

ISSUE 11

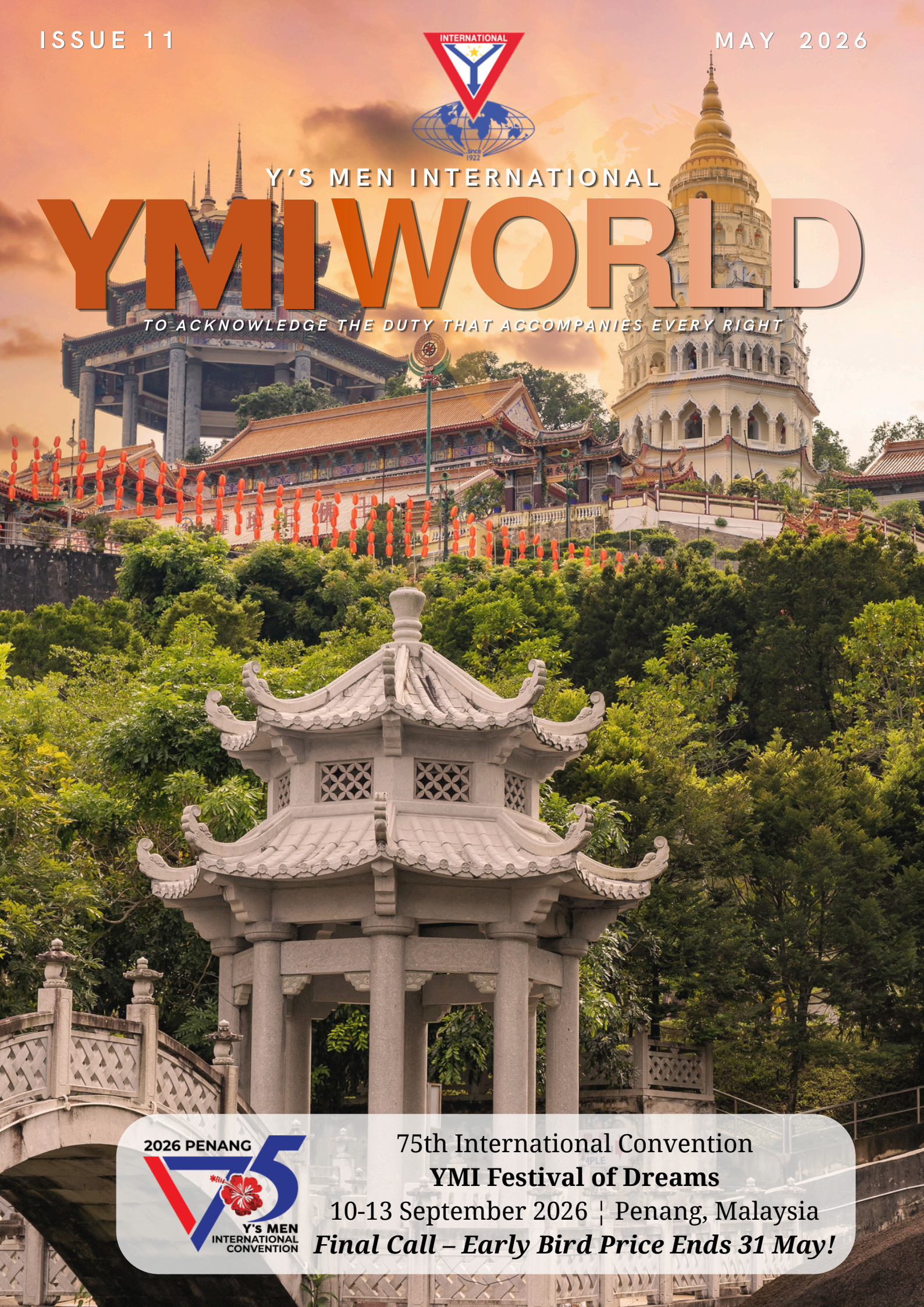
MAY 2026



Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL

YMIWORLD

TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DUTY THAT ACCOMPANIES EVERY RIGHT



2026 PENANG



75th International Convention

YMI Festival of Dreams

10-13 September 2026 | Penang, Malaysia

Final Call – Early Bird Price Ends 31 May!



YMI Festival of Dreams 10-13 September 2026

Final Call - Early Bird Ends 31 May

IC 2026 will take place in George Town, Penang, Malaysia, from 10-13 September 2026, offering a vibrant setting for this milestone Convention.

Until 31 May, you can enjoy the Early Bird rate of USD 495. Don't miss out! From 1 June, the price rises to USD 600.

The Convention will be hosted at the St. Giles Wembley Penang Hotel, with rooms available at the special Convention rate of USD 90 per night (twin share, including breakfast), and can be booked during registration. Stay right at the heart of the event and within easy reach of the city's key attractions.

Penang provides the perfect backdrop for the YMI Festival of Dreams, combining culture, heritage, and connection in a UNESCO World Heritage setting.

Excursion details are now being finalised and will form a key part of the shared Convention experience. A full-day programme on Saturday, 12 September will include:

- Penang Hill
- Kek Lok Si Temple
- The Sleeping Buddha
- George Town's street art
- Little India
- The Clan Jetties



Excursion Info

The Clan Jetties, Kek Lok Si Temple & Penang Hill

Enjoy a full day exploring Penang's rich culture, heritage, and natural beauty alongside fellow delegates. With local guides accompanying each group, the experience brings the island to life through its history, traditions, and daily life.

