Nº 3, 2019/20

Y's Men International

YMI WORLD

"To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right"

Only for private distribution to members

INSIDE: FROM THE ISG: Challenge 22 – Onward We Go • MOVEMENT NEWS: New International Officers Elect and New International Council Members • LEST WE FORGET: What it Means to be a Y's Man by Judge Alexander • ENVIRONMENT: Remember the Hole in the Ozone Layer? by Peter Searle • MICRO-HISTORY: YMI and the YMCA in Central Victoria Australia: Close to a Century of Service to the Community by Rob Green • Central Southern Europe – Challenges Aplenty by Alan Wallington • USA: IP's Whirlwind Tour of Pacific Southwest Region and other stories from Korea, Hong Kong, India, Japan and Caribbean • GOODWILL VISIT: Meeting up with Y's Men in Taiwan and Philippines • MANTRA FOR THE SOUL: Tell Me Your Story by Max Ediger

Editor's Page

Dear readers,

We are writing this at a time (30 March) when the world is engulfed in a crisis hitherto unknown to humankind. The

threat posed by the novel coronavirus has claimed over 35,000 lives worldwide so far. People knowledgeable about this threat say the worst is not over yet.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reached all parts of our globe. Nearly three billion people around the world are in some state of quarantine or lockdown or isolation, mostly self-imposed. There is fear and panic, pain and suffering, doubt and misinformation all around.

Our response to this pandemic as citizens has brought about the best and worst in us. It is a fact that some have thrown all caution to the winds and are endangering others, while the vast majority have exercised caution and are following the good practices prescribed by the medical community. As responsible citizens it is our duty to be part of the solution and not the problem.

While authorities are grappling with the logistics of containing its spread and scientists are working on a vaccine, the good samaritans among the citizens are extending their help to the most vulnerable and the needy. This issue of ***YMI World*** carries some stories from Hong Kong, Korea and India of Y's Men's responses to this pandemic. There have been several more but space constraint has held them back.

Our International President and International Secretary General have published their message for all club members concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. It is on our website (https://www.ysmen.org/covid-19). Please access that document and share it widely with your clubs and club members.

We hope that you and your family are safe and healthy in this unusual period of time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the other members of your club.

Our lead article in this issue is "What it means to be a Y's Man," by Judge Paul William Alexander. Let it be recommended reading for all members – both new and old. It is also good resource material for those leaders inducting new members and installing new officers.

Cover picture: Region Taiwan Y's Men attending the YMCA Happiness Day flea market event.

Y's Men International
YMI WORLD
Official Publication of Y's Men International
Headquartered at: Ave Sainte-Clotilde 9, CH-1205, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 809 1530 :: www.ysmen.org

Edited and published by Koshy Mathew for Y's Men International
Reprinted at the National Printing Press, Bangalore, India
and distributed by Babu Oommen.
Production Supervisor: George Thomas.

For the micro-history section we have our past Editor Wally writing about Central Southern Europe and Club President Elect Rob Green writing about YMCA and Y's Men in Central Victoria, Australia, more particularly about Bendigo.

The International Secretary General's letter gives us an overview of the march to attain the goal of extending our movement to 100 countries. Efforts came to a halt in January with the outbreak of the pandemic. We will pick up our steam once matters return to near normal.

This issue also carries a personal reflection – Goodwill Visit – submitted by a club member narrating his thrill at catching up with Y's Men in Taiwan and Philippines thus fulfilling one of the avowed objectives, namely fostering fellowship, this time beyond borders. We hope many more such stories will fill our pages in the future.

"This, too, shall pass" – goes an old adage and we are hopeful of that as we sing, "We shall overcome." Stay safe!

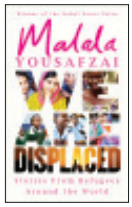
Y'sly

Koshy Mathew

FROM MY BOOKSHELF

***We Are Displaced* by Malala Yousafzai**

In *We Are Displaced*, Malala takes us to a time, when she and her family hastily fled their home in Pakistan's Swat Valley as the army waged war against Taliban forces that had occupied the area.



Malala Yousafzai starts with her own story of displacement as an Internally Displaced Person to show what it means to lose your home, your community, and the only world you've ever known. She also shares the personal stories of some of the girls she has met on her various journeys to refugee camps and the cities where refugee girls and their families have settled.

In a time of immigration crises, war, and border conflicts, *We Are Displaced* is a reminder from one of the world's most famous people who experienced displacement that everyone deserves universal human rights and a home.

We welcome news and views!

Readers are requested to send stories of activities undertaken in their respective clubs / Districts / Regions 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/ymiworld

Last date for submission for next issue: 31 May 2020

Challenge 22– Onward We Go

Our movement is witnessing a period of unified action, excitement, challenging times and an increased sense of hope for the future. **Challenge 22**, the operational plan to attain our centennial goals was adopted at ICM 19 and it provides our movement seven common tasks to work on together. Tasks include: creating positive perceptions about the movement among our members and associates; building our brand identity and visibility; strengthening our legacy and collective impact; furthering our engagement with YMCA at all levels; extending our organisational presence to 100 countries; reaching our club service to 3000 communities through new clubs, and increasing our basic membership strength to 50,000 club members.

Looking back at the six months of effort put into the Challenge 22 operation, we see signs of progress in creating a perception change among our members to be more optimistic about our future. The regular communication from IHQ via emails, website and Facebook on who we are and what we are doing around the world helps to build positive perceptions about our movement. As a global entity in a diverse world, we were able to collectively agree on a common strategy at the International level and generate guidelines for building our brand that all can proudly associate with. In line with these, we are in the process of re-developing our training resources for members and leaders at all levels.

As an effort to foster our legacy and heritage, we launched the Legacy Project at Toledo, the birthplace of our movement. We were able to locate the hitherto unmarked burial site of Judge Alexander's ashes at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Toledo and erect a headstone. Another significant achievement was the naming of the public park in Toledo in the name of Y's Men International.

