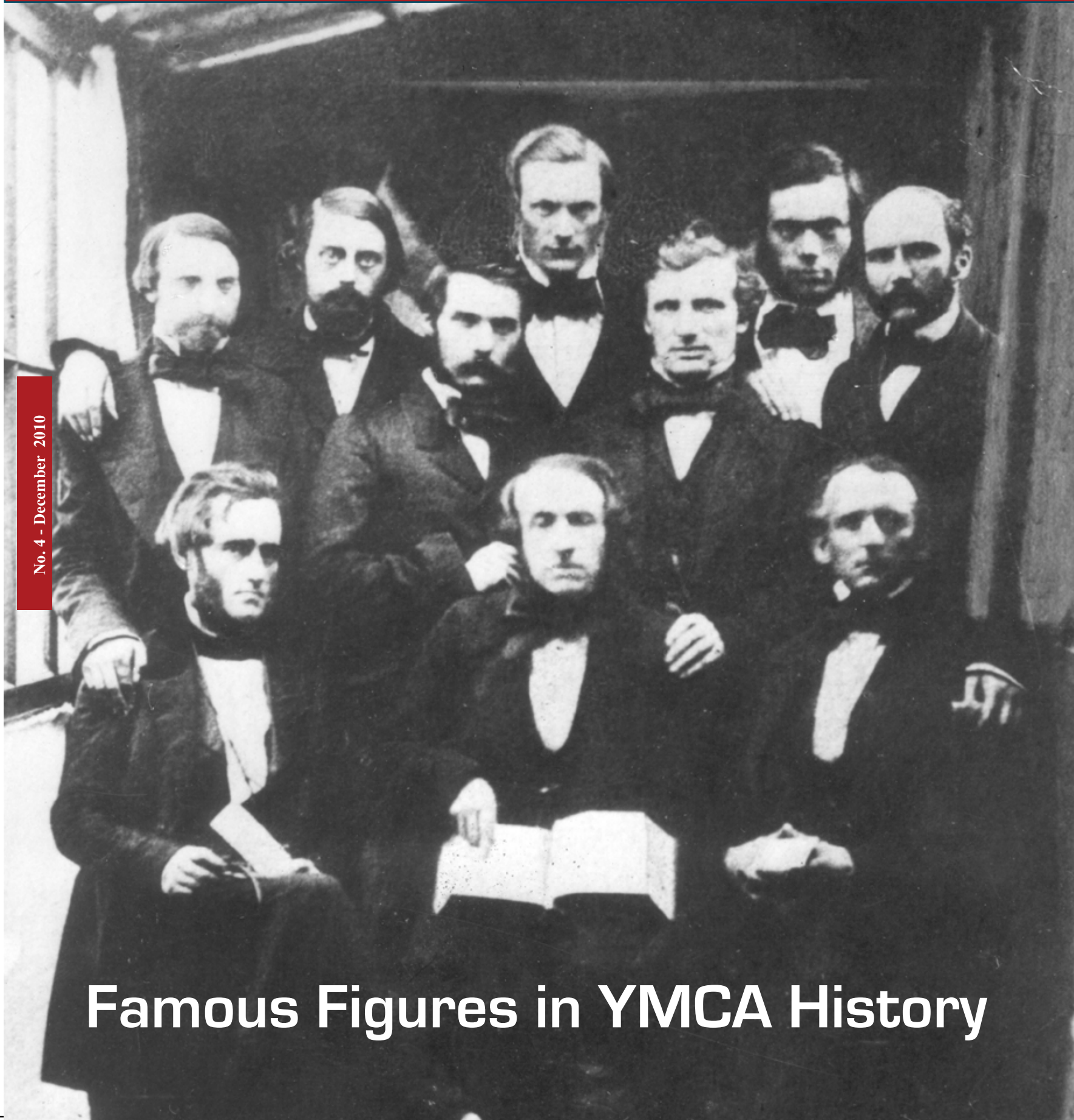


YMCA World

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December 2010

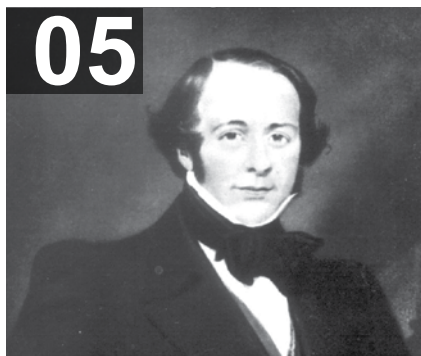
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Famous Figures in YMCA History



The World Alliance of YMCAs is a federation of YMCAs in 125 countries with a membership of over 45 million. YMCAs seek to share the Christian ideal of building a human community of peace with justice for all, irrespective of race, class, religion, or gender. Formed in 1844, the YMCA is one of the largest and oldest youth movements in the world.



