

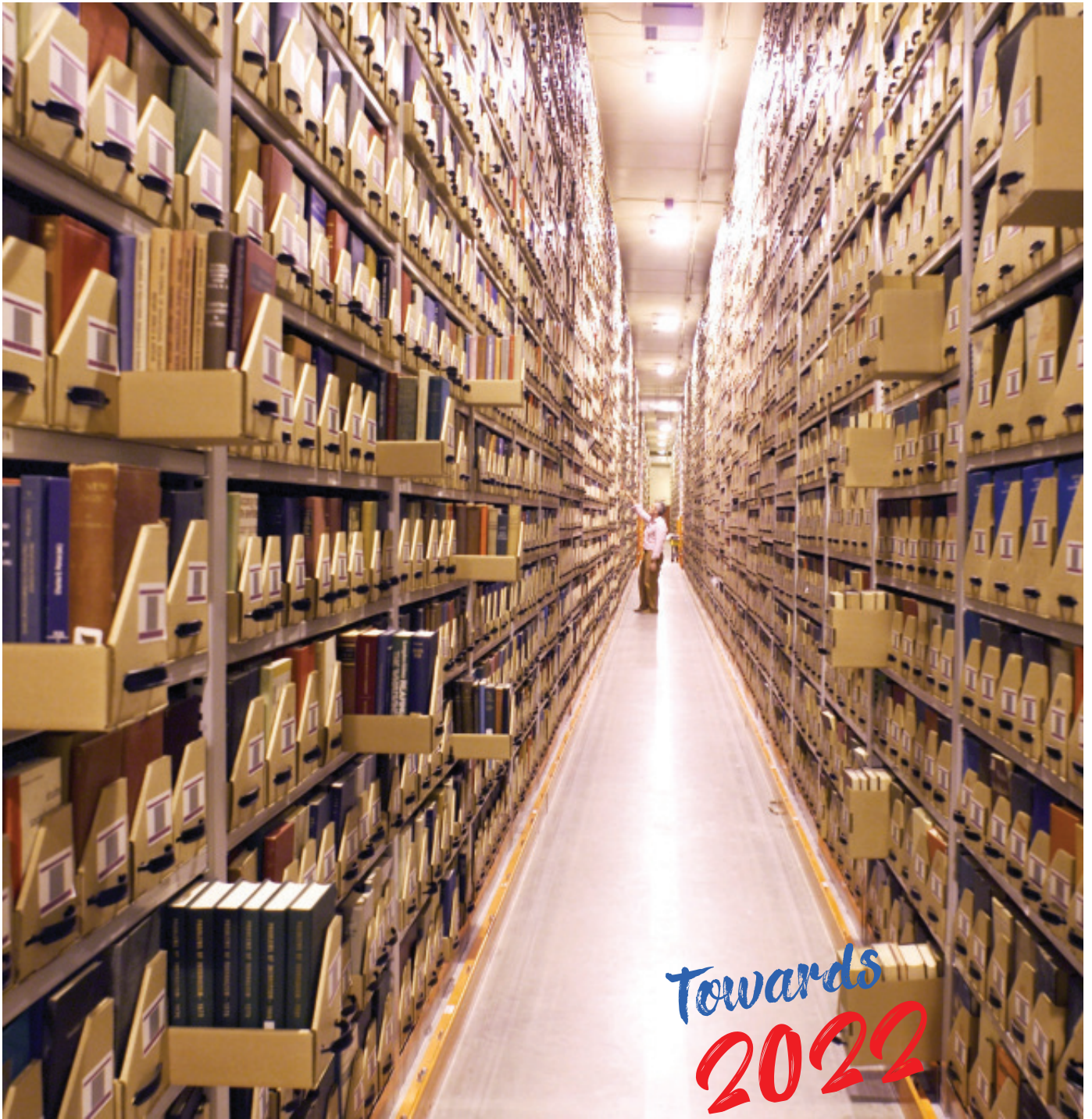


Y's Men International
Y Service Clubs International

YMI WORLD

“To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right”

Only for private distribution to members



Towards
2022

INSIDE: In Search of Our Founder's Home and Remains • Paul William Alexander Legacy Project • Paul William Alexander – A Rare Man with a Golden Touch • YMI Records Archived in the University of Minnesota • ENVIRONMENT: Climate Change – We Must Do More! • YMI PROGRAMMES: Global Opportunities for Leadership Development • TOF Fund: Unique in Many Ways • Endowment Fund: Ensuring Long-term Stability • BEYOND BORDERS: Denmark and Kosovo - A Rewarding Journey Together • Extension Beyond Borders - An Idea Worth Pursuing • Y's MENETTES: International Project in Tirana Takes Off • International Election Results 2019 • MANTRA FOR THE SOUL: The Dehumanizing Effect of Labels + NEWS FROM AREAS



Editor's Page

Dear reader,

In YMI we have inaugurated an era of excitement. There is a lot of optimism and enthusiasm as we enter the last leg of



our journey to the centenary year. Leaders in many Areas, inspired and motivated by International President Moon's challenging theme and call to action, have shown a rare kind of zeal to grow the Movement. What was thought impossible a few months ago now appears possible.

IP Moon and ISG Jose have been working in tandem to ensure that no stone is left unturned to make the year 2022 a memorable one. IP Moon led a team to Toledo, Ohio in search of the founder's home and grave. To the dismay of the team, very little was found. It is that visit that led to the creation of a Task Force to honour the founder in a fitting manner with Debbie Redmond (USA) and Kim Sang-chaeh (Korea) as co-chairs. Governing Area Presidents until the centenary year will also be members of the Task Force.

The Mid Year Meeting that was held in Chiang Mai in February adopted a very ambitious plan to raise at least USD 1 million in the next three years to create an appropriate memorial for the founder. Among the many ideas put forward is the "renovation and re-purposing of Paul William's childhood home for use by local YMCA and/or a new Toledo Y's Men's club for programmes benefitting the local community." It is heartening to note that of the USD one million targeted, USD 100,000 have either come in or have been pledged.

It is also encouraging to hear that the Toledo YMCA and the Mayor of the city of Toledo have extended their full support to any proposal that YMI would make to perpetuate the memory of the late Paul William Alexander.

This issue carries a rather detailed report of the visit of IP Moon and others. It also gives you an idea of what the Task

Force is planning to do. Fittingly, Debbie Redmond, ISD-Historian, writes a very warm piece about Paul William Alexander.

We exhort you to raise your hands and join our IP's ambitious plan of creating a lasting legacy in the name of our founder.

Y'sly,

Koshy Mathew

FROM MY BOOKSHELF

Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation by John Carlin

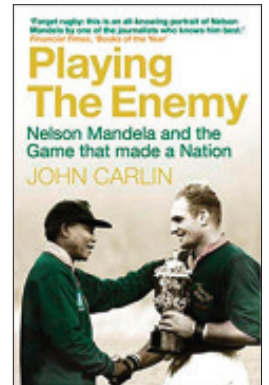
A thrilling, inspiring account of one of the greatest charm offensives in history – Nelson Mandela's decade-long campaign to unite his country, beginning in his jail cell and ending with a rugby tournament.

In 1985, Nelson Mandela, then in prison for 23 years, set about winning over the fiercest proponents of apartheid, from his jailers to the head of South Africa's military. First he earned his freedom and then he won the presidency in the nation's first free election in 1994. But he knew that South Africa was still dangerously divided by almost fifty years of apartheid. If he couldn't unite his country in a visceral, emotional way – and fast – it would collapse into chaos. He would need all the charisma and strategic acumen he had honed during half a century of activism, and he'd need a cause all South Africans could share. Mandela picked one of the more farfetched causes imaginable – the national rugby team, the Springboks, who would host the sport's World Cup in 1995.

As their surprising string of victories lengthened, their home-field advantage grew exponentially. South Africans of every colour and political stripe found themselves falling for the team. The Springboks won a nail-biter that day, defying the oddsmakers and capping Mandela's miraculous ten-year-long effort to bring 43 million South Africans together in an enduring bond.