Also, in an effort to build our collective leadership worldwide, we were able to bring all the Regional Directors Elect and Area Presidents Elect together at Toledo in November last year under the umbrella of the International RDE Summit to build our shared vision and goals for the future. Our engagement with the YMCA takes a new approach at different levels, including a new partnership with World YMCA and The Global Fund for the Roll Back Malaria project with a matching fund from DFID to end malaria by 2030 .New partnership understanding was established with YMCAs in Africa, Canada, Norway and Latin America. YMI was able to support the YMCA 175 event in London organised by YMCA Europe and promote YMI among YMCA delegates from different countries. YMI sponsored the World YMCA National General Secretaries' Training and Conference held in Bethlehem, Palestine which also helped to reconnect with several national YMCAs. All these have resulted in the extension of our movement to Pakistan, Oman, Nepal, and Italy in addition to Cambodia, Haiti, Vietnam and Netherlands, to bring the total number of countries to 70 for the first time in many years. Club formations in another 10 countries are kept pending due to the current challenge posed by COVID-19.

Our 100-day membership campaign resulted in welcoming 103 new clubs to the international family of Y's Men. A number of new clubs are currently in the process of formation in Estonia, India, Japan, Mongolia, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan and the United States and this will give us an additional 1,700 new club members. We also witnessed the chartering of the largest club in the world with 153 members – Gim Hae Helpers club in Korea. For the first time in our history we have 12 new clubs chartered under the Extension Beyond Borders Award (EBBA) scheme as indicated below.

Club	Country	Sponsoring Club
Catania	Italy	Zwolle (Netherlands)
Clark Ark	Philippines	Kyoto Tops (Japan)
Khovd	Mongolia	Gim Hae Han Mong (S. Korea)
Karachi	Pakistan	Colombo (Sri Lanka)
Kathmandu	Nepal	Trivandrum (India)
Kathmandu Valley	Nepal	Chiangmai (Thailand)
Khovd	Mongolia	Gim Hae Seven (South Korea)
Lumbini	Nepal	Island East Hong Kong
Muscat	Oman	Dubai Friends (UAE)
Ulaanbaatar Center	Mongolia	Gim Hae Seven (South Korea)
Ulaanbaatar City	Mongolia	Gim Hae Seven (South Korea)

We also look forward to welcoming a new club shortly in Edmonton, Canada, initiated by the Y's Men's Club of Kakkanad Town in India.

We are moving forward with our Challenge 22 plan, in spite of the challenges of our time.

Jose Varghese
International Secretary General

New International Officers Elect

International President Elect Kim Sang-chae is a devoted member of Y's Men in Korea and has excellent knowledge about the movement. His pleasing personality enables him to communicate with leaders and members. A very successful doctor, Kim Sang-chae has shown dedication, determination and loyalty to the Y's Men Movement as an inspiring leader. He has led the Korea Y's Men Doctors to carry out successful medical services in Cambodia (2016), Tajikistan (2016), Chiang Mai (2017), Laos (2018) and Mongolia (2019). Now he is the co-chair of PWA Legacy Project, which is making remarkable progress. He was nominated by Korea Bu-Ul-Gyeong Region, Korea Chonbuk, Korea Seoul, Korea South and Korea West Regions. Kim Sang-chae will be serving as International President in 2021-22.

International Treasuer Elect T.M. Jose has over three decades of experience in Y'sdom and continues to serve the movement with commitment, dedication and great enthusiasm. Jose is a businessman in his native state of Kerala, India and a very seasoned leader in Area India. He was declared 'Best Y's Man Leader' in Area India in 2008-09. He had served the movement in various capacities in the Region and Area and also as an International Council Member and Chair of the TOF Committee for the years 2012 to 2018. In his capacity as an executive office-bearer of many other social organisations, he has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities. He has been nominated by his home Region, West India. Jose will assume the office of International Treasurer in 2021-22 and serve a term of three years.

New International Council Members (ICMs)

Asia Pacific: Mr Tsutomu Ohno (Japan West Region) was elected to serve as Area President Elect/ International Council Member from 1 July 2020 until 30 June 2021 and as AP/ICM from 1 July 2021 until 30 June 2022.

Canada/Caribbean: Mr Brian Minielly (Central and Western Canada Region) was elected unopposed to serve as International Council Member Elect from 1 July 2020 until 30 June 2021 and as ICM from 1 July 2021 until 30 June 2023.

Canada/Caribbean: Ms Seham Rabaa (Central & Western Canada Region) was elected unopposed to serve as International Council Member (Young) from 1 July 2020 until 30 June 2022.

Europe: Bjørn Arve Bentsen (Norway Region) was elected unopposed to serve as Area President Elect/ International Council Member from 1 July 2020 until 30 June 2021 and as AP/ICM from 1 July 2021 until 30 June 2022.

Korea: Mr Park Sung-chul (Daegu Gyeongbuk Region), was elected unopposed to serve as Area President Elect/ International Council Member from 1 July 2020 until 30 June 2021 and then as Area President/International Council Member from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

USA: Mr Shaju Sam (North Atlantic Region), was elected unopposed to serve as Area President Elect/International Council Member Elect from 1 July 2020 until 30 June 2021 and then as Area President/International Council Member from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023.

What it Means to be a Y's Man

Judge Paul William Alexander

Extracted from the speech by the Founder, Judge Alexander, delivered at the Ninth International Convention of Y's Men held at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, USA , 24-28 August 1930. Published here in the larger interest of the movement to remind ourselves of the primary responsibility as a member of this noble organisation. Leaders may use ideas from speech while inducting new members or installing new clubs – Editor.

In the convention hall at Atlantic City where our International Association was born eight years ago were two huge banners. One bore the inscription "And Their Young Men Shall See Visions." The other read "Where There Is No Vision the People Perish:" And these legends have woven themselves deep into the warp and woof of our Y's Men's Movement. A fellow who has not the capacity to catch the vision, to sense the need, to feel the urge, to absorb the inspiration for the kind of idealism we stand for has not the capacity to be a Y's Man.

It is because of our insistence upon this exclusive standard – this collective and individual idealism – that the Y's Men's Clubs throughout the world have been said to excel in quality of membership – that our personnel is our pride! Just as surely as we, whether receiving a new member or retaining an old one, discount even by one percent this fundamental requisite, idealism, just so surely do we strike a blow at the very heart of our movement.

To be a Y's Man means to be an idealist – one whose conduct is motivated by an idealism that expresses itself in sacrificial altruism.

Every Y's Man realizes that next to the church we, the Y, are the greatest character builder in the world, placing emphasis on 'boys and young men', the citizens of tomorrow.

Next to the day schools and colleges we are the greatest educational factor. We lead the world in physical education and development. We have few rivals in breaking down the vicious barriers erected by diverse creeds, castes and cultures throughout the world. Our achievements in nearly every country make us a leading foe of international and interracial misunderstanding and prejudice, and thus a powerful factor for world peace, always extolling, never disparaging patriotism.