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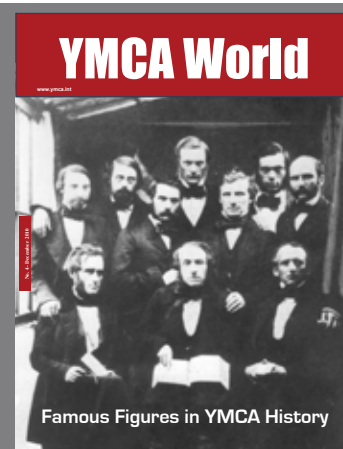
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YMCA World -No. 4 - December 2010
A quarterly of the World Alliance of YMCAs
Published in English and Spanish

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Resource Material : Claude-Alain Danthe
Printing : Sro-Kundig, Geneva, Switzerland



'Journey in Mission' - a collection of brief articles and reflections of the Secretary General, Dr. Bart Shaha, was released at the 17th World Council of YMCAs in Hong Kong, in July 2010.

Limited copies are available through the World Alliance office : office@ymca.int



Going Back to Our Roots



Editor
Rebecca Morton Doherty
World Alliance of YMCAs

People often say that to make sense of our present and future we must first understand and appreciate our own histories, our cultural, social and political roots; the same is true of an organisation like the YMCA. To get to the heart of the YMCA mission, vision and values, we need to first understand its rich and complex history, as well as the individuals that helped shape it. In this edition of YMCA World, we celebrate some of the most famous YMCA leaders throughout history including George Williams, Henry Dunant, and John R. Mott.

This special edition of YMCA World comes at a critical moment in the history of the World Alliance of YMCAs for several reasons. Firstly, 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of Henry Dunant's death. A series of commemorative events will be organised in Geneva, Switzerland in the months of November and December to honour the man who co-founded the YMCA of Geneva 10 years before the International Red Cross, and who was a key figure in the establishment of an international committee for the YMCA Movement, that would later become the World Alliance of YMCAs.

Secondly, we are delighted to announce that World Alliance historian, Dr. M. D. David recently completed work on "Forward Together: A History of the YMCA Movement 1955 – 2010". Dr. M. D. David is the former Professor and Chairman of the Department of History, University of Mumbai, India. He has twenty-seven books to his credit of which six (including this) are on the YMCA Movement, and four on the history of Mumbai. He was the Emeritus Fellow of the University Grants Commission and is now the Adjunct Faculty in the Department of History of the University of Mumbai. He has many academic achievements and has held academic positions in India and

abroad. He was the President of YMCA Mumbai and a board member for the National Council of YMCAs of India.

This history book is the result of almost two years of intensive research, and consultation with past and present YMCA leaders to provide an insight into the contemporary history of the World YMCA Movement. Since the publication of "A History of the World Alliance of YMCAs" in 1955 written by C.P. Shedd, the World Alliance has not had the opportunity to publish another comprehensive history book until now.

"I hope this work will enable readers to gain a good perspective of the unique contributions the YMCA Movement made throughout its long history and particularly in the years following 1955. Herein we will get an idea of the background in which the YMCA made headway in pursuing its mission in spite of the numerous challenges it encountered every day. The book that unravels the great saga of the world's largest and longest serving youth movement is written in a lucid, readable and captivating style," says Dr. Bart Shaha, Secretary General of the World Alliance of YMCAs. The book will be published in 2011; details will be posted on the World Alliance website: www.ymca.int

At the end of 2010, Dr Bart Shaha, Secretary General of the World Alliance of YMCAs will also complete his second four-year term, and retire from a long and successful career in the YMCA Movement. In this edition of YMCA World, Dr. Shaha shares some reflections on his YMCA journey, sharing the highs and lows, and his plans for the future. We take this opportunity to thank him for his dedication to the Movement and inspirational leadership, and wish him every success for the future.

Henry DUNANT et les Unions chrétiennes de jeunes gens



A large poster was created to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Henry Dunant's death.

“ To get to the heart of the YMCA mission, vision and values, we need to first understand its rich and complex history, as well as the individuals that helped shape it. ”



President
Mr. Ken Colloton
World Alliance of YMCAs

President's Message

Dear friends in the YMCA Movement,

We write this letter to you in deep gratitude to our good friend Dr. Bartholomew Shaha, who is retiring from his position as Secretary General of the World Alliance of YMCAs December 31st, 2010.

