



Y's Men International

YMI

WORLD

“To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right”

Only for private distribution to members



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Dear readers,

Just as we were about to commence the final stages of putting together this issue we received word that our IPE Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen is no more. It is indeed a sad loss for all of us. Much more for his family and loved ones back home in Denmark. We will all miss his calm and collected approach to complex matters of programmatic planning. Our thoughts are with you Mrs. Jakobsen and we pray that God Almighty comfort you and give you the strength to move on in life.



This issue is all about our Movement – the past and the present with a couple of exhortations to rise to the challenge to meet our Towards 2022 and Beyond goals. We are happy that Rita Hettiarachchi from Sri Lanka and Sandy Reynolds from Canada responded to our request to recall the origins of the Movement in their countries. And, Debbie Redmond, true to her role as International Historian, writes on Lorraine Alexander, Paul Alexander's wife, who otherwise would not have found a space in our narrative. These and some information on some of the earliest clubs find prime space in this issue under the section MICRO-HISTORY. We do not claim this to be the authentic one-and-only version of the Movement and writers have written them from their perspectives and with the limited access to the information they have had.

Edward Ong from Singapore, our ISD-LTOD and Benny Augustine from India appear in this issue with their thoughts on leadership and the importance of our Movement, respectively. Both merit a word of appreciation for they have ensured that our magazine has a good variety of material for club members to reflect on. Others in the Movement who have strong views on similar topics are encouraged to submit their pieces.

And, as usual there is plenty of news from local actions that underline the importance of community service. Our book section is also a good example of community service by

From Y's Men's Club of Hikone (Japan West Region). Picture taken on the occasion of the Hikone Y's Men's Club Cup for Kids, a soccer tournament for kids held regularly for the past 22 years.

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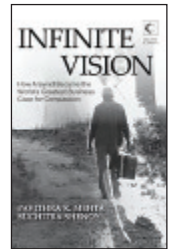
a team of dedicated doctors, albeit on a massive scale. It is a fact that we can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone. Scott Adams, the creator of Dilbert comic strips says, "Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end." How true!

Koshy Mathew

FROM MY BOOKSHELF

Infinite Vision: How Aravind Became the World's Greatest Business Case for Compassion by Pavithra K. Mehta, Suchitra Shenoy

The book is devoted to Aravind, a nonprofit organisation in India that deals with the lofty hope of curing the world of blindness – a highwater mark for a goal. But after reading *Infinite Vision* and understanding more about its driving force, Dr. Venkataswamy or "Dr. V", one gets the feeling that he and his team may have the world's best chance to accomplish this.



Starting with the relatively straightforward immediate aim of performing large-scale surgery for cataracts – a disease that accounts for 48% of the blindness throughout the world, but 60% in India – Aravind defied conventional business logic to become the largest provider of eye care in India. Actually, that's being modest; Aravind is the largest in the world. And it became so with some mind-boggling stats.

For example, consider that "the National Health Service for the United Kingdom does a little over half a million eye surgeries annually, Aravind does 300,000." But that's not the impressive part. The impressive part is that Aravind does this – about 50% of the ophthalmic surgical volume of the U.K. – at less than 1% of UK's costs. That's 13.8 million GBP versus 1.6 billion GBP. Even accounting for differences in economies, the gulf between the two is still staggering.

Equally impressive is the ability of authors Shenoy and Mehta to take what might otherwise be dry statistics and imbue them into the narrative of *Infinite Vision*. Consider that in 35 years, Aravind has treated more than 32 million patients with more than 4 million surgeries, the majority of which are either highly subsidised or completely free. This is in a country where the majority of the population survives on less than USD 2 per day.

The impetus behind all of this speed and innovation is the fact that there is so much at stake. If there is one thing that drives Dr. V and his team of 21 ophthalmologists across three generations of his family, it's that in India, blindness is more than just a tragic twist of fate – for many it is simply a death sentence. A triple loss of "eyesight, livelihood, and a sense of self-worth."

It is this impetus that drives Dr. V and his team to consistently improve their practices and procedures, in turn compelling the reader to want to understand just how they managed to do it.

Available on Amazon.com

SAD DEMISE

IPE Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen (1954 – 2019)



It is with utmost shock and grief that we received the news of the unexpected passing away of our International President Elect, Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen at Yerevan, Armenia on 4 September 2019. He was on a Y's Men group trip to Armenia with his home club members from Denmark. Due to some health problems, he was admitted to a hospital in Yerevan and underwent surgery there. He was recovering at the hospital when suddenly his health deteriorated and he passed away.

The unexpected demise of Poul-Henrik is a huge loss for his family and his wider international Y's Men family. We place on record our heartfelt condolences to the family and pray for his eternal peace!

Moving Ahead

Dear friends,

The International Council met in Sendai, Japan in August for the 2019 International Council Meeting (ICM 19). Sendai is a large city situated about 300 km north of Tokyo and most of the members travelled there by bullet train from Tokyo. Sendai was the closest major city to the devastation suffered from the tsunami and earthquake that happened in 2011. Many of us took tours to see for ourselves how this region was affected and what recovery has been achieved so far. There were many stories and images which touched our hearts.

At ICM 19, Council Members approved a series of goals for the coming year. Each year the IP sets their goals and targets, which will enable YMI to deliver its mission successfully. This year, the Area Presidents have set a 6 % increase for programme contributions and a 30% increase in membership, compared to the IP targets of 20% increase in contributions and 12% in membership. The results are likely to end up somewhere in the middle, but by pulling together the impossible could be achieved! Outstanding achievements in meeting targets from last year have already been recognised by IPIP Moon Sang-bong recently. A new annual award for outstanding achievements in Community Service is being established with one award being available for each Region.