John Carlin, a former South Africa bureau chief for the London *Independent*, offers a singular portrait of the greatest statesman of our time in action, blending the volatile cocktail of race, sport, and politics to intoxicating effect. He draws on extensive interviews with Mandela, Desmond Tutu, and dozens of other South Africans caught up in Mandela's momentous campaign, and the Springboks' unlikely triumph. As he makes stirringly clear, their championship transcended the mere thrill of victory to erase ancient hatreds and make a nation whole.

(A Goodreads review)



Cover picture: The caverns beneath Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota are where the special collections materials are housed, including that of Y's Men International. See write-up on page 7.

Y's Men International
Y Service Clubs International

YMI WORLD

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In Search of Our Founder's Home and Remains



In early January a team of YMI leaders led by IP Moon Sang-bong visited Toledo, Ohio in an attempt to discover the final resting place of YMI Founder Paul William Alexander. Apart from IP Moon, the team comprised Mrs. Moon, ISD (Historian) PAP Debbie Redmond; Co-chair of the Legacy Project Kim Sang-chaе and his wife, Chuck Hartlage from YMCA, Jin (from IP's office), and a PR team from New York – Sibi David, Roy Mathew and Mohanji Chiramannil. The following text is based on the notes that IP Moon Sang-bong circulated immediately after his visit – Editor.

7 January 2019: Our first attempt was to locate the house in which Paul William Alexander lived with his family after his marriage. It was a small but relatively tidy house compared to his presumed childhood house, but we failed to find anyone who could share with us anything more.

Later this day we went to the St. Paul's Episcopal Church where his funeral and memorial service were held following his death in 1967. There we met an organist who remembered Paul William Alexander's mother, as someone who undertook a tour of Europe with her. And there the conversation ended. Not much information could be elicited from her about Alexander or the rest of his family. But the video crew were able to capture some images relating to Paul William Alexander's membership in that church from the records maintained by the parish.

Later Chuck Hartlage, Communications and Marketing



IP Moon Sang-bong (right) and Co-chair of the Legacy Project Kim Sang-chaе outside the St. Paul's Episcopal Cahurch

Director, YMCA and JCC of Greater Toledo, provided us with more information from church records. They included:

- ♦ Paul William Alexander was confirmed as an adult in 1932. However, no exact date was available.
- ♦ Paul and Lorraine Alexander were communicants at St. Paul's in the 1950's. They could have been communicants longer or in other years but no records were found. But, this documentation was present.
- ♦ Paul William Alexander died on 29 June 1967 at 78 years of age in Maumee, Ohio of cerebral thrombosis. He is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery. A memorial service was held at St. Paul's on 3 July 1967 by Rev. Howard H. Graham.
- ♦ Pauls W. Alexander's wife, Lorraine, died at 80 years of age on 16 August 1968 at 420 River Road, Maumee, Ohio. She is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery as well. A service was held at St. Paul's on 19 August 1968.

Next, we passed by the International Park where service clubs planted trees but there was no trace of any Y's Men involvement or markers.

After lunch, we went to see the house where he was raised and lived till his marriage and before becoming a judge. According to Debbie's research, his father died when Alex was just three years old, and it was his mother and elder sister who raised him. The house was run down and almost abandoned.

But, according to the Mayor's office the house we saw does not match the address and the address shows what remains is just grass not any building. Mayor Wade promised to check it out and let us know whatever information we might need in the meeting held in following day. It turned out the address – 1017 Huron Street – was correct. Thanks to our historian, PAP Debbie's additional research.

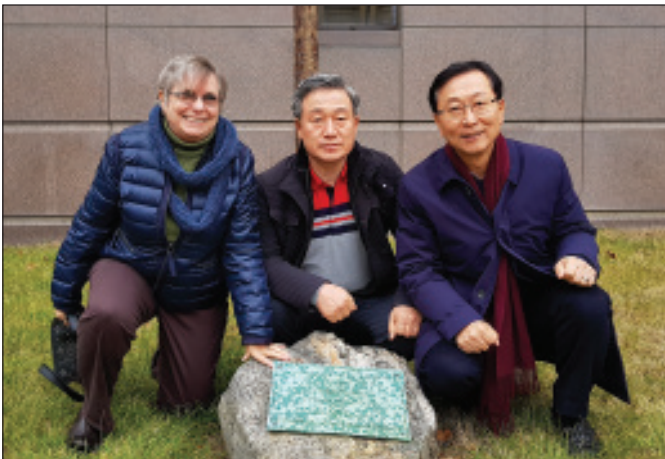


LEGACY JOURNEY



The team in front of the house in which Paul William Alexander grew up

Our next stop was the **Family Court Centre**, where we found a plaque indicating the spot where the very first Y's Men's Club was located. The plaque was small and outside of the building.



At the Family Court Centre with the plaque indicating the spot where the very first Y's Men's Club was located

We then visited the **Historic Woodlawn Cemetery**, where Judge Alexander's family is interred. All we could gather, owing to Debbie's prior research, was that the mortal remains of Paul Alexander, his wife and his son were buried in Section 31, somewhere near Marker 39. Only a tiny floor stone numbered 274, a reliable indicator of specific location, was found. It took a long time with a drizzle hindering our search.

We were finally able to find **the exact spot where his ashes were buried** along with that of his wife's. It was a mind-boggling



Pic on right: Debbie, IP Moon and Kim pointing to the marker indicating the spot where his ashes were interred at the Woodlawn Cemetery (above)



experience to learn that there's no headstone or any other marker to indicate where our founder is laid to eternal rest.

On our way back to the hotel, we dropped by YMCA Toledo, where we found many active members enjoying various programmes in vibrant atmosphere.

In the evening we met **Mr. Brad Toft, President and CEO of YMCA and JCC of Greater Toledo** over dinner. We were a group of ten and it was hard to communicate effectively in a noisy restaurant packed with people. But we were assured that he would be a strong supporter of our initiatives in finding and honouring our founder. Mr. Toft was a very pleasant person and did great job in connecting us with the Mayor.



Meeting with Mr. Brad Toft, President and CEO of YMCA and JCC of Greater Toledo (second from right) at the YMCA

On 8 January 2019 we met the **Mayor, Mr. Wade Kapszukiewicz**, in his office. He was a really a nice guy. Young, cool and enthusiastic in listening to us and willing to help. He promised to answer any inquires and help us in our quest for the legacy of Paul William Alexander.



LEGACY JOURNEY



With the Mayor in his office in Toledo

The best thing was that he assured us there would be no administrative obstruction to pursuing our project. Basically

he agreed that the project would be benefiting the city with massive exposure to our members across the globe.

On my return from Toledo, Kim, Debbie and I had another meeting to pledge our commitment and take forward the idea of launching the Legacy Project. Our visit to Toledo has great importance in the sense we have been able to explore the direction in which the project should be moving and received consensus from the authorities of Toledo. I believe co-chairs of the Task Force Team will now actively communicate and develop the project with specified timelines.

There is all possibility of revitalising Y's Movement in Toledo through this trip. I seek the continued support of our International Executive Officers to take forward this idea as part of this Legacy Project. For a videographic version of this report go to: <https://youtu.be/igb-fkGzC3Q>

Just Launched!

At ICM 18 the Founder Legacy Project Task Force (TF) was formed under the inspiration of IP Moon Sang-bong with a primary commission to suggest project(s) by which to honour Paul William Alexander and build our modern global identity, enthusing current members and bringing in new ones.

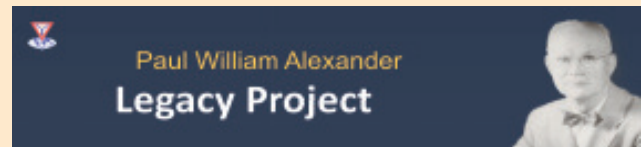


IP Moon presents the details of the Project at MYM

Task Force Co-Chair PAP-USA Debbie Redmond, working in close cooperation with IP Moon, launched the work by researching and developing a broader understanding of Paul William Alexander. She established contact with his grandsons, the Toledo Mayor and the Toledo YMCA. Some initial project ideas began to form.

