



YMIWORLD

"TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DUTY THAT ACCOMPANIES EVERY RIGHT"

Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL

FEBRUARY 2026



YMI Doctors bring life-changing care to a mountain community in the Philippines with the help of Heal the World and Time of Fast funds.

Festival of *Dreams*



The first phase of 2026 International Convention registrations, the Super Early Bird, has now concluded, and we have moved into the Early Bird phase. The Early Bird registration fee is USD 495 and is available until 30 April 2026. From 1 May, the fee will increase to USD 600, so registering sooner will still secure a meaningful saving.

Regarding accommodation, the initial allocation of venue hotel rooms at the special rate has now been fully booked. Additional rooms are, however, still available via the official Convention booking link at the best available rates. These rates remain heavily discounted compared with the hotel's publicly available prices when booking directly, and we strongly encourage delegates to book as early as possible once registered. More information on accommodation options is [available here](#).

Registering now also allows you to start planning your full Convention experience, including the YMI Festival of Dreams programme, curated excursions, and the RBM Golf Tournament.

We're also pleased to confirm that Emirates is the Official Airline for IC 2026. Once you're registered, you'll receive an exclusive promotion code in your confirmation email, giving you access to special Emirates delegate discounts on return flights to Dubai (DXB): 7% off Saver, Flex and Flex Plus fares in Business and Economy, and 5% off Flex Plus fares in Premium Economy. Terms and Conditions apply - [click here for full details](#).

Ready to go? Register now at www.ysmen.org/ic2026, then book your flights at www.emirates.com using your code.

To dream
impossible dreams
at the world's most
futuristic city

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Editor's note

Please contact the editor to share your thoughts and ideas for *YMI World*.

*March Emphasis will be on
Community Service & Green Projects*

Click to submit your impact story before
15 February 2026

Contact Editor



Spotlight on *Time of Fast*

Transform Lives Through Your Generosity
Edward K.W. Ong - International President and YMI World Editor

Dear Y's Men and Women,

February marks our annual Time of Fast (TOF) Emphasis Month—one of our most significant international programmes. The TOF initiative empowers us to fund humanitarian services worldwide, directly supporting those in need through the compassion and generosity of our members.

How TOF Works

Projects are often proposed and led by YMI clubs, many in partnership with local YMCAs and with the support of their District, Region, and / or Area. YMCAs may also apply for TOF funds directly; such applications are expected to be endorsed by an affiliated YMI Club, or—where no club exists—by the corresponding YMI District, Region, or Area. Each contribution—whether large or small—helps support vital efforts to fulfil our mission “*to build a better world for all.*”

Our International Service Director for TOF, Jang Tae-hoon has shared a heartfelt appeal for increased support this year. I strongly encourage all Area Presidents, Regional Directors, and District Governors to inspire our members to participate generously. By fasting a single meal and donating its equivalent cost, we can collectively make a profound difference.

Why Your Participation Matters

Fasting a meal is not only a healthy practice but also a meaningful act of solidarity. It reminds us of those in our communities who face hunger, unemployment, homelessness, or other hardships. Through TOF, we extend practical help and hope, whether by supporting local projects or larger international initiatives.

What You Can Do

All clubs and club members are strongly encouraged to donate financially to the TOF fund. Why not consider setting aside a monthly amount that can be accumulated and transferred to IHQ by 31 May, the annual deadline for programme donations? All clubs should also be encouraged to adopt or launch a local or national project, even if it is not supported by TOF. Such initiatives raise awareness for YMI and help build our global impact. For inspiration, explore the many successful project models featured in each issue of YMI World.

Our dedicated TOF Committee aims for a responsible, thoughtful allocation of available funds. It carefully reviews new proposals, helps monitor ongoing projects, and based on its assessments, makes recommendations to the Legislative Assembly regarding TOF funding decisions. The Committee's goal is to support innovative projects that directly improve the lives of people in marginalised communities, while ensuring sustainability and the potential for growth and further development.

Thank you for embodying the spirit of service that defines our movement. May your generosity be returned to you in countless blessings.



Together Stronger

January came to a close with a significant moment in the life of Y's Men International. On 26 January 2026, the election process concluded, and three days later, the Nominating Committee announced the results—marking another chapter in our shared journey of leadership, trust, and service.

From across the world, 602 clubs out of 711 eligible voting clubs raised their voices through the ballot. This strong participation reflected not only confidence in the process, but also a deep sense of responsibility toward the future of our movement. Democracy within YMI is not merely a procedure; it is an expression of unity and shared purpose.

