



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 friends,

We have spent a good part of the year living in an atmosphere of fear and panic, uncertain as we are of the future due to the worldwide pandemic created by the coronavirus. We wrote very briefly about it in our last issue and hoped that it would all blow over soon.



But it has spread, sparing no nation. About ten million people have been infected and close to half a million deaths have occurred (as on 29 June). Is there any sign of it receding and the world returning to normal? Forget it, say the pundits. Learn to live with it and think of a “new normal” is what they say. We have all experienced a bit of that “new normal” from the comfort of our homes.

When the lockdown brought us physical isolation and emotional frustration, we were forced to think of alternatives to do our business. It helped us accelerate digital connectivity, linking us with office colleagues, fellow club members, family diaspora, and even co-believers in faiths. In short, this pandemic showed us another way of going about the mundane. All that’s fine for those who could afford the luxury of having a home and the wherewithal to make it happen. What about the others?

Overall, the economic fallout is also huge. It is said that the global economy will shrink by as much as USD 8.8 trillion, or more than USD 1,000 for every man, woman, and child on the planet. That brings misery to more than two billion people in both the formal and informal economy. They will lose their livelihoods and everyone will be poorer.

In this context, it is public health and people’s livelihoods that are at stake. The elderly, the poor and the marginalised are the most vulnerable sections at a time like this. YMI has expressed its concerns for these sections and called on world leaders for specific actions (see the statement on page 5).

Now is the time for governments and peoples to express solidarity with one another, laying aside all differences and posturing. Frontline health workers have braved the pandemic

and given their best. People have also extended helping hands to those in financial distress. Our club members have done their bit by responding to the cry of humanity. We carry a number of such ‘action stories’ in this issue.

You may notice that this issue is slightly thicker than the usual. We have added four more pages by way of an announcement about version two of a leadership development programme developed by David Hall of Canada for YMI – GOLD 2.0. Club members are exhorted to make use of this which can make leadership development exciting as well as fun.

We express our solidarity with all those who have been affected by the pandemic – either by being infected or by the loss of a dear friend or family member – and hope and pray that the pain and misery created by the lockdown would soon be over and that we can resume our daily activities with some semblance of normalcy.

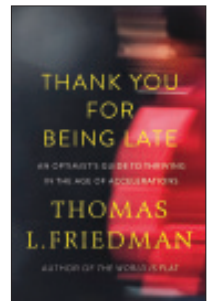
Y’sly,

Koshi Mathew

FROM MY BOOKSHELF

Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations by Thomas L. Friedman

In his most ambitious work to date, Thomas L. Friedman shows that we have entered an age of dizzying acceleration – and explains how to live in it. Due to an exponential increase in computing power, climbers atop Mount Everest enjoy excellent cell-phone service and self-driving cars are taking to the roads. A parallel explosion of economic interdependency has created new riches as well as spiralling debt burdens. Meanwhile, Mother Nature is also seeing dramatic changes as carbon levels rise and species go extinct, with compounding results.



How do these changes interact, and how can we cope with them? To get a better purchase on the present, Friedman returns to his Minnesota childhood and sketches a world where politics worked and joining the middle class was an achievable goal. Today, by contrast, it is easier than ever to be a maker (try 3-D printing) or a breaker, but harder than ever to be a leader or merely “average.” Friedman concludes that nations and individuals must learn to be fast (innovative and quick to adapt), fair (prepared to help the casualties of change), and slow (adept at shutting out the noise and accessing their deepest values). With vision, authority, and wit, *Thank You for Being Late* establishes a blueprint for how to think about our times.

(A Goodreads review)

Cover picture: Members of the Y’s Men Club of Chisinau - Moldova and the YMCA of Moldova offer their volunteer services to clean the park in the city centre. See story on page 17.

Y’s Men International
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What a Year it Has Been!

Jennifer Jones, International President

This has been a most interesting year for me. Thank you for giving me the privilege of being your International President during this time. What began as a predictable year, turned out to be full of surprises and challenges too.

The first run of official occasions included the IEO and ICM meetings held in Sendai, Japan to dovetail with the Area Convention (AC) Asia Pacific in July. The meetings went smoothly and the installation of IEOs at the AC was a special time for all of us. I was very happy to have our two sons and granddaughter attending the event. All delegates appreciated trips to the surrounding areas that were devastated by the Great Sendai Earthquake and tsunamis in 2011.

The YMCA celebrated their 175th birthday in London in early August. I attended the event with my husband Russell, ISG Jose and Europe Area President Ulrik Lauridsen and we had lots of fun. Many stories were shared about the movement and we met many delegates while manning the YMI booth, making good connections and creating possibilities of extension in different locations and countries. Building good relationships and providing support for the YMCA continues to remain a strong focus.

Challenge 22 provides YMI with a framework in which to operate as we strive to reach the goals and targets set. The "100-day Membership Campaign" helped clubs to focus on the importance of growing their membership along with the importance of sharing good stories about what clubs are achieving in their communities. The campaign may not have been as effective as hoped, but it will be implemented again later this year as we believe that it has an excellent focus.

The **Legacy Project** is also important too for YMI as we aim to strengthen the financial base of our organisation. I am thankful for the strong leadership given by IPIP Moon Sang-bong, ISG Jose Varghese, PAP Debbie Redmond and AP Kim Sang-chaе. Even though the current COVID-19 crisis has slowed the stream of donations, it is important that we continue to play our part in making this project a success.

Another highlight was the inaugural **RDE Summit** held in Toledo, Ohio, a significant location! It was so good to have almost 100 leaders attending from all parts of the world, some at their own expense. The leaders were able to feel close to the roots of YMI, and to share their hopes and dreams for the future. The connections made were also an important outcome of this event. The next one is planned to be held in South Korea.

Russell and I visited California late in the year and were hosted by club members over the space of two weeks. A special IP dinner was organised along with the opportunity to attend the Rose Bowl Parade, a lovely tradition, set up by the Pacific Southwest Region in USA. It was also great to meet local

club members at several club meetings and to visit tourist attractions in Los Angeles and Yosemite National Park.

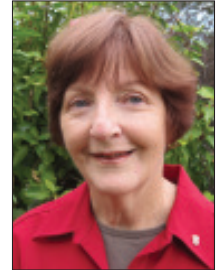
Difficult Times

There were some difficult and sad periods during the year too. It came as a shock to learn of the sudden passing of IPE Poul-Henrik Hove Jacobsen in late August. We were looking forward to cementing friendships with him and to working together. We were fortunate to find IPE Jacob Kristensen who has worked hard to catch up and prepare for the year ahead. We lost another IPE candidate, PAP Vijayakumar from India and then recently, PIP Poul V. Thomsen. What strong legacies these men have left for us all.

It was a pleasure to host the Mid-Year Meeting in Bendigo, Australia in February and for the team to meet many of the long-time leaders here. Many thanks to the Kangaroo Flat Club for the use of their premises for the IEO meetings, for the tours and special meeting at the Bendigo Town Hall. Meeting with the national YMCA leaders was a privilege and treat and I hope to see the results of working together in the future.