IC 2026 in Penang is an opportunity to connect, explore, and be part of the YMI Festival of Dreams.

Register before 31 May!

**Early Bird Registration Extended
USD 495 until 31 May 2026**

Visit the website for more information
or to register

www.ysmen.org/ic2026

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Content in this publication is contributed by dedicated YMI club members and officers, to whom we extend our sincere thanks. From time to time, articles or messages from external sources may also be included and those contributors will be recognised accordingly.

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Editor's note

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

June Emphasis will be on
*History, YMCA Relations
and Annual Review*

Click to submit your
impact story before
15 May 2026.

Contact Editor



Term Wrap-up, Future Initiatives, and Exciting Convention News!

IP Edward K.W. Ong

As we approach the close of 2025/2026 term, we can take pride in how far we've come and in progress made toward our shared goals. To ensure a strong finish to the year, you are encouraged to tap into our valuable resource channels: the Area Presidents, the International and Area Service Directors, and the Chairpersons of International Committees. By aligning efforts in these remaining weeks, we can sharpen our focus on delivering programme goals and ensure our work translates into meaningful, measurable outcomes.

Rejuvenating Our Clubs for the Future

A key priority is to revitalise our clubs by attracting and engaging a younger generation, while continuing to value and recognise our experienced and senior members. By offering inclusive, flexible opportunities that reflect diverse interests and energy levels, and by forming new clubs or interest-based groups, we can strengthen fellowship, enhance retention, and build a supportive, dynamic community.

An Exciting Update on Our International Convention (IC)

In September, the International Convention (IC) will be held, and arrangements are well underway for a spectacular event. Originally scheduled to be held in Dubai, the convention has been relocated, following unforeseen and escalating geopolitical developments in the Middle East. This was a difficult but necessary decision to ensure a safe and secure environment for all participants. We are thrilled to announce that the IC will now be held on the beautiful and tranquil Penang Island, Malaysia!

Penang, a historic British free port established in 1786, offers a captivating blend of cultures, ethnicities, and religions, situated off the western coast near southern Thailand. Its unique charm lies in its numerous colonial-era buildings, vibrant street art, and its reputation as a top gastronomic destination renowned for its exquisite fusion cuisine.

Convention Programme Highlights

The convention programme promises to be stimulating, refreshing, and expertly facilitated, with interactive elements including games inspired by Malaysia's rich cultural traditions. A dedicated day tour will further showcase the country's beauty, heritage, and hospitality.

We have selected a wonderful event venue in George Town, Penang's historic capital, offering competitive room rates before, during, and after the convention, and conveniently located near shops and other hotels.

Penang, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, offers a vibrant multicultural experience shaped by Chinese, Malay, Indian, and other communities, reflected in its distinctive Peranakan culture, cuisine, and traditions. For those who love the sea, Penang's inviting sandy beaches offer a perfect escape.

We are confident that Penang will provide an inspiring and memorable backdrop for our International Convention. We eagerly anticipate celebrating our achievements and forging new connections in this remarkable destination.



IHQ News

ISG Jose Varghese

Over the past month, the movement has witnessed meaningful activities and encouraging developments across its Regions. World Malaria Day was observed with great enthusiasm, reflecting our continued commitment to health awareness and community service. Clubs also actively participated in the Week4Waste initiative, demonstrating strong engagement in environmental sustainability efforts.

As we move through May, the focus across all levels is on Leadership Development, emphasising the need to nurture capable leaders who can guide our mission forward with vision and purpose, while actively engaging and empowering young people.

Preparations are progressing well for the upcoming international events in Penang, Malaysia. The International Youth Convocation will be held at YMCA Penang from 7 to 13 September 2026 and the International Convention at St. Giles Wembley Hotel from 10 to 13 September 2026. The meeting of the Legislative Assembly of Representatives will be held from 13 to 17 September 2026.

Members are reminded that early bird registration, which includes special hotel rates, is open only until 31 May 2026. All are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity and secure their participation.

The deadline for remitting international programme contributions is 31 May. All members are encouraged to give generously to help meet our goals, ensure sustainability, and maximise impact.

It is also a matter of great joy to note the chartering of new clubs in Ukraine and Armenia, with congratulations extended to the Denmark Region for this achievement.

A virtual Club Leaders Training for the Area Latin America (LAM) was successfully conducted on 24 April, jointly organised by the international and LAM Area leadership, with around 40 participants. During the session, IPE Johan shared the vision of the Blue Music and Blue Music Ambassadors Programme, while LTOD Tibor Foki and ISG Jose Varghese led engaging and insightful sessions.

Looking ahead, the Maritimes Region will host its 75th Regional Convention from 21 to 23 May, where ISG Jose Varghese will join as a speaker. The 92nd Regional Convention of the Southeast Asia Region, scheduled from 15 to 18 May 2026 in Hong Kong, will feature IP Edward as the keynote speaker.

Overall, this period reflects strong momentum in leadership development, programme expansion, and international collaboration, with many opportunities ahead for members to stay involved and contribute meaningfully.

Leadership Training & Organisational Development

Mr Tibor Foki, ISD LTOD



Warm greetings!

As your International Service Director for Leadership Training and Organisational Development (LTOD), this is a gentle reminder that it is always a good time to organise a training session in your Area or Region—but especially so now, as we approach the new YMI year and prepare our incoming leaders to take office.