The central objective of the Y's Men as defined in our statement of purpose, is "To serve by active, diligent, personal and united effort in carrying forward every phase of the program of the Young Men's Christian Association."

To be a Y's Man means to be loyal to the Young Men's Christian Association.

Not necessarily to subscribe to any obsolete theological doctrine but to be in sincere sympathy with and thoroughly devoted to the fundamental purposes of the Association as revealed in the good it is accomplishing at home and abroad.

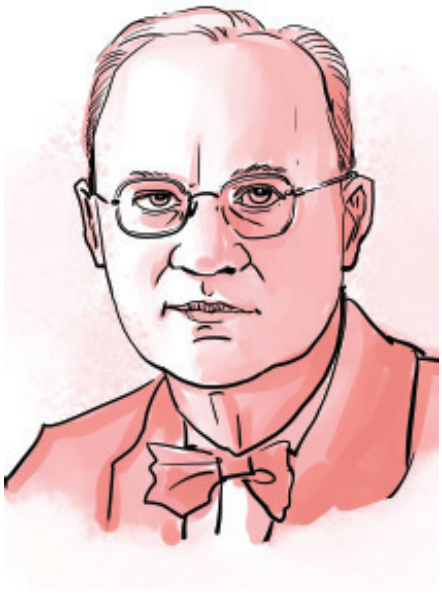
In the upper border of the triangle comprising our emblem appears the word "International," indicative of the scope of our brotherhood and the breadth of our purposes.

Your World Outlook Committee and others for some time have been broadcasting the aphorism, "The measure of a man is the breadth of his horizon."

That is one thing the Y's Men cannot tolerate in their own ranks, the fellow who takes no time for nor interest in world affairs or the problems of other nations and peoples.

The measure of such a man is too small, our Movement has no place for such dwarfs and pygmies. The Y's Man need never fear to be tested by this standard to be measured by the breadth of his horizon, for:

To be a Y's Man means to have a horizon as broad as the world itself –



to be world-minded.

One of our primary ideals is expressed in our motto: "To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right." This motto was adopted because of the noticeable tendency of most of us – particularly American citizens – to insist upon complete enforcement of our various rights, while remaining oblivious to the duties upon which these rights are based.

The simplest explanation of our motto can be made by way of illustration. As you drive along a highway and approach a traffic light showing green you breeze through the intersection secure in the knowledge no car is going to crash into you from the cross street. Why is this? Simply because you know that on the cross street the traffic light is showing red, and that all cross-traffic has a duty to stop and give you the right of way.

A traffic light showing green one way and with no red light showing the other

Concluded overleaf

From previous page

What It Means To Be a Y's Man

way would be worse than useless.

There can no more be a right without a corresponding duty then there can be a green light without a corresponding red light— then an object can have a right side without a left side, or a top without a bottom.

A recognition and discharge of some duty is what protects you in every one or your rights.

At the various cross-roads of life there is seldom a traffic light to point out where lies the right and where the duty. In some realms, particularly the social, moral, interracial and international, we recognize many rights lint the duties are often obscured. Especially are they obscure if, it is our wont, we concern ourselves almost solely about our own rights but the duties are there none the less. Our motto challenges us to think less about enforcing our rights and more about discovering and discharging our duties; less about what is due us, more about what we owe; less about ourselves, more about others.

To be a Y's Man means to acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right.

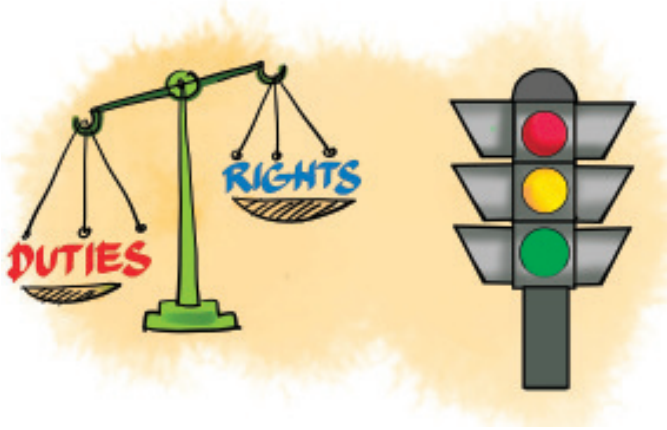
One of our simpler duties as Y's Men is to attend club meetings regularly. Another is to meet financial obligations promptly. And there are some more, equally simple, such as attending, supporting and reporting conventions, answering communications promptly, reading – not merely subscribing to – our pages in "Association Men."

By far our most important duty is to engage diligently in all committee work of the club and every activity designed to accomplish our purpose. The present high standing of our clubs in 160 cities, in a dozen counties on almost every continent, is due to the results produced, the service rendered, the objectives actually attained by the Y's Men. Our international committees have disseminated a wealth of material – in fact there was some criticism that they have overburdened the local clubs with suggestions, too. (Which only goes to show what opportunities are ours.) But these committees are not doing our work for us. They can only point the way. Every individual Y's Man does his.

Our Constitution says there shall be but one class of members – active. And it ... means just that.

The old adage says "Well begun; half -done." I think the fellow who got that off was doing some "wish-thinking" trying to kid himself along. It's generally a simple matter to start something. What takes the intestinal fortitude is to carry on and on and on. Anybody can make an occasional spurt, but to continue at a set pace is what requires the stamina.

The Y's Man is not merely a starter, but a continuer. And



this he cannot be without enthusiasm. To be a Y's Man means to be enthusiastically active.

Summing up, to be a Y's Man means (1) to be an idealist; (2) to be loyal to the Y; (3) to be world-minded; (4) to discover and discharge our duties; and (6) to be enthusiastically active. Verily, "It means something to be a Y's Man!"

You know what it means. And why does it mean all this? Because we are the most exclusive club in town – which, after all, is merely a provocative and challenging, a dynamic way of emphasising our insistence upon the most intense and most rigorous idealism.

And my postulate to all Y's Men is this: the genius, the very salvation of our movement lies in this sort of exclusiveness, this discrimination. The moment we weaken our resistance and let down the barriers to receive or retain a member who has not our ideals or the capacity and will to develop them – to catch the vision – that moment do we let in the drop of poison that may grow and spread and add to itself until eventually it permeates the entire system causing the paralysis which means death.