The members entrusted V. S. Radhakrishnan, Past Area President of India with the role of International President Elect for 2026 - 2027, and reaffirmed their confidence in Svend Erik Nielsen, re-electing him as International Treasurer for the period 2027- 2030. As we congratulate both leaders, we also acknowledge every club and candidate who contributed to a transparent and meaningful election.

With leadership affirmed, February invites us to turn our attention from governance to compassion in action.

For generations, Time of Fast (TOF) has reminded club members that service often begins with a simple, personal choice. By skipping even one meal and sharing its value, members connect their own daily lives with the realities faced by countless others. What may seem small becomes powerful when multiplied across our movement.

Each year, TOF enables around CHF 100,000 to flow into projects supported by YMI and YMCA, strengthening communities and creating sustainable change where it is needed most. Beyond the funds raised, TOF speaks to who we are—people willing to pause, reflect, and act in solidarity with those on the margins.

Alongside TOF, the Heal the World (HTW) programme continues to shape YMI's response to a rapidly changing world. Born in 2020, during a time of global uncertainty, HTW emerged as a symbol of resilience and cooperation. Its purpose is clear: to ensure that YMI can respond quickly and effectively when crises strike.

In a world where emergencies—natural disasters, conflicts, and humanitarian challenges—seem to arrive with increasing frequency, HTW allows us to move beyond intention into timely action. Through this programme, aid reaches those in need when it matters most. Clubs are encouraged to embrace HTW as part of their fundraising efforts, ensuring that YMI remains ready to serve wherever the call arises.

The opportunity to participate in the YMI Global Survey has been extended to 16 February. We invite you to help shape YMI's future by sharing your dreams and aspirations for our movement.

On 20 and 21 February, the Mid-Year Meeting, held online, will offer a space for reflection and planning. Executive Officers, Assembly Representatives, International Service Directors, and Chairs of committees and task forces will review the past six months, align priorities for the second term, and look ahead to the 2026/27 year with renewed focus.

As these activities unfold, clubs are gently reminded of the practical responsibilities that sustain our movement. International dues are to be remitted by 28 February, and accurate membership reporting through the iMIS platform will support timely invoicing and compliance with banking regulations. Such administrative care enables IHQ to serve the movement efficiently and transparently.

Looking further ahead, from 9 to 13 March 2026, the 6th in-person International RDE Summit being held in Bali, Indonesia, will bring together more than 60 participants for dialogue, learning, and vision sharing. Such gatherings strengthen not only strategies, but relationships—the foundation of effective leadership.

As the year progresses, we encourage every member to engage—through leadership, service, generosity, and fellowship. Here in Geneva, the days are slowly growing longer and brighter, echoing the quiet hope that runs through our movement.

Together, through shared trust and compassionate action, Y's Men International continues its journey—serving, healing, and leading in a world that needs all three.

Congratulations!



Mr V. S. Radhakrishnan
International President Elect
2026 - 2027



Mr Svend Erik Nielsen
International Treasurer
2027 - 2030



Time of Fast

Mr Jang Tae-hoon - ISD Time of Fast Promotion

Dear YMI Club Members,

I am delighted to greet you at the beginning of the new calendar year and the start of YMI's second semester 2025/26. I wish you hope, joy, and fulfilment in 2026.

February marks the TOF Emphasis Month, and I am pleased to share this message about this essential YMI programme and how, together, we can make an even greater impact.

Over the past ten years, contributions to the TOF fund have been declining, and this trend seriously threatens our ability to support meaningful projects. At the same time, the need for resources is growing to respond to global challenges such as conflicts, natural disasters, and climate change. In short, contributions are becoming harder to secure just as demand for support increases.

However, I firmly believe that we can overcome these challenges together. As the Korean proverb says, "*Ten spoons make a meal*"—even small contributions from many can create a significant impact.

Currently, very few Regions have contributed to TOF this year. Regional Directors are encouraged to take the lead in addressing these gaps, enabling YMI to extend its support and giving clubs greater opportunities to experience and witness the benefits and impact of TOF initiatives. Please note that from next year, YMI clubs applying for TOF project grants must have contributed to TOF the previous year to qualify for financial support.

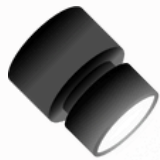
In keeping with the TOF fundraising tradition—where club members skip a meal and donate its cost to the TOF fund—and in the spirit of YMI to support the underserved, vulnerable, and marginalised, I encourage all members to consider skipping one additional meal this term and contributing the equivalent amount to TOF. Missing two meals in a year represents only 0.2% of yearly meals, yet it can generate a substantial contribution to TOF projects. This small personal sacrifice can directly translate into tremendous support for the projects we champion around the world.