Bart Shaha has had a distinguished and extensive YMCA vocation spread over almost 40 years at the local, national, regional and world levels. Since 2003 he has served as the Secretary General of the World Alliance of YMCAs. He was the General Secretary of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs since 1996.

He was appointed General Secretary of the YMCA in Chittagong, Bangladesh, in 1973, a position he held until 1981 when he was appointed as Executive Secretary for Leadership Development of the then Asia Alliance of YMCAs. In 1988 he returned to Bangladesh as the National General Secretary of Bangladesh YMCAs. From 1992 to 1995 he served as Executive Secretary for Global Programmes and Communications at the World Alliance of YMCAs.

Bart Shaha, a devout Roman Catholic, is a committed and dedicated Christian leader. Working with people of various Christian denominations and people of different faiths and cultural backgrounds, he has developed a broad ecumenical perspective and a strong cultural sensitivity to people of all cultures.

Global in perspective, he was as General Secretary of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs, able to motivate YMCAs in the region to strategically focus the programme thrust to meet the challenges of current times in their particular contexts. He motivated YMCAs to engage in people's participatory processes of development and empowerment, sustainable development, building and strengthening

civil society, youth and gender concerns, human rights and migrant workers issues. He was able to generate financial resources internally from the region and from external partners, to support these programme initiatives. He also developed and successfully implemented plans for the extension and strengthening of YMCA Movements within the Asia and Pacific region.

He has extensive experience in movement building and management of the YMCA amidst great diversities and a variety of needs at different levels. As a member of the Global Staff Team he gave leadership in the development of the drafts of the Global Strategic Directions and the Global Operating Plan. Since the 15th World Council of YMCAs in Mexico in 2002, where he was appointed to the highest office of the YMCA, he has eagerly implemented the strategic directions of the world Movement, especially focusing on the Global Operating Plan for Movement Strengthening.

His passionate interest for Transformational Leadership has been Bart's leading star in this work. Also under Bart's watch came the need for intensified Resource Mobilisation efforts to support the implementation of the Global Operating Plan for Movement Strengthening, and this has led the Movement to intensify capacity building on all levels to increase income-generating efforts. Bart called a meeting in January 2008 of YMCA leaders from all over the world to motivate the Movement for these efforts, and the meeting unanimously agreed that the reason for this important initiative was the YMCA's focus on youth.

Also a gifted writer, poet and musician, he has edited and published writings, composed hymns and songs, and written poems to reflect contemporary issues

and express the vision of a new society of justice and peace. Among his published works are "Seeking Abundant Life For All", "Leaders We Want" and "Journey in Mission".

Apart from his commitment to the mission of the YMCA and his vast YMCA experience, he holds a Master of Arts degree from the University of Portland, Oregon, USA. Prior to that he studied Theology for five years at Christ the King Major Seminary in Karachi, Pakistan, after obtaining his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, English Literature and Bengali Literature from Notre Dame College, Dhaka, Bangladesh. He holds a PhD from the Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Social Work and Social Administration of the University of Hong Kong. His PhD Thesis is titled "Leadership for Process-oriented Social Development: A Path Towards Building Community". On 5th December 2007, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Hong Kong.

Bart is married to Emily, a former school teacher, and they have two daughters, Sangita Francisca and Suchinta Patricia. On behalf of thousands of friends and colleagues from all over the YMCA Movement we sincerely thank Bart for his outstanding and dedicated service to the YMCA when he now retires from his office as Secretary General, December 31st, 2010.

God bless you, Bart, and your beloved Emily and give you rich years to come. You once wrote the deeply meaningful song "Time and Tide" for us to sing. Now the time has come to you for a well-deserved retirement. We are sure that both you and Emily will continue to share with us your wisdom, hospitality and love for the YMCA.

Geneva, December 2010

Kenneth B. Colloton
President
World Alliance of YMCAs

Martin Meissner
Past President
World Alliance of YMCAs

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik
Secretary General Elect
World Alliance of YMCAs



Sir George Williams: Pioneer of the YMCA Movement

George Williams was born in Somerset, England on 11 October 1821. In 1836 he moved to Bridgewater to work as an apprentice to Mr Holmes, a Draper (cloth maker). By 1841, Williams was working as a Draper's assistant at Hitchcock & Rogers in London. He stayed in the accommodation provided by the firm in the same building, and became one of the 150,000 young men that crowded the city of London. George Williams was a man of strong faith and spirituality; the "loneliness, temptation and irreligion of his surroundings led him to pour out his heart in prayer that he might find a fellow worker among the young men. In less than a month the house secured the services of J. Christopher Smith, a young man of twenty-four and a devoted Christian and student of the Bible."¹ He became Williams' roommate. Together they began Bible classes and a literary society "for mutual improvement".