By November, a trip to the Minneapolis Archives and to Toledo with IP Moon, following his scheduled December visit to the Pacific Southwest Region, was being suggested. Meetings were arranged with the Toledo Mayor and the Toledo YMCA between 7 and 8 January. During these two days a team, including IP Moon Sang-bong, TF Co-chairs Debbie Redmond and APE Kim Sang-chaе as well as a volunteer PR team of Y's Men from New York to document the historical visit, retraced the life of our founder.

In the afternoon of 17 February, IP Moon Sang-bong gave a presentation to MYM attendees which included photos and video of this trip, as well as possible project initiatives, fundraising ideas and centennial promotional logos. Following the presentation, the MYM group broke into smaller sections to discuss what had been presented in a focused manner. The topic was more broadly addressed on consecutive days as well. On the last afternoon, per the request of the



MYM participants, a final session was dedicated to the Legacy Project concept and the consensus of the attending AP/E's was the following:

- ♦ Establishment of a total fundraising goal for the end of 2021 of USD 1 million to be reached through club and Regional donations equivalent to USD 10 per member over the next three years, as well as individual contributions.
- ♦ Acceptance of the official name of "Paul William Alexander Legacy" to designate the fund and the subsequent project(s) the money will eventually subsidise.

Projects are still under discussion and will depend on the funds raised but include:

- ♦ Digitalisation of some or part of our archives in Minneapolis and creation of cooperative online museum with the YMCA.
- ♦ Purchase and placement of an engraved headstone at the currently anonymous burial site of Paul William Alexander; other memorial tribute or statue.
- ♦ Monetary support for and inclusion of Founder Legacy forums and programmes in the first International RDE Summit (to be held in Toledo in November 2019).
- ♦ Renovation and re-purposing of the Paul William Alexander's childhood home for use by local YMCA and/or new Toledo Y's Men's club for programmes benefitting the local community.
- ♦ A portion of the funds may also be set aside for the development of centennial promotional materials; membership roster and cards; and contribution awards and recognitions.

IHQ has been asked to create and share descriptive and publicity material for this initiative with Areas and Regions. Work on this task is underway. A dedicated Paul William Alexander Legacy account has been established in our books and contributions are already being accepted. In fact, at an impromptu "Legacy Project" dinner on 17 February, MYM participants and Chiang Mai Y's Men guests unofficially launched the campaign by pledging more than USD 75,000.

Tracy Movigliatti, IHQ



LEGACY JOURNEY

Paul William Alexander - A Rare Man with a Golden Touch

Debbie Redmond, ISD-Historian

On the wall, above the bench of a courtroom hung a small replica of a boat and a quotation below it that read “Who does not answer to the rudder, shall answer to the rock.” While some of the people visiting that courtroom did not know or understand the meaning to the quotation, they would have obviously seen it as they entered the room. That courtroom was maintained by the same judge for 30 years starting in 1936. The courtroom was the scene quite often of hearings for divorce and when



asked, the judge would explain the meaning of the quotation as: “Divorce is the rock; the rudder is the self-discipline of unselfishness.” In the legal community those 30 years of the courtroom were significant. Even 50 years later, there is still talk and writing about the changes made by that judge. He, indeed, changed the viewpoint of divorce as well as the manner in which divorces were granted while describing himself as a “Marriage Mortician”. Through his work, there have been many changes and he received many honors during his lifetime. His obituary told about him starting the “Traffic School for Juvenile Violators” as well as “Marriage Counselling Services” which are still used today.

To each of the Y’s Men, that person was someone entirely different but still made changes and impacted many lives. For that Judge was our founder, Paul William Alexander. For starters, out of his 78 years of life,

64 were were marked by his involvement in the YMCA where he attended as a teenager being raised by a single mother (his father died when he was three). As a young professional, starting with a single club originally called “Tolymca,” the name and the impact changed in 1922 when it became Toledo Central Y’s Men and was a part of Y’s Men International. Paul William Alexander was the first President of the International Association of Y’s Men. He wrote the first Constitution, wrote the Inaugural Address, came up with the Y’s Men Song, the Induction Ceremony, and with the motto that we still use, “To Acknowledge the Duty that Accompanies Every Right.” When he died in 1967, there were over 500 clubs in 30 countries and has grown considerably since that time.

Paul William Alexander was a lawyer, a judge, and a Professor

of Law at old St John’s University. He served on the board of the Toledo Metropolitan YMCA and was active for many years with the Boys’ Club of Toledo, the North Toledo Community House, Crippled Children’s Society, Greater Toledo Community Chest, and Child Welfare Board. As a family man, Judge Alexander was able to care for his wife, his daughter, bury his son at the age of nine, care for his mother and his mother-in-law in his home and become a wonderful grandfather to three grandsons. He did indeed have a “Golden Touch” because his insight and overall viewpoint impacted so many people and continues to do so even 52 years after his death. We need to continue to remember and honour his Golden Touch as well as his open and welcoming approach to life and all people.



A picture from the 1950s - The caption under this picture read: “Kindly Judge Paul Alexander of the Toledo Domestic Relations Court questions a 9-year-old girl about her preference in a custody fight between her divorced parents. According to Ohio law the girl was not allowed to make the final decision, but the enlightened judge wanted her ideas before he made his. She had originally been granted to her mother, but had gone to live with her father when the mother became ill. In the resulting competition for her affections she became nervous and high strung and the court finally awarded to her father, in whose custody the symptoms had largely disappeared. The judge who has handled 22,000 divorce cases and who is credited with reducing juvenile delinquency in Toledo by 50% [...]. He points out that divorce is not the cause but the result of broken families and the hypocrisy and quasi-criminal proceedings under which many divorces are granted be eliminated. His cure: “Treat unappy and delinquent spouses as we have learned to handle delinquent children, in a modern family court, using diagnosis and therapy to accomplish what is actually best for the society as well for the family.”



YMI Records Archived in the University of Minnesota

The Archives of Y's Men's records which date back to the origin of our Movement in November 1922 are now in a permanent home in the Andersen Library of the University of Minnesota.

Our records have historically been deposited in many different places, starting with Henry Grimes basement in Lawrence, Massachusetts, the YMCA of the USA's office in New York, and in the home of George Keitel, our first Historian, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Subsequently, a decision was made to consolidate our history material and to forward it to the office of the YMCA of the USA in Chicago. In 1984, the YMCA of the USA and the University of Minnesota formed a partnership, establishing the Archives. YMI was invited by the YMCA to share space in the Archives.

When the material arrived in Chicago, Past Historian, Jim Mueller, and his wife, Audrey, travelled to Chicago where they spent one week in sorting through the boxes of YMCA and Y's Men material. Eventually, the material was shipped to the University of Minnesota Archives which was located in an old warehouse in the Midway District of St. Paul, Minnesota. When a committee was selected to write the 1997 history of our Movement, it was determined that its members should reside near the Archives and the Y's Men records.

In 1998 the University of Minnesota decided to build an Archives building on its campus. Because of a scarcity of campus property above the ground, it was determined to construct the building underground for storage and three storeys above ground for offices. It was built in limestone



The Andersen Library (above) houses a five-storey, 100,000 square foot lending library above ground and an 84,000 square foot archive facility (cover picture) fifty feet below bedrock. The two facilities are connected by vertical elevator and stair shafts. Structural systems include precast concrete and structural steel.

which was surrounded by sandstone. Thirty feet of topsoil and 30 feet of limestone topped two caverns, each the length of two football fields. The YMCA of the USA, which was granted storage space, kindly allowed YMI to share some of its space. The USD 41.5 million, state-of-the-art facility, called the **Andersen Library**, opened in 2000.

The History Archives Advisory Committee, which was formed in 2001, has sorted through many boxes of files, removing duplicate material and staples and re-sorting material according to the collection which covers 92.5 cubic feet of shelf space in 216 storage boxes. Because of limited storage space, we recommended that the Archives should mainly contain only important documents from Areas and International.