Furthermore, in cooperation with the TOF Committee Chair (TOFCC) and IHQ, I will be highlighting several high-impact, innovative projects from this year's applicants in special fundraising campaigns during the second half of the year. Please note that these featured projects are not 'selected' projects for funding, as project approval is only confirmed at the annual Legislative Assembly. Rather, the campaigns are designed to showcase the immediate, real-life impact of TOF-supported initiatives. By highlighting these examples, we hope to connect with people's emotions and inspire broader support for TOF, demonstrating the fund's potential to serve those in need.

Let us make TOF not only a symbolic programme of YMI but also a main support programme that strengthens our mission to create a better world for all. I have full faith that we can rise to this challenge and make this term truly impactful.

May God bless all your efforts in 2026.





TOF Spotlight

Proposed Projects, Real-World Possibilities

Introducing the TOF Campaign Initiative

Over the coming months, YMI, in collaboration with the ISD TOF Promotion and the TOF Committee, will be spotlighting some of the top qualifying TOF projects proposed for 2026/27—those that are unique, actionable, and designed to deliver a clear, measurable impact. These campaigns are not fundraising appeals for individual projects, as final selections will only be confirmed at the annual Legislative Assembly. Rather, they are intended to showcase the real-world difference TOF resources can make, illustrating how YMI's core values of service and global fellowship come alive through each TOF initiative and reminding clubs how essential each donation is to the ongoing success of this flagship programme.

Building Resilience Through Food Security and Emergency Preparedness in the Caribbean

The first project being spotlighted is the Caribbean Food Bank Project in Jamaica. Proposed by the Y's Men's Club of Mandeville, it aims to address food insecurity worsened by hurricanes, floods, and droughts through a central warehouse equipped with solar-powered storage to maintain emergency food supplies, ready to support vulnerable families year-round. The initiative is expected to directly benefit over 500 people annually, with many more reached indirectly through community networks. This project demonstrates the kind of immediate, tangible impact TOF funds can deliver—combining sustainability, collaboration with other organisations, and multi-stakeholder engagement to enhance YMI's visibility and strengthening its community impact.



With Heal the World as a focus programme in February, this project serves also to highlight the power and impact of this special and targeted YMI fund. In the wake of the devastating Hurricane Melissa in October 2025, HTW provide USD 2,500 in international emergency funds, while donors from the USA and Canada, contributed additional support and essential supplies, complementing local rebuilding efforts. This support was further amplified during the Canada/Caribbean Area Convention, where delegates actively participated in hands-on relief efforts, adding a unique, community-focused component to the event. This collective response exemplifies the power of global collaboration—one of YMI's core values and a central component of the TOF programme.

[Click to donate to the TOF Programme](#)



Boost your Region's TOF contributions from last year and earn recognition!

The Caribbean Food Bank Project exemplifies how TOF-supported initiatives can make a real difference: addressing urgent needs, building lasting partnerships, and strengthening YMI's visibility and impact. By sharing these stories, we hope to inspire broader support for TOF and its mission to serve those in need.



Caribbean Food Bank

Y's Men's Club of Mandeville, Jamaica

Applicant	Y's Men's Club of Mandeville
Co-Partners	Y Service Club of Kingston, Y Service Club of May Pen Clarendon, STEPS Faith Pantry (and other local organisations)
Project Name	Caribbean Food Bank
Project Location	Manchester, Jamaica
Previous TOF Grants	TOF 19-03 Y's Hope Camp (Ongoing)
Quick Overview	TOF funds will be used to secure and retrofit a 40-foot metal shipping container and to install a solar system, utilities, and temperature control to establish a fully operational food bank in Jamaica.
Project Background	Food insecurity is a pressing challenge in the Caribbean, exacerbated by natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and droughts. Recent events, including Hurricane Melissa in October 2025, have highlighted delays in relief due to logistical and storage challenges. Establishing a centralised Caribbean Regional Food Bank will reduce the impact of hunger, strengthen disaster preparedness, and provide year-round support to vulnerable populations. A central warehouse in Jamaica will maintain a ready-to-deploy emergency food supply, directly impacting nearly 500 individuals annually and many more indirectly through families and communities.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure site and finalise land approvals. • Prepare site, procure, and install 40ft shipping container. • Modify container for food storage (doors, windows, shelving, partitions). • Install solar system, utilities, and temperature control. • Establish food safety compliance (permits, inspections). • Purchase equipment and supplies. • Set up food sourcing and transport (import paperwork, donor coordination, trucking agreements).
No. Direct Beneficiaries	625
No. Indirect Beneficiaries	1,750
Project Duration	Ongoing, with sustainable operations supported by international and local donors, and fundraising by local YMI clubs.
Project Sustainability	The food bank will maintain continuous operations beyond the project period, with replenished food supplies supported by donors and ongoing community partnerships.
Focus SDG	2. Zero Hunger
Project Volunteers	Yes- Logistics / fundraising
TOF Request	CHF 15,000
Total Project Budget	CHF 29,466
Funds Already Secured	CHF 14, 466