Personally, I have had a surprise battle with breast cancer, the process beginning at the start of July just before ICM and finishing in August with an operation. It was a strange time in many ways, a little unreal and I certainly appreciated the prayer support from friends everywhere. Due to having to return home for more tests, I missed out on attending the combined Area Convention for Canada/Caribbean and USA Areas. Russell was able to attend on my behalf and he helped me to present my speech online as a surprise. We have been blessed with the arrival of a new grandson recently, who is brightening up our lives during this coronavirus period. This virus has certainly had an effect on YMI, but it is heart-warming to see the alternative ways in which club members are getting together and working around the restrictions.

I am thankful for my faith and my family who have been a great encouragement to me over these twelve months. An important verse has been, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness," from 2 Corinthians 12:9. This reassurance is for us all who have been called into leadership. Thanks to for the wise leadership and counsel offered to me by IPIP Moon Sang-bong. It was appreciated very much. I am also looking forward to working with the new team, IPE Jacob Kristensen and IPEE Kim Sang-chaе and am sure that together as a strong group, we will continue to help YMI become more significant and to grow stronger.



I Also Have Dreams ...



Dear friends,

We all have dreams – some become reality and others only stay at the thought level.

I also have dreams that are tied up with the coming year of Y’s Men. Dreams that depend on surroundings, activities and efforts in different areas. The dream of a normal world community without COVID-19, where we can again meet and be active in and around our clubs.

At the same time, we know that it will not be the same as before. COVID-19 has taught us a lot that we may want to adopt in future. The coronavirus crisis embodies the seeds of a better world. Ways to be active have changed. We meet in new ways. Time is used differently. We value community and family relationships more than ever. We will think more about our activities with others - helping others – and our lives will be different. Now we have the chance to have a society built on charity. We must take the best possible action and focus on club life, community and friendship – also in relation to our clubs.

Our Constitution says that we are “a worldwide fellowship of persons of all faiths, working together in mutual respect and affection based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, and with a common loyalty to the YMCA, striving through active service to develop, encourage and promote leadership to build a better world for all mankind.” That fits well with my slogan, “**Trust in the river of life**” which is taken from John’s Revelation 22:1-5.

My theme for the year is “**Values, Extension and Leadership**” - three cornerstones in our movement.

Values: You may deservedly ask: Why are you a Y’s Man? That could also be a question to you from a friend. We all have different reasons for becoming Y’s Men. It could be a subject for a club meeting. Knowing yourself and your values will give a good headstone for both yourself and your club.

Extension: We all have to think about extension. We need to create growth. Extension is how we get new members, how we take care of club members and how we run our movement.

Leadership: Y’s Men have possibilities of becoming leaders in the movement. It could be as club chairperson of a committee, or as Club President, District Governor, Regional Director and so on. Nobody can run a leader’s job alone, which is why we have committees and troikas. In teams we can share ideas, work together, make plans and set goals for a new period. Teamwork is unique.

My dream for the coming year is that all members invite at least one friend to our club, so that we can speed up our membership growth to run a good club life with friendship, happiness and joy.

I encourage you all to think about how we can make a difference to YMI – make it enjoyable and make it significant.

I look forward to witnessing how the movement and our clubs achieve my dreams through club work.

Wish you all a significant and very fruitful year ahead!

Y’sly,



Jacob Kristensen
International President Elect, 2019-20



Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL

Serving Communities and Partnering the Mission of the YMCA Worldwide

Y's Men International Expresses Concern for the Elderly, Poor and Marginalised in the Context of COVID-19

Y's Men International is uniting volunteers for social change in 1,500 communities across 70 countries. For over 98 years, our clubs have been engaging their members to lead a life filled with happiness through friendship, fellowship and service to the community in need. As a worldwide movement, we are leveraging the strength of our combined networks of 26,000 families to provide comfort and hope to those feeling the effects of isolation and fear in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are focusing our collective skills, resources and moral strength to support frontline health workers and first responders as they battle this disease and save lives. We are also extending our helping hand to the poor and marginalised whose lives have been affected due to the shutdown of business activities and enforcement of safety measures to combat COVID-19. We are in solidarity with YMCA, our principal partner organisation, in their efforts to build organisational resilience and their commitment to the mission of empowering young people.

Y's Men International is a volunteer-driven intergenerational association and the large numbers of club members are active senior citizens. While we remain committed, through unique unity, to meeting the challenge of finding innovative ways to take action to help communities around the globe to heal and thrive, our membership has raised concerns over social activity and volunteerism in the light of COVID-19. How do we continue to uphold the motto of the organisation 'to acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right'?

Y's Men International urges world leaders to find ways to:

- a. **Reduce the impact of the digital divide:** The internet and other digital technologies have become a window to the world during the lockdown, enabling us to connect with family, friends, and the community. While about one-half of the world's population has internet access, the other half remains offline and disconnected, not just from opportunities to link with others but also from the multitude of resources and opportunities the worldwide web can provide. For many senior persons, the poor and the marginalised, even if they have access to digital services it is limited, and they often lack the necessary skills to fully exploit them. This exacerbates feelings of abandonment and the effects of isolation. *YMI supports the internet and user-friendly digital technologies being made available to all at affordable prices in the interest of global connectivity, equal opportunity, and social wellbeing.*
- b. **Reduce the impact of physical distancing:** COVID-19 risks aggravating the social exclusion of senior persons through controls restricting movement and contact such as stay-at-home requirements, quarantines, and lockdowns. While such measures are crucial for ensuring public safety, the realities faced by senior persons must be considered and care taken not to increase their social isolation, which subsequently may worsen their health. YMI can help by creating safe spaces for small groups. *We advocate special care for strengthening the mental health and well-being of senior persons living alone through regular visitations of service club volunteers / health workers.*

COVID-19 has brought unparalleled challenges to humanity and presents massive threat to the health, lives, rights and well-being of the elderly, the poor and the marginalised. It is crucial to minimise risks by addressing their needs and their rights in our efforts to fight the pandemic. COVID-19 recovery is an opportunity to set the stage for a more inclusive, equitable and age-friendly society, anchored in universal respect for human rights and guided by the shared promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to **Leave No One Behind**.

Jose Varghese
International Secretary General

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International President: Mrs Jennifer Jones : International Secretary General: Mr Jose Varghese

Motto: To Acknowledge the Duty that Accompanies Every Right

Pacific Southwest Region (USA) - Instilling Faith and Fellowship as the Waves Pound the Shore

PRD Tim Singletary



It is a great honour to highlight this historic Region of Y's Men International. The **Pacific Southwest Region (PSR)** has had a prominent role in YMI as evident in membership, leadership and, above all, fellowship. We have had almost as long a run as the organisation itself and all our members are immensely proud to have been able to share in this great history.

We are a physically large Region. The PSR boundaries fully encompass one quarter of the "lower 48" states of the United States of America. In 1947, the PSR had so many members that a decision was made to separate into two Regions and thus, the **Pacific Central Region** was born. In 2018, we re-forged the two Regions back into one, thus re-establishing our original boundaries.

Over the last century, our clubs have been serving our local YMCAs, enhancing our local communities, and instilling faith and fellowship as consistently as the waves pound the shore. Raising funds, building YMCAs, organising camps, and participating in community events; we have logged enormous numbers over the years. Here is a sample of which I speak.