On 6th June 1844, at a meeting in his room, George Williams and ten other Christian young men decided to establish the first Young Men's Christian As-

sociation (YMCA). "Our object is the improvement of the spiritual condition of the young men engaged in houses of business, by the formation of Bible classes, family and social prayer meetings, mutual improvement societies, or any other spiritual agency,"² he said.

A Committee was appointed to prepare the Association's first constitution and develop a governance policy based on democratic principles. The structure included an elected President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Committee members. Even today, most YMCA constitutions, including that of the World Alliance of YMCAs, follow the same basic principles and structure.

By 1847, George Williams had committed his heart and soul to the advancement of the YMCA. It began to open its doors to not only young men working in all trade and business houses in London, but also to other young men in general.

Many prayer groups that had existed in Europe took the YMCA name. As

YMCAs began to develop in other countries including France, Switzerland, Germany, USA, Australia, South Africa and India, the London YMCA, founded by George Williams and his friends, became an 'unofficial' centre, receiving correspondence from all these countries, and inviting delegates from these Associations to attend their annual meetings. It was only in 1855, when the World Alliance of YMCAs was formed, that an international secretariat for the YMCA Movement was established.

George Williams also assisted in the establishment of the World Alliance of YMCAs, and remained heavily involved with the YMCA Movement as it expanded worldwide. He was present at the YMCA World Conference in Amsterdam in 1891 where he was honoured as the *Father of Christian Associations*.

Williams was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1894, and after his death was commemorated with a stained-glass window in the nave of Westminster Abbey. Sir George Williams is buried in St. Paul's Cathedral.

1 - Doggett L.L, History of the Young Men's Christian Association, pp. 36-37

2 - Extract from the First Annual Report of 6th Nov 1845; Letters and Memoranda of the first and early Secretaries, Symons, Creese, Tarlton and Shipton (YMCA Archives, Birmingham University)

3 - Binfield C., George Williams, pg. 324



His extraordinary faith and belief in the power of prayer, his capacity for work and tireless energy of mind and body were the key to his success both as a founder of the YMCA and as a leading business man...there have been few people in the world who could surpass Williams in his compassion, commitment and overriding concern for young men.³



Tribute to Henry Dunant: Founding Member of the World Alliance of YMCAs

Written by YMCA Geneva
(Translated from French)



This year, the YMCA of Geneva and the World Alliance of YMCAs are commemorating the centenary of the death of Henry Dunant (1828-1910).

The man known first and foremost for his role as founder of the Red Cross, and winner of the first Nobel Peace Prize (alongside Frederic Passy), did in fact devote 20 years of life, strong faith and energy, to the development of the YMCA Movement in Geneva and across the world.

Henry Dunant, motivated by his deep religious convictions, dedicated himself to the creation of an international fraternity. For Dunant, philanthropy was not an empty word; first, in Geneva, alongside his mother, and then after the age of 20, as a member of the League of Alms, Dunant visited the sick and needy, trying to relieve their misery. He would also read the bible to prisoners. In his memoirs, he wrote, "I took care of the wounded in times of peace, long before I took care of those by wounded in war."

Establishment of the YMCA in Geneva (1852)

Dunant participated in several prayer meetings and Bible studies, inspired by the evangelical revival. The most famous of these was the "Thursday Meeting", frequented by many of the future founding members of the YMCA in Geneva. Dunant became determined to give these spiritual meetings more structure, to make them more efficient, and ensure that people's enthusiasm for the YMCA would be sustainable, not disappearing once the initial excitement had faded.

When the well-known French lay preacher, Adolphe Monod, paid a visit to Geneva in the autumn of 1852, Henry Dunant used the opportunity to convince his friends to establish the YMCA in Geneva. Elected as member of the board, Henry Dunant, with a greater zeal than anyone else, worked to secure financial and human resources for the Movement.

Towards the Creation of the World Alliance of YMCAs (1852 – 1855)

For just two years (1852-1854), Henry Dunant also held the position of Correspondence Secretary for the YMCA in Geneva, under the supervision of the board. It is in this position, that Henry Dunant played a leading role in the establishment of the World Alliance of YMCAs, tirelessly weaving the links that would make its creation necessary.