HEAL THE WORLD

By HTW Committee Chair Dr Kim Sang-chaе

YMI Heal the World

“Heal the World” is more than a theme for Y’s Men International—it reflects our shared commitment to respond with compassion, responsibility, and action where human need is present. Across our movement, healing is expressed not only through medical service, but also through education, humanitarian response, and sustained partnership with local communities.

In October 2025, the Korea Area Medical Service Committee, widely known as YMI Doctors, carried out its 13th international medical mission in San Jose Mountain Village, Antipolo, Philippines. Supported by the Heal the World Fund (TOF 25-11) and coordinated with the Sunshine Mission Center, the mission provided free medical care to 355 patients over a three-day period. The volunteer team included physicians, a nurse, and administrative staff, working closely with local interpreters.

The clinic served residents in a remote mountain area where access to medical care is extremely limited. Medical services were offered in churches and open community spaces, addressing common conditions such as respiratory infections, musculoskeletal pain, skin disorders, and digestive illnesses. Approximately 300 children received deworming medication and vitamins, and eight surgical procedures were successfully completed. For many patients, this was their first experience of professional medical care, delivered with dignity and respect.

In the same spirit of service, Jinju Chok Suk Y’s Men Club of the Bu-ul-gyeong Region undertook an overseas service programme in Manila in November 2025. Their activities focused on children and youth, including the provision of digital learning devices, food support, shared meals, and Christmas outreach. These simple yet meaningful acts strengthened relationships and offered encouragement to local partners and families. This [short video clip](#) highlighting the Jinju Chok Suk Y’s Men Club’s Manila service activities allows readers to witness these moments of service and connection.

Beyond these individual initiatives, the Heal the World fund continues to serve as a responsive channel for humanitarian assistance. Recent allocations have supported emergency relief efforts, including assistance to the Gaza YMCA and hurricane relief in Jamaica. Contributions from YMI-affiliated clubs across the globe—including Kenya—demonstrate the collective nature of this mission and our shared responsibility as an international movement.

Healing the world is a continuous journey rather than a single act. Through steady presence, thoughtful action, and cooperation across borders, Y’s Men International continues to affirm its calling: to serve humanity with faith expressed through love and action.



AREA AFRICA

Ms Joan Mati - Area Africa News Editor

GOLD 2.0 Cohort 4 Completed

Cohort 4 of the Global Opportunities for Leadership Development (GOLD 2.0) Programme, led by Youth Involvement & Activities (YIA) Service Director Benson Kasuti, successfully concluded in Kenya on 16 December 2025.

Over three months, from 16 September to 16 December, 33 participants (representing primarily Kenya, Botswana, Uganda and Tanzania) engaged in a structured journey of leadership development, combining weekly learning sessions, practical application, guided reflection, and personal growth. The programme emphasised leadership as a process of “*becoming*”, focusing on intentionality, courage, servant leadership, and a global mindset. Participants were challenged to explore their values, broaden perspectives, and strengthen their capacity to lead with purpose and responsibility.

The impact of the programme was evident in the graduates’ enhanced leadership skills, self-awareness, confidence, and commitment to service. Cohort 4 leaders are now equipped to influence their communities, organisations, and Regions with integrity and vision, reflecting the true spirit of GOLD 2.0.

We extend our sincere congratulations to the graduates and our gratitude to the facilitators, partners, and Y’s Men International leadership whose support made this programme possible. The ripple effect of this cohort’s impact is already beginning and will continue to grow.

GOLD 2.0 Cohort 4 *Graduates*



Congratulations!

Food Drive



On 26 December 2025, the *Y's Men Club of Lagos*, led by Club President Kehinde Adeoye, in conjunction with the local community group Foluke Dede & Friends, held the 2025 edition of the **Annual Food Drive at the YMCA in Lagos City**. This programme has been running for the past seven years and continues to gain momentum. Beyond the distribution of food supplies and household items, the event featured a variety of activities, including praise and worship sessions, scripture readings, and lessons on the history, purpose, and objectives of YMI and the YMCA. This year, the food drive served a total of 120,000 people.