Recently, your club should have received information about the **100 Day Membership Campaign** beginning on 1 September. In order to achieve our goals, much effort is needed and ISG Jose Varghese has formulated a plan to help us to move forward. In our clubs we have already been challenged to bring along new members and to sponsor another club through the **Challenge 22** initiative. To assist in the campaign, a 50% discount will be offered to spouses who join as new members over the next three years.

I am looking forward to the very first RDE Summit, 14-17 November, to be held in Toledo, Ohio, the birthplace of YMI. This will be a great opportunity for Regional Directors Elect, our up and coming leaders, to experience the “international aspect” of YMI by setting up connections and networks and developing a better understanding of how YMI operates in the various Areas of the world. It will also be exciting and motivating for all of us to hear about the developments related to the Paul William Alexander Legacy Project and hearing about the renewed interest in partnering with the YMCA in extension and collaborative initiatives.

My goals this year include strategies to strengthen the working relationship between YMI and YMCA. This focus has already got off to a good start and I will write more about this in the next issue. Membership continues to be a crucial part of a healthy future for YMI but equally important is the way in which we, as members, perceive ourselves and our organisation. I hope that we can continue to work on having a brand and image which will be well-known throughout the world and having this great organisation in more countries than before. Thank you for what you are already doing to make this a reality.



Jennifer Jones
International President

This message was written before the sad news of the demise of our IPE Jakobsen reached us. IP Jennifer Jones's tribute to the departed soul appears on the facing page – Editor.

YMI Honours PIP Poul V Thomsen with Ballantyne Award

At the Danish Regional Conference held in Silkeborg, Denmark on 15 June 2019, PIP Poul V. Thomsen was honoured with the Harry M. Ballantyne Award for his long and outstanding work for Y's Men International at all levels and for over thirty years of service in numerous positions.

The award was delivered to him at the banquet on Saturday night where between 850 and 900 Y's Men, mostly from Denmark but also from other European regions attended. As IPIP 2018/2019, and since I also have been working with Poul on both an International and Area Europe level for more than twenty years, it was a great honour and privilege for me to do this on behalf of IP Moon Sangbong and the whole organisation.

To both Poul and his wife, Bodil,



PIP Poul V. Thomsen displays his citation after receiving his award from PIP Henry Grindheim. On the right is Mrs. Thomsen.

this award and honour came as a big surprise as they did not know anything in advance, and they were both deeply moved when the three of us stood on the podium and I read the citation. The

warm and long applause coming from the many guests at the end of this solemn ceremony showed a well-deserved gratitude and recognition of his long service to the Y's Men Movement.

PIP Henry J Grindheim

International President Pays Tribute to IPE (Late) Jakobsen



Jennifer Jones, outgoing International President Elect passes on her IPE's lapel pin to Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen thereby inducting him as the new IPE

"I write with a sad heart as we mourn the passing of IPE Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen last week. Poul-Henrik died suddenly after medical complications while on a Y's Club visit to Armenia and the YMCA there.

"Poul-Henrik was elected as the 2019-2020 IPE last year and then inducted into this position in July at Sendai, Japan at the Asia Pacific Area Convention. As long as we have known Poul-Henrik, he has always displayed an enthusiasm, willingness and determination to do his best to make sure that Y's Men International is well-placed to carry out its mission and serve its membership worldwide. His membership on the International Council as Area President for Europe, his commitment as Y's Liaison to the YMCA and his skills in financial management have displayed some of his unique qualities and passion. We were so looking forward to the special contributions that Poul-Henrik would make in high level leadership of YMI over the next three years. We will also miss his friendship and the ways he created an inclusive ring of fellowship wherever he was.

"On your behalf, and YMI in general, I offer our love, expressions of deep sympathy and support to Birgit and her family at this time of terrible loss. I ask that the loving arms of God enfold the family and give them the comfort and hope needed at this difficult time. I am sure that the close YMI family in Denmark and further afield will do whatever is needed to help in every way possible."

Jennifer Jones

Training: Skills, Knowledge and Attitudes Matter

Edward K.W. Ong, ISD-Leadership Training/Organisational Development

Are leaders born or made? This may well be a subject for debate. Some theories propound that people inherit certain



qualities and traits that design them as better-suited to leadership. So it is with artists, musicians, scientists and businessmen who don't just become great but

they are born with potential.

Nevertheless, leadership is a character trait that one may be born with or which is developed early in life. It is generally not a learned skillset. New thinking is that with training or coaching, there is the possibility to hone leadership skills to some or greater extent.

In recent years, our Movement has placed more importance on leadership training. There is a need to give attention at the earliest stage of one's membership, from the club level. More comprehensive leadership training programmes are formulated for one to move on to various leadership roles.

We can learn as a form of education. This has its place but tends to be more academic and knowledge based. On the other hand, training is more practical and skill based or function-focused.

Training is a process where skills, knowledge and attitudes are applied in a unique way. Skills are coached on facilitating, analysing and managing topics to allow trainees to cultivate their ability to apply what they learn, to take initiative, to be creative and take action with solutions. Perhaps, it's more about the *How* and *Why* after knowing the *What*.

Edward has been an educationist, YMCA professional, a qualified Chartered Secretary and Administrator, Christian leader and served as International Council Member and as Asia Pacific Area President.

Every club member should be well informed of our Movement, its history, purpose, early leaders and its growth across the globe, the very close relationship and partnership with the YMCA. Inspiration is required to motivate each member to serve with commitment.

Training is a process where skills, knowledge and attitudes are applied in a unique way

At the next level, we shall be shifting towards more standardised training across all Regions with a greater level of similarity though each can adopt the recommendations and content to suit

every community.

Whilst there will be basic content and material, the training for each year, or for a period of time, must be geared towards achieving the theme, objectives and goals which are determined by the leadership at the International and Area levels.

To this end, instead of the annual RDE Training at each Area Level, the first International RDE Summit will be held in Toledo, Ohio, the birth place of our Movement, from 14 to 17 November 2019.