Membership

Our oldest club charters consist of the following: **Pasadena Y's Men's Club** (1928), **Inglewood Y's Men's Club** (1944), **Burbank Y Service Club** (1945), **Tucson Y Service Club** (1947 - condensed from the original Tucson Central), **Whittier AM Y's Men's Club** (1948).

We peaked in membership in 1974 with 1,618 members belonging to about 77 clubs. Our Region started welcoming women members into our fold in the early 1980s. We are

enormously proud to have established the first youth club in the US Area, the **Saguaro Youth Club** (2012).



Leadership

It seems like the PSR invented the "Four I's" in the Inaugural Charge - Idealism, Interest, Initiative, and Industry. There have been many fine leaders from the PSR occupying a wide variety of positions at the Area level. We are especially proud of the 11 International Presidents who hailed from the PSR. I can introduce them by their themes:

We do not have a record of the theme of our first, **George Gould** (1948), so let us assume he kicks it off with "a one and a two ..."

A World of Brotherhood for a World of Peace,

Lester Humphrey (1953)

Forward together in Y'sdom.

John Paulson (1958)

This World Under God,

Harmon Wilkerson (1961)

From Ability to Responsibility,

Roy Naylor (1965)

Faith and Forward ...

Heinz Greabia (1972)

Are You Ready?

Jim Mueller (1976)

Opportunities Through Partnership;

Max Larson (1982)

Reaching Out (with)

Clare Graham (1983)

Positive Commitment to Practical Action?

Erick Kim (1998)

Growth Through Service!

Bill Ward (2002)

(Now all we need is a melody, and we will have a hit.)



Greetings from the Pacific Southwest Region!

MICRO-HISTORY



Who needs books? Everyone.



Helping youth with pancakes

The PSR hosted the Y's Men's International Convention in Anaheim (and Disneyland) in 1976.

Fellowship

Over the years the PSR has had as many as 101 clubs that have come along, thrived, condensed or demised. Back in the 2000s, the Seal Beach, Leisure World Club was the second largest club in the world.

Big or small, PSR clubs have been helping their Ys and local communities by providing Christmas trees, flowers (poinsettias), rummage sales, newspaper drives, pancakes, fruits, nuts, book fairs, bingo games, barbecue grilling and dances.



Henry Fox doing his best!

Currently we have 21 clubs and about 250 club members.

Support of YMCA Boards, building YMCAs, volunteering to help with programmes, camping experiences and mentoring has been the hallmark of our service.

We have been so busy organising service activities that we have not had time to

count the hours and overall financial contribution. Maybe it will be enough to say that collectively, the PSR has served multi-millions of hours in service, contributing multi-millions of dollars to our communities, and have created millions upon millions of laughs and fun along the way.

PSR conventions used to draw as many as 350 delegates. They were huge affairs, and, in those days, it was all done with "snail mail." We continue that tradition today, though to slightly less attendees.

In recent years we have revived a fantastic annual event, the International President's Dinner that includes first class seats to the Pasadena Rose Parade, Service Partner VIP luncheons and a Regional Dinner held in honour of our IP.



Santa and a Y's Man



Youth Club Induction at the IP Dinner, 2018

Future Service

Back in the 1970s a few industrious members began the PSR Book of Knowledge. This book began as a training tool for new members and clubs and then became a living document as history was being made. It has become an archive of information that is now treasured and functional. We are currently in the process of bringing the format to the computerised world.

The PSR continues to be engaged in strengthening the youth initiative of YMI. Our board and cabinet meets regularly to plan events to bring the club members together. It is an honour for all of us to belong to such an organisation steeped in history.

Japan – A Quick Overview of the Past 92 Years

Hiroyuki Tanaka, AP, Asia Pacific Area

The First Club

The first Y's Men's Club in Japan was the Osaka club, which was chartered in 1928. In 1927, Tsutae Nara, a 26-year-old secretary of the Osaka YMCA, went to the United States to study and learn about the YMCA membership system. During his stay in the US, he met Henry D. Grimes, the then Secretary and Treasurer of Y's Men International.



Tsutae Nara

They got along very well, and Nara committed to establishing Y's Men's clubs in major cities in Japan. Immediately after returning to Japan, he proposed to reorganise the Osaka Y Club, a service group for the YMCA by businesspeople in the Osaka YMCA at that time, to become a Y's Men's Club. It was officially chartered as the very first Y's Men's Club in Japan, recognised by Y's Men International on 10 November 1928. In the next three years, clubs in Keijo (now Seoul [Korea was then part of Japan]), Kobe, Yokohama, and Tokyo were chartered.

Japan Region came into being in 1932 and the Regional Convention and other events were held leading to several

activities and exchanges.

Era of Hardship

However, Japan eventually fell into an internationally isolated situation due to the condemnation by the international public as Japanese troops advanced into mainland China. In January 1941, as Japan solidified its wartime regime, it became difficult to have a relationship with Y's Men International, and a notification of withdrawal was submitted. In December of the same year, Japan and the United States were locked in war. The clubs continued to hold regular meetings, but eventually, it became difficult; members were scattered all over and the clubs could not function. Then, Japan faced defeat in August 1945.

Rebirth of the Clubs

Peace returned, but all the supplies including food were in short supply, and Japanese infrastructure was destroyed by the US air raids in the latter half of the war. People were exhausted. However, soon after, Y's Men returned to YMCAs, and from 1946, they started regular meetings in various places with the members bringing their own meals. In the same year, YMCA secretaries from all over Japan gathered to formulate

reconstruction plans. There was recognition of the Y's Men's Clubs as YMCA's good workers. Neither the Y's Men nor the clubs had lost the spirit of the movement.



Return to Y's Men International

In 1946, at the 22nd International Convention (IC) in Bradford, Pennsylvania, USA, it was proposed to accept the return of the Japanese clubs to Y's Men International. The proposal was approved with thunderous applause. In 1947, Past International Director, Carl N. Bergstrom, who was stationed in Korea for military service, came to Japan to visit clubs in various places. He also backed the return of Japanese clubs to Y's Men International via the General Headquarters of the Allied Forces (GHQ) in Japan. Thanks to his efforts, Japanese clubs were able to return to an international organisation in an unusually short time, which was a real feat for a Japanese private organisation. From 1947 to 1949, 21 clubs such as the ones in Kanazawa, Fukuoka, Nagoya, and Kyoto joined Y's Men International.

On the Rise

In 1959, the first Asia Area Convention in Japan took place in Tokyo. The number of participants was 302, including 55 from overseas. By this time, over 40 clubs had been chartered in Japan.

In 1966, 118 representatives from Japan flew to Hawaii on a chartered flight to participate in the 42nd International Convention in Honolulu. At this Convention, Tsutae Nara, who served as International Vice President from 1954 to 1957, was awarded the Harry M. Ballantyne Award. He was the first



Charter Night, Y's Men's Club of Osaka



Delegates for 42nd IC in Honolulu

awardee from Asia.

After this, Kensuke Suzuki (1982), Toshiro Takeuchi (1987), Shin Tanaka (1995), Masuo Mitsui (2002), Kazuyuki Imamura (2006), Shin Nara (2010, Tsutae Nara's son), and Hirotochi Fujii (2018) have been so honoured.