TOF Project Breaks Ground



On 30 December, the *Y's Men of the Y Service Club of Kitui*, together with the board members of Mulango Health Centre, held the **ground-breaking ceremony for the Paul William Alexander Newborn Unit / Ward**, following the 2025 award of a CHF 12,000 grant from the Time of Fast (TOF) fund for its construction. This milestone for the Y's Men fraternity in Kenya marks the launch of a project set to benefit over 10,000 community members through the construction of a 375.38 m² children's ward, featuring a nursing station, sixteen patient cubicles, sluice rooms, offices, and washrooms, with completion expected in December 2026.

iGo Programme



Watch the full interview of *Ms Mary Simiyu*, our iGo intern from Kenya to India with *Mr Norris Pritam*, Y's Men & International Sports Journalist in India.

[Click here to watch the video](#)



AREA ASIA PACIFIC

Mrs Keiko Tonegawa- Area Asia Pacific News Editor

Taiwan Region Welcomes a New Club: The Y's Men's Club of Yilan



A formal charter ceremony was held on 17 January 2026 in Yilan, witnessed by AS Kayoko Maeda, RD Angela Wang, DG Rebecca Liu, and other guests from Hong Kong. Charter President Leo Liu and 17 charter members were officially inducted. Heartfelt thanks go to DG Rebecca Liu for her outstanding leadership and dedication in establishing a new club in a new location in Taiwan. The sponsor club, the Y's Men's Club of Taoyuan, also played a vital role in the success of the charter. We warmly welcome the Yilan Club to the YMI family!

New Year celebrations across the ASP Area: Abundant fellowship is a central part of the celebrations.

New Year celebration for Y's Men from the Tokyo area clubs.

Japan East Region

Over 90 club members and youth volunteer leaders gathered at the Tokyo YMCA on 10 January 2026



Japan West Region



Kyushu District: Kumamoto Janes and Kumamoto N Spirit 13 January 2026, Kumamoto

Joint New Year celebration of Fuji and Fujinomiya Clubs, Fujisan District, 18 January 2026.



Southeast Asia Region



Hong Kong District Council Meeting, January 2026

Y Service Club of Bendigo Spreads Festive Cheer

On 21 December 2025, the Y Service Club of Bendigo hosted a **Community Festive Meals programme**, providing free, nutritious meals to around 150 individuals and families in need across the Greater Bendigo area. The event was completely free and open to all, ensuring that no financial barriers prevented anyone from attending. Approximately 150 guests enjoyed nutritious meals that were culturally sensitive and inclusive, accommodating diverse dietary needs and respecting all cultural and religious practices.



Led entirely by club volunteers and the Indian Association of Bendigo, the team managed all aspects of the event—from planning and decorating to meal preparation and distribution—ensuring a fair, supportive, and welcoming environment for attendees.

In speaking about the event, Club President Mr Ajay Mishra stated, *“It was very vital for us to ensure that meal distribution was conducted fairly and respectfully, creating a supportive environment for everyone who attended. Through these initiatives, our goal is to deliver events that are safe, inclusive, and responsible, embodying our values at the Y.”*

With a proud history spanning over 85 years, the Y Service Club of Bendigo continues to make meaningful contributions to the Greater Bendigo community, serving those in need in an inclusive and welcoming way.



Generation Next: Induction Meeting & Christmas Celebration in Armenia



On 25 December 2025, the YMCA Generation Next team in Armenia held its annual evaluation meeting, which also welcomed inaugural members of the new Roots & Next Y Service Club and celebrated the holiday season with the local community. The Generation Next programme engages young people in leadership development, community service, and personal growth, providing opportunities to contribute to YMCA initiatives locally and internationally. At the event, Vardan Hambarzumyan, YMCA Europe Executive Secretary, introduced YMI and the new club, highlighting its mission and the potential impact for personal development and community service. Special attention was given to Generation Next scholarship recipients, who were encouraged to join Y Service Club upon graduation, keeping them connected to the YMCA alumni network. YMI Denmark RD Kristian Helms and CP Birgit Jakobsen (sponsor club – Y’s Men’s Club of Aulum) joined via online call to commend the organisation and the enthusiasm of the new members. In the spirit of the season, the organising team presented tokens of appreciation to guests and scholarship recipients, recognising their individual contributions and collective impact on YMCA programmes locally and internationally. The gathering concluded with a reception and warm wishes for a peaceful and prosperous new year, filled with achievements and meaningful projects.