This will be a *leadership rally*, a celebration of unity, cross cultural exchange, character building and discovery. This will be Y's Men International as Y Service Clubs, in service with and for the YMCA, at World Alliance, at every Area Alliance and local level. We are Y's Men and Y's Women serving local communities and corporately with other international organisations.



The World is in Need of Y's Men International

by Benny Augustine

We live in an era of fast technological advancements and instant communication. Our universe is mapped to the extent that one can carry the globe in one's hand by way of information in a gadget. We live in a time where average human knowledge is doubled every 13 months and that is going to be every 12 hours shortly, as against every 100 years until 1900 and every 25 years thereon. Never before have 7.35 billion people lived together on our planet at the same time. Internet of things, artificial intelligence and machine technology and the like are going to play a significant role in human life.

With distances dissolved with the advancement of technology, businesses grew exponentially and development is highly visible for all of us to see. This development comes with its own built-in opposites. The technological advancement is leading to cultural impatience, social disintegration, lack of growth and shrinking human connect, which eventually may lead one to loneliness in society. I wish to share a quote from Dalai Lama, which is so apt in the current age that we live in: "We have bigger houses and smaller families. More convenience, less sense. More knowledge but less judgement. More experts but more problems. We have become long on quantity but short on quality." We are existing in a state of timelessness.

To promote happiness and address loneliness, various countries and organisations have come up with innovative ideas. To quote a few, UAE has had a Minister of Happiness since 2016, UK has had a Minister of

Benny Augustine is a Bangalore-based HR professional and is currently DG Elect of Bangalore District II (South India Region).

Loneliness since 2018, there's been a Ministry of Happiness Department in Madhya Pradesh (India) since April 2016 and in Andhra Pradesh since April 2017, and, last but not the least, CareMore Health even has a Chief Togetherness Officer.

Three Benefits

A Harvard study of adult development made 75 years ago of 724 men (1938-40 batch) shows that 60 of them are still alive today and in their

Let each one of us be the cause and invite your near and dear ones, friends and neighbours to this Movement. This world is in need of Y'sdom and let your magnanimity shine upon this wonderful Movement of which you are an integral part.

90s. This study provides three important lessons: Social connections are really good, quality of one's close relationships matter and the most satisfied in their 50s were the healthiest in their 80s. Good relationships not only protect our bodies, they protect our brains too. Healthy individuals form a healthy society.

We are most fortunate to have a Y's Movement in our time, which can play a pivotal role in enhancing happiness and do away with loneliness. Currently, we have over 25,000 club members in the Movement. Assume that an average family consists of three people, it means

75,000 people worldwide. Our Movement can advance human connect and our network can act as a forum that people can freely interact in their group at club, District, Region, Area and International levels. At the club level, this small group of families act as self-help groups in their various contexts such as marriages, birthdays, health and hospitalisation and so on.

Why Go Far?

We all like to associate with members who are like-minded and share similar values. Our Movement offers such a platform for us to connect with people with similar values and perspectives. Happiness in life is to connect with the people around you that you would like to connect with. I earnestly appeal to you all to invite your friends and relatives to our Movement and **let us celebrate life by celebrating Y'sdom**. This is a unique challenging time for us and our children and there is a need to promote community, confidence and trust among us and in the society. This forum nurtures, promotes and brings all of that - community, confidence and trust under one roof.

Come, let us join hands with the creator to build this world into a better place to live in, than it is now, for us and for the generations to come. YMI helps develop highly engaged individuals, families and societies at large, and play an influencing role in the common interests of humankind. A well-engaged mind is a happy mind and 'life happiness' is the happiness of life.

Let each one of us be the cause in the matter and invite your near and dear ones, friends and neighbours to this Movement. **This world is in need of Y'sdom and let your magnanimity shine upon this wonderful Movement of which you are an integral part.** Let us make this place better than we found.

MICRO-HISTORY

Y's Men International takes Root in Ceylon / Sri Lanka

Compiled by PAP Rita Hettiarachchi

Sri Lanka, once known as Ceylon, was one of the first countries to become part of Y's Men International in 1929 - barely seven years after the Association of Y's Men's Clubs was formally constituted and registered in Toledo, Ohio, USA, with its founder Judge Paul William Alexander as its President.

The Association's traditional links with the YMCA enabled **Mr. R.O. Buell**, the then General Secretary of the Colombo YMCA, who attended an International Convention in Minneapolis, USA, to gather some YMCA members and start



R. O. Buell who introduced Y'sdom to Sri Lanka

functioning as a club within the YMCA fold on his return. Mr. R.O. Buell was the first Sri Lankan national to have become the General Secretary of Colombo YMCA, which saw a long line of Europeans in that position since the YMCA was established in 1882. He served for 25 long years and became its longest-serving General Secretary as on date.

Although the first club, based in Colombo, began functioning in 1929 it was

chartered only on 3 December 1930 with the then Governor-General of Ceylon, **Sir Oliver Goonetilleka**, being sworn in as its charter president.

Extends to India

It was through the Y's Men's Club of Colombo that the Movement was introduced into India in 1940, when the first club there was formed in Madras (now Chennai). In India, the



Charter President of the Y's Men's Club of Colombo, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke

Movement spread rather rapidly and, as a result, the India/Sri Lanka Region came into being in 1946. In 1970-71 Y's Man **Kenneth Somanadar** from Colombo became the Regional Director of the India/Ceylon Region.



Kenneth Somanadar

It may be also mentioned that in 1973, Colombo became the first Club in Asia to admit women as full members.



Ms. Sylvia Perera was the first such person to be inducted. To date, Sylvia takes an active part in serving the Movement through the Colombo club.



Sylvia Perera

The last occasion when the banner of the Y's Men's Club of Colombo was displayed in India was at the Regional Convention was in 1974, carried by Ercon Godlieb and his spouse Jean Godlieb.