If you attended the March RDE Summit in Bali, Indonesia, you know that we were privileged to have past, present, and future International Presidents among the participants, contributing to and facilitating key sessions. Regional Directors Elect or Area Presidents Elect had a valuable opportunity to grow as leaders, strengthen leadership skills, exchange ideas, and build meaningful collaborations to support them in the year ahead.

It's time to recommit ourselves to the mission of Y's Men International (YMI)! I'm delighted to share information about available resources designed to empower both new officers and all members of YMI.

To continue supporting your leadership journey, a range of training materials are available online at www.ysmen.org.

Available resources include:

- Introduction to YMI PowerPoints and booklet
- YMI History, including three-part video series
- YMI's International Constitution and by-laws
- Conflict Resolution Procedure
- YMI's Code of Conduct
- Roles and responsibilities of various officers (from Club President to Legislative Assembly Representative)
- Gold 2.0 leadership modules
- PowerPoints, videos and various promotional and informational materials on our various international programmes and projects.

Most of these materials are located in the [Training](#) or [Downloads](#) sections of our website. If you are unable to locate a specific resource or identify a gap in our available materials, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or the IHQ staff. With support from the Manual Review Committee—and your valuable input—we aim to keep our training content current, relevant, and impactful. For help organising or facilitating training sessions, please first contact your Area LTOD. If additional support is needed, I am always here and ready to assist.

Let us continue building confident, committed leaders at every level of Y's Men International. Your growth and engagement are essential to strengthening our movement and expanding our global impact through service



TOF Project Highlight

EMPOWER YOUTH:
Agents of Community Wellness
YMC Chiangmai

The next project being spotlighted is the *“Empower Youth: Agents of Community Wellness”* initiative in Chiang Mai, Thailand, implemented by the Chiangmai YMCA in partnership with the Y’s Men’s Club of Chiangmai through its Uni Y Club programme.

Chiang Mai is facing increasing challenges among young people, particularly vulnerable university students and disenfranchised migrant youth, who often lack access to reproductive health education, mental health support, and structured personal development opportunities. These gaps increase exposure to risky behaviours and social exclusion, making targeted, youth-led intervention increasingly urgent.

Building on a long-standing partnership since 2010, the project strengthens the Uni Y Club as a youth development hub by training 20–25 university students as Certified Wellness Agents. These students will receive hands-on training in health literacy, Mental Health First Aid, and leadership skills, enabling them to design and deliver peer-to-peer outreach programmes focused on reproductive health awareness, mental resilience, and youth empowerment.

In collaboration with YMCA staff and the affiliated YMI club, the Wellness Agents will lead community-based campaigns, conduct needs assessments, and implement targeted educational activities for both university and migrant youth. The initiative will also establish a simple but effective monitoring framework to measure improvements in awareness, participation, and behavioural outcomes.

Beyond health outcomes, the project builds transferable skills in education, employability, and civic engagement. Importantly, it creates a sustainable leadership pipeline by positioning trained Youth Agents for future roles within YMCA structures and YMI Clubs.

At completion, the Uni Y Club will fully integrate the Wellness Agent model into its annual programme cycle, ensuring continuity through peer training and structured handover. This establishes a long-term, youth-led system for community wellness in Chiang Mai, with lasting impact beyond the project period.

Impact Snapshot

- 20–25 Youth Wellness Agents trained and certified in health literacy and leadership
- 300+ direct youth beneficiaries reached through peer-led programmes
- 1,000+ indirect beneficiaries across university and migrant communities
- Measurable improvements in reproductive health awareness and mental resilience
- Sustainable youth-led wellness model integrated into Uni Y Club operations
- Strengthened pipeline for future YMCA and Y’s Men leadership

The TOF campaign showcases selected qualifying projects for 2026/27—initiatives that are unique, actionable, and designed to deliver measurable impact. These spotlights are not fundraising appeals for individual projects; rather, they demonstrate how TOF resources can be translated into real and lasting impact. The broader aim is to raise awareness of TOF and inspire generosity, engagement, and support for this flagship programme of YMI.

YOUTH

The Strength and Future of Y's Men International

Ms Sindhu Thomas



As Nelson Mandela reminded us, “*The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow.*” In Y's Men International (YMI), this truth is not just a vision—it is a living reality. YMI provides the platform where young people step forward with confidence, purpose and passion, embracing their role as torchbearers of the future. By placing youth at the heart of its mission, YMI ensures that its ideals remain vibrant, relevant and forward-looking.

Youth bring a spark that ignites change. Their energy, creativity and fresh perspectives breathe new life into the organisation. Through programmes such as the International Youth Convocation (IYC) and initiatives like Internships 4 Global Outreach (IGO) in partnership with YMCA, young members are not only participating—they are shaping the future. These opportunities empower them to engage with global issues, connect across cultures and contribute meaningfully to projects that embody YMI's spirit of service and fellowship.

Community service is the soul of YMI, and it is through service that youth discover the true meaning of humanity. By standing with those in need, supporting local initiatives and joining global projects, young members cultivate a broadened moral imagination, learning to perceive the world through diverse lenses and to respond to human need with generosity and responsibility. This experiential learning process transforms service into a crucible for the development of socially conscious global citizens.

Youth involvement is also a powerful path of personal growth. Leadership roles, project management, and teamwork help young members build confidence, sharpen skills, and strengthen character. These experiences prepare them to face the challenges of the modern world with resilience and courage. YMI thus becomes more than an organisation—it becomes a training ground for leaders who will inspire change, not only within YMI but across communities and nations.