In 1975, the 51st International Convention was held in Atami City. It was the first IC outside the American and European continents. There were 1,115 participants from 24 countries and regions and the city of Atami wholeheartedly welcomed them. Kensuke Suzuki was installed as the first International President from Asia at this convention. Since then, Toshiro Takeuchi (1984-1985), Kazuyoshi Aoki (1994-1995) and Hirotochi Fujii (2010-2011) have served as International Presidents. In addition to them, seven others have served as Area Presidents of the Asia (Pacific) Area.

Steady Growth

With the adoption of the new International Constitution in the early 1970s, Japan Region too adopted a new constitution in 1976. At that time, Japan had 58 clubs and 1,519 members. Since then, the Region improved its functioning, and the number of members increased.

In 1988, the 58th International Convention was held in Kyoto with

2,248 participants from 24 countries, which was a record number in the history of IC at that time.

In 1997, Japan Region was divided into Japan East and Japan West Regions because the number of clubs and members exceeded the appropriate levels. A new era began with 1,246 members in 57 clubs in Japan East Region and with 1,952 members in 81 clubs in Japan West Region.

In 2010, the 69th IC took place in Yokohama which was the third in Japan with the cooperation of the Japan East and West Regions and the support of the YMCA. There were 1,422 participants from 28 countries and

Regions around the world. The central theme of the Convention was global environmental issues, and the outcomes of this Convention have been thriving in the Y's movement around the world to this day.

Collaboration with the YMCA and Support for Natural Disaster-Stricken Areas

One of the characteristics of the Japanese Y's Men movement is its close and good relationship with the YMCA. A guideline of the International Constitution states that "all club members are encouraged to join a local YMCA," but it is an article of the Constitution of the Japan East and West Regions stipulates that "all club members shall join a YMCA." With a few exceptions where a club does not have a local YMCA at its location, the Y-Liaison Secretary is a member of the club.

Japanese Y's Men's clubs and the YMCA have cooperated on various fronts, and specific examples include assistance for victims of natural disasters in disaster-stricken areas. In recent years, the 1985 Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake, the 2011 Great Sendai Earthquake, the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake, and typhoons 19 (Hagibis) and 15 (Faxai) of 2019 are typical

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58th IC in Kyoto

South Korea is Equipped to Counter the Epidemic

AP Dr Kim Sang-chaе

COVID-19 is respiratory syndrome caused by a new type of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) infection that first occurred in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. It has been known to spread through respiratory droplets. The cause of the first occurrence and the path of propagation have not been determined but we know it infects both human beings and animals by cross-species transmission. The composition of the gene is quite similar to SARS derived from bats, but there is no conclusive evidence yet.



Causes of the New Coronavirus

There are several theories about the cause of the coronavirus. Currently dichotomised claims are the theory of artificial occurrence and the theory of spontaneous occurrence.

First, the theory of artificial occurrence is based on the fact that it occurred in Wuhan, China. In this theory, a bio-safety level 4 facility, the Wuhan National Institute of Biological Stability, which deals with pathogens that are difficult to treat or prevent when infected, is claimed to have caused the origin of COVID-19 during biological weapon development experiments. However, it is very unlikely that COVID-19 is a biological weapon because COVID-19 has low fatality power, short survival time, and most importantly mass cultivation is not easy and hard to control. These properties are not suitable to be weaponised. In addition, the genome of COVID-19 has no artificial signs, making it difficult to claim it is man-made.

According to France’s AFP News Agency, Michael Ryan, head of WHO’s health emergencies programme, “viruses originate in nature and are not engineered or created in the laboratory” brushing aside the question raised by President Donald Trump.

Another theory claims that COVID-19 is derived by natural mutation. To sum up, we can say that there are genetic mutations, but no variants. COVID-19 is not the only type of mutation, and all viruses can undergo mutations in the sequencing of genetic traits during proliferation, and mutations

can affect propagation or pathogenicity or not at all.

Concerns

As COVID-19 spreads rapidly across the globe, concerns are raised about the emergence of new malignant strains, but worldwide research analysis has indicated that there has been no evidence that new malignant strains have emerged.

Currently, the scientific community considers that COVID-19 has been largely transferred from animals to humans through natural methods such as farming, hunting, and transportation of wild animals.

While there seems to be no conclusive evidence yet, we need to focus on identifying the natural host of the virus and understanding how it has spread between animals and humans.

Some say that coronavirus is God’s judgment against an erring

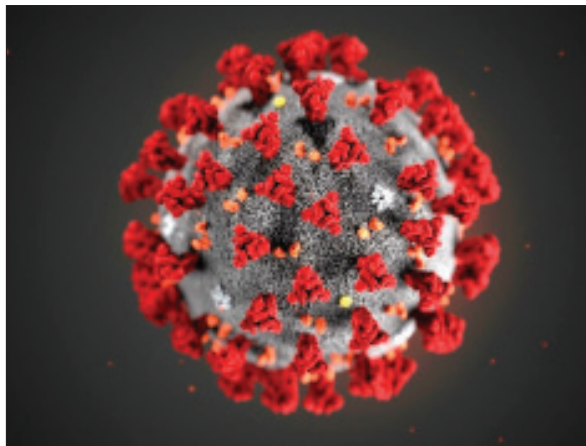
humanity. Rather than passing on the human error to God, we could use this unprecedented time to reflect on how we will overcome it and find the meaning of worship and faith.

South Korea’s Infection Prevention System

We can say South Korea’s medical environment and readiness have been improved distinctively having gone through the SARS and the MERS outbreaks in 2003 and 2015, respectively. In particular, after the MERS incident, the infection control system has been strengthened; specialised hospitals and medical facilities dealing with infectious diseases have been actively collaborating with central and local governments. The collaborative network provided skilled professionals, stocked personal protective gear and created protocols for preemptive measures.

Infection control facilities have been equipped with triage areas, controlled doors, negative pressure rooms, and imposed restricted access to visitors.

In particular, South Korea operates screening clinics, where suspicious cases of cough or fever are treated separately before entering a medical institution. As of 8 April, a total of 638 community health centres and medical institutions were operating screening clinics, and 606 of them (about 95%), take samples directly. Massive diagnostic tests have been conducted by operating screening clinics in the form of drive-through and walk-through. The maximum daily test capacity



Dr. Kim Sang-chaе is Area President of Y’s Men International Korea Area and the principal organiser of the Y’s Men Doctors missions that reaches out to other Asian countries. Recently he was elected as YMI’s International President Elect for 2020-21. Dr. Kim wrote this article for YMI World on our special invitation and the views expressed herein are his own and not necessarily that of the movement.

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GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A GLIMPSE OF GOLD

- GOLD 2.0 is a program with interactive learning experiences for club members of all ages and experience, introducing new leadership skills and enhancing existing ones.
- The curriculum is designed for use by individuals in self study, with a peer partner, in small groups (online or face-to-face), in club meetings or in Regional and District workshops.
- The goal is to raise the overall level of leadership skills throughout the movement; not just for those preparing to take on leadership roles at the Regional, Area and International levels. This presentation introduces you to sample activities and ideas from the GOLD curriculum. They illustrate an innovative approach to leadership development, one that involves and recognizes the participants as important sources of knowledge and skills, sharing in engaging and interactive exercises that promote teamwork and co-operation.