Source: www.ysmen.org

Samples from the Archives



It's been 80 years since the first known Y's Men Christmas tree lot opened in 1938! Y's Men Club member, John Werness, is credited with the idea of selling Christmas trees to raise money to help send kids to summer camp. Werness and fellow club members opened this lot in Minneapolis at the corner 46th St. and Lyndale Ave. A Y-newsletter recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Y's Men's Christmas Tree Project reminded members to purchase their Christmas trees from Y's Men's lots because a "Y's Men's Tree Serves Two - A Youth and You."

The photo on the right shows the YMCA Wheelmen, a bicycle club housed in the Twenty-sixth Ward branch, now the North Brooklyn branch of the YMCA. Bicycling took off in the 1880s with the invention of the safety bicycle, which replaced the high-wheeled (and dangerous) bicycles of an earlier era. New York City issued badges that allowed the wheelmen to ride in the parks. If you look closely, you can see that these Brooklyn riders all had badges.



ENVIRONMENT

Climate Change – We Must Do More!

Colin Lambie, Chair, YMI Environment Committee (Green Team)

At the Yokohama International Convention in 2010, the following



declaration was made: “We recognise the real threat to life due to the changing environment and limited availability of

resources. All members are encouraged to help minimise the impact through their behaviour and actions. Y’s Men International will be carbon neutral from 2010-11.”

Y’s Men International offset the greenhouse gas emissions of its international leaders using a **carbon offset fund**. But much more could be done and should be done.

Rising Temperatures

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) have just released a statement that the last four years were the warmest on record. The WMO statement also states that “...greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are key drivers of climate change and atmospheric concentrations reflect a balance between emissions due to human activities and the net uptake by the biosphere and oceans.” The WMO further talks about temperatures being about 1°C above pre-industrial levels.

The Paris Agreement of 2015 is an agreement by most countries in the world to try to limit warming to 1.5°C. But not many countries are doing enough and some are doing very little to reduce their greenhouse gases and hence do their share to limit the warming they are causing.

What is the impact of not doing enough to avoid more serious climate change? We are already seeing examples: floods, extreme weather events (both heat waves and cold snaps), forest fires, droughts, etc. These events will become even more severe and catastrophic.

What are the excuses for not taking action? Australia, for example, is a country with only about 25 million people. Australia contributes around 1 per cent of the greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere.

Excuses, Excuses, Excuses

An excuse Australians use is, “why should we bother when countries like USA and China contribute much more?” France, Italy and well over 100 other countries produce less emissions than Australia, so one assumes, could use the same excuse for not taking action. This is a poor excuse.



Population is often stated as the problem; if there were fewer people, there would be less greenhouse gases, and hence the problem would be solved. This excuse is usually used by people in developed countries with reference to the highly populated developing countries. But if we look at the emissions per person, for example, a person in Australia or USA produces about 20 tonnes of greenhouse gases per annum, whereas a person in India produces about 2 tonnes per annum. This too is a poor excuse.

Most excuses are put forward by the same public relations companies that were contracted by the tobacco industry to very successfully promote doubt about the link between tobacco and cancer. These companies are now contracted by the fossil fuel industry to promote doubt about climate change.

YMI demonstrates its concern for humanity, for example by conducting

the Roll Back Malaria campaign. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), deaths from Malaria reached 435,000 in 2017. The WHO COP24 Special Report, *Health and Climate Change*, states “burning fossil fuels for power, transport and industry is the main source of the carbon emissions that are driving climate change and a major contributor to health-damaging air pollution, which every year kills over seven million people due to exposure inside and outside their homes.” The WHO also states that “between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.”

It’s Our Responsibility!

While malaria and climate change are both worth doing something about, one significant difference is the fact that we are all partly responsible for climate change. We can reduce our contribution to climate change in many ways, including minimising travel, or at least off-setting the travel. While governments must take action, we, as individuals, as clubs, as an organisation can support transition to renewable energy and minimise use of fossil fuels in other ways, for example with more efficient (LED) lighting, etc. YMI could declare that all conventions are to be ‘carbon neutral’; this would be done by adding a small carbon offset charge to the registration fee.

YMI has funding to reduce carbon emissions, which offset the emissions of leaders travelling to fulfil their duties. Funds have been allocated for biogas projects, composting projects, lighting upgrades. Any Y’s Men’s club or YMCA could conduct a lighting upgrade in their community which would reduce electricity consumption and hence greenhouse gases.

Visit www.ysmen.org/environment to take action using carbon offset funds.

Global Opportunities for Leadership Development

GOLD 2.0 is a new programme and we are ready to start introducing it to members throughout the Movement. Originally the programme was designed to provide leadership development for our young people but the activities are appropriate for new members of any age.

The GOLD 2.0 Manual is posted on the international website along with several documents that explain the programme philosophy and resources available. I urge you to read it over and, if you are interested in studying the curriculum either to help with your own leadership development or to lead training sessions for others, please contact me.

The GOLD 2.0 training does not replace the current LTOD programme but is designed to enhance existing leadership skills and introduce new skills that will help members become better prepared for service to others, for contributing more to your local club and for getting ready to take on future leadership roles beyond the club level.



Gold programme team – Nairobi Central Y's Youth Club after one of the discussion sessions

The idea is that the GOLD 2.0 curriculum would be the precursor to the specific training provided through LTOD material.

The approach to the learning activities is based on what is called experiential learning where you work together to share your existing knowledge and experiences to develop your skills and knowledge and as a final step, take some action to implement your ideas.

The goal is to set up GOLD 2.0 Teams in every Region with at least one member in each club. These teams will then explore the curriculum and prepare to lead workshops at the District and Regional levels. The curriculum has been designed to allow a club to use the activities as part of their regular meetings or to form the basis of a 1-3 day workshop within a Region or District.

Here's what PAYR for Africa, Miriam Kaguri, had to say about their experiences: "We started this programme on 15 January 2017 with a team of eight active participants. Our facilitator PIYR Kennedy Wabule has been of great help to us and led us through the initial discussion meetings as the mode of study. The learning has assisted us in better understanding the Y's Men / Y Service Movement, especially finding out about our history."

We have not managed to finish this programme as fast as we expected, but we are working towards that at least by end of the year, we should at least be 75% done with the programme. We have decided to adopt the self-study mode to make work easier for us.

I urge all young members in every Region and District to take part in the GOLD 2.0 programme, as it does not only assist us in learning about the Movement but also sharpens our leadership skills in our daily assignments.

Dave Hall, ISD - GOLD 2.0

World Malaria Day 2019

World Malaria Day 2019 is on April 25th, this annual event is a worldwide effort, to raise awareness of malaria and funds for the treatment and prevention of malaria. The day works to highlight the need for better political intervention in malaria control and prevention. The day also marks the continuing great achievements in the fight against malaria.

This year's theme for World Malaria Day is "Zero Malaria Starts with Me" and the day is hosted by the World Health Organization.

The World Health Organization is putting prevention of malaria to the forefront in this event, with the aim of reducing the massive global death toll of 400,000 people to malaria every year. Efforts to highlight prevention has been reducing the death toll, especially through the use of insecticide and mosquito nets, as mosquitos are the most common carriers and spreaders of malaria. The continued campaign of prevention is proving effective and saving lives, but there is still a long way to go.



World Malaria Day and continued awareness and prevention, as well as lobbying for better political support must continue and increase in order to eradicate the disease and prevent deaths from it. Investment and interest from governments is essential for this continued fight against malaria and related deaths.



YMI PROGRAMME

TOF Fund: Unique in Many Ways

The Time of Fast (TOF) Fund has an interesting origin which is seldom recalled. It came out of a genuine response to human suffering in the late 1960s. The beginning of Time of Fast came by an action of the Human Crisis Committee of YMI in its draft “Policy Statement” made in August 1969 under the chairmanship of Kenneth Adams and reported to the Board of Directors at its meeting in Copenhagen in July 1970.