Hope in Action: A Course on International Diakonia

From 20 April to 10 May 2026, Region Denmark and the Centre for Church-Based Development (CKU), in collaboration with several Danish diaconal and development organisations, will host Hope in Action. This three-week international course offers participants an immersive introduction to diakonia and church-based development work, with a particular focus on experiences and challenges from the Global South.



(“*The Global South*” is a term used to describe regions of the world that have historically experienced colonialism, lower levels of industrialisation, and ongoing economic or social challenges, compared with wealthier nations.)

Through theological reflection, practical case studies, and Danish examples, the course explores how Christian hope can be translated into meaningful action in diverse contexts. The programme will be held at the Diaconal College in Aarhus, Denmark, in an intercultural and ecumenical setting. It includes lectures, workshops, discussions, knowledge sharing, and field visits. Key themes cover the theological foundations of diakonia, postcolonial perspectives on international partnerships, diaconal leadership, and practical approaches to service in societies facing both local and global challenges. More information is available at www.diakonhojskolen.dk/hope-in-action.

AREA INDIA

Mr Joseph Varghese - News Editor of Area India

Central Travancore Region



The *Y's Men's Club of Kadampanad* provided financial support for student breakfasts at St. Thomas School under the *Share a Meal project*, reinforcing its commitment to child welfare and service. An orientation programme and fellowship gathering for the newly chartered Y's Men's Club of Vienna Central was organised by its sponsor, the Y's Men's Club of Mannanam.

The *Y's Men's Club of Adoor Royal City* launched a year-long "*Say No to Drugs*" initiative, inaugurated by District Collector (government administrator) Shri Premkrishnan during India's Independence Day celebrations, announcing the Silver Tongue Award - 2025, an anti-drug awareness speech competition for school students, organised in collaboration with the Vimukthi Mission. Through ongoing activities and partnership with the Excise Department, the club aims to foster long-term drug prevention and promote responsible community engagement.



Middle East Region



Joyous Jubilances, the Christmas and New Year celebration of the Middle East Region – District 2, was held on 10 January 2026. Clubs displayed vibrant creativity through competitions such as the Christmas Charcuterie Board, Nativity Tableau, and Santa Claus. The event was led by Joice Mathew, with Manoj P. Nair as the chief guest, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from member clubs all.

Y's Manoranjan 2025, the Mid-West India Regional Cultural Meet, was held on 23 November 2025 at Luke Memorial Public School, Iringole, Perumbavoor. The event featured lively cultural competitions across all age groups. The valedictory function was inaugurated by Dr Jacob Thomas, IPS (Retired), former District 09 Governor, and led by current District Governor Vinodkumar M. D., with the Overall Champion District Trophy presented to the winning District.

Mid West India Region



The Mid West India Region celebrated *Y's Jingle Bells 2K25* on 21 December 2025 at YMCA Palarivattom. The Christmas message was delivered by H.G. Dr Alias Mor Athanasious, and the Y's Men's Club of Oonnukal retained the ever-rolling trophy by winning first place.



South India Region

The **Y's Women's Club of Sathyamangalam Sheroes** celebrated Pongal, the Tamil harvest festival, with an **event for the tribal community of Kali Thimbam Village** in the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, organising games and competitions for all ages and distributing over 70 prizes. The joyful event was made possible with the support of Mr Karuppusamy, Director of READ Organisation, and his team.



The **Y's Men's Club of Coimbatore** celebrated the 450th week of its signature project, **One Meal per Week**, serving nearly 1,500 people in collaboration with AKR Academy—a proud milestone of sustained service and compassion.



Y's Genext 2026 Regional Youth Camp was held at Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science, Chennai, with 22 participants. The camp included sessions on YMI, CPR, AI, digital distractions, critical thinking, and logistics, alongside debates, games, treasure hunts, and Zumba, fostering leadership, teamwork, and social responsibility among young leaders.



South Central India Region



The **Y's Men's Club of Virudhunagar** conducted the 31st Y's Men **Idhayam Naneri Competitions** for students from LKG to 8th standard, with 5,329 participants. This major PR initiative greatly enhanced the visibility of Y's Men International's community service in Virudhunagar District, Tamil Nadu.

The **Y's Men's Club of Peenya** and the **Y's Men's Club of Indiranagar** jointly celebrated Founder's Day at Spandana Children's Home under the initiative of Bangalore District 1, in the presence of the Area President and Area Cabinet. As part of the celebration, INR 100,000 (approximately USD 1,220) was distributed to support a community service project.



The **India Area Youth Camp, Yuvantara**, was held in Idukki from 16 to 18 January 2026, bringing together enthusiastic youth from across the Area. The camp focused on leadership, fellowship, and personal growth, and was inaugurated by Area President Babu George.