I propose that here and now we all take a moment to search our souls and see if we still have a right to our membership – whether we personally need fear the processes of exclusion. Let each one of us ask himself, Have I lost any of the idealism with which I was formerly inspired? Am I in full sympathy with the Y? If not, am I standing back knocking, or am honestly trying to rectify matters? Dare I submit myself to be measured by the breadth of my horizon? Am I thinking about my rights to the exclusion of the duties on which, are based the other fellow's rights? Am I a "knife and fork" Y's Man or worker – am I enthusiastically active?

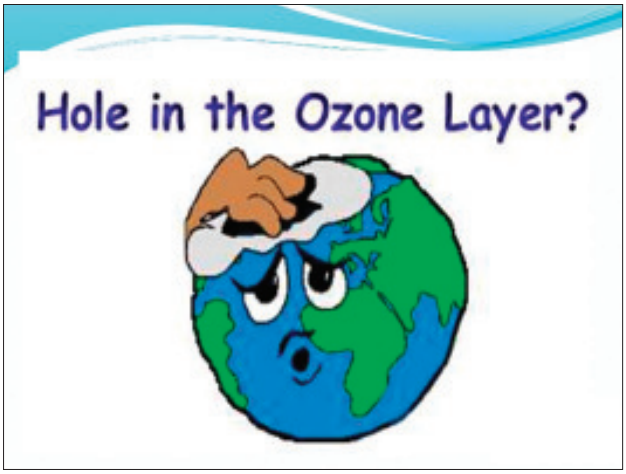
And to this idealism expressed in sacrificial altruism; to this loyalty to the Young Men's Christian Association; to this world-mindedness and breadth of horizon; to this greater concern over duties than right, and with activity with enthusiasm – with God in us – shall we, one and all, consecrate ourselves anew!

Remember the Hole in the Ozone Layer?

Peter Searle, Bulletin Editor, Y Service Club of Bendigo, Australia

The ozone layer lies between 15 and 30 km above the Earth's surface. This blanket of ozone (O_3) blocks most of the UV radiation from the sun reaching the earth's surface. UV radiation can cause cancer and cataracts in humans as well as reproductive problems in fish, crabs, and frogs. Along with the distance from the sun and the tilt of the earth's axis the ozone layer is one of the natural phenomena that has made life on this remarkable planet possible and livable.

Ozone is created in the upper atmosphere when oxygen molecules (O_2) react with solar UV radiation to produce to free oxygen (O) atoms. A free atom can then combine with an unbroken O_2 molecule, and ozone (O_3) is born. Ozone can also be produced in a similar way by lightning and in some electrical equipment. (Dianne's Sunbeam Mix-master, circa. 1968, is a classic example of this where the smell of ozone combines with the heady aroma of Christmas pavlova.)



First Observed in the Eighties

Ozone is an unstable gas and is easily broken down by trace elements. Invented in the 1920s, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) were key constituents in refrigerants, hairsprays, etc. and persist for decades allowing them to make their way into the upper atmosphere where they react with and breakdown ozone. Ozone had been measured in the atmosphere for many years, but in May 1985 a huge hole in the ozone layer was discovered over Antarctica. Not really a hole but a thinning of the ozone concentration and the data suggested that CFCs were to blame.

Just two years later in 1987 a pact to phase out the use of CFCs and restore the ozone layer – the Montreal Protocol – was eventually signed by every country in the United Nations. The first treaty to achieve universal ratification. The restoration is a slow process, and it is predicted that by 2080 global ozone will return to 1950 levels.

As climate scientists around the world urge action to curb greenhouse gas emissions, as they have been doing for the last 30 years, what might we learn from the ozone hole experience? After all, it took only two years from recognizing there was a significant problem to agreeing on a global plan to fix it.

Steps to Reverse Effect

Firstly, in the 1980s people were faced with clear and present health dangers linked to cancer and cataracts that immediately engaged the public. The real impact of what a rapidly warming world could do is not so immediately obvious – although given the horrendous Australian summer of 2019-20, attitudes may be changing.

Secondly, chemical manufacturers were able to create substitutes for CFCs with little added costs, enabling governments to address the problem without great impacts on the economy or lifestyle of the population.

Thirdly, trust in scientists and their evidence-based advice has diminished in the last 35 years through a combination political expediency, misuse of corporate power, misinformation and the rise of the internet. Global warming has become a politically loaded and often divisive topic. Governments tend to accept scientific advice when its suits a short-term goal or ideology. To take a recent example, accepting the medical advice on controlling the novel coronvirus outbreak.

And lastly, many potential fixes to the problem such as alternative energies, reduced consumption, and lifestyle changes would cause major disruptions to economic and political systems in many countries in a way that replacing CFCs did not. Many governments are reluctant to introduce significant change to achieve a long-term goal that will ultimately be to the benefit of everyone.

Y's Men International is committed to being an environmentally responsible organisation. It accepts its responsibility to reduce its environmental 'footprint'. This is a duty that accompanies the right to be involved in Y's Men's activities.

Y's Men International's environmental policy will be to act in a sustainable way; minimise its environmental impact , and protect, sustain and restore our natural environment

Y's Men International will demonstrate its commitment to the environment through:

- Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Sustainable use of water – we will adopt and promote water-efficient strategies
- Sustainable Use of Land & Resources
- Community Leadership and Advocacy

Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL

MICRO-HISTORY

YMI and the YMCA in Central Victoria, Australia: Close to a Century of Service to the Community

Rob Green, President Elect, Y Service Club of Bendigo, Australia

It was the discovery of gold in 1851 that brought the growth of population to Central Victoria so that, by the turn of the century, the young city of Bendigo was firmly established on the map. With the deepest mines in the world at that time and many fine buildings lining its streets, the city was making a name for itself far beyond the shores of Australia.

In 1907, the YMCA came to Bendigo and initially occupied a building in High Street close to the centre of the city. It created fresh opportunities for families and people of all ages to find new ways to spend their leisure time. A wide range of fitness programmes, sports and crafts were offered and its successes in the city centre soon saw new YMCAs in the south at Kangaroo Flat and to the north at Eaglehawk. By the 1920s and '30s, the YMCA was Bendigo's main provider of sports including basketball, volleyball, cricket, athletics, squash, judo, and gymnastics. The 'Y' had their own Scout group offering Cubs, Scouts and Rangers. They organised ballroom dancing classes and regular ballroom dances on a Saturday night that were very popular with people of all ages.