Ercon Godlieb and his spouse Jean Godlieb carrying the banner of the Y's Men's Club of Colombo at the Regional Convention in 1974

Sri Lanka Becomes a Separate Region

When the nation became a republic in 1972, Ceylon was rechristened Sri Lanka and the momentum to charter new clubs picked up along with a sense of new pride and joy. By then clubs had been chartered in Kandy (28 July 1962), Moratuwa (30 March 1964), Amparai (November 1964), and Jaffna (30 October 1971). These, along with Colombo and Badulla (1974) clubs, created sufficient numbers to think of an independent Region.

Soon representations were made to the International Headquarters in Geneva for Sri Lanka to become a separate

Region. Accordingly, at the International Convention in Atami, Japan in 1975, Sri Lanka became an independent Region with Kenneth Somanader of the Colombo club as the first Regional Director of Sri Lanka Region. During his term as RD, Kenneth chartered two more clubs, Chavakachcheri (22 November 1975) and Hatton (March 1976). The first Regional Convention of the Sri Lanka Region was held at the National Seminary, Ampitiya in Kandy Sri Lanka between 10 and 12 September 1976 with a large gathering of over 200 delegates.

Stanley Arnold succeeded Kenneth as RD and during his term, he chartered two Clubs - Welimada (12th February 1977) and Kurunegala (28th May 1977). The Second Regional Convention was held in Colombo in October 1977 and Stanley Arnold was elected Regional Director for a second time and continued as RD up to June 1978. He was subsequently appointed as an International Council Member (ICM) for the period 1978 to 1981. He was also appointed International Vice-President of Asia Area (now called Asia Pacific) for 1979/80. During this period, a system of Regional Awards was introduced to spur the clubs to greater efforts. These awards were presented for the first time at the Third Regional Convention held in June 1978 and Kurunegala, the youngest club at that time, was the first recipient of the 'Best Club Award'.



Stanley Arnold

Wimsy Sinnathamby took over the mantle of office from Stanley and served as RD for two years from 1978 to 1980.



Wimsy Sinnathamby

He, together with IPRD Stanley and Ms. Sylvia Perera represented Sri Lanka Region for the first time at the 53rd International Convention in Melbourne, Australia in July 1978. During Wimsy's term of office, two clubs were chartered - Wellawatte (10th November 1978) and Batticaloa (30th May 1980). The first International Brother Club triangle was also established during this period with Aars (Denmark),

Arendal (Norway) and Moratuwa (Sri Lanka) combining to form the triangular relationship. The Fourth Regional Convention in 1979 was held in Welimada and Moratuwa was adjudged the Best Club for 1979/80.

Gladstone Thevathasan took over as RD at the Fifth Regional Convention in 1980. During his term, two more clubs were chartered - Manipay (23rd August 1980) and Dehiwala (13th June 1981). Welimada was disaffiliated due to dormancy. Wellawatte won the 'Best Club' award at the Regional Convention.

Although the Region was barely five years old, it was honoured by being requested to host an Area Convention in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, a host committee was formed to plan and prepare for the event, with Gladstone as Chairman.

Darrell Perera was elected RD at the



Gladstone Thevathasan



Darrell Perera

Sixth Regional Convention on 20th May 1981 held at the Boys' Industrial Home, Wellawatte. The Region also welcomed its first YEEP student, Henrick Saubjerg from Denmark. He was hosted by Lanka and Malathi Nesiiah. Moratuwa was adjudged 'Best Club' while Badulla was disaffiliated due to dormancy.

Plays Host to International Events

In 1981 the Region played host to two international events - International Council Meeting from 27 to 30 July and the Ninth Asia Area Convention from 31 July 1981. On this occasion the Movement celebrated 50 years of its presence in Sri Lanka with the Colombo club hosting a banquet on 1 August 1981 for all the delegates attending the Asia Convention. Over 150 Y's Men and Y's Menettes from various parts of the world attended the meetings. Among the distinguished visitors were Joseph Ohm of Korea who was installed as International President, IPE Max Larson, PIPs Bruce Price, Christian Bach Iverson and Tod Gunkelman, ISG Bjorn Pederson and International Treasurer Gerald Lee. One of the key issues arising at the meetings was the request by India to secede from Asia Area and function as a separate Area. This resulted in the "parting of ways" between neighbours, India and Sri Lanka, with Sri Lanka opting to continue as part of Asia Area.

Lanka Nesiiah took over the mantle of leadership. At the Seventh Regional Convention held at the Theological College, Pilimathalawa from 18 to 20 June 1982. His theme for the year was "Reach out to new frontiers." During his term of office, the 'Gladstone Thevathasan Fund' was established with money left over from the Ninth Asia Y's Men's Convention. The interest earned from this fund was to be used to assist Sri Lankan Y's Men attend Conventions overseas.



Lanka Nesiiah

MICRO-HISTORY

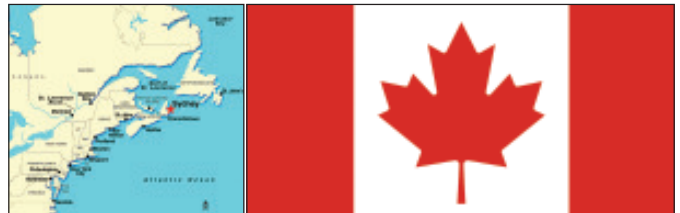
Y's Men's Club of Sydney – The Club that Made the Movement International – In Scope

Submitted by PAP Sandy Reynolds

The luncheon club movement had its birth in the early years of the twentieth century. It actually got under way with the formation of the first Rotary Club in 1905. During the next ten years, other service clubs and groups were formed, among which was a club in the YMCA of Toledo, Ohio, in 1920. The first club did not become an immediate success. It naturally had growing pains. However, by 1921, it was more or less solidly established, under the name of the Tolymca Club, and under the leadership of a rising young attorney, named Paul William Alexander. When other YMCAs in the state of Ohio saw the value of such a club in the Y, they requested information, and shortly thereafter, six other clubs were formed. Naturally, the name Tolymca was not suitable for these clubs, so the name “Y’s Men’s Clubs” was chosen.