THE GOLD CURRICULUM

- If you were to design a leadership development program, what would be your priority topics? GOLD 2.0 has 13 modules, covering 7 major themes: Communication Skills (3 modules), Presentation Skills, Facilitation Skills (3 modules), Decision Making Skills, Motivational Skills (3 modules), Goal Setting and Planning Skills, Problem Solving Skills
- We also have two modules on Conflict Resolution Skills under development.
- The GOLD approach is tailored to the needs of our organization. We have gathered the best ideas and developed a program to benefit Y Service and Y's Men's clubs.
- We are always looking to make improvements by incorporating new ideas. *Please share yours!*

THE GOLD LEARNING ACTIVITIES

When everyone shares their ideas about an issue or problem, makes a list and works on a plan, it's amazing how a group usually has all the solutions that an expert would provide. This is the way that the GOLD learning exercises work, by using the Experiential Learning Cycle.



THE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CYCLE PROCESS HAS FOUR STAGES.

1

The activity starts with an experience such as a game, video, roleplaying exercise, TED Talk, simulation or a PowerPoint presentation.

3

The reactions are consolidated to form some general statements that summarize an approach to the situation or problem.

2

The members of the group share their reactions to the experience; what they learned, how they felt and what questions were raised.

4

These new learnings are applied via a project.

Each Learning Activity has Worksheets to record personal ideas/suggestions and Appendices for reference and comparison with the collective ideas of the group. Every participant is urged to keep a journal that includes copies of all handouts.



ADULT EDUCATION PRINCIPLES

You cannot help adults learn new skills by using the old method of a presenter sharing information as though only they possess all the knowledge. Learners need to be involved and liberated to share their experience and insight, thus contributing their skills to the implementation of a project or program. These guidelines are explored in the Facilitation 101 module.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Problems with communication are often mentioned by club leaders. In GOLD we start by focusing on the 10 Cs of Communication, and we have activities to help you master each C-word.

CHALLENGE #1:

What are five words, beginning with the letter C, that you feel are most important for improving communication in our movement? Check our suggestions in Solutions.

CHALLENGE #2:

Do you always have clear and complete information? Try this exercise to see how important that can be.

In the numbers diagram, circle each number sequentially starting with "1". Do this for exactly 25 seconds.

Draw a square around the last number. How many did you circle?

Check Solutions for some additional information. Restart circling the numbers from where you stopped for another 25 seconds.

See how much more you get done by having complete information.



PRESENTATION SKILLS

Ironically, we use a PowerPoint presentation with this module, to provide essential information. However we add pauses to allow discussion and the sharing of ideas. Too many slideshows are deadly dull and "Death by PowerPoint" is a common problem, one that we address in our Facilitation Skills module.

DECISIONS MAKING SKILLS

Do club decisions sometimes lead to bad feelings or members feeling frustrated by the process? This module offers a variety of ways that you can arrive at a resolution that will be broadly supported by your members. Often, the key is to achieve a consensus and avoid having votes that are divisive or generate significant opposition.



THE IMPORTANCE OF GROUP DECISION-MAKING

The group is stranded in a remote desert location and must travel a good distance to safety. They have limited resources, including some equipment, but must decide what to take and what to leave behind if they are to survive.

For this exercise, each member makes a prioritized list of what they think is essential. From these lists, work together to set up a final list that reflects the best choices. Then you can compare your choices with what survival experts recommend. The discussion allows members to share their ideas and accept the ideas of others more easily. This complete exercise, and a similar one about being stranded on the moon, are included in the Achieving Consensus module.

Facilitation Skills. An interesting topic we cover is how different leadership styles are needed depending on your club's stage of development.

Did you know that there are four possible stages in the life of a club? **Forming, Storming, Norming and Performing!** A skilled leader should know how to facilitate club survival and growth in each of these stages. Learn more in our **Facilitation 103** module with activities for keeping your club in good shape.

Problem Solving Skills. Every club faces problems at times and there are various approaches you can use to solve them. GOLD presents ways to deal with bad situations and helps you learn which approach is best for a particular problem. A key is to be able to think outside the box and look at the problem as an opportunity for something new and energizing.

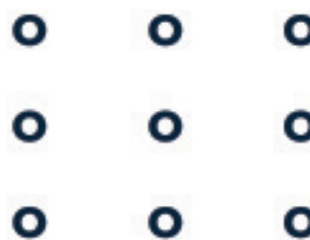
CHALLENGE #3:

Look at these 9 circles arranged in a grid. Your challenge is to join these circles with as few straight lines as possible without lifting your pencil from the paper; you can start on any circle.

Everyone should be able to do it with 5 lines, some with four lines.

The challenge is to do it with three lines.

If you can do that, you may just be the person to become a GOLD trainer!



Motivational Skills. Member retention or the loss of key members is a problem for too many of our clubs as members leave due to age, get burned out, or feel they are not appreciated. There are steps you can take to keep your membership active, involved and happy. A key component is to provide support to your members.

CHALLENGE #4:

List 5 ways your club tries to stem the loss of members?

Check Solutions for the list developed for the GOLD program.

Do you have any new ideas not found on our list? Please share them!

Striving for **GOLD** is within all of us. You can benefit by renewing your existing skills and adding new ones for the well-being of your club and the Y Service movement.



For more information or to order the **GOLD** material, contact:
David Hall. DavidfHall@magma.ca

*Interested in learning the material and becoming a **GOLDen** Trainer?
Contact me!*

GOLD CHALLENGES SOLUTIONS

#1. Communication Cs

Here are five Cs from our list:

1. **CLEAR:** Especially in written instructions, you need to be clear, with the information organized in a logical order. Verbal instructions should usually be followed by written instructions for the sake of accuracy.
2. **CORRECT:** Be sure to check dates, times, locations and other factual information. When giving instructions, be as accurate as you can.
3. **COMPLETE:** Review your instructions to ensure you have included all relevant information.
4. **CONCISE:** The "Keep It Simple" approach is usually best. People are looking for the essential information only and if they want more you can direct them to other sources, especially in written documents.
5. **CONVERSATIONAL:** Write as you would speak, using clear and ordinary language. Keep the poetic oratory for when you speak to a group that needs motivating.

#2. Communications Challenge

Hint: All the even numbers are on the righthand side.

#3. Thinking Outside the Box

For 4 lines: Rotate the diagram to show a diamond shape rather than a square. Start with a line from one corner to another. (Thinking, and drawing, outside of the box.)

For 3 lines: Make some changes first, draw the circles larger and use a ruler to connect them forming a Z shape. (A different perspective and some additional tools are very useful in solving problems.)

#4. Motivation Challenge

Five suggestions for supporting and retaining club members:

1. Provide the financial, material or human resources they need to accomplish their goals in the club.
2. Develop clear job descriptions for the various positions in the club.
3. Provide and welcome feedback from members.
4. Offer learning opportunities.
5. Offer personal support and recognition for work well done.

Find out how to achieve these goals in the Motivation 103 module!

Use our GOLD standard for developing leaders in your Club!