YMI Comes to Australia

YMI came to Australia in March 1926 when a club was chartered in **Brisbane**, Queensland, followed by **Melbourne** in May 1930 and **Sydney** in November 1931. The Bendigo Y's Men's Club was chartered on 29 September 1939. With support from the Y's Men, the YMCA purchased a building in 1940 which would become the focus of its Bendigo programmes for many years to come.

Meanwhile, YMI was expanding in **Central Victoria – Ballarat** was chartered in November 1939, **GV Lansell** in 1958, **Echuca** in 1964, **Eaglehawk** in 1969 and **Kangaroo Flat** in 1972. And, with Bendigo, Lansell, Eaglehawk and Kangaroo Flat Clubs all in Bendigo, and all with Y's Menettes Clubs, one of the greatest concentrations of YMI in the world was established.

YMCA Bendigo, circa 1920

Yeoman Community Service through YMCAs

In 1964, with support from the Bendigo Y's Men, a new stadium, the Tom Tweed Stadium, was built and later named for the energetic General Secretary of the Y through the 1950s, '60s, '70s and '80s. This building became the Bendigo home of basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, the Saturday morning boys group and many other activities for many years.

The YMI Clubs were all very active organisations taking on many big fundraising activities. In 1977/78, the Bendigo club, which had many tradesmen amongst its members, built and sold a house for a profit of AUD 18,580. Christmas tree sales commenced in 1954 and is still an annual fundraising event; the Easter Book Fair commenced in the 1970s and is now the club's major fundraiser netting around AUD 65,000 annually.

Fundraising through the Easter Book Fair held every year

The Kangaroo Flat club catered for the Vintage and Veteran Car Club Swap Meet that attracted around 30,000 visitors to the city each year – a wonderful fundraiser for many years while they had the members to staff it. Eaglehawk club bought a purpose built catering caravan and has provided food and drink services to many events over many years to raise funds. And these clubs provided major financial support to their local YMCAs through the years. The Bendigo club provided significant funding and physical support to build squash courts, a youth hub called "B Central" and eventually an accommodation block, YMCA House, to house young people who had to come to Bendigo for their education or a job.

Other Players Pose Challenges

From the 1970s, significant changes were slowly occurring in the provision of recreational services across the greater Bendigo community. The City Council has been funding many new facilities: new halls and sporting

Another major fundraising is through the sale of Christmas trees

venues. Private enterprise is also providing financial support for sporting teams, competing for the management of swimming pools and the building of many new well equipped gymnasiums across the city.

These changes have provided major challenges for the YMCA as it is not resourced at a level that would allow it to compete with many of these recent developments. The YMCA Stadium was no longer the preferred venue for many activities that had formerly taken place there. The squash courts were unable to compete with larger privately owned facilities, so were demolished.

A New Avatar and New Challenges

Some years ago, the governing boards of the three YMCAs in the city decided that amalgamation into a single entity would make sense financially and for efficient use of staff. Thus the **Bendigo Regional YMCA** was formed. The Regional Board went on to approach the City Council for financial support to run some of its facilities as joint ventures. This did have some positive outcomes but ongoing asset maintenance was a constant financial burden for the Regional YMCA. So, in 1998, the main YMCA building in the city was sold as it required serious structural restoration which the YMCA could not fund.

The Y's Men of Bendigo in 1999

So, to the future! The four, now "Y Service Clubs", are all facing a loss of members due to ageing membership but the Bendigo club is still managing its major fundraising projects by working smarter rather than harder. The club is using help of other organisations that are given donations from funds raised for the heavy physical tasks involved in its projects. It is a "win-win" for both parties. So Bendigo club is still a major donor to the YMCA and many other charitable organisations in the local community with just 25 active members, whose average age is 82 years!

On 29 Sept 2019, the Y Service Club of Bendigo celebrated its 80th anniversary, having been chartered on 29 Sept 1939. Club President Colin Lambie cutting cake with three longest serving members (Ian, Peter and Kevin - all three with over 50 years service to the club)

In 2019, as part of a nation-wide YMCA strategy, the Bendigo Regional YMCA Board was taken over by **YMCA Victoria**, the State Executive of the YMCA. In the future a Bendigo sub-committee of the State YMCA Board will be the only link we will have to the new decision-making Executive based in Melbourne.

At the Bendigo club, we have always tried to donate locally rather than see funds leave the city where they were raised. So it will be a challenge for our club to ensure future donations to the Bendigo YMCA remain in Bendigo!

Late in 2019, the Bendigo and Ballarat clubs both celebrated 80 years of dedicated service to YMI and their local communities. Over those 80 years, many members of the clubs in Central Victoria have served YMI and the YMCA with distinction at many levels. Among them, Bruce Price of Ballarat club and Arthur Cowling of the Bendigo club, were outstanding International Presidents. So now, as we face the future, we will need to adapt to the changing world around us.

MICRO-HISTORY

Central Southern Europe – Challenges Aplenty

RD Alan Wallington (Wally), Past Editor, Y's Men's World

Prior to 1964, all European countries were in the European Region, constituted in 1932 at the Detroit International Convention. The first club in Europe was **Tallinn, Estonia,** chartered in 1928. Only one club survived the impact of World War II – Thessaloniki – chartered in 1933, it survived until 1975.

Growth in Y's Men clubs after 1945 meant that by 1963 it was apparent that Europe Region needed to be subdivided to facilitate better administration and leadership. On 1 September 1964, three Regions were created – Sweden/Finland, Denmark/Norway and Central Southern Europe (CSE).

Central Southern Europe had 15 clubs at the creation of the Region: Torino in Italy; Athens and Thessaloniki in Greece; Lisbon in Portugal; Alloa, Bellhill, Edinburgh, Kingswood, Nottingham and Weston in the United Kingdom; Bremen, Essen and Hamburg in Germany; and Amsterdam and Rotterdam in The Nether-lands. The first International Director CSE, as they were called then, was Jan de Jong of the Netherlands. He chaired the first Regional Conf-erence in Ham-burg in 1964. Regional Conf-erences take place every year and a different club hosts each year. Being a small Region with limited numbers attend-ing, home hosp-itality is offered often to visitors and this enhances the friendships formed over the years. In 1966, Kingswood club hosted the Regional Conference and visitors camped in the YMCA grounds. ISG Gerald L. Hayl graced us with his presence and gave a splendid speech. Another memorable conference was in 2006 at Vaumarcuse, Switzerland when ISG Rolando Dalmas and AP Finn Pedersen attended.