As you will note, “Y’s” is the possessive case of the letter “Y” in YMCA. It ties the name of the club inseparably to the YMCA for all time. When Will M. Cressy went overseas as an army camp entertainer during the First World War, he wrote a number of articles for the *Association Men*, the YMCA periodical of that day. He signed these articles “Will M. Cressy, one of the Y’s Men of the East.” Paul William Alexander saw this, contacted Mr. Cressy, and obtained his permission to borrow the phrase “Y’s Men”. Will Cressy was eventually made an honorary member of the Toledo Y’s Men’s Club.

Around 1920, the service club age was born in Sydney (Nova Scotia, Canada) with the formation of the Rotary Club. Many other men became interested but not all could be accommodated in one club. During this period of 1920-21, the secretary of the Sydney YMCA, Henry G. Pope was thinking of the possibilities of such a service group within the YMCA. He imparted his ideas to some members of the



Association, with the result that such a club was formed.

Around the summer of 1921, the Physical Director, Fred Hardman, returned from a course at Lake Couchiching, bringing with him information on the Tolymca Club. Henry Pope, finding in this the answer to the needs of the Sydney group, proceeded to organise a YMCA Men’s Club. In May of 1922 they received the further information of the formation of Y’s Men’s Clubs in the state of Ohio.



This information on Y’s Men’s Clubs, seemed to fit the bill exactly for the Sydney Club. A meeting of interested men was held at the YMCA camp site in Point Edward, on a Sunday afternoon in September 1922. A decision was made to carry on during the fall under the methods of the newly formed Y’s Men’s Clubs, and to apply

for a Charter. This idea met with favour in the larger group during the fall, requirements of the group in Ohio were complied with, and accordingly, a Charter was applied for and presented to the Sydney Club at the meeting of 10 January 1923. The presenting of this Charter made this an International Movement. Thus, the Sydney Y’s Men’s Club holds the distinction of



Group that met and formed the Sydney Club

MICRO-HISTORY



From left to right: Bucky Buchanan (96 years of age and 61 years of Y's service), Harry Henderson (94 years of age and 65 years of service), and Sandy Reynolds (70 years of age and 49 years of service).

The reasons they joined the club are varied: Bucky accepted a business associate's invitation to join; Harry thought it was a natural thing to do after going through the YMCA youth groups and Sandy joined because of his famous father – Alf Reynolds – in whose memory there is an award instituted by YMI for BHF contributions.

having made the Movement international in scope.

Early Years

The first President of the Sydney Y's Men's Club was Frank J. Crosson. He was the secretary to the General Manager of the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation. The secretary of the club was Fred. A. MacInnis and the treasurer was William L. Carson, who was manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Sydney.

A convention of representatives of the Y's Men's Clubs was held in Atlantic City in November 1922. Sydney Club was invited to send a representative, and Henry G. Pope was in attendance. At this meeting, the International Association

of Y's Men's Clubs was formed, Sydney having been accepted, although not yet chartered. The first International President was Paul William Alexander, of the Toledo Club. The first Vice-President was Melvin R. Chapell of the Sydney Club. One thought behind the founding of the Y's Men's Clubs was that it would be the strong right arm of the YMCA. It did not take the Sydney group long in finding its place in this respect and this has continued throughout the life of the club.

The Sydney club soon found many ways of being of service to the parent body, the YMCA. However, they did feel the need to justify their existence in the community as well. The first move in this direction was a project which later became known as Y's Men's Christmas Cheer Programme.

The first move was the supplying of Christmas dinners together with toys and candy for the children. An early issue to this was that several organisations were doing the same. All the organisations met and agreed that the Y's Men would be fully responsible for the work of supplying worthy children with toys, candy and fruits. The club continues, to this day, to organise this programme. It helps approximately 300 children annually.

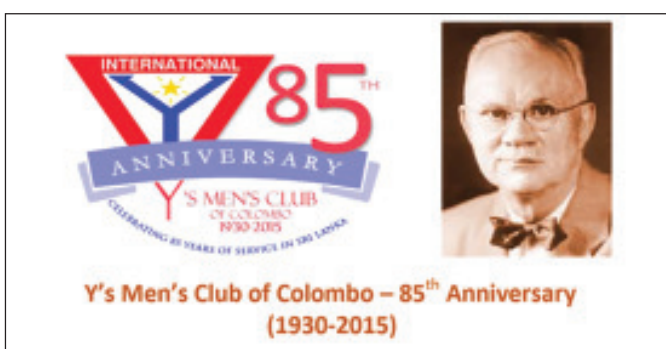
Some of the regular club projects over the years have been:

- ◆ Christmas Cheer Programme for needy children (1923 to present)
- ◆ YMCA camp (early 1940's)
- ◆ YMCA bowling alleys (1957)
- ◆ Variety shows (Y's Guy's Revue - 1940-60)
- ◆ Various dinners
- ◆ Library in City Hospital (1927)
- ◆ Christmas tree sales
- ◆ Planter's Peanut sales
- ◆ Pork Sales (Roberta the pig)
- ◆ Soap Box Derby
- ◆ Special Olympics.

As we approach the hundredth year of service, we hope to be of greater service to the community through a new generation of club members.

Ceylon / Sri Lanka (from page 9)

The Principles of Partnership between Y's Men and the YMCA was signed on 18 June 1983 thereby underlining the



strong historical bond that exists between these two organisations and pledging to work together for the good of the communities they serve. In the same year a new club was chartered (Kopay, 1983) and the Moratuwa Club was adjudged the 'Best Club' for the year.

In 2015 the Sri Lankan Y's Men and Y's Menettes observed the 85th year of Y'sdom on Lankan soil through the Y's Men's Club of Colombo, which may be claimed as one of the oldest Y's Men's Clubs in the world.