Contact for more info: DavidfHall@magma.ca



Area USA Honours Frontline Covid-19 Warriors

In early May, 91 of the North Atlantic Region’s finest and bravest Y’s Men, Y’s Menettes and Y’s Youths were honoured at an international meeting organised on the “Zoom” platform by the Region. These 91 men and women serve as doctors, nurses, hospital management staff, police personnel and so on in the state of New York during this difficult time. These are the heroes who knowingly risked their lives in the service of others and the decision to honour them was a humble attempt on the part of the Region to recognise their selfless service.

The meeting began an 8 PM (NY time) to enable the maximum participation of Y’s leaders from other parts of the world and, as desired, was attended by 125 members, including all the international leaders.

The opening remarks and prayers were offered by ISD-CE Carl Hertz-Jensen of Denmark, while ISG Jose Varghese said the event was the first of this kind in the movement’s 100-year history. Other speakers included IPE Jacob Kristensen (Denmark), IPIP Moon Sang-bong (South Korea), IT Philips K. Cherian (India), IPE for 2021-22 Dr Kim Sang-chae (Korea), US Area Secretary Nancy Libby, US Area President Elect Shaju Sam, and PRD Mathew Chamakala.

All the speakers lauded the work done by men, women and youth in New York and expressed their solidarity and offered prayers to overcome the trying times that the Region is passing through. “We are proud that clubs in the Region rose to the occasion to be part of the defense, knowingly that it may cost their life,” said ISG Jose in his message.

Presidents of the five Y’s Men’s Clubs in and around New



Some of the participants on the Zoom platform

York city – Long Island, Floral Park, Westchester, New Jersey and Jackson Heights – read the names of all the 91 Y’s Men, Y’s Menettes and Y’s Youths who had worked on the frontline. Hanna Varghese, a young member, rendered some melodies which provided some healing touch to the sombre mood.

The event was coordinated and moderated by RD Joseph Kanjamala. He appreciated the response of YMI’s leadership who rose to the occasion and supported the Region’s unique needs. The Region hopes to further recognise these heroes with international support at a later date, when the situation becomes normal.

It was announced that the Region will provide food to health care professionals in nearby hospitals and to about 10,000 needy people in two phases through food banks and other charitable organisations in the city.

Report filed by Regional Team

India: Multiple Actions by Koratty Central Club



In the fight against the deadly coronavirus, volunteers have been engaged in multiple activities such as stitching masks and donating them to the poor and the civic officials who are on duty. Grocery kits were also donated to 150 families apart from providing 50 food packets and drinking water to policemen on duty and truck drivers on the highway for about 35 days. The club also undertook a sanitation drive of the area.

From the FB post of Jayesh Kelampambil (West India Region)

Korea: Emergency Response Fund to Fight COVID-19

From January to March, South Korea struggled with the drastic spread of COVID-19. It is not over yet, but the spread of the cases has decreased noticeably.

Daegu and Gyeongbuk provinces were the hardest hit areas in S. Korea. At one point, infection cases reached several hundred a day. Given that S. Korea is a relatively small country, the gravity of several hundreds of new cases was not something light. This is what prompted Korea Area to urgently provide the health authorities of these provinces with 8,000 face masks, which was the most coveted and valuable item then.

On our appeal to the IHQ to support our efforts, a sum



Y Service Club of Lumbini in Nepal (Southeast Asia Region), one of the 21 grantees of the YMI COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, conducted awareness campaigns that included the distribution of related literature, as well as providing essential food and protective items (like sanitisers) to low-income families and the disabled. Their action benefited more than 100 people, particularly those affected by lockdown conditions.



Korea Area leaders with a consignment of masks ready to be shipped out to Daegu and Gyeongbuk

of CHF 5,000 was expeditiously released, which boosted the sagging morale of Y's Men in Korea Area brought about by physical distancing and social isolation.

Many Regions in Korea Area also worked on fundraising for further support for Daegu and Gyeongbuk provinces, by then designated as special disaster zones by the South Korean government. They were able to successfully raise CHF 20,000, which was used to provide another batch of masks to Daegu and Gyeongbuk.

The leaders of Area Korea wanted to help other Regions and Areas of YMI and donated CHF10,000 to IHQ to be used as the **COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund**, which we are happy to note has been availed by 21 projects worldwide with additional grants from YMI funds.

Kim Sang-chaе, Area President, Korea Area

Hong Kong: TST Club Members Do Their Bit



Hong Kong Y's Men leaders ready for the distribution of masks (left) to the senior citizens waiting in line at the Beacon Centre of Hong Kong YMCA

Members of the Y's Men's Club of Tsim Sha Tsui (TST), Hong Kong District, under the leadership of Club President Gabriel Lee, distributed face masks to 200 senior citizens on 28 March when outdoor functions were still permitted and before physical distancing was enforced. Later, in the end of April, a second set of face masks was distributed to city cleaners and ethnic minority



citizens in Shamshuipo district. Due to physical distancing restrictions, less than four representatives from each group and family could come to collect the masks. This event was held indoors at the Beacon Centre of YMCA, Hong Kong in collaboration with, and with kind co-ordination of the YMCA of Hong Kong.

PRD Andy Fu, Hong Kong

Moldova: Y's Men Club of Chisinau Leads Clean-up Ops



Volunteers on their way to disinfect the Central Park area (left) and the play area for children, all cleaned and disinfected

The Y's Men Club of Chisinau - Moldova, YMCA Moldova, the national movement "Voivode" in partnership with Mun City Hall, Chisinau and others involved in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic put together a group of volunteers to disinfect the Central Park area in the capital, employing all necessary protective equipment and substances.

From the FB post of Tove Sloth Vinther

US Area: Saying Thanks with Pizzas



Members of three Y's Men's Clubs in the North Atlantic Region – Westchester, Floral Park and Long Island (respectively, in the pictures above) – paid their tribute to frontline healthcare professionals at the North Shore University Hospital, Manhasset, New York by treating them to a pizza meal.

India: Something to Munch While on Duty



Y's Men and Y's Menettes of Coonor (South India Region) distributed tea, snacks, water and face masks to the health department personnel at Coonor bus terminal prior to their departure to survey the health status of households in the outlying areas of the city.

USA: For Body and Soul



Tibor Foki, Past Area President, Area USA and Sokthea Phay, staff of YMCA Long Beach, California on their mission to distribute food to the needy in Long Beach.

NEWS FROM AREAS

Korea Chonbuk Region Supports School in Laos

YMI's Korea Chonbuk Region, under the leadership of RD Ji Sung-eun, ventured into Laos to improve facilities of a boarding school in Luang Prabang province. The school has a total of 749 students from first to seventh grade. Most of them are orphans or children of single parents and minorities.

While the state provides rice and water to keep the children in school, it is a challenge to provide equal education opportunities because of sporadic donations that come from NGOs and well-wishers. Having heard of the condition of the school and its needs through the YMCA in that area, Korea Jeonbuk Region volunteered to improve the school facilities, first in 2019, by remodelling the classrooms to help students learn in better conditions.

Now in its second year of volunteer service, Korea Jeonbuk

Region converted an existing space into a computer classroom, donated computers, and projectors, and paid for internet usage upfront for a whole year for all the computers installed. Students can now have access to more information and advance with the world.

