



Y's MEN INTERNATIONAL PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS' CLUB NEWS LETTER

JUNE 2020

Our Motto: "To acknowledge the Duty that accompanies every Right"

Service Club to the YMCA

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Club de service des UCJG

Service Club fur den CVJM

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Club de Servicio para la ACJ

Contents

- From your editor
- Sad news, too many – Our condolences to the bereaved families of PIP Poul V.Thomsen and PIPE Jim Sargent
- COVID-19 and its Impact on YMI by PIP Joan Wilson
- Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries (July to September 2020)

From your editor – PIP Isaac Palathinkal



Dear PIP Club members,

We are going through one of the difficult periods ever in our lives. Covid 19 is affecting every aspect of our life wherever we are living. We look upto the Lord for mercy and help.

Let us pray to Him seeking quick control over this pandemic currently ravaging our world.

Let us ask for healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families.

Let us hope and pray that an effective vaccine is established immediately.

As clubs, we are unable to meet and share our fellowship. Even our International Convention 2020

had to be cancelled.

At this time of the unprecedented situation owing to the spread of Coronavirus, I thought it fit not to ask members for articles. Rather I felt it more practical to have only one article in this News letter and that too on what is happening in YMI during these testing times. PIP Joan Wilson readily agreed to provide an article suitable for the occasion. Hence, this is the only article in this issue of the News letter. I thank Joan for the great understanding.

In the meantime, we had a few unpleasant and sad news coming in. PIP Poul V.Thomsen and PIPE Jim Sargent left us for their heavenly abode. The details are given below.

Thank you all.
PIP Isaac

Sad news, too many – Our condolences to the bereaved families

PIP Poul V.Thomsen passes away



Past International President Poul V.Thomsen passed away to eternity on 14th May 2020. We knew that Poul was not keeping good health recently. But, we never dreamt that he would leave us all so soon. Poul's funeral is scheduled to take place at Hørup Church, Kjellerup, on Friday, 22 May at 1:00 pm.

Poul always affirmed goodness in humanity and quality in leadership. Poul will always be remembered by the Movement as one of its most dynamic International Presidents, who always professed 'Go Ye into All the World' through his theme.

He had been following this theme practically right from his younger days and the result we see is the vast extension and growth of our Movement in Europe, with full co-operation with the YMCA.

He served as International President of Y's Men International during the year 2013/14. His 28 years of active association with YMI at different levels resulted in significant growth of Y'sdom in Europe.

Y's Men International recognised the great services of Poul V.Thomson to YMI and YMCA by honouring him with the greatest Award in Y'sdom, the 'HARRY M. BALLANTYNE AWARD' on 15th June 2019, at Denmark. We convey our condolences to Bodil and family and pray to The Almighty to give them strength and solace to bear the terrible loss.

(Hope you have already gone through 'A tribute to Poul V.Thomson' which was sent to Bodil on behalf of PIP's club, with copy to all members.)



At the funeral of Poul – attended by around 200 people

PIPE Jim Sargent passes away



Past International President Elect James "Jim" Sargent has passed away. The obituary for Dr. James (Jim) Sargent was in the Saint Paul Pioneer Press on Sunday (April 26th). Jim died on April 14 and was 93 years old. He is preceded in death by his wife, Jean, and two sons, John and Paul. He is survived by three children and their spouses, one daughter-in-law, 15 grand children and 9 great grandchildren.

Jim's family was very involved in their church (New Life Presbyterian), the Greater Twin Cities YMCA, and Y's Men International.

Many of us knew Jim as a leader in the local Skyway/Saint Paul Y Service Club, US Area and Y's Men international. He served on the International Council and several committees. He was awarded Y's Men's highest honor, the Ballantyne Award, in 2004. He was elected to be the International President of Y's Men but had to resign due to failing eye sight and was advised to not travel internationally.

Jim and Jean met and graduated from Macalester College. Jim went on to get his Master' degree from the U of Colorado and his PhD from the U of Minnesota. He was a teacher and school administrator with the St. Paul school district until his retirement in 1988.

(Courtesy: IHQ and Facebook)

COVID-19 and its Impact on YMI

By PIP Joan Wilson



A worldwide pandemic appears:

In December 2019, a new virus was first reported in Wuhan, a Chinese city of more than 11 million people. This virus was called a "novel corona virus" or COVID-19. By March 11, the World

Health Organization (WHO) declared it a pandemic. Countries all around the world were asked develop ways to keep people apart from one another and to manage the arrival of those who had been traveling upon their return home. This meant that the world moved into a lockdown, whether voluntary or government mandated.