Perhaps the greatest gift of youth participation in YMI is the global outlook it nurtures. International fellowships and projects open doors to diverse cultures, teaching young members to celebrate differences and embrace unity. In today's interconnected world, this spirit of inclusivity and respect is not just valuable, it is essential. By engaging with peers worldwide, youth learn to think beyond borders and take up the shared responsibility of building a brighter tomorrow.

In every way, youth are the strength and future of Y's Men International. Their passion fuels progress, their service builds humanity, and their vision lights the path ahead. Together, they remind us that the future is not something we wait for—it is something we create.

Empowering Learning at Ewamakhumbi Comprehensive School



The School Head teacher Mrs. Betty Mudola (Left) Receiving the donations from CP Arnold Magina

Ewamakhumbi Comprehensive School in Navakholo Sub-County, Kakamega County, received a major boost following a successful community outreach led by the Y Service Club of Kakamega and Y's Youth on 28 March 2026. The school, which serves over 1,000 students, has long faced challenges in accessing practical learning facilities, with students previously walking more than three kilometres to a neighbouring school for home science lessons.

In response, the club donated home science equipment worth KES 288,500 (USD 2,219), including sewing machines, two Banner tabletop cookers, four Banner cookers with ovens, gas cylinders, energy-saving jikos, assorted utensils, and a refrigerator. The initiative aims to enhance practical learning and ease the burden on learners. In addition to the equipment, learners were treated to refreshments, and sanitary pads were donated to support the well-being and dignity of girls.

Fellowship and Brotherhood



On 9 April 2026, clubs from across Kenya District gathered for fellowship at the Nairobi Central YMCA with PRD Tunji Makinde and his wife, Mrs Taiwo Makinde from Nigeria, Africa Northwest.

The event was a resounding success, strengthening bonds across clubs, reinforcing shared values, and celebrating the enduring spirit of Y's Men International. Over 45 club members came together in celebration of brotherhood and service.

PRD Tunji and Taiwo Makinde reflected on their YMI experiences and shared valuable insights drawn from their journey and leadership within the movement. Their contributions offered encouragement and inspiration to those present.

A Y's Youth performance added joy to the occasion and served as a refreshing reminder of the importance of nurturing the next generation. During their visit, the Makindes toured Kenya District, engaging with various clubs and participating in several activities, including tree planting at Thika YMCA.

Club Induction and Training Session



On 11 April 2026 at the YMCA Central, the **Y Service Club of Nairobi Metro** hosted a significant event: a training and induction ceremony aimed at integrating and orientating new members into the club. This event was an important step in promoting the movement's mission and ensuring that new members are well prepared to contribute effectively. The training component of the event focused on several key areas, including the movement's values, organisational service projects and programmes, leadership principles, and the obligation to pay dues.

Stride Against Stigma



On 14 April 2026, the **Y's Men's Club of Kampala** participated in the annual Buganda Kingdom celebrations marking the King's birthday. The event is regarded as one of the top three largest marathon events in Africa. This year's theme was "Fight and eliminate HIV/AIDS by 2030". The theme resonates strongly with the movement's objective of healing the world. The Y's Men of Kampala purchased 150 HIV/AIDS kits as a contribution towards scaling up the campaign to help bring the disease to an end.

AREA ASIA PACIFIC

Mrs Keiko Tonegawa - News Editor of Area Asia Pacific



Establishing a YMCA in Laos

On Saturday, 18 April, the **Y's Men's Club of Kyoto-Palace**, Japan West Region held its 55th Anniversary Commemorative Meeting at Hotel Okura Kyoto, attended by more than 350 YMI club members. A key focus of the programme was an interim report on the establishment of a YMCA in Laos. The initiative, launched in 2019 with the vision of “*creating a YMCA in a country without a YMCA*,” has progressed steadily despite challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, the club pledged JPY 10 million in support of the project.

Through sustained collaboration and the dedication of key partners, including Mr Yoshihiro Ohno, Mr Takao Nishimura, and Principal Takahiro Obata, it has now been confirmed that the Vientiane YMCA Centre of Hotel Management is scheduled to open in autumn 2026. This marks a significant milestone and an important step toward the broader goal of establishing a YMCA presence in Laos. While this development is a major achievement, it represents only the beginning of a longer journey. Continued cooperation and support will be essential as the project advances toward the full establishment of a YMCA in Laos.

Taipei Downtown Club in Nepal

Members of the **Y's Men's Club of Taipei-Downtown** recently visited the Kanchhi Maya Tamang Memorial Hospital in Nepal. Located in Galpa at an altitude of approximately 2,000 metres in the Himalayan foothills, the hospital serves underprivileged communities in the region. Three years ago, the club supported the construction of this three-storey facility. During this trip, it contributed USD 1,500 to the Kanchhi Maya Tamang Foundation to provide school uniforms for poor children in nearby mountain villages.



Week4Waste Activities

On 25 April, the **Y's Men's Club of Kawagoe**, Japan East Region, incorporated a Week4Waste clean-up activity into their fun outing at a local zoo.



Chiang Mai YMCA and **Y's Men's Club of Chiangmai** celebrated Earth Day this year by provide the Climate Change Education for YMCA members at the Environment and Energy Centre of Sao Hin YMCA Chiangmai.