It is important to note that at the same time, between 1852 and 1859, Dunant was also responsible for Correspondence with the Evangelical Alliance. Since 1846, the members of this Alliance had been coming together at international conferences in different European cities. In fact the first International YMCA Conference, that took place in Paris in 1855, coincided not only with the Universal Exposition, but also with the one of the Evangelical Alliance's international conferences.

Dunant had spent several years corresponding with numerous small faith-based groups across Europe, similar to the YMCA in Geneva. He wanted to bring real substance to the prayer meetings in Geneva, and in April 1852 he wrote: "Our communications have been a topic of great interest to many who were slowly leaving us; our meetings are much more frequent, nourished and have more life now." He began creating connections and links with other groups so quickly, that it soon became necessary to publish the "famous" circulars, which in 1853, were already addressed to over 75 groups, and shared all the latest news from the Movement.

Soon after this, the YMCA in Paris proposed the establishment of a Francophone YMCA Movement to be centralized in Paris. The YMCA of Geneva was hesitant about this idea, and felt that having too many structures would damage the intimacy of spiritual sharing. Dunant, found the idea to be too restrictive: "I do not like your project," he wrote in February 1853, "as it seems to ignore our dearest and most precious friends from England and Scotland, as well as those in Holland, the United States and elsewhere." Dunant's point of view was heard, and his vision of a more inclusive international gathering became a reality in 1855, when delegates from YMCAs in nine countries came together in Paris, at the first International YMCA Conference.

Continued on page 11

John R. Mott

One of the Greatest YMCA Leaders and Fundraisers



John R. Mott was born in New York on 25 May 1865. In 1885 he became a student at Cornell University, where as President of the student YMCA, he increased membership threefold, and raised money for a University YMCA building. He graduated in 1888 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and history, and immediately began a service of 27 years as Secretary of the Intercollegiate YMCA of the USA and Canada. From 1915 to 1928 he served as General Secretary of the International YMCA Committee (that would later become the World Alliance of YMCAs) and as President of the World Alliance from 1926 to 1937.

Pioneer of the Student Christian Movement

As a student, Mott also participated in the first ever international interdenominational student Christian conference. After graduating, Mott organised the World's Student Christian Federation in 1895 and as its General Secretary went on to organise national student movements in India, China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, parts of Europe and the North East.

“A man of faith, he had been endowed by God with immeasurable resources of head and heart. His physical, mental and

spiritual gifts enabled him to head so many Christian organizations at the world level and he did justice to all of them. He presided over most of the sessions of the Edinburgh World Missionary Conference in 1910 and was the chairman of its Continuation Committee. Mott was considered the greatest awakener of souls in his generation and an ‘architect of World Christian co-operation and unity.’”¹

A Lasting Legacy: The John R. Mott House

After completing his term as President of the World Alliance of YMCAs in 1937, John R. Mott continued to be committed to, and active in the YMCA Movement. He was particularly concerned about finding a permanent location in Geneva to house the World Alliance. When the World Alliance office moved in 1942, for the fifth time, to a large six storey building overlooking lake Geneva at 37 Quai Wilson, Mott was convinced that this favourable location should remain the permanent headquarters of the World YMCA Movement.

In 1942, the World Alliance began by renting the first two floors of the Quai Wilson building, along with the basement. In 1953, recognizing the services rendered by the World Alliance for Prisoners of

War, the Canton of Geneva agreed to sell the property to the World Alliance at a significantly reduced rate. “The purchase of the building and its renovation was made possible because of the efforts of John R. Mott, the greatest fund raiser that the YMCA had ever produced. The James Stokes Society in the USA contributed a large sum, as did other individuals from the UK and USA, and the YMCA of Germany. Many National Movements also pledged gifts of cash, decoration and furniture for the rooms. It was quickly agreed that this newly acquired building would be called John R. Mott House in honour of Dr. John R. Mott's long years of successful leadership.”² The World Alliance has since moved its premises to a smaller house, but it still bears the name of John R. Mott House.

Winner of Distinguished Service Medal and Nobel Peace Prize

During World War I, when the YMCA offered its services to President Wilson, Mott became General Secretary of the National War Work Council, receiving the Distinguished Service Medal for his work. He also received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946 for his work in establishing and strengthening international Protestant Christian student organisations that worked to promote peace.

¹ David, M.D., World Alliance historian, 2010

² Report of the 1st World Council., 1955, pp.148-149; Shedd. op. cit., p.528

“

Mott was considered the greatest awakener of souls in his generation and an ‘architect of World Christian co-operation and unity.’