The then International President John Price in his closing address to the delegates of the forty-sixth International Convention at Copenhagen, Denmark in 1970 challenged the Movement to raise USD 50,000 over and above the Gold Programme goal for human crisis alleviation. The drive was named “Gold Fund for Others.”

The fasting idea came from Vi Norman, Regional Service Director of the Iowa Region of Area USA, and accordingly, 13 December 1970 was

designated the ‘Day of Fast’. Income raised by that maiden effort was USD 3,794, which was sent to the World Alliance for its Refugee Programme.


The name “Time of Fast for Others,” as a name was adopted for the 1971-72 year by the Community Service Committee. But, during the 1972 Convention at Athens, Ohio (USA), International President Heinz Grabia asked delegates to give to “Time of Fast.” An amount of USD 713.17 was collected and matched by the Gold Fund for Others.

An annual fundraising programme of Y’s Men International which began as monetary assistance made available to areas of developing countries by arrangement with the World Alliance of YMCAs has now become a popular programme where members all over the world traditionally give up at least one meal (usually during the month of February) and donate the cost of that


meal to the TOF Fund which, in turn, makes the money raised in this way available to projects sponsored by both Y’s Men and the YMCAs all over the world.

Since its inception in 1972, TOF Fund has raised more than USD 7 million for development projects and disaster relief through the YMCA and community projects and emergencies around the world.

Earlier, TOF funding used to be based on themes where projects were funded on a particular topic for a specific period of time. Now, the fund focuses on a variety of projects from all over the world aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals laid down by the United Nations. We believe this change was necessary as the varying needs of the community are better assessed by the project proposals put forward by clubs according to their geography and economic conditions.




Time of Fast Fund



IP Moon Sang-bong, ISD Lee Nam-ho, TOF Committee Chair Kim Sung-pyo and ISG Jose Varghese request every member to participate in the TOF fundraising campaign.

TOF CHALLENGE - Skip one meal this month and donate its estimated cost to TOF; challenge five friends to do the same.

[Donate Now!](#)



2018/19 TOF Goals in CHF

| Region | Goal |
|--------------|----------------|
| USA | 149,630 |
| LAM | 15,181 |
| WCR | 3,772 |
| EUR | 70,544 |
| IND | 10,104 |
| ASP | 14,154 |
| AFR | 3,911 |
| Total | 208,096 |

TOF Donations the last five years in CHF

| Year | Donations (CHF) |
|---------|-----------------|
| 2013/14 | 198,019 |
| 2014/15 | 143,629 |
| 2015/16 | 164,758 |
| 2016/17 | 142,572 |
| 2017/18 | 163,288 |

TOF Project funding the last five years in CHF

| Year | Project Funding (CHF) |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 2013/14 | 23,375 |
| 2016/15 | 14,862 |
| 2015/16 | 17,093 |
| 2016/17 | 11,106 |
| 2017/18 | 18,702 |

Emphasis Points

- Time of Fast is an international grant programme for YMI, YMCA and recognised YMCA affiliates, encouraging the development of positive partner relationships and enhancing our social impact.
- Our selected Time of Fast projects improve lives immediately, but also have long-lasting impact, being aligned with at least one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Historically, Time of Fast, as the name implies, involves fasting, with members agreeing to skip a meal, typically in February, and to donate its estimated cost to the programme.

LET'S MAKE IT OUR BEST YEAR EVER!

IP 2018/19 target: CHF 149,630. Let's beat that!

Average total annual TOF contribution during the past five years: CHF 161,933. Let's beat that!

Highest TOF contribution in the last five years: CHF 198,019. Let's beat that!

Can we raise CHF 200,000 this year? Yes, we can!

Consider inspiring contributions to meet this goal through the development of a [TOF Donation Calendar](#)

[TOF Grant Application](#)

[TOF Policy](#)

[Our TOF website page](#)



YMI PROGRAMME

Endowment Fund: Ensuring Long-term Stability

The Endowment Fund was established in 1958. The concept was solid – creation of a fund whose principal would be invested and whose earnings would be used to help under-write the organisation’s administrative and programme needs.

Because of the lack of clear communication among the constituency as to its real purpose, the fund did not attract much response, because of which it could raise only USD 4,915 by the end of 1970. The idea of establishing a Golden Book as a means of recognising outstanding Y’s Men with tributes and memorials, accompanied by monetary contributions proved to be a winner.

Today the Endowment Fund is viewed as a development fund, which has always been its purpose. This increased understanding of the fund throughout all Areas of YMI has stimulated growth for the fund. The first Golden

Book was filled soon and a second one was started. It too was soon filled and others begun. All originals are kept at the IHQ in Geneva.

Anyone can contribute to the fund – individuals, clubs, Districts, Regions or Areas, and Conventions. Donations of any amount can be given to the Endowment Fund. With a donation of CHF 120 one can have a memorial or tribute added to the Golden Book. With a donation of CHF 1,000 one will have a tribute added to the Golden Book, a glass statuette and two Endowment Fund Honour Roll lapel pins – one for you and the other for your spouse.


The fund’s limitation: only income from the fund can be used to support the Movement. The principal of the fund is to remain untouched in order to provide stability to the fund. The endowment cannot be spent without action by the International Council and the Endowment Fund Trustees Board.

The trustees will tell how much of the fund can be spent. The International Council will tell how and where it is to be spent as long as it meets the stated purposes.


The Endowment Fund Trustees Board comprises five members. Each member will serve a term of five years rotating term. One member will be replaced or reappointed each year by the International President. At any given time you must have a representative from three Areas of Y’s Men International on the Board of Trustees.

Trustees set a goal of USD 1 million to the fund by the 75th Anniversary of 1997. The goal was achieved in 1996 and since then there have been upward revisions every year. The total at the end of 2017-18 stands at CHF 2.5 million.

Average contribution during the last five years was CHF 61,620. IP Moon has posed a challenge: “Can we raise CHF 75,000 this year?” Yes, we can!



ENDOWMENT FUND



IP Moon Sang-bong, ISD EF Promotion C. R. Raghunadhan, EF Trustees Chair Paul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen and ISG Jose Varghese request every member to participate in the EF fundraising campaign.

How are you encouraging EF donations?
Share your stories, motivate others for the future of our organisation!

[Donate Now!](#)

2018/19 EF Goals

| Area | Goal |
|------|-------|
| USA | 2002 |
| LAM | 974 |
| KOR | 10704 |
| IND | 27245 |
| EUR | 3773 |
| CAC | 125 |
| ASP | 3779 |
| AFR | 229 |

EF Donations the last five years

| Year | Donations (CHF) |
|---------|-----------------|
| 2013/14 | 61,620 |
| 2014/15 | 63,205 |
| 2015/16 | 61,620 |
| 2016/17 | 61,620 |
| 2017/18 | 72,480 |

Emphasis Points

- The Endowment Fund provides financial security for our Movement. Since its inception in 1958, the fund has grown to more than CHF 2.5 million.
- The Endowment Fund is an investment portfolio wherein income on the principal is available for special projects and programmes (like SDS) geared to develop and grow Y'sdom
- Endowment Fund contributions over CHF 50 receive special recognition and are a perfect way to honour members.

EF Contribution Categories:
CHF 50: Endowment Friend certificate
CHF 120: Paul William Alexander Fellow pin and certificate
CHF 240: Double Paul William Alexander Fellow pin and certificate
CHF 120: Golden Book Tribute, written accolade recognising a member (living or dead) or other entity within our Movement
CHF 1000+: Honour Roll Member pin and glass statuette

LET'S MAKE IT OUR BEST YEAR EVER!

IP 2018/19 target: CHF 54,311. Let's beat that!

Average total, annual EF contribution during the past five years: CHF 61,620. Let's beat that!

Highest contribution in the last five years: CHF 72,480. Let's beat that!

Can we raise CHF 75,000 this year? Yes, we can!