AREA EUROPE

Mrs Birgit Jakobsen - News Editor of Area Europe

Visit to the new club in Armenia

The recent visit to Yerevan and the members of the newly chartered **Y Service Club of Yerevan** by Birgit Jakobsen, CP of the Y's Men's Club of Aulum, and Kristian Helms, RD, provided a series of meaningful and inspiring encounters.

The delegation was welcomed by a dedicated and passionate group of YMCA members, Red Cross representatives, and other local participants who had clearly taken the time to understand the values and mission of Y's Men International. It was evident that they shared a dream of making a difference and contributing to a better world. Their warmth, hospitality, and engagement reflected a sincere desire to become part of the wider fellowship and to join the Y's Men family.



The visit also provided insight into the YMCA's work in Armenia. With a population of approximately three million and around 100,000 refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh, humanitarian needs remain significant. The group visited a YMCA safe space where refugees can gather and access community support. The initiative demonstrates how even modest, locally driven efforts can achieve important results, education leading to potential for a better future.

The trip highlighted the importance of taking our international responsibilities seriously and contributing, even in small ways, to a world where people reach out selflessly to one another.

RD Kristian Helms described the visit as deeply moving, noting, *"It is one of those experiences that you carry with you for a long time."*

Elvis Show in Norway

At their March meeting, members of the **Y's Men's Club of Mandal** enjoyed a lively and well-attended "Elvis Show", featuring renowned Norwegian Elvis tribute artist Kjell Elvis Bjørnstad. The event drew an audience of 95 members and proved to be a highly enjoyable evening for all involved. Looking ahead, the club is preparing for a visit to its brother club in Fladstrand/Frederikshavn, Denmark, scheduled for the final weekend in May. Such exchanges continue to highlight the value of international fellowship within the movement.





Creativity and Balance in Bistrița

On 1 April 2026, the courtyard and halls of “Avram Iancu” Secondary School in Bistrița, Romania were transformed into spaces for exploration and active learning. As part of a project funded by YMI’s **Danish clubs**, students participated in a series of workshops aimed at cultivating both their artistic talents and emotional resilience. The activities were tailored to different age groups, from Grade 4 to Grade 8. They included painting artwork on stones, the traditional Easter activity of egg dyeing, and two sessions on healthy emotional management, focusing on recognising feelings, expressing them appropriately, and practising relaxation techniques to help manage school-related stress.

The day was marked by a strong sense of empathy and collaboration. Younger and older students worked together harmoniously, while teachers and coordinators provided supportive and encouraging guidance. Each child was encouraged to manifest their own “creative force” without fear of being judged. The finished products—from brightly coloured stones to carefully decorated eggs—provided clear evidence of full engagement. Moreover, the students’ smiles and openness at the end of the workshops confirmed that the objective of developing essential skills for a balanced and healthy life had been successfully achieved.

“My friends, the BOOK and the SCREEN”

The **Young’s Men Service Club Brasov** organised and funded a non-formal education project entitled “*My friends, the BOOK and the SCREEN*”. The initiative took the form of an urban day camp held during the February holiday period (16-20 February 2026), bringing together 20 children aged 6-10 from large families (three or more children), registered with ASFANU, the Association of Large Families.

The educational programme was designed and delivered by the Floarea Minții team, a personal development centre in Brașov specialising in theatre-based learning. Throughout the week, the children took part in creative workshops and collaborative activities exploring the balance between reading and screen-based media. At the closing ceremony, they presented an exhibition of water-based paintings, a booklet featuring a collective poem “*What Are We?*”, and a theatre performance in which characters from books and cartoons highlighted the importance of educating children.

During the camp, club volunteers, Mrs Elena Guna and Mrs Georgeta Mureșan, actively supported the children’s learning activities. At the final celebration, Mrs Lămiița Stamate was also present and congratulated the children on their achievements. Parents, children, and representatives of ASFANU and Floarea Minții expressed their sincere thanks to the YMI club for organising and funding this valuable arts education project, offered free of charge to the participating children.



AREA INDIA

Mr Joseph Varghese - News Editor of Area India

Central India Region

CTR Fellowship and Service Meeting

A Central India meeting was held at Shelton Hostel, Rajahmundry, with active participation from members across the Region. The gathering focused on fellowship, service initiatives, and strengthening the movement. The event was marked by unity, meaningful discussions, and warm hospitality.



Central Travancore Region



CTR TOT Programme

CTR held a two-day TOT programme, SALT (Skill Activation for Leaders and Trainers), at JC Hills, Vagamon, 21-22 March. Inaugurated by IPEE V. S. Radhakrishnan, the programme saw participation from 35 members across the Region. After intensive training and prior preparatory assignments, qualified participants were awarded Regional Certified Trainer certificates. This first-of-its-kind initiative was highly appreciated, and participants will now complete internship training sessions within and outside the organisation.

CTR Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Programme

CTR's Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Programme was inaugurated by Regional Director Dr Rajesh V. at S.H. Teachers Training Institute, Mylapra. The awareness session was led by Senior Medical Officer Dr Reshma Kannan, who provided valuable insights on menstrual health and hygiene. As part of the initiative, menstrual cups were distributed to the students, promoting sustainable and healthy practices.



Mid West India Region



Dialysis Machine Donation

MWIR generously donated two dialysis machines to P. S. Mission Hospital, Maradu, Kochi, thanks to the joint efforts of the **Y's Men's Club of Ernakulam** and the Lilly & Jose Nettikadan Foundation. The donation ceremony was held in the presence of IPIP Shanavaskhan, PAP C. K. Thomas, and District Governor Miju Nettikadan of District 2.