”

Dr. Charles Dunbar Sherman:

First World Alliance President from the Global South



Dr. Charles Dunbar Sherman joined the YMCA of Liberia as a volunteer, later becoming its President in 1951. Sherman led the Liberian delegation to the World Alliance Centenary celebrations in Paris in 1955, during which he was elected as President of the World Alliance of YMCAs for two successive 4-year terms. He was the first President of the World Alliance of YMCAs to come from a developing country. As President, Sherman made many significant contributions to the global YMCA Movement, including playing an instrumental role in advancing the YMCA's work to combat racism.

Leading the Fight Against Racism and Discrimination

It was Dr. Charles Dunbar Sherman who first brought the issue of racism to the World Council of YMCAs (the Movement's highest decision making body), leading to the adoption of two resolutions on this issue in 1961 and 1965. Sherman also chaired the World Alliance Committee tasked with developing a set of guidelines to help National Movements eliminate discrimination in their own Associations as well as in the communities they served.

Strengthening the Global Movement

“During his tenure as the President of the global YMCA, Charles continually echoed the need for determination and commitment to the course of the YMCA and justification of the existence of the global YMCA.”¹ Sherman believed strongly in the need for cooperation between National Movements, and that the World Alliance should help facilitate and promote this international cooperation; during his leadership 10 new National Movements became members of the World Alliance.

A Man of Faith

During his lifetime Sherman was also a highly acclaimed church leader. In 1947 he was elected to the Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church, and later to the Vestries of St. Augustine, Kakata and of St. John Irving Memorial in Robertspot. Sherman was also active on the international level, serving as Chairman of the Consultation on Economic Development for the World Council of Churches.

Outstanding Scholar and Economist

Sherman was born on 27 September 1919 in Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia.

He graduated from the College of West Africa in 1937, before joining a new foreign scholarship programme for talented students, offered by the Liberian government. Charles travelled to the USA, where in 1944 he received a Certificate of Economics, Magna Cum Laude, from Howard University, later earning a Bachelor degree in Economics and Masters in Public Finance. He went on to become the first trained Liberian economist.

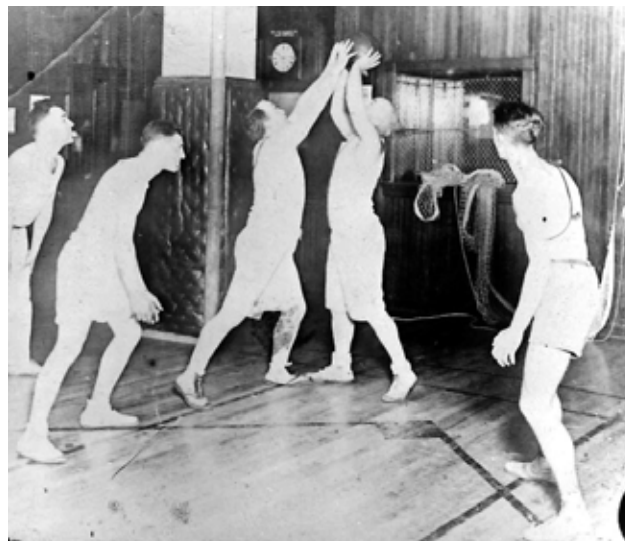
“Charles Sherman was indeed one of the most distinguished Presidents of the World Alliance after John R. Mott. He was an intellectual and a world figure who represented his government in many international meetings including at the United Nations. He was an outstanding economist, statesman, Church leader, YMCA leader, and the first trained Liberian economist... His outstanding ability as a leader both in secular and religious life brought him awards and honours from his own country as well as international bodies.”²

1 - Wanyama O., Our God is Marching On, 2000, pg 19

2 - David, M.D., World Alliance historian, 2010

James Naismith: Inventor of Basketball

(Extract from article in YMCA Canada Y Triangle, September, 1982, by Donald S. McCuaig)



James Naismith was born on 6 November, 1861, in Almonte, Ontario, a small town just a few kilometres from Canada's capital city, Ottawa.

In 1883 he left Almonte for McGill University where he earned a degree in theology. While studying at McGill Naismith was influenced by D.A. Budge, General Secretary of the YMCA of Montreal, to pursue a career in the YMCA and to study at the YMCA International Training School in Massachusetts (later to be named Springfield College).

Naismith attended the Training School as a student in 1890 and was asked to join the faculty in 1891 by Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick, the Director of the physical education department. During a psychology seminar Dr. Gulick challenged his class to invent a new game. Gulick was desperately looking for an indoor activity that would

be interesting, easy to learn, and easy to play indoors in the winter. Such an activity was needed both by the Training School and YMCAs across the country. Naismith believed that one way to meet that challenge was to take factors of known games and recombine them.