For less than CHF 3.00 per member we can exceed the established goal and beat our five year record

[EF Contribution Categories](#)

[EF Trust Deed](#)

[Our EF website page](#)

Y's Men International, 9 Avenue Léonie Cottier, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland, www.ytmen.org



BEYOND BORDERS

Denmark and Kosovo - A Rewarding Journey Together

In 2013 two Y's Men from Holstebro (Denmark) – Arne and Lars Nielson – joined a small group of YMCA professionals to see the work of the YMCA in Kosovo. The reality was that in 2013 there was not much to see. A group of 30 people talked about the projects and actions that they had been involved in previously and spoke openly and honestly about their hopes and direction that YMCA needed to take.

from Denmark. (Editor's note: the cover picture and story on p. 5 in YMI World, Issue 3_2016-17.)

Four years later the YMCA Charity Shop is still running and has helped hundreds of families with aid (clothes, walking aids, food parcels, games and teddy bears). It has also ensured young people in Kosovo have jobs and scholarships and offered jobs to women nearing retirement age who

acentral presence.

Further Support

The Y's Men's Club of Hardernes in Denmark has also greatly supported the fast-growing YMCA. They raised funds for a small car to help with YMCA's transport needs and also helped the local YMCA of Gjakova renovate its toilets and other small refurbishments as that YMCA has 230 weekly members.

Recently leaders of the Danish Y's Men Region informed that there was a national grant given for building projects and that each year the Region selected one project. The Kosovo YMCA put together a task force to work on the long-term sustainability of the organisation, its mission and how they best empower children and young people. The YMCA had been taking groups of young people to a YMCA Camp in Thessaloniki and while this proved to be an amazing experience the logistics, travel and cost alongside the increasing number of applicants meant that the project was becoming impossible to bear. It was decided that a camp would and should be the way forward, a permanent home for the YMCA and a place to empower young people for many years to come.

Continued overleaf



Volunteers and visitors from Denmark in front of the second charity shop in Kosovo

Thrift Store Opens

Later, a conversation with Mr. Nielson led the YMCA leadership to apply for the Time of Fast funding. The YMCA had an idea to open a second-hand shop which would not only help raise unrestricted funds to help cover the organisation's rent but it would, more importantly, offer a place for employment, volunteers and a base for the organisation. Arne Nielson, inspired by this conversation, immediately set to work back in Denmark and launched fundraising campaigns and formed a strong partnership with Holstebro Nedhjaelp, a Danish aid and second-hand clothes depot. Y's Men from the Region and local clubs such as Hardernes Y's Men's Club sprang into action and before an answer for the Time of Fast application was given five tonnes of clothes were on their way to Kosovo

cannot be employed elsewhere. It has a strong presence in the centre of one of Kosovo's main cities with the Y's Men logo and the YMCA maintaining



Volunteers preparing the ground for the campsite



Extension Beyond Borders - An Idea Worth Pursuing

Extension is one of the most vital and crucial matters within YMI. This is also strongly reflected in the "Towards 2022 and Beyond" documents, which our Movement is now working hard on preparing ourselves for our centenary celebration.



One way to extend membership and the number of clubs is to look beyond borders, trying to establish new clubs outside the region. In the last few years we have seen various successful attempts beyond borders, initiated by clubs or members having a passion for this principle.

When Isaac Palathinkal was IP (2014/2015) and later in his capacity as ISD for LTOD, he introduced an Extension Beyond

Border Award (EBBA) to be given to those who successfully had made such extension possible. The clubs honoured were Y's Men's Clubs of Ulan Bator (Mongolia), Fiji and Mercia Y-Service Club (UK).

Later we have seen the same happen in Area Europe where Region Denmark has succeeded in creating new clubs in some of the former Eastern European countries. Region Sweden also succeeded in establishing two clubs in Palestine a few years ago, before this EBBA award was introduced, and a joint venture between Region Denmark, Region Norway and Region Russia has also resulted in a club in Ukraine recently.

In the beginning of December last year the charter of two new clubs in a new country, Cambodia, took place. Thanks to Y's Men in Singapore and in Taiwan for their eager work on this effort. Y's Men from Canada have also succeeded in chartering a new club in Haiti, and

later this year, clubs in Portugal and the Netherlands will also be chartered.

To work on extension tirelessly, YMI and YMCA need to work closely together for extension, based on the Principles of Partnership and Memorandum of Understanding, which have been signed between these two organisations. Our new ISG Jose Varghese is also very engaged in such projects due to his background in YMCA.

If YMI is to reach its goals for 2022, it is important that we are aware of this potential and that we are willing to do something about it. At the international level, YMI strongly supports such activities and I request all members to look for such opportunities.

Let's create a fellowship across borders, which is highly relevant in this matter.

Henry Grindheim
IPIP 2018/2019

A New Club in Haiti

On 26 January, Haiti joined Area Canada Caribbean (CAC) when the Y Service Club of Port-au-Prince was chartered in a hitherto unexplored area. Many of us joined in via Facetime/GTM to witness the celebration. The Fredericton Epsilon Y Service Club was the sponsoring club. Congratulations to President Roges Lamonthé and his 15 members!

Regional Director Anthony Brodber will be travelling from Jamaica to join with them soon for a time of celebration!

Reg Springer, AP CAC



With Roges on the right is Gweneal Apollon, Secretary General of the YMCA d' Haiti.

Denmark and Kosovo (from previous page)

The application was submitted and to the YMCA's surprise it was approved. So began a long and, at times, a complicated journey together to build the first camp for children and young people in Kosovo. The plans and costs are far greater than that initial application but it was the support of the Y's Men that led the Y in USA, the National Office of Sports, Culture and Youth and the local municipality to support it financially. The project has become bigger and taken a life of its own. Others like YMCA Finland and the Lego Foundation have also supported the



The birth of a new centre, thanks to Y's Men of Denmark and others

project and after months of pursuing legal formalities, permission was granted by the authorities and we finally broke ground and began building in 2018.

The YMCA and Y's Men of Denmark have worked very closely and we hope that their support has been matched by our energy and progress. Alongside all the work and progress there is now a new Y's Men's Club in Gjakova that was chartered in 2018. The Y's men meet in their local YMCA and have been implementing community projects like donating teddy bears to children, aid to the ambulance and offering advice, guidance and expertise on some building elements within the camp.

Dorina Lluka, NGS
YMCA Kosovo



Y'S MENETTES

International Project in Tirana Takes Off

Our Project for 2018 -2020 is “Coaching for Youth Employment and Starting of Social Business in Tirana, Albania,” managed by Eglá Lula, director of YMCA Tirana.

Gurli Holm, Past Y's Menettes International Project Coordinator, was fortunate enough to visit the Tirana YMCA and meet Eglá as well as some volunteers who work at the YMCA and two of the young participants of the project.

Eglá said that the training is to be made available to two groups of 10 young people and that the first group has started their training meetings. The aim is to coach these young people to enable them to gain positions in different work places. The youngsters shared their hopes on

what they would achieve by being part of the programme and explained what they wanted to become professionally. Each training meeting is opened with a game or exercise to make the young ones feel comfortable. The meetings then continue with a theme related to business market, labour market, opportunities and challenges. The day ends with a closing game / exercise and evaluation of the day.



Youth busy with the workshop sessions and right: A volunteer explains the concepts and applications

Eglá was very happy to report that when doing the first evaluation they did it by drawing the weather – sun, clouds and rain and all signed the sun.

I thank all Y's Menettes Clubs who support our International Project and encourage any clubs who haven't donated to please consider it. We make a difference!

Joy McNamara
Project Coordinator



Sri Lanka: A Lenten Charity Project

A charity project was executed during the lent season of 2018 by the Y's Menettes Club of Bandarawela at the Dev Suwa Sevana Elders Home. The 14 elders and four staff members of this home at Hali Ella were gifted with bed sheets, linen and toiletries such as soap, toothpaste and tooth brushes valued at LKR 30,000 (approx. USD 170).



Later they also treated the inmates and care-givers of the home to a special New Year lunch to celebrate the Tamil and Sinhala New Year. A gift pack containing essentials was handed over to each of the residents.

