousands of enthusiastic men, women and youth. Imagine if Paul William Alexander had kept this vision to himself... where would this movement be?

We, the youth, who attended this convocation, will all be encouraged to embark upon the next steps to strengthen the youth movement in Y'sdom. We propose the creation of new Y's Men's Clubs formed by youth, taking into account their specific needs and concerns and with strong connections to the ideals of Y's Men International. But, the most important and critical aspects of this youth movement is that the youth enjoy their experiences and find their service to Y's Men's projects deemed worthwhile. If the youth cannot enjoy their experiences while they offer valuable service and work, then this movement will soon fade away. A conscious effort will be required to keep the youth involved.

All of our efforts may not succeed. But, if we do not attempt to make a difference, we are bound to failure.

IMPART

The youth delegates standing before you shall pass on the spirit and passion expressed in "We Can Make A Difference".

WE CAN AND WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Each one of us must be the new Paul William Alexander spreading the word of the movement to our friends and peers.

We thank you for your continuous moral and financial support in making this Youth Convocation a reality and success.

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to make a difference for this movement, for our communities both locally and globally and in our own lives.

We hope that the wheels of this youth movement will now begin to roll down the path toward our vision begun in Singapore. This path is neither straight nor easy, and we ask for your continuing support. We will encounter roadblocks to be overcome that will require both the strength and flexibility of youth, the experience and wisdom of Y's Men and the teaching and love of Jesus Christ.

WE have a rich HERITAGE in Y'sdom... WE have a COMMITMENT to Y'sdom... WE are the FUTURE of Y'sdom... WE are the NOW of Y'sdom.