Opening cremony 2001 Area Convention

Original charter of the Thessaloniki club

Flying their flags

Delegates from 15 countries outside the Council House, in Bristol, before the flag ceremony. Picture: Martin Chainey.

Extract from Bristol Evening Post July 4th 1981

Y's men come to the West

1981 Area Conference

CSE – Area Conventions and Projects

CSE has hosted four Area Europe Conventions – 1981 at the Bristol University with over 300 attending; 1991 at the Holiday Inn, Bristol attended by 280 delegates enjoying an excellent weekend with a wonderful service in the Bristol Cathedral followed a city sightseeing tour; 2001 saw Kingswood and Hanham clubs hosting the Area Conference yet again at the Bristol University Union Conference Centre. Political and economic difficulties at the time reduced the attendance to 140 but the event went well and came in under budget. In 2013, we were

ISG Rolando Dalmas in Vaumarcus 2020

The 1991 Area Convention logo

Russians at 2013 Area Convention

ISG Jose Varghese visiting refugees with RD

again asked to host the Area Convention and this time chose Bath University as the venue. All 180 delegates were able to stay in the university accommodation and this made for a convenient and happy convention. Bath is a major tourist destination and delegates were able to spend time there.

The Region has an annual project to which clubs donate; it is selected at the Regional Conference and has recently included support for the excellent refugee work being done by Thessaloniki YMCA. One of the results of this collaboration has been the work to charter a new club in Thessaloniki in 2020.

Though Central Southern Europe is a small Region we have provided international leaders over the years. Klaus Dietzel was International Treasurer from 2004 to 2010 and four members of CSE have served as International Council Members: Klaus Dietzel 1978/81; Norman Cullimore 1990/93; Alan Wallington 2006/09, and Elfie Musil 2009/12.

Klaus Dietzel

Elfie Musil

Norman Cullimore

USA: IP's Whirlwind Tour of Pacific Southwest Region

Left: One of the floats at the Parade and, right, IP Jennifer watches the parade from the raised platform as an honoured guest of the organisers

Honouring a long-standing tradition, IP Jennifer Jones spent the first week of 2020 in the Pacific Southwest Region of Area USA attending the famous Pasadena **Tournament of Roses Parade** followed by a luncheon hosted by the **Pasadena Lion's Club**, and visiting Y's Men's clubs in the Region.

The dinner evening hosted by the Pasadena Y's Men's Club, chartered in 1928, on 3 January is a long-standing tradition for the Region. The highlight of the evening was an inspiring presentation by IP, Jennifer Jones. We were honored to have Jennifer and her husband Russell, as well as PIP Clare Graham and his spouse Nancy in attendance. It was a spectacular evening of food, music and fellowship! This dinner capped the IP's whirlwind tour of Southern California.

PRD Tim Singletary, Pacific Southwest Region, USA

With President Choi of Lion's International in Duarte, Los Angeles for the Rose Bowl Parade.

IP with members of the Clovis-Fresno club. RDE Dan Eberly is seated in the front row, left extreme

YMI ANNOUNCEMENT

Korea: YMI Doctors Overseas Medical Service in Laos

The 2020 Korean medical team to Laos

Dr. Kim Sang-chae addressing a gathering in Sayaboury

In January, during Korea's Lunar New Year holiday, YMI Doctors in Korea undertook a three-day overseas medical service trip to Laos under the leadership of AP Kim Sang-chae. Composed of the members of the Y's Men's Club of Gimhae Helpers High, who are on the staff of Kyunghee Jungang General Hospital, this team consisted 18 volunteers including two orthopedists, one gastroenterologist, one cardiologist, three general surgeons, and several nurses and volunteers. We also got the assistance of eight volunteer interpreters from Korea International Cooperation Agency in Laos and the National University of Laos to help us communicate with Lao doctors and patients.

In 2019 too, we were in Sayaboury for the overseas medical services after which AP Kim Sang-chae had signed an MOU between his hospital and Sayaboury hospital. Thanks to the MOU, customs clearance of medicines and medical equipment brought from Korea for this service camp was much easier than the previous one.

During the three-day camp, we attended to about 1,500 patients and performed nine major and 15 minor surgeries. On the last day, Sayaboury hospital presented each volunteer with a plaque of appreciation, scarf, glutinous rice and black rice. We also donated surgical equipment and medicines prepared in Korea to Sayaboury Hospital.

We plan to strengthen the volunteer work in Mongolia and Laos by inviting medical personnel to Korea for further training in order to improve the quality of medical service in those countries. At present, some Mongolian medical staff are undergoing training at Kyunghee General Hospital. Soon doctors from Laos will join them.

Source: Area Korea Office

Korea: 8,000 Masks for Daegu to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

The announcement of the first tranche of 3000 masks

AP Kim Sang-chae supervising distribution of masks

In an early response to contain the scourge of coronavirus (COVID-19), Area Korea, led by its AP Kim Sang-chae and ably assisted by Korea Daegu Gyeongbuk RD Park Jong An, ASD Jung Sung-gyu and others visited Daegu city to initially deliver 3,000 masks. This was followed up with another gift of 5,000 masks about three weeks later, in March.

Residents of Daegu were some of the worst hit in the country. By the end of February, 1,314 out of the 2,022 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Korea (about 65 percent), were from this region.

The masks are expected to reach the Daegu citizens and underprivileged people through the City Hall Welfare Department of Daegu Metropolitan City.

Source: Area Korea Office

Hong Kong Y's Men and YMCA Join Hands to Fight COVID-19

Y's Men all set to deliver the goods

At a time when the most essential items are difficult to obtain, Hong Kong Y's Men worked closely with the Chinese YMCA to raise donations for procuring face masks and hand sanitizers to be distributed to those who cannot truly afford to pay for them.

In late February, New Territories club collected and donated over 1,000 face masks and hand sanitizers to two YMCA elderly centres. In early March, Peninsular club also sent over 2,500 face masks to a YMCA shelter centre for disabled persons. Volunteers from North West club and the YMCA visited minority groups in the poverty-stricken area of

At the YMCA facility in Hong Kong

Tin Shui Wai and distributed over 500 packs of disinfectant products with a leaflet of explaining the preventive measures to be adopted.