As I write this article in mid-May, almost every country in the world has experienced at least one case of COVID-19 and has taken measures to control its spread. The virus has ‘flowed’ out of China into Asian countries, then by air to Europe, Australia, New Zealand and North America. More recently it has been working its way into the countries of Africa and South America. Economies have ground to a near-halt as everyone who could stayed home. All our YMI members across the globe are sharing almost identical extraordinary situations as our countries work to ‘flatten the curve’ of this pandemic.

Impact on countries around the world:

Feedback from some PIPs and PAPs across our YMI movement on the impact of COVID-19 where they live:

- Increased expectation for hygiene across the globe - wash hands regularly; no travel unless essential, keep a safe physical distance (2 meters) from others; and wear a face mask if possible
- Schools and child care closed
- Work from home if possible – often with limited technology and wifi and having to care for their children at the same time; many were left without income
- Essential workers have been recognized for their difficult work
- Quarantine for 2 weeks if returning from travel; cruise ships returnees were often kept in a secure location during quarantine
- Curfews/lockdowns – some countries set night time curfews to reduce gathering of people; others imposed lockdowns with police and military patrolling the streets to ensure no one went out at all
- Cruise ships at sea unable to find a port to disembark passengers
- Economic impact – huge numbers of people unemployed; many governments have set up partial compensation for those affected; many industries (such as hotels, airlines, cruises) have been brought to a near-stop; ‘stay at home’ order resulted in less spending by individuals to drive the economy; increased fear over when and how economies will reopen and if things will ever return to the “normal”
- Impact on poor and homeless – unable to self-isolate or keep a safe distance,; lack access to food
- Impact of politics – some countries did not take quick action often resulting in higher infection and deaths rates
- Elderly most affected - nursing homes became breeding grounds for the virus (for example, in my city, over 80% of all deaths are from nursing homes)
- Search for a vaccine – many countries are working to develop a vaccine, with many sharing scientific efforts to speed the process

Recently a few countries first hit with the virus have started to reopen businesses and schools, with varied results. It appears that countries that had the quickest initial responses and strongest restrictions, seem to be having the best reopening success. Despite this, a “the second wave” of the virus has started. Until a vaccine is found, it seems that this virus will drive the actions of people and countries worldwide.

Impact on the work of our YMI clubs:

Clubs across the globe have stopped meeting in person. Planned Regional and District conferences have been cancelled, as well as some new Club Charter events. Planned extension travel has been put on hold. But our members are not stopping their efforts, instead they are finding new ways to meet and help the needy. Many have been able to connect in other ways such as WhatsApp, Zoom, GoToMeeting, etc. Some have established regular club online meetings as a way to support one another during isolation and to plan how to safely assist other while remaining personally safe. In countries with more poor and homeless people, clubs have stepped up to help in amazing ways. Here are a few examples:

- Financial support to the local YMCA to help provide food to those in need
- Wellness calls to members and the elderly
- Install public hand wash stations in poor communities
- Provide face masks to those in need
- Financial support for YMCA staff who have been put on leave without pay
- Personal support to needy individuals
- Set up counselling hotline with YMI members manning the phones
- Provide face masks in refugee camps and for children of migrant workers
- Provide meals and ‘thank you’ messages to frontline hospital workers

This list is just a selection of what is being done across the globe in the name of YMI. As you can see by the range of things being done, it isn’t hard to find something relevant in the local community that can be done virtually or at a safe distance. Congratulations to all the clubs that are finding ways to make a difference in their communities and/or in partnership with their local YMCA!

Clubs still make a difference to YMI beyond their own community work:

While many parts of our club work have slowed down or halted due to the pandemic, we still see

efforts being made to support YMI initiatives and programs. While we understand that finances may be more precarious at this time, please consider acting on some of these ideas:

- Work on starting new clubs – with the use of virtual meetings, you can offer orientations and run meetings, even a virtual charter event
- Contribute to the YMI pandemic fund – your IEOs will be able to identify the best places to send your funds to have the biggest impact
- Contact potential members for your club and meet virtually to share about the work of your club
- Clubs with financial challenges – look for ‘no cost’ projects such as picking up garbage, making wellness calls to elderly people, writing thank you notes to YMCA staff and/or frontline workers, etc.
- Clubs with good finances - remember to submit dues to IHQ and support our international programs (BF, TOF, EF, RBM) so that they can meet their commitments
- Grow your partnership with the YMCA - support your local YMCA efforts as this can help grow better partnerships once we get past this crisis
- Review the Challenge 22 document – find how your club can creatively address some of the goals while in isolation
- Grow your virtual skills - learn more on how to connect online with YMI friends across the globe as such ‘face to face’ moments are a wonderful boost for the spirits!