Apart from this, the Region also supported them with athletic training outfits, gym equipment, soccer shoes, etc. to promote physical fitness among students.

Principal Kamkongbashi-song was grateful and said, "Most students would have taken up menial jobs in construction, agriculture or in pig farms after their seventh grade here. Now, I am happy to be able to provide a better future for students through the support extended by Korea Jeonbuk Region."

Filed by Korea Area Office



The donors and recipients in the renovated computer classroom



Visitors participating in a Lao traditional ceremony



A commemorative photo with the boys' and girls' soccer teams at the school

Korea: "House of Love" for an Elderly Couple

A house for a disabled couple was built by Korea Area's Suncheon Palma club at a cost of about 25 million Korean Won (approx. USD 25,500) in Juam-myeon village in the southern part of South Korea as a project of the Suncheon Palma club.

The couple were living in a ramshackle house built with discarded wooden rafters and cardboard from

around the time of the Korean War. The house was not only clumsy and dangerous, but did not even have a proper toilet.

In order to build the new house, basic work such as ground-leveling and clearing the premises had to be done first, followed by erecting steel frames and adding prefabricated panels. Afterwards, interior work such as for

electricity, window frames, and wallpaper were added to create a warm home.

The elderly seniors were delighted and very grateful for the help extended by members of not just the Suncheon Palma club, but also of Suncheon Samsan club, Namsan club, and Baegun club for their love and effort.

CP Ju Gwongyu, Suncheon Palma Club



Before and after: The ramshackle house that the elderly couple lived in (left) and the new one (in the background) with the members of the supporting clubs

Thailand: Greening a Community with Green Fund

In Khun lao village of Chiangrai province in northern part of Thailand, people preserve the forest to act as a watershed area. The villagers here grow tea and organic coffee under big trees and everybody helps to preserve the forest. It is a beautiful place that people like to visit; it is an eco-tourism destination where tourists like to come to appreciate nature and enjoy the homestay experience to interact with local people and appreciate their beautiful culture.

Sao Hin YMCA has been working

with the village and school since 2002 to provide education and support the villagers on environment conservation programme. To provide inspiration and appreciation to the villagers for forest protection, Y's Men International supported the upgrade of lights in the village to LED through the Green Fund. The fund helped to upgrade the lights of 55 households with 2 LED lamps for each family to reduce carbon emission from electricity consumption and to be a model for other families.

The village now has a better

understanding and awareness of their role in reducing carbon emission and the impact of climate change. They commit to use energy efficiently and continue to preserve the environment and live in harmony with nature to make this world GREENER. We would like to thank Y's Men International for providing a 'Reduce Carbon Emissions' environment grant to support this project.

For more details about the YMI Carbon Offset grants, visit <https://www.ysmen.org/our-work/environment/>

Patcharin Aviphon, Sao Hin YMCA



L to R: Villagers being briefed about climate change and what they can do to mitigate it; a demo of the options available, and the villagers with the new LED lamps

Brazil: A "Solidarity Market" Run by Y's Men's Club of Sao Paulo

Our solidarity marketing scheme arose from the desire to help support families served by YMCAs in Leide das Neves Jabaquara and in its neighbouring community.

We started by offering some basic items such as rice, beans, sugar, and coffee to meet the needs of children and teenagers. We are now monitoring 130 families served by the YMCA Leide das Neves Jabaquara and the neighbouring

community with essentials they need for 15 days at a time.

Our campaign gained popularity and other people who were also doing a similar thing saw in our Solidarity Market the opportunity to help more people. We have also won the support of police officers, firefighters, and neighbours and now we have stocks of more than one ton of food materials to be distributed to deserving families.

Robson Pires, President of Y's Men's Club of Sao Paulo Jabaquara



Club members in the well-stocked store of the Solidarity Market



Volunteers packing the groceries for distribution

has been expanded from 3,000 as of February to about 20,000 in April, which has enabled extensive tests, prompt diagnosis and suppressing the spread.

When a diagnosis is positive, the collaboration between central and local governments tracks the source of infection through rapid epidemiological investigation, quarantines the contracted person for the maximum incubation period (14 days), and imposes one-on-one management. Their overseas travel history is provided to medical institutions to share information promptly, and the Ministry of Public Administration and Security and local governments handle the case thoroughly to minimise the spread.

As follow-up, the information is then released on the website of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the health authority alerts people through mobile text messages with detailed information.



Frontline coronavirus warriors sanitising a public space making it safe for visitors

medical staff personnel across the nation volunteered to contain the outbreak and people from all walks of life provided warmth to patients and medical staff by donating masks, daily necessities and food. The government has systemised distribution of masks as well.

Through a multifaceted effort, South Korea has been able to overcome the worst of the COVID-19 threat.

Not forgetting hardworking medical staff and health officials at the forefront, we have to keep personal hygiene and social distancing until the day we overcome COVID-19 completely.

Also, most citizens follow government guidelines well by wearing face masks, washing hands, and following self-quarantining and social distancing.

Most of the main building entrances have thermal scanners, hand sanitisers and regular disinfection is carried out.

When Daegu-Gyeongbuk was a COVID-19 epic centre, many

Japan – A Quick Overview of the Past 92 Years (from page 9)

examples of cooperation. The two parties have always worked together to carry out volunteer relief-work in the damaged areas and fund-raising activities, both inside and outside Japan. To our great joy, our cooperation has brought about excellent outcomes.

The biggest purpose of the 28th Asia Pacific Area Convention in Sendai in 2019, the 5th Asia (Pacific)

Area Convention held in Japan, was to report and look back on the work of Y's Men's Clubs and the YMCA in the recovery and reconstruction process after the Great Sendai Earthquake. This Convention was successfully held in collaboration with the Sendai YMCA and the Japan East and West Regions.

Towards the 100th and 25th Anniversaries

The year 2022, the 100th anniversary of the founding of Y's Men International, is also the 25th anniversary of the Japan East and West Regions. As of February 2020, Japan



A day out during the recent Asia Pacific Area Convention

East has 61 clubs and 875 members, while Japan West has 80 clubs and 1,474 members. In recent years, membership numbers have been coming down, and those remaining members are ageing. Currently, Japan East Region is engaged in

“Challenge 2022” campaign centring on membership growth. The Japan West Region is also addressing the current situation with “Newborn Y's Movement” campaign.

Unfortunately, Y's activities are currently restricted to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at the time of writing this. We hope to work together to overcome this crisis and that, after building a firmer Y'sdom with those Regional campaigns, we can provide better services to the YMCA and local communities.

COVID-19-INSPIRED!

With a global lockdown in force many a club member turned creative, while others went about their duties as frontline soldiers. A few took to their pens, paint and brushes and a few to music and singing. There were others who took up cooking for the first time. Social media was replete with examples of how club members made best use of the lockdown period. Here are a few examples to motivate others to share their covid-19-inspired stories – Editor.

Void

Church doors are shut, the temples bells are silenced,
and no call beckons from the tall minarets.
It's just another virus, coo the pigeons,
They'll soon be back fighting for their religions.