Like everywhere else in the Movement, membership growth has taken a downturn in Sri Lanka too. The time may be nigh when a new awakening will happen and the Movement will grow once again.

MICRO-HISTORY

Honouring a Part of Our Legacy

Researched and scripted by International Historian Debbie Redmond

While articles have been written regarding Judge Paul William Alexander, very little has been said about his wife, Lorraine Marshall Eaton Alexander. True, she was not a member of Y's Men. For indeed, Lorraine was a true support of the entire organisation and an amazing individual too. Lorraine was born the same year as her husband, 1888. She grew up in and around Natick, Massachusetts. Harriet Saunders Eaton and Frank H. Eaton only had that one child, Lorraine. Lorraine's middle name was "Marshall" which was the first name of her paternal grandfather and eventually passed down to their son and grandson. Frank Eaton made his living as a musician and eventually moved to Boston. Her mother, Harriet, was listed as a music teacher. Her parents separated around the time Lorraine completed her education. Harriet and Lorraine returned to Harriet's family home where she cared for both of Harriet's parents until their deaths. Lorraine attended and graduated from Wellesley College in Massachusetts. She graduated in 1909 and worked as a teacher from 1909 until her marriage in 1918. She worked in the High School as a music teacher in Natick and another town, Arlington, Massachusetts.

It is not known how Paul and Lorraine met but the assumption is they met while Paul was a law student at Harvard in Cambridge, Massachusetts (a short distance from Lorraine's home in Natick). It is obvious that Paul and Lorraine had their love for books in common as well as both having a family history of musicians and music teachers. Upon Paul's graduation from school, he

returned to Toledo, Ohio to set up his law practice. They must have had a long distance romance with one or both travelling by train back and forth to visit each other. The marriage took place in Brookline, Massachusetts on 13 July 1918. Lorraine along with her Mother, Harriet, moved to Toledo, Ohio. In the first few years of their marriage, both Harriet Eaton (Lorraine's Mother) and Mary Alexander (Paul's Mother) lived with Paul and Lorraine. In 1920, Constance Harriet Alexander was born. By 1921, the family purchased their first home outside of Toledo in Maumee, Ohio. Their son, Marshall Bruce Alexander, was born in 1922.



Lorraine Alexander

Together on a Mission

The Alexanders travelled together to the various Y's Men events through the years. In the Archives, there is a scrapbook showing their trip across the United States into Colorado and eventually up to Vancouver, Canada in 1924. The two seemed to enjoy their travels and time in Canada and eventually, they were presented with an "Honorary Canadian Citizenship" during one of the International Conventions. In the 1947 International Convention held in Toledo, Ohio (25th Anniversary), Paul and Lorraine actually hosted a "tea party" at the YMCA for the delegates from the Convention and were presented with a Silver Tea Service. In 1955, the couple travelled together to England for meetings. Their grandson, Marshall, remembers travelling to Chicago with them in about 1956 where his grandfather attended



Paul and Lorraine display their "Honorary Canadian Citizenship" certificate

meetings during the day and in the evening, would take him to enjoy jazz performances.

In the 1930 census, Lorraine was listed with an occupation as "Lecturer" in English Literature. For indeed, Lorraine travelled in and around Ohio and Michigan giving talks on books and topics regarding books. In one article written about Lorraine, it states that she generally read approximately 300 books per year. During the school year, she helped her daughter, Constance, set up a book club which met every Friday after school at the Alexander household. She was a strong advocate for literacy for all ages.

Personal Tragedy

In 1931, Paul and Lorraine's son Marshall died at the age of 9 years old. It was probably a childhood illness such as rheumatic fever, scarlet fever, or something similar. Marshall was cremated and his ashes were buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Robert Lane Cemetery Plot (Paul's Maternal Uncle). Lorraine continued to work by

providing various lectures on literature.

The Alexander home from 1921 until Paul's death in 1967 was in Maumee, Ohio (a suburb of Toledo). Many Y's Men travelled and visited the home through the years. The three grandsons remember the home filled with books and a piano which was often played by the Judge. It was conveniently located across the street from the Public Library (Paul was on the Board of Directors for the Library from 1922 to 1936)



The Alexanders

while Lorraine had a strong connection with the Library. Lorraine died in August 1968, 13 months after the death of her husband. Both the Judge and Lorraine were cremated and their ashes buried side by side on 27 September 1968 close to their son, Marshall.

Looking to the Next Century

As we come closer and closer to our 100th Anniversary, it is indeed fun to look at our past accomplishments as well as our own problems. My goal as Historian is to make sure that the history is all inclusive, recorded and available to the membership. Currently, we are working on raising funds for the Paul William Alexander Legacy Project and a portion of that money will be to digitise what we have already received and hopefully add to our rich history. For example, did you know that countries were added fairly quickly after 1922 with 1923 being Canada, 1924 was China (Shanghai), 1926 was Hawaii (not part of the United States then) plus Australia, in 1928. Estonia and Japan were also added to the list. Stavanger, Norway was the first Norwegian Club chartered on 22 November 1958.

Debbie Redmond, International Historian



Members of the Y's Men's Club of Stavanger, Norway, with their banner and charter in 1958

SPECIAL EVENT

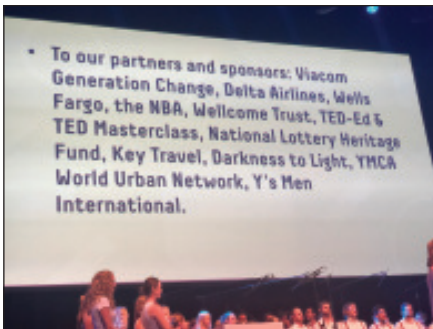
YMI Registers its Presence at YMCA 175 in London

On 4 August 2019, more than 3,000 YMCA young people, staff, guests and volunteers from 100 countries gathered just down the River Thames at ExCeL London to kick off its flagship anniversary celebration, YMCA175.