Announcement



Beginning with the first issue of 2019-20, *YMI World* will limit its print order owing to difficulties in obtaining updated mailing lists and allied logistics, not to speak of the rising costs of production and mailing. Only the PDF version will be sent to members as a general rule. If you wish to receive hard copies, please send your latest mailing address with area code and other details to:

www.ysmen.org/ymiworld
by 30 June 2019



“YES, WE CAN CHANGE!”

FROM THE AREAS

Latin America: Challenged by IP's theme, a Club Comes Alive

When Victor Taboada became President of the San Borja Y's Men's Club (in Lima, Peru), in June 2018, his first task was to re-examine YMI's mission and how to meet the challenge posed by IP Moon through his theme and slogan. The San Borja club, chartered in 1976, focused on the usual local service activities. He wanted to change all that and developed an ambitious but realistic work plan, and called upon his fellow members to persevere and attain the goals.

Even when confronting the perennial naysayers, his strategy was to empower those members who agreed to meet the challenge and created several task forces, whose leaders would seek support from among the rest. Notable among these Task Forces was the ladies group, which baptised itself “Yes, We Can”. Led by Renée Cortez, the Donations & Distribution Committee began to raise funds to support community service activities without burdening club members. Funds were raised through luncheons, dancing dinners, “Tea of Hope” event and the like. Engaged in the common welfare, the club carried out activities within Lima, focusing on specific social sectors: underprivileged elders, children, pregnant young mothers and patients with terminal illnesses. The Car Cineguilla Elderly Home, the Mother & Child National Birthing Institute, the Children's Health National Institute and

the Children's Oncology Ward at Almenara Hospital were some of the recipients of their donations, visits and love.

Extension, part of the plan

The plan included extension of the San Borja action plan to distant cities in Peru. Eight professional friends were contacted to form strategic alliances with the San Borja Club, in cities as distant as Ayabaca, Piura (at 1200 kms), Iquitos (at 1000 kms, over the Amazon



handing over a donation to the Mother & Child National Birthing Institute

river), Tambopata-Madre de Dios (at 678 kms), Vinchos, Ayacucho (at 532 kms) and Azángaro, also in Ayacucho, 700 kms away and 4,000 metres above sea level. The proposal was to organise Christmas 2018 celebrations with the underprivileged children in their communities, under the mentorship of the San Borja Club, which would also provide financial assistance up to 50 % of the cost. The other 50 % was to be met locally, through local partnerships with individuals and/or companies. Seven of the eight rose to the challenge and the pictures show the good results.

“In serving, we receive.” Through contacts during fundraising events and



Show for the children at the Oncological Ward, Almenara Hospital



Books and educational materials for teenagers in Puente Piedra

social work, 16 people have requested for club membership (a 70% membership increase) and they have been included in a Whatsapp group, to update them about club activities, till they are inducted. Extension is also in the plans: three new clubs are being mentored for receiving their Charters – one in Ayacucho, another in Huanuco and the last in Lima, the capital city. All prospective members have been trained, both in person and online, and are knowledgeable of their responsibilities in a new club.

In the short term, through the National Health Ministry, the San Borja Club has obtained 10,000 nourishing envelopes to prevent and relieve anemia in children aged 0-3. In coordination with zonal health dispensaries, an awareness campaign for anemia will be conducted locally and each underprivileged family will receive 60 envelopes per child for the minimum 60 days of treatment.



People at the Christmas celebrations in Piura, Peru, 1200 kms away from San Borja

The San Borja Y's Men's Club has shown the courage to challenge the old ways and change to extend the Movement beyond comfort zones.

PAP-LAM Silvy Reyes de Croci



Delivering equipment at the Children's Oncological Ward in Almenara Hospital, Lima



FROM THE AREAS

Canada-Africa: Strong ties through Kibera YMCA School

For the Ottawa Y Service Club, their partnership with the Kibera YMCA Primary school began in 2010 when David Hall visited his friend Stanley Kinyeki in Nairobi. The two had met initially at an International Convention in Sydney, Australia when both were on the International Council and shared a room together.



The late Stanley Kinyeki was the driving force in completing the Kibera YMCA school with Dave Hall and here they are in 2015 with a plaque dedicated to a High School in Ottawa that raised CAD 10,000

Later Stanley's two sons came to the Hall household in Canada as exchange students in the YEOP and STEP programmes. Despite the distance between the families, a strong bond was formed.

When David visited in 2010, Stanley took him to the slum of Kibera and the YMCA school. In the discussion that followed, the two laid out a plan to support the school and bring it up to the level where the Kenyan government would certify it and thus allow students to write the national exams and possibly go on to secondary level.

By 2013, the Ottawa club had raised over CAD 80,000 for the building phase and then launched a programme to provide scholarships for the top Kibera graduates to attend secondary boarding schools. The seven students who qualified in 2013 all graduated in December 2016, two more followed in 2017 and in 2018 another eight completed their secondary education.

In all, CAD 50,000 has been provided for these scholarships.

The Situation Now

In November 2018, eight former students from the Kibera YMCA school successfully graduated from their secondary school, thanks to the support of members and friends of the Ottawa Y Service Club. This was the third group to graduate since the scholarship fund was established in 2012.

For 2019 the Ottawa club plans to support at least nine students with scholarships that would cover the cost of uniforms, books, lodging and one meal per day.

The Kibera YMCA school has now more than doubled

its student enrolment to over 400 since 2012 and there are plans to add another eight classrooms and other facilities over the next two years. Therefore, there will be a need for additional financial support to help with this expansion and other upgrades.

David Hall, ISD-GOLD 2.0

Allan's story

A dream I thought only others experience came upon me through the Ottawa Y Service Club Sponsorship Programme of pursuing secondary education. This came to pass after I sat for my Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education. I undertook my secondary education in a school credited as being amongst the best, a Catholic school, Joseph High school.

I remember the sacrifice the YMCA management and Mr. Ken Owade made to ensure that I was in school and that I was able to pursue my education. The YMCA encouraged us both physically and emotionally. I remember the life skills programme we underwent just to ensure I was educated both in school and life issues.

Although it is common occurrence for students to be sent home for want of fees, I was able to pursue my studies to a higher level. I intend to take a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Statistics at the University. I look forward to ensuring my achievements do not only benefit me but also the community and my country. I want to take this opportunity to send a word of appreciation and thanks to the sponsors, to Ken and all the people behind my studies hoping that their efforts will not be in vain but will of benefit to society.



Sri Lanka: Long-term Supporters Visit

The Members of the Y's Men's Club of Moratuwa together with Elisabeth Halvorsen and her friend from Arendhal Y's men's Club Norway (their brother club), visited the Home for differently-abled girls at Katukurunda Moratuwa, with which they have been associated for the past 35 years. They handed over gifts of clothes for the girls and a cash donation of LKR 39,000 (approx. USD 222) in the light of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the home.



Africa: Thika Y's Men Come to the Rescue of Duncan

The Thika Y's Men's Club learned about the sad story of Duncan Ngovi from PIP Benson Wabule and his wife Mary, members of the club, in mid-2018. Duncan was run over by a train when he was playfully pushed by a schoolmate as they were returning home from their primary school in the 1990s. He was then in Standard 2. By God's grace his head and torso were not crushed by the speeding train but he lost both legs and both hands. Long treatment saw him survive, heal and finish both primary and secondary school education. A few years later, he lost his dad and the family challenges came to him, along with his ailing mother and two brothers, they became homeless. Luckily a church provided him with a house within Thika town in which he lives with his mother and brothers. This is a relief but they have no income.

The Thika Y's Men Club members discussed the matter and sent its officers to Duncan's house where they had a sobering discussion and obtained a list of the needs of the family according to the family's priorities. On top of the list was conversion of one of the rooms in the house, facing the road, into a small shop. This would enable the family to get a regular income and achieve self-sustenance. In further discussions the Thika Y's Men agreed this was the best way to go. They quickly donated money, organised the fixing of shelves in the designated room by hired carpenters. When this was done they donated more money and bought stock which they carried to the house and launched the shop in a really touching



Members of the Thika Club with some of the goods donated in January

and exciting ceremony at the house on 25 January 2019. The smiles on the faces of Duncan and his mother were really moving.