Women Empowerment Project

On International Women's Day, **District 1 MWIR Y's Menettes** conducted a Women Empowerment Project highlighting the importance of self-reliance and equality. As part of the initiative, a sewing machine was gifted to a needy woman, enabling her to earn a livelihood and move towards financial independence. The programme was carried out with great enthusiasm, reflecting the Y's Menettes' commitment to empowering women in society.



Women & Youth Evening

MWIR District 1 hosted a colourful and lively Y's Menettes and Y's Lings Night, bringing together members and families for an evening of fellowship and joy. The programme featured engaging cultural performances, fun activities, and enthusiastic participation from both the women and youth. The event beautifully reflected the spirit of unity and strengthened bonds within the Y's Men family, making it a memorable and meaningful gathering for all.



North, East, Northeast India Region



District 4 Hosts Inspiring Leadership Meet

NENEIR District 4 (Delhi & NCR) held a meaningful meeting at the AHF-INDIA CARES National Office, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi. The occasion was graced by International Secretary General Jose Varghese, who delivered an inspiring address emphasising global unity and service. District Governor Dr Koshy Alexander Vaidyan presided over the meeting, while Dr V. Sam Prasad warmly welcomed the gathering and highlighted the impactful work of AHF-INDIA CARES. The meeting reaffirmed our commitment to the motto: *“to acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right.”*

South Central India Region

Eye Care Camp

The Y's Men's Club of Virudhunagar, South District, successfully hosted its 72nd Eye Camp, offering vital eye care services. A total of 57 outpatients were seen, with 26 patients selected for free cataract surgeries and 19 receiving free spectacles, showcasing the club's ongoing dedication to community health and service.



House of Hope

During an April Sunday gathering of the Regional Council in Bangalore, SCIR dedicated and handed over a new home to Mr Manas Kumar Rout of Puri District, Odisha. Sponsored by the Y's Men Club of Jayanagar, this “House of Hope” marks a meaningful act of service, transforming a long-cherished dream into a secure shelter built on compassion and collective commitment.

South India Region

Beach Cleaning

On the occasion of World Water Day, the Y's Men's Club of Chennai OMR organised a meaningful beach cleaning campaign at Kovalam, Tamil Nadu, promoting environmental responsibility and water conservation. With enthusiastic participation from members and volunteers, the team actively removed plastic waste and helped restore the natural beauty of the shoreline. The initiative also served as a platform to spread awareness on the importance of protecting our oceans and preserving water resources for future generations.





Service with Compassion

The **Y's Men's Club of Virudhunagar 1969** and the **Y's Menettes Club of Virudhunagar 1969** jointly contributed groceries, rice, toiletries, and clothing to the inmates of St. Joseph Hospice Centre, Dindigul, continuing their commitment to sustained care and compassionate service.

Support for Children with Special Needs

As part of their permanent project, the **Y's Men's Club of Kovai Green City** extended its heartfelt support by sponsoring essential consumables to the Star Special School Rehabilitation Centre for the Disabled, Singanallur. This meaningful initiative reflects the club's continued commitment to social responsibility and compassionate service, bringing care and support to children with special needs.



South West India



Regional Training

SWIR conducted a successful training programme for the DGE and LRDE teams at YMCA Kanyakumari on 11 and 12 April. Key speakers included A.K. Srihari, K. N. Ayyappan, Ajith Babu D, J. Jayakumar, Dr Sheeja Ajith, and Dr Sheeba Jayalal. The agenda featured business sessions, as well as leisure and fellowship events, such as yoga, a campfire, and music. Around 60 members participated, and the event was highly appreciated by all.

West India Region

Club Inauguration

The **Y's Men's Club of Ambazhakkad** was formally inaugurated in a meaningful and well-attended ceremony. The event marked a significant milestone in expanding the movement's reach and strengthening its service initiatives.



Women & Youth Engagement

The wives and children of members of the **Y's Men's Club of Kunnamkulam** played an active role during the Regional Director's visit, bringing warmth and vibrancy to the occasion. Their enthusiastic involvement in the programme and fellowship reflected strong unity and commitment, contributing significantly to the visit's success and the spirit of togetherness within the Y's Men family.

AREA KOREA

Ms Chung Kyung-ju - News Editor of Area Korea

KOREA AREA



Korea Ceremony for Area Presidents

On 17 April, the Korea Area held an end-of-term celebration for the 15th Area President and an inauguration ceremony for the 16th Area President at the Lahan Hotel in Jeonju City, attended by approximately 500 leaders from 11 Regions across Korea. AP Park Cha-sang and his wife, APE Ji Seong-eun and his wife, former Area Presidents, and current and incoming Regional Directors entered side by side, accompanied by the Korea Area and AP flags. In his farewell address, President Park reflected, *“Looking back on the past term, I think more about what I did poorly than what I did well, but I tried my best even under difficult circumstances,”* adding that he deeply cherished the 800 members who participated in the 8th Area Convention and efforts to strengthen Y’s Men International through education.