Looking to the future:

There are many things that are beyond our control as we live in this pandemic world. However, we can choose to make it bearable by having the right attitude. I strongly believe in the saying “if you are given lemons, then make lemonade”! In other words, don’t dwell on the negative, but instead find some good that has made itself possible as a result of this pandemic. Consider what can be done, then do it! Let’s:

- Use this time to learn more, connect more, and care for others more than we might have had time for in our normal busy schedules
- Learn from the new hand washing and distancing rules, and use them better in the future to help prevent other illnesses from spreading
- Embrace online meetings and virtual get together – we can learn new technology regardless of our age!
- Look for ways to reach potential new members and start new clubs
- Offer encouragement to those around us, our club members, YMI leaders and YMCA staff – it takes only a few minutes to make someone’s day.
- Remember that we should pray daily for the safety for our families, friends and YMI members, as well as for a speedy end to this pandemic. Pray is powerful so use it!

Dear God,

We know You are Almighty and have an eye on each one on this globe suffering through the COVID-19 pandemic. We ask that you look after each one of our YMI club members and enable them to do diligent work in their communities to serve the needy, while remaining safe themselves. Look after all our YMI leaders and staff as they continue to determine how best to guide us through these hard times. Help our researchers quickly develop a vaccine that can be used worldwide to prevent further loss of life. Help the economies of each country grow again to their former strength so that people will have jobs and income. Grant us peace if we have lost dear ones to this virus. Help everyone to learn from this time of isolation, and to see what is truly important – a simpler life where people are valued over things, and kindness is more important than growing rich. We ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

Some of the amazing examples by YMI clubs, in fighting the pandemic



Latin America - Baskets for needy families



In Europe, Y's Men provided food, gas grill and other essential items to the needy.



USA - North Atlantic Region Long Island Club delivering complimentary pizzas to the frontline healthcare professionals



Regions in India Area concentrating their efforts in supplying Face masks to government officials to be distributed to the needy. They also supplied food at Community kitchens during lockdown period. TV channels broadcast these functions bringing in a positive image for our Movement. Almost every such action is shared through WhatsApp groups to almost all clubs and members encouraging them to follow suit. They also introduced virtual Council / Board meetings and Training sessions during this period as face to face meeting was not possible.

Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries (July to September 2020)

Name	Birthday	Name	Birthday
Rachelle Reeg	10 July	Mary Wabule	15 August
Jean Fotheringham	23 July	Dr. Paik Seung-ho	17 August
Kiyoko Aoki	24 July	Gloria Dalmas	25 August
Isaac Palathinkal	8 August		

Couple

Wedding Anniversary

Henry Johannes Grindheim & Brynhild Vethe Grindheim

19 July

PIP Club members wish all of you many more happy returns of the day.

Note: 9th July would have been celebration of Poul V.Thomsen's birthday and 18th July would have been the celebration of wedding anniversary of Poul Thomsen & Bodil Thomsen. Unfortunately, Poul V.Thomsen left us for his heavenly abode before that.

The PIP Newsletter is a quarterly publication of and for Past International Presidents providing information as well as serving as a vital link between PIPs and Y's Men International.

Please go to next page for additional information and photographs on PIP Poul V.Thomsen's funeral, received from PIT Erik Breume, subsequent to completing preparation of this issue of Newsletter.

Additional information and photographs on PIP Poul V.Thomsen's funeral, received from PIT Erik

Dear Isaac,

As promised, I hereby send some pictures from PIP Poul V. Thomsen's funeral.

The funeral took place in the open air, as due to Covid-19, the number of people in the church was limited. About 180 people attended the funeral and the pastor, who was a good friend of Poul, gave a very personal and powerful speech about Poul. Poul's unique involvement in the Y's Men's movement was also mentioned. Before his death, Poul had decided which pieces to read from the Bible - just as he had chosen the hymns to be sung. Although the rain and wind came at the end of the funeral, it was a very warm and solemn farewell to PIP Poul.

Ysly and warm regards
Erik, PIT