At the same time Dr. Gulick assigned Naismith one particular class that was completely uninterested in the routine exercises, marching and mass calisthenics that formed a part of their compulsory daily physical education session. Three instructors had gone down in defeat trying to rouse enthusiasm in this group of young men.

"When he had assigned me the class of incorrigibles," writes Naismith in his own version of the invention of the game basketball, "I had felt that I was being imposed on; but when he told me to do what all the directors of the country had failed to accomplish, I felt it was the last straw".

Naismith struggled with the class of young men with no success. He made attempts at modifying football and soccer. "I had pinned my hopes on these two games and when they failed me, there seemed little chance of success," writes Naismith.

The game that grew out of Naismith's discouraged but determined spirit on that day has since gone worldwide, attracting millions of players and spectators young and old. "As I sat there at my desk, I began to study games from the philosophical side. I had been taking one game at a time and had failed to find what I was looking for, this time I would take games as a whole and study them".

Naismith then methodically studied the elements of existing team games and factored out a number of specifics he would mould into a new game. "My first generalization was that all team games used a ball of some kind; therefore, any new game must have a ball." He settled on the existing Association (soccer) football after eliminating smaller balls because they were difficult to handle, could be hidden, and required equipment to use them, thereby making the learning of skills more difficult.

Tackling, a popular component of football, was a problem in Naismith's mind; he could see the carnage that would result indoors on wooden floors. "But why was tackling necessary," he reasoned, "It was because the men were allowed to run with the ball, and it was necessary to stop them. With these facts in mind, I sat erect at my desk and said aloud: 'If he can't run with the ball, we don't have to tackle, and if we don't have to tackle, the roughness will be eliminated.'" He then concluded that a game must have an objective, and there must be some kind of goals, but he eliminated the goal used in soccer, lacrosse and hockey and turned instead to a game he played as a child called "Duck on the Rock." "With this game in mind, I thought that if the goal was horizontal instead of vertical, the players would be compelled to throw the ball in an arc; and force, which made for roughness, would be of no value. A horizontal goal, then, was what I was looking for, and I pictured it in my mind. I would place a box at either end of the floor, and each time the ball entered the box it would count as a goal. There was one thing, however, that I had overlooked. If nine men formed a defence around the goal, it would be impos-

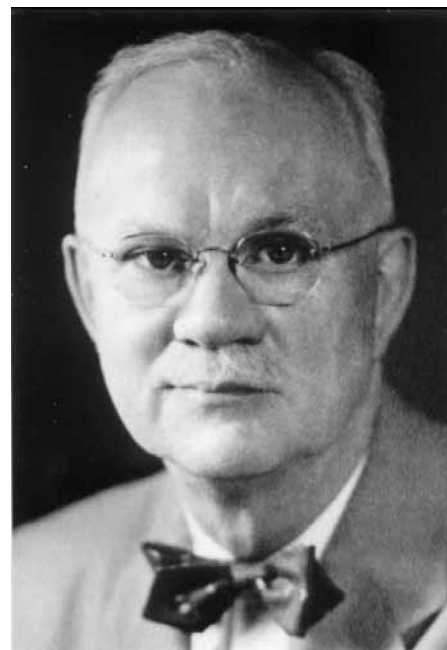
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Paul William Alexander

Founder of the “International Association of Y’s Men’s Clubs”

Written by H. Wayne Smith
International Historian for Y’s Men International



The first Y’s Men Club

In 1920, a luncheon club of men interested in the YMCA was formed in Toledo, Ohio, USA with the aim of supporting their local YMCA. Eventually, they began referring to themselves as Y’s Men and became a club known as the Y’s Men’s Club of YMCA Toledo.

Among the organisers of this new luncheon club was a young lawyer, Paul William Alexander. He saw the enthusiasm of this group of young men, and their genuine desire to be of great benefit to the YMCA. Alexander envisaged a club of volunteer members from the YMCA coming together as an organised service club, with the added benefits of business and social contacts.

Paul William Alexander studied the constitutions of other organisations, including Rotary, and adopted the best features of several to create a constitution and by-laws for what eventually became known as the Y’s Men’s Club of Toledo, Ohio.

What’s in a name?

How did they begin using the term Y’s Men to refer to their members and for their Club? Paul William Alexander was also involved in this decision. The name Y’s Men had been used by a writer for one of YMCA Toledo’s publications. Alexander asked the writer for permission to use it and thus the name Y’s Men’s Club began.