Newly inaugurated President Ji Sung-eun launched the 2026/27 session under the theme *“Sharing, Love, and Happiness.”* Referring to International President Johan Vilhelm Eltvik’s call to *“Wake Up the Sleeping Giant with Blue Music,”* he emphasised fellowship alongside charity, treating those less fortunate with dignity rather than pity, and providing opportunities for self-development rather than offering simple compassion. He pledged to focus on increasing membership through club expansion and charters, noting that true leadership begins with self-reflection and facing reality, and expressed infinite respect and gratitude to outgoing AP Park.



創立50週年 記念式 & 三國IBC合同月例會



仁川文鶴 · 京都 MAPLE · 台中長春

●日時：2026年 4月 11日 (土) 17:00

●場所：松島 Convensia Premier Ballroom (2F)



KOREA INCHEON REGION

50th Anniversary Celebration and IBC Meeting

On 11 April, the **Y's Men's Club of Incheon Moon Hak** (CP Hwang Soon-sik) marked its 50th anniversary with a commemorative ceremony and a joint meeting between IBC triangle partners (Taichung – Evergreen, Kyoto Maple and Incheon Moon Hak) at the Incheon Songdo Convention Centre. Around 200 participants attended, including members. There were representatives from all three clubs, Incheon Regional officers, as well as other special guests.

The programme opened with an alphorn performance, followed by a prayer for peace, opening addresses from the three club presidents, and congratulatory speeches. A video message from International President Edward K. W. Ong was also shown. A highlight of the event was the International President's Commendation awarded to the IBC Triangle partners in recognition of 42 years of exchange, alongside a joint service contribution of USD 3,000 to Incheon YMCA. Cultural performances, including traditional Korean drumming, vocal music and a choir presentation, added to the celebration.

Club President Hwang Soon-sik reflected on the Incheon Moon Hak Club's half-century history of service and community engagement, and highlighted plans to develop a "Second Mun-Hak Club" to engage younger generations in the AI era.

Pre-event activities on 10 April included a historical tour of Incheon's old town and an evening of cultural exchange, friendship, and gift sharing.

The Three-Country IBC Clubs continue their long-standing cooperation through service, cultural exchange, and youth engagement, serving as a model of international friendship and collaboration.



KOREA BU-UL-GYEONG REGION

BF Ambassador Visits Sri Lanka

RDE Bae Jung-ae, a member of the **Y's Men's Club of Pusan Alpha**, visited Sri Lanka as a BF Delegate, staying for five days with a host family arranged by the PRD in Kandy, the country's second-largest city. During her visit, she met with three clubs in Kandy, sharing aspects of Korean culture and introducing the work of Korea Y's Men.



Providing for Persons with Disabilities

Kimhae District (DG Byun Young-goo), in collaboration with Kimhae YMCA and Kimhae Y's Men, organised a planned plogging event with people with disabilities on 20 April (Korea's Day of Persons with Disabilities). Although the outdoor activity was cancelled due to rain, around 30 participants with disabilities and 70 Y's Men members gathered indoors to share essential daily necessities. AP Park Cha-sang and Area officials also attended to offer encouragement and present gifts, helping to make it a meaningful occasion.



Environmental Clean Up

On 19 April, members of the **Y's Men's Club of Jinju Beta-Chok** carried out an environmental cleanup campaign following a group visit to a baseball game at Changwon Baseball Stadium. The activity was conducted in line with the International Y's Men's Week4Waste initiative. After the campaign, members concluded the day with a fellowship dinner.



KOREA CHONBUK REGION



Youth Focus

The **Y's Men and Women's Club of Jeonju Worth-With** (CP Lee Seung-yeon) held a fundraising event on 13 April to support young people. The programme included a "Youth Bazaar and Sponsorship Pub", a volunteer activity supporting meals for young people using bazaar proceeds, as well as a "Youth Table 2 Day" event. Together, these activities formed a meaningful occasion of service and support.



KOREA WEST REGION

Marathon Volunteer Activity

The **Y's Men's Club of Daejeon Joeun** (CP Ha Hyung-soon) volunteered at the "Daecheong Lake Marathon" on 11 April. Club members supported the event alongside other Regional representatives and students from nearby universities.

AREA UNITED STATES

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

During March, the Emphasis Month for Community Service, USA clubs demonstrated the values of service, fellowship, and stewardship through coordinated outreach and volunteer efforts that supported local community needs in practical and visible ways.

Families Supporting Families in Need

The wives of seven members of the **Y Service Club of New York – Westchester** volunteered their time and efforts at the Ronald McDonald House located on the Westchester Medical Centre campus, which serves families of children receiving treatment at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital.

On Saturday, 21 March, they purchased, prepared, and served a warm and comforting brunch as part of the Meals That Heal programme, benefiting approximately 40 people. Ronald McDonald House is a global organisation with chapters and facilities in many locations around the world. The Westchester facility provides essential support to families of children receiving treatment at the hospital, offering comfort, care, and a sense of community during a difficult time.



Volunteering at Time of Fast Project

Members of the **Y Service Club of West Cabarrus** volunteered at Share the Harvest Community Farm, helping plant lettuce, cabbage, and broccoli while weeding garden beds for the upcoming season. It was a rewarding, hands-on experience supporting access to fresh food for local families. Founded in 2015, the farm is dedicated to nourishing the community by growing and distributing fresh produce across Cabarrus and Rowan Counties. Run largely by volunteers, it has provided over 115,842 pounds of produce to those in need. The project is currently supported by Time of Fast funds.

Meals on Wheels Service

The **Y Service Club of South Rowan** contributed USD 100 and supported Meals on Wheels by delivering nutritious meals across all eight Southern Rowan routes. Several members also serve as regular Meals on Wheels volunteers, making this an established annual service activity for the club.



