



IP e-NEWSLETTER

Y's Men International April 2020



Dear Club Member,

Welcome to the April e-letter. The IP e-letter keeps YMI members informed through the articles and updates each month with a variety of contributors throughout the year. In this edition, we will hear about "Roll Back Malaria", an article about the India Area President, and other current information that could help us through this COVID-19 crisis period.

More Interesting Times!

What unprecedented and challenging times we are in now! In just over the space of a month, we have changed from a life where we were free to go about our daily business without curtailment to times where we are living with restrictions and uncertainty. Many of us have been caught by surprise in the suddenness and impact that COVID-19 is having in our communities. Many practices are becoming the "new normal" in our lives as we self-isolate, stay at home to cook and eat and consider growing vegetables in our backyards.

We might find in the future that this difficult period of history was a turning point in many ways. It seems that lives are being lived at slower paces and that personal priorities are being considered and reset. We now have time to think about what is really important for each one of us and what we could live without. Life may be simpler and slower for us in the future.

Despite the gloomy outlook, there is much happening in YMI in the background. International committees are meeting online while some clubs are also starting to meet online too. Newsletters are being compiled more frequently showing what club members are doing with their time at home and extension plans are still being formulated.

Another First

Earlier this month, the IEOs met online with the Area Presidents and Regional Directors to provide an opportunity for leaders to share what was happening in their Area or Region in dealing with the current crisis and restrictions. Not every leader was able to attend, but at one stage there were 39 participants listed on the screen. The online platform Go To Meeting was used for this meeting and we experienced some teething problems in getting started and getting set up. No doubt, when we do this again, it will be simpler the second time around.

Some of us met each other for the first time which was also great. Make sure when joining an online meeting that the lighting in your room enables the other participants to see your face well and check that your name displayed is accurate.

Encourage your club members to be comfortable in using technology so that they can make the most of the opportunities to be connected during this time of isolation. Remaining socially connected is more important than ever now.

IP Jennifer Jones

Good News From IHQ

COVID-19 does not stop Y's Men from providing great service to humanity. The Y's Men's Club of Ringkøbing, Denmark (Home Club of our International President Elect Jacob Kristensen) provided financial assistance to YMCA Niger to buy 1.5 hectares of land for building a YMCA sports centre.

Having their own land was a long-cherished dream of YMCA Niger and the sports centre will support young people and the community in Niger. YMCA Germany is a partner of Niger YMCA and the National YMCA of Germany approached Y's Men International to support this opportunity. The Y's Men's Club of Ringkøbing came forward to fund the cost of the land. Congratulations Niger YMCA and Y's Men's Club of Ringkøbing.

[YMI Facebook page](#)



APRIL EMPHASIS!

Roll Back Malaria—Today!



**International Service Director
Roll Back Malaria
Mr Jens Byskov**

Roll Back Malaria is a fabulous project and here are three good reasons to support RBM:

First: All reports show that combined efforts have been successful, supported by documented results. The estimated decline in mortality due to malaria since the year 2000 is over 50% globally. Over 5 million lives have been saved, a large proportion of those are children. Many families benefit from the project simply because they are given nets to protect them while sleeping in their beds.

Second: Our support of malaria interventions helped our application for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, which was granted in 2006.

Third: Wherever you are in the world, the problem with malaria is well-known. Not only among our own club members, but also within our communities. Our work to end malaria is a big plus for our movement and can serve to attract new club members.

What is malaria? Malaria is a preventable and treatable infectious disease which is transmitted by certain species of mosquitoes. It kills more than one million people each year, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa, where malaria is the leading cause of death for children under five. Malaria is a global emergency that affects mostly poor women and children, perpetuating a vicious cycle of poverty in the developing world.

We have not reached our goal yet. Although there is keen interest in eradicating malaria and many parties working on the task, we do not yet have the necessary tools to meet this challenge, including an effective malaria vaccine and adequate vector control strategies.

YMI support is a push in the right direction. Since 2008, funding to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has primarily supported net distributions in Sierra Leone, Togo and Tanzania. When the current agreement concludes this year, a new multi-level partnership with the World YMCA and The Global Fund, will help continue our fight (see article opposite by ISG Jose Varghese).

My final word is ***keep pushing in the right direction!***



NEW MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT MALARIA

**Mr Jose Varghese
International Secretary General**

World Malaria Day is observed annually on 25 April. Although we can not mark the day publicly this year due to global isolation measures, please continue to promote vital messaging and information through your personal and club social media networks (visit the [YMI Facebook page](#) for regular posts). In the context of COVID-19, the fight against malaria is increasingly relevant and the need for greater emphasis on preventing future disease epidemics becomes more evident.

This year we have challenged ourselves to further “[Step Up The Fight](#)” against malaria by engaging in a new collaboration with The Global Fund and the World YMCA.

[The Global Fund](#) aims to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and mobilises and invests more than US\$4 billion year to support programs run by local experts in more than 100 countries. One recipient of funding is the **RBM Partnership to End Malaria**— the [global framework to implement coordinated action against malaria](#). Around 60% of the partnership’s initiatives are funded by The Global Fund. **Over 500 partners** are working together to scale up malaria-control efforts at country level, coordinating their activities to avoid duplication and fragmentation, and to ensure optimal use of resources.