Joan Wong, DG, Hong Kong District

Korea: "Masks of Love" to Contain the Spread of COVID-19

Y's Men distributing masks and leaflets in front of a hospital

Members of the Gimhae Jung Ang and Gimhae Seven clubs

The spread of COVID-19 has spurred several Y's Men's clubs in Korea into action. Members of the **Gim Hae Jungang** club and **Gim Hae Seven** club distributed "masks of love" on 22 February as the first of a long chain of activities planned to contain the spread of the dreaded virus. They distributed masks worth 6 million won (approximately USD 4,900) to citizens at three locations, namely, Kyunghee Jungang hospital, Gimhae Samseung hospital and JW wedding centre. They also ran a campaign exhorting citizen to make sure to use hand sanitizers as often as needed.

Since the masks that were distributed carried the emblem and logo of Y's Men, it also served as a great tool for promotion of the movement.

Submitted by Area Korea Office

India: Curbing the COVID-19 Surge by Breaking the Chain

"Break the Chain" is a campaign launched by the Government of Kerala in a bid to contain the spread of COVID-19. It calls for self-discipline on the part of its denizens to avoid mass contacts and isolate themselves while inculcating the habits of sanitizing by washing hands frequently and following socially acceptable etiquette when sneezing and coughing. Several Y's Men's clubs in Area India joined this campaign by distributing sanitizers and masks, installing handwash facilities and distributing awareness materials. We give below a panorama of those efforts by some clubs.

From left to right: The official logo of the campaign; Kerala's Health Minister Mrs. K.K. Shylaja offers hand sanitizer to a school student at a facility run by the Pothanicad (Mid West India Region) club; street side handwash facility erected by Chemperi Town (West India Region) club

Handwash facilities erected by Arattupuzha (South West India Region) club, Muvattupuzha and Odakkali clubs, both in Mid West India Region

Korea: Reaching Out via Market to Sensitize and Sanitize

Responding to Korea AP Kim Sang-chae's appeal for volunteers to participate in a disinfection drive to eradicate COVID-19, Gim Hae Cure Club has been operating a promotional booth at Dongsang-dong Market every weekend from 10 am to 10 pm. It will continue until the threat of coronavirus infection subsides. This traditional market is frequented by many citizens and foreigners alike every weekend. As the Cure club is composed of nurses, elementary counselling and health education are being offered for citizens with symptoms.

Market-goers are checked for body temperature and disposable masks (one per person) are being distributed along with COVID-19 handouts in English and Chinese. The promotion for sanitizing one's hands is also carried out. The campaign focuses on educating people on the importance of proper hygiene in helping to reduce the spread of diseases in the wake of the increase in the number of confirmed cases in Korea.

CP Kwon Young-chae

Members of the Gimhae Cure Club

Reaching out to customers in the busy Dongsang-dong Market

India: Bangalore District Launches Cancer Care Project

Led by District Governor Johney John, Bangalore District II launched an ambitious project to help set up a palliative care unit at the Santhwana Hospice Centre run by the Deena Seva Trust with a total investment of about INR 10 million (approximately USD 130,000). The first phase was set in motion in January with a fundraising campaign that netted more than five million rupees. Part of this amount was transferred to the Trust to invest in medicare for the 12 in-patients currently undergoing palliative care and to lay the foundation for a new facility that will eventually take care of nearly 60 patients from the poorest sections of the society.

M. Sebastian, District Secretary, Bangalore II

January: Handing over a cheque for INR 3 million to the Deena Seva Trust

March: IPAP K.C. Samuel laying the foundation stone for the new building

Japan: Change! 2022 – The EMC Project

Japan East Region launched the "Change! 2022" project last year to complement the efforts of YMI's "Challenge 22" campaign.

When the former Japan Region was divided into Japan East Region and Japan West Region in 1997, there were 1,246 members on the rolls. The goal of this project is to achieve that number from the current number of 875.

On 1 February 2020, a Regional symposium on "Change! 2022" was held with more than 100 participants to share the good examples of the movement especially in extension and membership conservation (EMC).

Clubs are encouraged to utilise Facebook to become a more well-known organisation in the community and a monthly Regional newsletter is published to motivate and provide information to the clubs.

The "Change! 22" seminar in progress

PRD Hiroyuki Tanaka, Japan East Region

Caribbean: Equipping Youth to be Responsible Citizens

All set for the clean-up drive

Region Caribbean partnered with the Jamaica Environment Trust Foundation for their 'Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica' campaign in February to execute a community clean-up in Mandeville.

Y's leaders understand that engaging youth in community service projects provides them with the opportunity to become active members of their community and has a lasting, positive impact on society at large.

In the clean-up drive the youth collected various items to fill over a dozen garbage bags that included 250 plastic bottles, candy wrappers, styrofoam containers, etc.

"Respect, protect and preserve the space you occupy; you are responsible for environmental change!" is the motto that governs the youth in the Region.

ASD Dwight Tomlinson, Area Canada/Caribbean

Meeting up with Y's Men in Taiwan and Philippines

IPAT Antony Joseph

In December 2019 we took our annual family vacation to Taiwan to spend Christmas with our son who works for the Far Eastern Group in Taipei, and to visit Boracay, a small island in central Philippines to celebrate the New Year.

While in Taipei I got in touch with some of the senior Y's leaders in Taiwan and Philippines. Kevin Su, RDE of Region Taiwan, and Mark Lin, President of the Y's Men's Club of Taipei Central were very kind to take time off to meet me and

Friendship Dinner: The author and his wife being hosted by Kevin Su and Mark Lin in Taipei

my wife Shany in Taipei. Kevin travelled all the way from Tainan, about 300 kilometres away, where he is based just to meet us, get to know us and to know more about the movement in India. They took us to a famous Taiwanese

The author with Mark Lin, President of the Y's Men's Club of Taipei Central

restaurant for a nice dinner. We really enjoyed meeting them and we thank them for their warm reception and hospitality.

Taiwan, officially the Republic of China, is a small island located in the South China Sea, about 150 km from the coast of mainland China. Taiwanese lifestyle is very much influenced by Japan and Korea. Taiwan is also known for some of the best food in the world. Attractions include Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial (known as the National Palace Museum), Taipei 101, the highrise building with 101 floors, Shifen waterfall, and Jiufen mountain town among many other sites.