Y's Men International was well represented there with the IP, ISG and several Area leaders from Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa in attendance. YMI also had an information booth to evince interest in the Movement.

The opening ceremony got off to a rousing start as the United Nations' Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake, opened the event. "You are not only the leaders of tomorrow, you are the leaders of today," she said in her keynote address.

Young leaders coached by TED-Ed shared their moving and inspiring stories on stage, urging young women and men to speak up, to act, to make their voices heard and not to give up.



YMI as content partner of the event: In this historic celebration of the YMCA, Y's Men international joined as content partner and also supported with CHF 10,000 through the Alexander Scholarship Fund to bring resource persons / speakers to the event.



Y's Men's Club of Kosovo President Petrit Bejdoni, YMCA CEO Mrs. Dorina Davies and two of its staff members, Dorina Glogjani and Nita Gjoshi at the Y's Men International information booth where they met with IP Jennifer Jones and others.



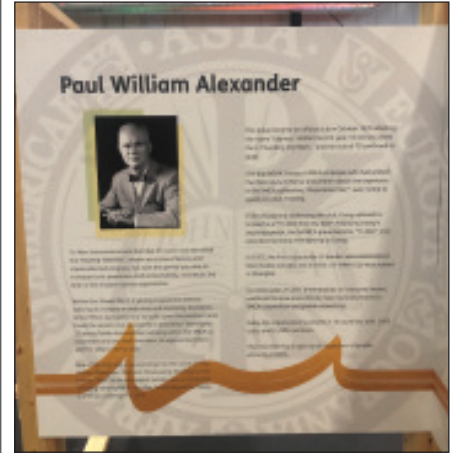
The rest of the event days were jam-packed with impactful keynote addresses, workshops and panel discussions on various themes and issues.

YMI also organised a panel discussion led by IP Jennifer Jones, ISG Jose Varghese and Europe AP Ulrik Lauridsen. One YMI member from UK writes: "It was very interesting to go and listen to them; there were some people who had never really heard about Y's Men or the Y Service club which means that they might start up their own groups near them. There were also a few people



Europe AP Ulrik Lauridsen and IP Jennifer Jones with Benjamin Koshy, President of National YMCAs of India

there who were Y's Men which was good because it meant that they could put their points across."



Tribute to Judge Alexander at the Heritage Exhibition

YMI leaders met several YMCA leaders on the sidelines of the event to explore possibilities of starting new clubs with the support and cooperation of the YMCAs.

Based on various reports



ISG Jose had a great conversation with Maurice from South London regarding the formation of a Y's Men's Club in South London with 20 people of Sierra Leone origin. Maurice was the charter member of Freetown club way back in 1970s.

Special Session with the President of the UN General Assembly



YMI and YMCA leaders with Her Excellency María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the United Nations General Assembly.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Hong Kong: Spreading Happiness

Y’s Men’s Club of Bauhinia, Hong Kong led by Club President Edith Law, arranged a visit to a nursing home in Zhangmutou, Dongguan, China where a group of 180 elderly people live. The visit was fully supported by Asia Pacific Area Service Director Andy Fu and the newly elected District Governor of Hong Kong District, Joan Wong, who accompanied the group in carrying out this mission of spreading happiness. The group consisted of 22 club members and friends.

The group put up various performances including magic shows, flute playing, Tai Chi, chorus and dancing, which the elders thoroughly enjoyed. Pocket money and fortune packets were personally delivered to the elders in this cross-border service activity. Also, a birthday party was organised for the elders which brought about a lot of joy and added colour to the whole visit.

Andy Fu, ASP ASD-PR



The happy group of elders enjoying a meal



CP Edith Law hands over some pocket money

Russia: Bringing Warmth and Good Cheers



A 600-km trip, 73 presents, 5 kg of candies and chocolates, 10 kg of oranges – these figures relate to a visit to a distant orphanage in Leningrad Region. It was organised by the Y’s Men’s Club of Vesna and supported by members of three St. Petersburg clubs and volunteers to bring warmth and good cheers to the children there. The club was able to find sponsors too who brought rucksacks, sweaters and surprises for the children. Pictures above depict scenes from that visit.

Marina Makarova

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” – Dr. Felice Leonardo Buscaglia Ph.D. professor and writer

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Russia: Good for Health, Good for the Mind

Y’s Men’s Club of Yekaterinburg (Ural-Siberian District, Region Russia) decided to celebrate its 23rd birthday in an unusual way – a bike ride. The reason?

The club members are friends with the Agafurovs House Museum and is constantly involved in the museum’s projects (mostly thanks to our PDG Larisa Konovalova).

At the end of the 19th century the Tartar dynasty of merchants Agafurovs was famous for their patronage of the arts and innovations, as well as their love for a healthy lifestyle and sports. One of their hobbies was cycling; they sold bicycles in their shop and were themselves good cyclists, involving citizens in cycling.

With their financial support, a hippodrome (not far from the Palace of Youth), a velodrome (next to the present Ekaterinburg Arena), and the pavilion of the society of physical

development were built. It was in this area that the bike ride was organised.

At each point our curators met the members on bikes showing old photos and talking about what happened here more than a hundred years ago. Moving from one point to another, the participants of the bike ride discovered the history of our wonderful city!

It all ended with a cup of tea in Agafurovs’ House Museum. We were congratulated by the Y’s Men’s Club of Ekaterinburg 2 and others. There was also a team of young people from the Tartar Diaspora. All the guests actively discussed the benefits of the bike ride.

It was a wonderful experience of combining the past and the present, involving young people in the history of the city and in charitable projects of Y’s Men International.