The drunk has no stupor, the rich no sleep.
The soldier no enemy, the dead no one to weep.
The migrant no home, the pusher no trip,
All silenced and stilled by an invisible whip.

Deserted streets, no smoke from the factory chimney,
Working hands are stilled, and the mind, empty.
The aeroplane has been grounded, motor engines stalled.
This world we live in, we think we're owners of it all.

Dolphins now cruise across international shipping lanes,
While the whales bump into oil rigs sans a flame.
The elephants romp on quiet forest roads.
But soon we'll be back on rat race mode.

The plough is idle, harvest rotting in the fields.
Food delivered by app, an investor's tricky deal,
Conquerors and grabbers of another's land,
Now holed up in silence in their opulence bland.

Satellites crowd every orbit, the stars home alone.
The youth stay buried in their own mobile phones.
TV anchors tongue twisted, the politician tongue tied,
All their noise just piles up in the great dark void.

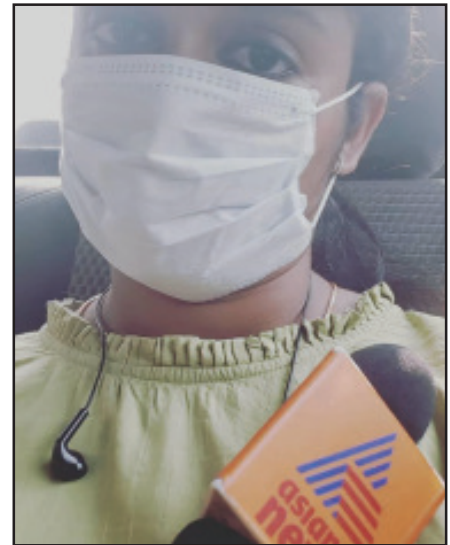
Butterflies and bats backflip in unmanicured gardens.
The lions in the zoo, bewildered, serve their sentence.
To their lands we had 'developed' the birds now return.
While fishing boats bob at anchor through the downturn.

With all our guns and data, we fear the air we breathe.
Giant pharmas are now just the quacks of the street.
Great countries of power, confused and weak,
This progress of mankind now thankfully bleak.

But through this desolation we find heart and healers.
Hands that tend the sick, or just us, simple helpers.
The rebel to police, and food to the hungry provide.
Through these hearts, we see, hope beyond the void.

Dann Thomas

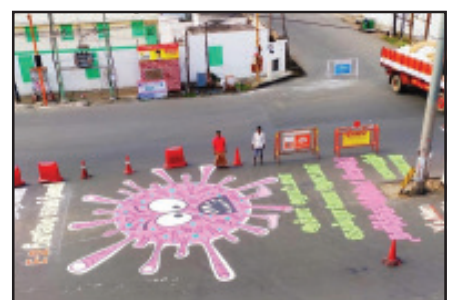
Secretary, Y's Men's Club of Bangalore



Frontline Warrior: IYR Sherin Wilson went about her duties as a field reporter to bring to her viewers the latest in news in Kerala



The Lonesome Artist: An unnamed artist works alone in public space in Daegu, Korea (above) to bring home the message of social distancing and cheer to passersby (below).



Message on the Road: A reminder of the dangerous coronavirus to the occasional traveller on a deserted road in Coimbatore, India

LOCKDOWN PASTIME



A new hobby: PAP Charley Redmond (USA) attempting to make Indian bread (*naan/chappathi*) and leaving evidence all over!



Putting precision skills to practice: PIP Isaac Palathinkal (India), a retired engineer, spent part of his lockdown time engaged in carpentry making small household items such as key-holders, writing pads and other useful items. Here, he displays the small side table he made and put to good use.



A new norm in practice: As soon as there was some relaxation in the lockdown rules in early May members of Pärnu club (Estonia) went out for a long walk and some fresh air in small groups adhering to social distancing by staying two metres apart. This was a 10-km trek to a village nestled in the lap of nature.



Losing weight: In an attempt to lose all those kilos gained while in isolation following the lockdown, St. Petersburg Y's Men decided to organise a bicycle race outside the city, besides holding a "fashion show" of masks, which were made compulsory wear, not only in public transport and shops, but also in the streets since mid-May.



MANTRA FOR THE SOUL

Max Ediger*

Student and Teacher

At all times we can be both student and teacher. We become a student when we open ourselves to learn from everyone we meet and every situation that springs up in our lives. Always, however, we are a teacher. Occasionally we teach through our words, but we are continuously teaching through the actions of our daily lives whether we are aware of it or not.

For a great many years I worked with a small local group in Thailand called Burma Issues. Our group was diverse with both Christian and Buddhist friends working together. We put in long hours and the work was often stressful and complicated. One day a Buddhist colleague approached me. I could see she was in a pensive mood and wondered what was on her mind. After some talk relating to our busy schedule, she suddenly asked me, “Max, you have been doing this kind of work for many many years now. What keeps you going? Why don’t you just get tired and quit?” The questions were not necessarily strange or difficult, but I had not thought about this for a long time so was not ready to give a quick response. I fumbled around in my thoughts for a while, but before I could think of a good reply, she answered for me. “It’s your Christian faith, isn’t it?”

I was aware then that all of the years we had been working together, she had been watching me. How did I respond to conflicts in the group? How did I cope when stress levels got very high? How did I respond to the tremendous suffering we heard about every day from other colleagues living and working in Burma’s conflict zones? Without my being aware of it, my life, as a Christian, was teaching others around me. Those lessons could

be either negative or positive depending on how I conducted each minute of my activities.

The same responsibility rests on us as a nation. We Americans refer to our country as a “Christian Nation.” We proudly hold that banner high for the entire world to see. Consequently, every action we do is teaching the world



something about our understanding of what being a Christian means. That should encourage us to be more deeply reflective about how we relate to each other within the country and also how we related to global issues which we are so much a part of.

The events that recently unfolded in Ferguson, Missouri made the news here in Asia in a big way. The shooting of unarmed Michael Brown by a police officer and the response by the police force against protesters calling for justice reflected so much about a “Christian” response to human rights in America today. In the past, the United States has strongly condemned militaries and governments in Asia for using such violent tactics against their own people. At one time, those words of condemnation had value and power. Now they can no longer be said with much integrity. The Prime Minister of Cambodia recently justified his heavy-handed treatment of villagers protesting loss of their lands to big corporations by referring to Ferguson,

Missouri as validation of such violent tactics. Why not? If a Christian nation can do this, why not other countries as well?

And as we sink deeper and deeper into a war culture, we must be aware of what our actions are telling the world about how we interpret and use our faith at the global level. It is no surprise now that some people are rejecting Christianity as a religion no different from all the others that speak fine words but are ready for violent revenge at a moments noticed. If Christianity is different and truly holds core values such as love, compassion and inclusiveness should we not be able to find more Christ-like responses to the violence the world is immersed in now? What are we teaching the world?

“My children, our love should not be only words and talk. No, our love must be real. We must show our love by the things we do”. (1 John 3: 18)



invites

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

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

**Submit your stories and pictures at:
www.ysmen.org/yimiworld**

Last date for submission for next issue:

31 August 2020

*Max Ediger directs the School of Peace from Cambodia.

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Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL

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accompanies every right

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place by addressing its
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