We will be visiting and monitoring the progress once every two months to offer more capital, counselling and training to Duncan and his mother who is assisting him in selling the items and replenishing them from a nearby wholesale shop.

There are still many challenges facing the Ngovi family. These include securing the house, jobs for Duncan's brothers, buying beds for the family, finishing logistics related to electricity in the house and painting the house. It is the hope of Thika Y's Men to do more to satisfy these needs.

Boniface Muinde, Club President

India: Y's Care Project

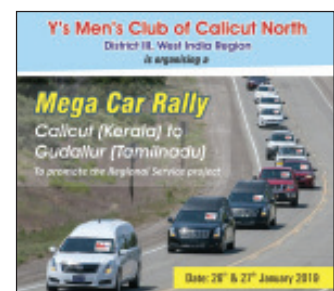
District 1 of Mid West India Region organised a "Care for the Aged and Children," programme on 20 January 2019. Around 500 inmates from 21 institutions such as care homes, orphanages and poor homes gathered to interact with Y's families.



It was a day of fun and fellowship for all. There were lots of fun games, entertainment, competitions in singing, pencil-sketching, limited sports and games during the day for the residents. Prizes were distributed to all the winners. Some local celebrities graced the occasion and gave special performances. Special appreciation awards were given to all the 21 institutions, while all the residents got gifts.

DG Niju Mohandas

India: Awareness Rally



A car rally by the Y's Men's Club of Calicut North with 33 participants was flagged off by the District Governor on 26 January after the flag hoisting ceremony on Republic Day by the Club President. All cars sported large stickers on its sides about the theme "Save Kidney, Save Life." The rally passed through Wayanad Ghats, Kalpetta, Bathery, and ended in Nilgiris in the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu. Clubs on this route welcomed the rallyists and greeted them. Participants stayed overnight in Nilgiris and returned by noon next day.

PDG P.S. Francis



YMI LEADERS

International Election Results 2019



Mr Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen, above, from Region Denmark (Area Europe) was elected as International President Elect for 2019/20. He has been a member of his home club, Aulum YMC for 35 years. The club has always been in good standing and have been heavily involved in the Roll Back Malaria project.

The successful candidates from the 2018/19 International Election were announced on Friday during the Mid Year Meeting currently underway in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Seven Areas required ICM selection this year but elections were required in only two Areas. Asia Pacific voted to fill one vacant seat and it was won by Soo Theng (David) Lua, Singapore (Southeast Asia Region). Europe voted to fill one vacant seat and it was won by Mr Bjarne Soenderskov, Denmark (Denmark Region). All other new ICMs/ICMs(E) were elected unopposed.

APs/APs(E)/ICMs/ICMs(E) for 2019-20



Tom Ibusi Waka
AP(E)/ICM(E) 2019-20
Kenya (Africa Southeast Region)



Soo Theng (David) Lua, Area Asia Pacific, AP(E)/ICM(E) 2019-20, Singapore (Southeast Asia Region).



Rossana Croci-Reyes, Area Latin America, AP(E)/ICM(E) 2019-20, Uruguay (Latin America Region)



Bjarne Soenderskov
Area Europe, AP(E)/ICM(E) 2019-20 (Denmark Region).



Shanavaskhan A.K.
Area India, ICM(E) 2019-20
(South West India Region)



Aurelian Figureido
Area India, ICM(E) 2019-20
(Mid West India Region)



Joseph Kottooran
Area India, ICM(E) 2019-20
(Mid West India Region)



Hong Young-seung
Area Korea, AP(E)/ICM 2019-20
(Korea Chonbuk Region)



Lauren Henry
Area USA, ICM (Young) 2019-21
(Pacific Southwest Region)



Murray Dunbar, Area Canada Caribbean, AP/ICM 2019-21
(Maritimes Region) .



Robert (Bobby) Stivers-Apiki
Area USA, AP/ICM 2019-21
(Hawaii Region)



MANTRA FOR THE SOUL

Max Ediger*

The Dehumanizing Effect of Labels

Animals, terrorists, illegal immigrants, crisis actors, extremist, gook, etc. are all words that have something in common; they are dehumanizing labels we put on people we fear, distrust, hate or feel threatened by. When we place labels like this on others, we no longer view them as a person we need to listen to and seek peace with. It is so much easier to kill a “terrorist”, than to kill a father, a mother, a son, a daughter, or a neighbour. It is easier to ignore the pain of “crisis actors” and seek to discredit them than to sit down and listen to their story and identify common grounds for cooperative action. It is simpler to try and shout down someone who is speaking a different language than to try to understand who they are, where they come from and how vulnerable they may feel as a minority in our neighbourhood.

Even common labels can be dehumanizing and can create division and conflict. If someone calls me a “liberal”, I am not sure what they mean because their definition of a liberal may be totally different from mine, and they may place on me all of the negative images they have of “liberals” even though I probably do fit all of those images.

Our labels are like boxes, and when we label someone, we place them in a box we have created based on our prejudices, misunderstandings and assumptions. We take away that person’s humanity and the right to be a free and independent individual. Our label becomes a wall between them and us, preventing dialogue and engagement. At the same time, when we use that label loud enough and long enough, others may take it as truth and allow the label

to dictate for them who the labelled person is and what they stand for.

What did Jesus have to say about this unhealthy habit of labelling others? A relevant story is found in John 8:1-11. Religious scholars and Pharisees brought a woman to Jesus whom they labelled an adulteress. According to law, such a labelled person must face the death penalty by stoning. Instead of agreeing with the ancient Law of Moses, Jesus challenged the men gathered with their

Our labels are like boxes, and when we label someone, we place them in a box we have created based on our prejudices, misunderstandings and assumptions. We take away that person’s humanity and the right to be a free and independent individual.

fingers pointing at the woman to look, not at the women but rather at themselves. “The sinless one among you, go first: Throw the first stone.” Perhaps Jesus was saying, “Don’t label others. Instead, look at yourself and the areas in your life that need changing.”

When Jesus cleared the temple of the sellers and money lenders as related in John 2:15, was he just being a “crisis actor” for speaking out about something which he found very offensive? The arrogant religious leaders of the day apparently thought so because they reacted in anger and never took the time to hear his message.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus shares the following teaching.

“For I was hungry and you wouldn’t feed me; thirsty, and you wouldn’t give

me anything to drink; a stranger, and you refused me hospitality; naked, and you wouldn’t clothe me; sick, and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.”

“Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?’

“And I will answer, ‘When you refused to help the least of these my brothers, you were refusing help to me.’”

Does this mean that when we call someone an “animal” we are calling Jesus by that name? When we place anyone in a box created by prejudice, dislike and fear, we are placing Jesus in that box?

Jesus called us to love our neighbour as we love ourselves, to feed the hungry, visit the imprisoned, welcome the stranger and care for the sick. Labels can prevent us from doing that. In Christ we must see all people without label, without status, without a dividing wall, for we are all one in Christ Jesus.



invites

Club leaders to send stories of activities undertaken with one or more high-resolution pictures and appropriate captions. Write-ups must not exceed 150 words.

Readers are also requested to send their views and notes on matters of concern for the Movement, globally.

Submit your stories and pictures at:

www.ysmen.org/yimiworld

Last date for submission for next issue:

31 May 2019

*Max Ediger directs the School of Peace from Cambodia.

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MALARIA KILLS!

In 2017, there were an estimated 435,000 deaths from malaria globally according to the World Health Organisation.

ROLL BACK MALARIA's strategy includes distribution of long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) to prevent mosquitos from infecting people with malaria.

One LLIN costing CHF 7.00
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Thank you for helping us cross the initial target of CHF 500,000
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Y's Men's International's contribution to ROLL BACK MALARIA is in partnership with the International Federation of the Red Cross, aiming to end the malaria epidemic by 2030 in accordance with Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations



ROLL BACK
MALARIA



For further details:
www.endmalaria.org