Easter Basket Assembly

Members of the **Y's Men's Club of Kannapolis-John R. Mott** assembled Easter baskets for children at the Salvation Army Centre of Hope. Club President Debbie Owens delivered the baskets to the Salvation Army in Concord.



Tacos and Cakes

The **Y Service Club of West Cabarrus** and the **Y's Men's Club of Kannapolis-John R. Mott** partnered to serve tacos and cakes at the Salvation Army Tucker Centre of Hope in Concord, NC, with members contributing through cooking, donating ingredients, and serving the food.



UN DAYS

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



Prof. Dr Roys Mallassery
UN Projects
Committee Member

International Day of Families

highlights the fundamental role of families as the basic unit of society and promotes awareness of social, economic, and demographic processes affecting families worldwide. It calls for strengthened policies and actions to support family well-being and sustainable development for all.

15 May

International Day of Living Together in Peace

promotes the ideals of peace, inclusion, understanding, and solidarity among all people. It encourages efforts to build sustainable peace through acceptance of diversity, dialogue, reconciliation, and cooperation across communities.

16 May

World Fair Play Day

promotes the values of integrity, respect, friendship, and solidarity in sport and beyond. It highlights the importance of ethical behaviour, equal opportunity, and mutual respect as foundations for fair competition and peaceful coexistence in society.

19 May

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

underscores the vital role of cultural diversity in fostering dialogue, mutual understanding, and sustainable development. It promotes respect for cultural diversity as a shared heritage of humanity and a key driver for peace, social cohesion, and inclusive progress.

21 May

International Day for Biological Diversity

raises awareness of the importance of biodiversity for sustaining life on earth and supporting human well-being. It calls for urgent action to halt biodiversity loss and to promote conservation, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of the benefits of natural resources.

22 May

International Day of UN Peacekeepers

honours the service and sacrifice of military, police, and civilian personnel who have contributed to UN peacekeeping operations. It pays tribute to their vital role in promoting peace, protecting civilians, and supporting countries in their transition from conflict to lasting stability.

29 May

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](#).



IYC 2026

Penang, Malaysia

Join us in Penang, Malaysia, for the 20th International Youth Convocation (IYC) of Y's Men International, taking place 7-13 **September 2026**.

Spend seven unforgettable days and six nights in the “Pearl of the Orient”, one of Southeast Asia's most stunning coastal heritage sites. This year, IYC 2026 offers a truly unique opportunity to connect with the global Y's Men International family as we host a historic joint convention alongside the 75th International Convention (IC 2026).

Come be a part of this landmark gathering as our global family unites to create history in Penang. Experience the legendary warmth of Malaysian hospitality, the richness of our shared mission, and the beauty of a city where the sun sets over the sea and the future begins with our dreams.

International Youth Committee 2026/27

Venue & Accommodations



Experience the best of George Town hospitality at IYC2026! Both the venue and accommodations are hosted by **YMCA Penang**, where our friendly staff is ready to welcome you with open arms and provide a home-away-from-home during the conference.



IYC 2026

Programme Highlights

7-13 September 2026

7 SEPT

Arrival & Check-in
IYC 2026 Opening Ceremony

8 SEPT

IEOs visit IYC 2026
IYC 2026 Sessions

9 SEPT

Community Service
& Campfire Dinner

10 SEPT

IYC 2026 Sessions
IC 26 Opening Ceremony

11 SEPT

YMI Festival games with IC 26 participants
Y'slympics

12 SEPT

Excursion Day
IP Banquet (Cultural Night)

13 SEPT

Closing Ceremony
Departure & Check out

GET READY! IYC 2026 REGISTRATION IS OPENING SOON.
DON'T MISS OUT—STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES!



The Holy Spirit

by Mr Villy Mølgaard, ISD Christian Emphasis

The apostles were in Jerusalem to celebrate the wheat harvest, as the Jews did fifty days after Passover. But the apostles were not really celebrating anything. They waited and waited for God's breath, because without it they could do nothing. They were brave and good men—strong men—who had been fishermen and craftsmen, and who could, in principle, have set to work. Yet they could do nothing, not without the breath of God, without feeling His presence. They did not know what to do with each other.

And then something happened. *“Suddenly, there came a sound from heaven like a strong gust of wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Tongues, like fire, appeared and spread out, and one rested on each of them. Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.”* (Acts 2:2–4, Pentecost)

Therefore, we can say that Pentecost is the coming of God's breath into the world—the breath that makes each and every one of us living beings. We are God's creatures, and with Him we have everything we need for life: the breath of life itself and the life we are called to live.

God sent His Son, Jesus Christ; in other words, God Himself came to earth to reveal His will and to show us how we are meant to live—through His Word, His love, and His help. We are not left to be our own masters, required to figure out how to manage our lives on our own. We are given God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit to live by and to guide us.

On Pentecost, God sent the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to teach us and to remind us of everything Jesus communicated, so that the Church might be built upon it. And we, as the Church, have much to do, and each of us must live out a full human life. Yet, with the coming of the Holy Spirit to earth, we are neither alone in this task, nor alone with one another. We are always accompanied by God and His life-giving breath.

In Y's Men International too, we are never alone; we are immersed in God's life-giving grace. The Holy Spirit is always by our side. We are called to rely on the Spirit's help in this life that is both challenging and full of wonder.