Antony Joseph, Immediate Past Area Treasurer, Area India is a member of the Y's Men's Club of Bangalore. He can be reached at tranzell@gmail.com

Anxious Moments

Prior to our trip to Boracay on 28 December we had a big challenge to deal with. Typhoon Phanfone hit Philippines just two days before on Christmas day, damaging various parts of the country. Boracay was badly hit; the island was closed for tourists for two days, electricity and phone connections to the island were completely cut-off. I was in constant contact with PRD Paul Lim of Region Philippines, who gave me an

In Manila with RD Angelito Pua, PRD Paul Lim and DG George Liobing

hour-by-hour update from his RAHA resource group. He assured me that Boracay will be ready for tourists by the time of our visit. We decided to go ahead with the trip! All went well but there was no electricity and mobile phone connection till we left the island on 2 January. All the resorts functioned using diesel generators! It was a peaceful holiday without mobile phone and social media distractions!

Touring with Y's Men

We met with PRD Paul Lim, RD Angelito Pua, and DG George Liobing at the Manila YMCA where we stayed on our way back from Boracay. I can never forget their warm hospitality. They took us both for a day-long tour of Manila

At the University of San Tomas

GOODWILL VISIT

With John Teng and others at RAHA Volunteers

Out for a meal

city, visiting the famous Intramuros, University of Santo Tomas, the oldest university in Asia. Both Paul and Angelito are alumni of UST.

We also visited the RAHA Volunteers facility were we met John Teng, whose family contributed the building and vehicles for the RAHA (Royal Alliance for Humanitarian Action) operations. All of them are members of Y's Men's Club of RAHA Phillippines. RD Angelito drove us to the airport the next day for our flight back home.

We reached Bangalore safely on 8 January after the holidays. Disaster struck Philippines again: Taal volcano erupted on 12 January causing severe damage forcing thousands to flee their homes in the Manila metro area. Emergency services, shops, restaurants and Manila airport were closed for a few days. Back in the safety of our homes we were happy to learn that all the new friends we made were safe and involved in relief and rehabilitation operations.

TAILPIECE: I end with an observation made by our son: "Got a culturally adventurous start, dodged a typhoon in the middle and escaped a volcano eruption at the end and lived happily ever after. And, made some good friends along the way."

At Makati YMCA, Manila

YMI ANNOUNCEMENT

MANTRA FOR THE SOUL

Max Ediger*

Tell Me Your Story

Immigration is a big issue in America. Like so many important issues being debated, there seems to be little dialogue; only very polarized opinions, criticisms and judgments. This is unfortunate for all of us, not just for those facing deportation. We need to listen calmly and deeply to all the different perspectives in order to find a just solution. Most importantly we must be willing to listen to the stories of the immigrants themselves for each of them has a very important story to tell us.

The USA policy on immigration reaches all the way here to Cambodia. In the late 1970s, as the Khmer Rouge regime fell, the US began to resettle large numbers of Cambodian refugees to the States. They were scattered around the different States, but ultimately many migrated to areas with a climate more similar to Cambodia and where larger numbers of Khmer people were living. Like so many of us, the people of Cambodia like to live in community, and they best found this among their own people.

Having survived life under the Khmer Rouge and a difficult life in the refugee camps, the resettled Khmers also found their new life extremely difficult. Many were suffering from severe trauma inflicted by war and the Khmer Rouge, but often did not receive the help they needed. The smallest children also suffered. Their families, still suffering from the brutality of the Khmer Rouge and not having work that could provide sufficiently, were dealing with many psychological issues which were passed down to the children. The children grew up in low income communities and were influenced by the youth culture in these areas.

At the same time, the resettled families were often not informed of the

proper processes for getting citizenship. Many children grew up without any identity papers. This was no problem until they got into some kind of problem such as a charge of possessing drugs, dangerous driving or street fighting. They would be sentenced to prison for a period, and upon release were often again arrested and deported back to Cambodia because they lacked proper citizenship papers – something that should have been provided to them by the authorities where they were first resettled.

One of the most glaring of the injustices is that these young people and their families were resettled by the government but were not given the proper attention needed to find a new home and solid place to live.

These young people abruptly find themselves in Cambodia, a country they hardly know with a language they may not speak. In some cases they have no idea in which part of the country they were born or if they even have any living relatives here. A few come back with severe mental problems and cannot receive the help they need to adjust to a new life.

A local organization by the name of Returnee Integration Support Center (RISC) provides valuable service to these young people as they struggle with adapting to their new life. Not all of them can do it. Suicides are, unfortunately, too common. RISC, with limited funds, provides counseling services, help in getting jobs or just a place to hang out when the going gets too difficult.

This situation reflects many injustices. One of the most glaring of the injustices is that these young people and their families were resettled by the government but were not given the proper attention needed to find a new home and solid place to live. That same government now deports the youth when they break a law, throwing them into a new situation far from their families, their wives and children and the American life they grew up in.

As Christians we are required to care for the homeless, the hungry and the distraught. Jesus said that what we do to the least of the people around us, we do also to him. This must become a part of the immigration dialogue. It will require us to listen to the stories of the immigrants with love and compassion before passing any judgment on them.

Before we make assumptions about immigrants, or pass judgment on them, let us simply ask them, "Can you tell me your story?" Perhaps we will then discover that we are entertained by angels without knowing it (Hebrews 13:1-2).

*Max Ediger directs the School of Peace from Cambodia.

Reprinted with permission of PeaceSigns, the online publication of the Peace and Justice Support Network of Mennonite Church USA, www.mennolink.org/peace

Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL

RBM Partnership To End Malaria

ROLL BACK MALARIA (RBM)

STEP UP THE FIGHT

Total Goal: USD 500 000
Double matched by DFID

Target 2020: USD 100 000
Paid to The Global Fund.

DONATE TODAY!
https://www.ysmen.org/donate/

A REVISED ENGAGEMENT

In the global fight to eradicate malaria since 2010 within the RBM Partnership and with more than USD 700 000 already raised, YMI has now entered an innovative, new multi-stakeholder partnership with the World YMCA, The Global Fund and DFID (the international development arm of the UK government) , which has agreed to donate USD 2 for every USD 1 we raise.

A NEW STRATEGY

YMI is dedicated to the development of youth-led, community engagement, advocacy and grass-roots education strategically implemented by The Global Fund with its governmental RBM partners and supported locally by the YMCA and our YMI clubs.

A MALARIA FREE WORLD BY 2030

While global efforts have already dramatically reduced the number of malaria-related deaths (by almost 50% over the past decade) progress has stalled. It's time to increase our efforts and reconfirm our commitment. Together let's make the world malaria free by 2030.

The Global Fund

WORLD YMCA

DFID Department for International Development