Y’s Men International is committed to raising CHF 100,000 annually for the Global Fund to support initiatives of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria.

The [World YMCA](#), which reaches 64 million people in 120 countries, will coordinate global advocacy efforts, as well as support community engagement and outreach initiatives to help reduce the burden of malaria, especially with young people and the most vulnerable. The [DFID](#), the international development arm of the UK government, will provide double-matching funds, unlocking up to US\$1 million to fight malaria.

Let’s challenge ourselves and combine our efforts to raise CHF 100,000 this year and make a global impact.

Meet one of our leaders on International Council:

Area President V.A. Thankachan (India)

(Extracted with permission from a recent article)

As we all know, ours is an association of people of all faiths working together based on the ethical teachings of Jesus Christ, having loyalty to the YMCA in building a better world for all mankind. The Motto itself proclaims the "Duties with respect to the Rights", giving more emphasis from Rights to Duties.

From the very formation of the India Area in 1983, it's in the forefront of the organisation that as well as enrolling club members, we also support international projects like Time of Fast and the Endowment Fund (*Paul William Alexander Fellow and Honour Roll Members*, where the major portion is contributed by Area India). This is also apart from serving the social needs of our local communities as and when the situation warrants.

It's because of the passion of club members to cater for the essentials of our neighbours that our Area is taking up service projects like cancer care, renal care (dialysis and kidney transplants), homes for homeless, services to flood victims, support for orphanages and old age home, etc. This year our major project is 'Cancer and Palliative Care' spending more than INR 30 million (US\$390,000). We also do our best in providing financial support for educational needs and in organising youth development programmes.

I salute all the club members, Club Presidents, District Governors and Regional Directors for their priceless performance in the fields of various community services. Area India is very thankful to them and is very proud of them all.



We are grateful to all the Past International Presidents for giving us much-needed guidance and for helping to attain the status we have today and request them to continue the same in future too.

*India Area President
V.A. Thankachan (right) pictured
with ISG Jose Varghese*

COMING UP SOON!!

- Selection of new leaders for Areas, Regions and Districts
- Planning for International Council Meeting

Why Attend Club Meetings?

Mr Rob Green, Bulletin Editor

Y Service Club of Bendigo, Australia

As service clubs in developed countries struggle to remain relevant and viable, quite the opposite is occurring in developing nations. While we struggle to count our total Region's membership in hundreds, it is clubs that are numbered in hundreds in Regions in developing nations. Many reasons are suggested regarding why this should be so but attempts to reverse the loss of members frequently bear little fruit.

Drawing on experiences of local clubs in our own organisation, one notable feature has been that clubs who are unable to sustain their projects seem to lose members quite rapidly. Could it be that projects provide tasks that become the responsibility of individual members? Those members then see themselves as part of a team which depends on each person accepting responsibility for their allotted tasks, bringing us together on a regular basis? Then these gatherings become the social settings from which the benefits of togetherness, a sense of community and fellowship that follows. Is it perhaps the duties and responsibilities not the associated social benefits that keep us coming to our clubs on a regular basis?

Using the Bendigo Y Service Club, my club, as an example, I find myself wondering whether friendships made, club programmes and regular Thursday evening meals would have been enough to keep me involved on a weekly basis for 45 years. For me personally, it has been the opportunity to serve the club and in turn the wider community as a member of a team of like-minded people that makes a significant contribution to our local community. This has sustained me through those long years.

As the line in the prayer of St Francis states, "It is in giving that we receive". Those valued friendships, the social interaction, the sense of belonging, in fact, one's "raison d'être" (purpose for someone's existence), all stem from being involved. And it is these benefits that have been proven to be so beneficial to one's physical and mental wellbeing, particularly for those of us in our older years.

The benefits of club projects are very positive and provide a focus for so much of the life of a club and, as funds raised are dispersed into the community, the giving goes on to create a range of positive outcomes in the wider community.

So, I suggest that maintaining club projects provides a very important contribution towards the longevity of the club itself.



2020 International Convention - Cancelled -

IC 2020 has been cancelled after the Danish Government extended the country's ban on all the large events until at least 31 August. The Host Committee has emailed all those already registered regarding refunds.

The Host Committee and Convention Committee have been working long and hard in organising this event over several years, and I'm sure that they are very disappointed in not being able to welcome us all to Denmark in August.

Special thanks to each member on these committees for their commitment to excellence and for their desire to share the best of what Denmark has to offer to the rest of the world.

Hopefully we can visit Denmark some other time in the not too distant future.



Pictured above: Online meeting with some of the International Executive Officers, Area Presidents, Regional Directors on 8 April 2020

Crisis Capers!!

The new Catania Y Service Club in Sicily, Italy has been distributing food items to local organisation, Good Samaritan .

In South Korea, leaders and club members have been involved in distribution of supplies in Korea Daegu Gyeongbuk Region to support COVID-19 relief efforts.



Thank you for reading this e-letter. Let's continue to build strong communities wherever we are. Don't worry too much that challenges keep coming, we are all in this together and can support each other. Remember that you are never alone! Keep hold of your vision and let's continue to be "on the move" together!!

Regards and blessings, IP Jennifer Jones

I can be reached using the contact form on our website - www.ysmen.org

PHOTO on front page: "BIG-O" sound, light & water display during IC 2018 in Yeosu, South Korea