South West India Region

The *Y's Men's Club of Kollam* Royals distributed *medicines, bedspreads, diapers, oats, and nutritional drinks to 50 poor bedridden elderly patients*. The programme was inaugurated by Past Regional Director K. Venkatesh, with the distribution led current District Governor Aji Menon. Items were delivered to beneficiaries' homes with the support of Asha Workers and ward members.



West India Region



The *Y's Men's Club of Kunnamkulam* launched a *road safety project* by installing convex mirrors at identified accident-prone spots in the town. The mirrors enhance visibility at blind corners, helping drivers and pedestrians anticipate oncoming traffic and reduce accidents.



RYAN JAMES

International Youth Representative 2026-28

The election for International Youth Representative (IYR) 2026–28 concluded on 12 January 2026, and our congratulations go to the successful candidate, Ryan James from Area India.

Ryan is a dedicated member of the Y's Men's Club of Bangalore-Jayanagar in South Central India Region. He has been involved with Y's Men International since 2004. His primary goal is to ensure YMI remains a consistent, engaging space where young people develop leadership, purpose, and compassion. By emphasising sustainable development, he aims to bridge the gap between personal aspirations and the collective desire to give back to society.

Congratulations, Ryan! We look forward to your leadership and what you will bring to the Y's Youth family during your IYR term.



AREA KOREA

Ms Chung Kyung-ju - News Editor of Area Korea

Korea Area MYC and New Year's Ceremony Held



The Korea Area 2025/26 Midyear Conference and 2026 New Year's Ceremony were held on 10 January at the Roh Moo-hyun Memorial Hall in Bongha Village, Gimhae, with around 150 participants, including Area leaders, Regional Directors from 11 Regions, committee members, and a broad representation of Area Service Directors. In his New Year's address, AP Park Cha-sang encouraged members to “achieve beyond expectations with one mind” in the second half of the year. Reports were presented on the activities of the Area, Regions, Committees, and Service Departments. Area Secretary Lee Gwang-seop reviewed domestic and international activities from the first half of the year and outlined plans for the second half, while Area Treasurer Jung Deok-yoon introduced seven international programmes and called for an increase in per capita contributions from CHF 6.14 to CHF 17.10 to meet the IP's targets.



The Korea West Region was recognised as “Best Region” for its “333 Extension Campaign,” which increased membership from 244 to 327. This achievement positively changed local perceptions of the movement in the Region and strengthened efforts to rebuild Regional leadership.



Two clubs were highlighted as “Best Club Cases”: **Jinju Beta-Chok Suk**, which added 10 members while maintaining “Gold Club” status, and **Hae Nam Ddang-kut Club**, which grew through strong communication initiatives, including its “Dynamic Young Leaders Forum,” resulting in six new members. Through these reports and presentations of best practices, Y’s Men leaders in the Korea Area reaffirmed their goals and pledged renewed commitment to continued growth and development in the second half of the year.



Jinju Beta-Chok Suk



Hae Nam Ddang-kut Club

Korea West Year-End Volunteer Activities and New Member Ceremony of New Year



In December, **the Yeasan Club** (CP Jeong Moon-ja, Chungnam Northwest District) took part in the Salvation Army’s bell-ringing fundraiser, making donations and spreading cheer. The club also celebrated its “*Bridge of Love*” scholarship graduates with a special meal on 13 December.



The Daejeon Seven Club (CP Han Gi-mun, Daejeon District) began the new year with a new-member oath ceremony for five recruits on 8 January at Daejeon Keunbit Methodist Church, with congratulatory remarks from RD Chu Chang-hoan and DG Yoo Yeong-rye.

AREA USA

Ms Melanie Kaaihue-Yoshida - News Editor of Area United States

Chartering of Y Service Club of New York - Rockland



On 26 December 2025, a new club was chartered in the North Atlantic Region of the USA Area, comprising 20 members and sponsored by the Y Service Club of New York – Westchester. The chartering ceremony was co-led by Area President Joseph Kanjamala and Past Area President Shaju Sam, and presided over by Joseph Mathews, President of the sponsoring club. The celebration was attended by several Regional leaders as well as special guest, New York State Senator, the Honourable Bill Weber, who commended the fellowship and charitable mission of YMI and highlighted the vital role organisations like YMI play in supporting communities and creating meaningful impact.

The office bearers of the new club are Paul Karukkappally (President), Alex Thoams (Secretary), and Noah George (Treasurer).

The festivities concluded with a variety of entertainment presented by club members, marking a joyful beginning for the new club.