Irina Mamaeva, Club Yekaterinburg



Off they go! The bikers setting off for their exploratory ride



At the end of the ride: A time to reflect and pose for a group photo

Hong Kong: Run for Charity



On 1 September the Y’s Men’s Club of Tsim Sha Tsui (Hong Kong) supported the annual charity service by being part of the run to raise funds to provide the mid-Autumn Festival fortune bags to the single elderly living in Shek Kei Mei area, which was organised by the HK Movie Stars Sports Association Charities. Right: Key club leaders who took part in the run.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

USA: A Successful Year for Wakefield Reading Y Service

The Wakefield-Reading Y Service Club had a very successful year as we move toward nearly 100 years of service to the YMCA and our community. We are proud to represent our area as the oldest continuously running Y Service Club in the USA. It is only through the dedication of our members that we can continue moving forward. As a club, we meet at least monthly for general business, and more often as we gear up for our annual fundraiser.



Members outside the lot holding the Christmas trees

Our club has enjoyed a long relationship with the Wakefield YMCA and now the Burbank YMCA in Reading, MA. We are the second largest contributor to our YMCA's programmes, and the Executive Director John Feudo has worked closely with us to promote our club and seek new members. Our YMCA provides more than \$250,000 of financial support annually to the five local communities it serves.

Most of our effort goes to running our annual Christmas tree and wreath sale. Our tree lot is open from 9 am to 9 pm every day from Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve. This year we sold nearly 900 trees and 200 wreaths. We were again able to have a record year of profit from the sale, and for the first time in the history of our sale we raised more than \$20,000.



Christmas tree sale



Out in the open promoting the sale of Christmas trees

On 13 February 2019, members, volunteers, and guests met for a dinner hosted by the club at the Reading Senior Center to celebrate another successful fund-raiser. Our longest-serving member, Norman Campbell, shared a chronological history of our club, and then presented a service award to our Treasurer and former Director of the YMCA, Bob Brown, who served our club and the YMCA for more than 40 years.

As a result of our record-breaking tree sale, our club will increase our giving in all areas. We contribute annually to all of the Y's Men International programmes, including Time of Fast, Roll Back Malaria, Endowment Fund, Brotherhood Fund, Alexander Scholarship Fund and the Dollars for Scholars (an Area USA programme). We will continue to sponsor 5 permanent scholarships for local students, and we have plans to fund our own annual scholarship.

We continually strive to recruit and retain new members, but it is a difficult task. We are using social media and the launch of our new website to help attract younger talent to our club, and hope to induct some new members soon.

David Workman, President



COMMUNITY SERVICE

India: Focus on Medical Services



Y's Men's Club of Chemperi, Kerala (West India Region) serves the local community with a dialysis centre and ambulance services, including a hearse for extreme situations.

Korea: Serving the Needy Homeless



On the first Wednesday of every month, the Korea Gyeonggi Region's members serve supper to more than a hundred needy homeless people around Suwon station. This service has been going for the past four years.

Kosovo: A Renovated Centre and Office

Y's Men's Club Gjakova-Kosovo celebrated the renovation of a retirement centre in Gjakova and opening of our new office.

This was made possible with the support of our dear friend Arne Jørgensen and our sponsor club, the Y's Men's Club of Hardernes, Denmark and we thank them for supporting the renovation of retirement centre in Gjakova.

It was a great day for all the retirees in our city to have a better place for activities and socialising.

Source: Facebook page of Denmark Region



The retirees of Gjakova with the Y's Men in the new centre



MANTRA FOR THE SOUL

*Max Ediger**

Going to Bed at Night without Fear

“What is peace?” Such a simple question yet books have been written to try and provide a detailed and inclusive answer. For people living in conflict situations, however, the answer may be quite simple but profound.

A good friend of mine lives and works in the Karen State of Burma which has been involved in a desperate struggle for autonomy against the Burmese military since 1948. Many villages have been destroyed by the military and hundreds of thousands of villagers either live in refugee camps inside Thailand or are hiding in the jungles of Karen State as Internally Displaced Persons (IDP). Despite the recent elections which brought a resounding victory for the country’s opposition National League for Democracy against harsh military rule, these refugees and IDPs still feel a sense of fear and marginalization.

It was to these people that my friend posed the question about the meaning of peace. He shared with me that one elderly woman simply said, “Peace is when I can go to bed at night without fear and wake up in the morning without any worry for the day.” This has little to do with elections and constitutions. It is all about being recognized as an equal human being with all others and granted the rights and protections that provide a true feeling of security. Until people can experience this, they do not feel there is peace even though the guns may be silent and people in the urban areas are rejoicing over the results of the recent election.

*Max Ediger directs the School of Peace from Cambodia.

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As Burma moves into a new political era under the guidance of the National League for Democracy, a critical issue needs to be addressed quickly so refugees and IDPs can feel that peace has definitely arrived. During the years of conflict these people have suffered untold atrocities. All have lost their homes and many of their family members.

**The suffering of
the world’s
refugees and
internally
displaced persons
must move the
hearts of all so
compassion will
flow and healing
can be possible**

Normal life has been stolen from them. Will there finally be a process similar to South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Hearings that brought perpetrators together with victims so the stories could be told and healing processes started? Or will the victims of this conflict be told to simply forgive and forget so the country can move forward? Refugees and IDPs are waiting for this process so that they “can go to bed at night without fear and wake up in the morning without any worry for the day.”

The suffering of the world’s

refugees and IDPs must move the hearts of all so compassion will flow and healing can be possible. Presently hundreds of thousands of refugees are fleeing the conflict in Syria, seeking a home where they can find a peaceful night’s sleep and a day without worry for their children. Unfortunately this has led to a very divisive debate in the United States with some wanting to accept the Syrian refugees and others labelling them potential terrorists who must be kept out. We could now all meditate on another question: What would Jesus do? Would he keep the refugees out so he could feel safer, or would he welcome them with open arms as one of his children? We need the courage to look at the plight of refugees and IDPs with this in mind. Our faith must guide our decisions for our decisions will finally define our faith.



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:

30 November 2019



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