The Y Service Club of Westchester Holiday Celebrations



The Y Service Club of New York – Westchester celebrated two special occasions during the festive season: a Thanksgiving celebration on 6 December 2025 and a Christmas and New Year celebration on 3 January 2026. Both events reflected the club's strong commitment to service, fellowship, and community engagement.

The Thanksgiving celebration welcomed several distinguished guests, including Mr Jose Varghese, ISG; Rev. Fr John Melepuram; Ms Julie Gallanty, CEO of the New Jersey YMCA State Alliance; and Mr Joseph Kanjamala, USA Area President. In his keynote address, Mr Varghese highlighted the joy of giving and the importance of charity and fellowship, and recognised Mr Joseph Mathews and Mr Joseph Kanjamala as Outstanding Leaders. The programme also included the launch of the upcoming International Convention in Dubai, the enrolment of 10 families in support of the initiative, and discussions on future collaboration with the YMCA.

The Christmas and New Year celebration featured festive performances, games, and a Secret Santa exchange. Strategic plans for the year ahead were shared, and a raffle raised USD 3,000 for charity, leading to the club's decision to support the construction and renovation of a school in Kannur District, Kerala (India). The year concluded on a high note with the sponsorship of two new clubs—Hudson Valley and Rockland—further extending the club's mission and reach.



UN DAYS

Key UN Observance Days in February as identified and summarised by Prof Dr Roys Mallassery, UN Projects Committee Member



Prof. Dr Roys Mallassery
UN Projects
Committee Member

World Interfaith Harmony Week

promotes mutual understanding, interreligious dialogue, and harmony among all people regardless of faith as a foundation for a culture of peace, and was established by the UN General Assembly.

**1-7
February**

International Day of Human Fraternity

emphasises shared human values such as compassion, dialogue, and cooperation to foster peace, social cohesion, and sustainable world.

**4
February**

International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism

underscores that violent extremism is an affront to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, undermining peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development in all countries.

**12
February**

Global Tourism Resilience Day

highlights the vital role of tourism in supporting income, employment, and development, while promoting sustainable practices that connect people with nature and foster environmental responsibility and conservation.

**17
February**

World Day for Social Justice

highlights the importance of promoting equal opportunities, combating poverty and discrimination, and fostering inclusive societies where human rights and fairness are respected for all.

**20
February**

This section highlights a selection of key United Nations observance days that most clearly resonate with YMI's values and mission. For a full list of UN Days and more information about them, readers are encouraged to visit the [UN's official calendar](#).

FAITH-BASED FASTING AS A PATH TO PURPOSEFUL GIVING

by Mr Villy Mølgaard, ISD Christian Emphasis

Fasting is associated with abstaining from eating and drinking for a shorter or longer period of time. This practice is found in many religions, including Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

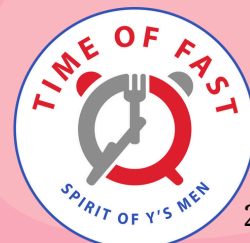
One might say that Christianity inherited the practice of fasting from Judaism, as Jesus was a Jew. However, his fasting in the wilderness (Matthew 4:2) went beyond traditional rules. It served as preparation and personal discipline, rather than a ritual for demonstrating merit. While voluntary fasting was acknowledged, it was given a new purpose: fasting became an expression of inner readiness and joy, not sorrow, and those who fasted were encouraged to maintain a celebratory attitude (Matthew 6:16–18).

This also affected how fasting was practised publicly. Mourning and fasting did not belong in times of celebration, and only at Jesus' death were his followers instructed to fast (Matthew 9:15). According to Mark, traditional practices of piety were further transformed, reflecting a new approach to spiritual life in his teachings (Mark 2:18 ff.).

In the New Covenant, fasting is seen as a sign of freedom—it is a choice rather than an obligation. People may choose to fast or not. Most Christians observe some form of fasting during the 40 days leading up to Easter.

On 13 December 1970, Y's Men International held its first international "Fast Day," during which club members donated the cost of a skipped meal to support the World YMCA Refugee Programme, aiming to help alleviate food scarcity among vulnerable populations. In 1972, this idea evolved into YMI's Time of Fast (TOF) programme. Over the years, TOF has achieved remarkable success, both through the significant funds raised and the many meaningful projects supported. It brings to life a core part of YMI's mission: "*to make the world a better place for all.*" February is the designated Emphasis Month for TOF. While not all YMI members belong to churches where fasting is customary, many honour the TOF tradition by skipping a meal or opt to make direct financial donations, which is equally welcome.

By participating in TOF in any way we can, we show solidarity with those in need and uphold YMI's mission of creating positive change.





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