Paul William Alexander, an assistant prosecuting attorney, became the first International President when the International Association of Y’s Men’s Club was formally organised in 1922. At the 1926 International Convention, Alexander was designated as “President Emeritus”, and at the 1929 International Convention he was granted life membership on the Board of Directors with full voting privileges.

More about the man

Paul William Alexander, also known as Alex among his friends and Y’s Men, was born in Toledo, Ohio in 1888. He graduated from Dennison University and Harvard Law School. Following graduation, he had a law business for several years. He was married to Lorraine Marshall Eaton in 1918. They were the parents of one daughter, Constance, and grandparents of Marshall Ben Otwell.

In 1937 he became Judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, serving as an outstanding Judge until his retirement. Several honorary degrees were bestowed upon Judge Paul William Alexander, including a Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from George Williams College in 1962.

Besides his work and leadership as a Y’s Man, Judge and his other two national presidencies, he also served on the executive boards of 20 Toledo organisations and several state and national boards of directors. In addition to all of this recognition, in 1958 his portrait appeared on the front cover of the January/February

issue of “World Communique” (a World Alliance of YMCAs’ publication), which was devoted to the Y’s Men.

A longstanding legacy

He has left a great legacy to be remembered by Y’s Men International. He was the author of the official Y’s Men’s song “Once More We Stand” adapted by him to the tune of “Finlandia”. He composed the wording for the officer’s “Inaugural Charge.” With this Inaugural Charge, he installed most of the International Officers and Directors for many years. This same inaugural is used frequently to install local club officers. In addition to these, he was author of the “Y’s Men Induction Ceremony” for use in inducting new members into clubs.

Among his many areas of service in the early years of Y’s Men’s Clubs, Alex was responsible for developing a programme designed to help young men to become interested in serving the YMCA as Directors/Executives. This programme has become known as the Paul William Alexander Scholarship Fund.

In 1962, the International Board designated December 8 of each year for the celebration of Paul William Alexander’s birthday. It also became a time to promote the Scholarship Fund named in his honour.

He died on June 29, 1967. A memorial tribute was held at the National Board of the YMCA of the USA.

Tribute to Henry Dunant: Founding Member of the World Alliance of YMCAs - Continued from page 6

In early 1855, Dunant wrote to the Secretary of the YMCA in the USA, W. C. Langdon, who would later support him in the creation of the World Alliance of YMCAs. Dunant wrote: "For about six years, I have been dreaming about the YMCA, our fraternal correspondence, reports, and relationships that are now growing on all sides; four years ago I began ecumenical correspondence alone, and at first I was also carrying the weight alone."

In August 1855, Dunant was in Paris to attend the first International YMCA Conference.

He did not hold any official position but was highly praised at the end, by both the six founding members of the World Alliance, and the 99 delegates who participated in the Conference. At this Conference, the Paris Basis was adopted as the foundational mission statement of the World Alliance of YMCAs. The Conference also suggested the introduction of a system for correspondence based on the one developed by Dunant.

Despite his achievements, Henry Dunant was nevertheless a controversial figure and did incite some hostility among many

of those with whom he worked in the creation of the YMCA and World Alliance, and later the International Red Cross. Charges of bankruptcy and fraud brought disgrace to his name in 1867, leading him to be disbarred from the YMCA, and forced to resign from the International Committee of the Red Cross. Winning the Nobel Peace Prize went some way in restoring his name, and historians of both Movements have recognised the pivotal role he played in their foundation. A century after his death, his vision for a worldwide fraternity, and his ability to generate support for this vision, still evoke an enormous amount of respect.

James Naismith: Inventor of Basketball - Continued from page 9

sible for the ball to enter it; but if I placed the goal above the players' heads, this type of defence would be useless."

Naismith was ready to try the new game with the class and set down on a scratch pad the first set of 13 rules in less than an hour. A stenographer typed them up. He asked the building superintendent to fetch two boxes about eighteen inches square. "No, I haven't any boxes," replied the superintendent, "but I'll tell you what I do have. I have two old peach baskets down in the store room, if they will do you any good." A few minutes later, baskets tucked under his arm and a few nails and a hammer in hand, Naismith tacked the baskets to the lower rail of the balcony, one at either end of the gym, posted the rules on the gym bulletin board and lay in waiting for his class of "incorrigibles."

There were eighteen men in the class and Naismith promised them that if this game proved to be a failure he would not try any more experiments on them. They went over the rules, divided the group into two teams of nine players each and tossed up the first basketball in history. The date was 21 December, 1891.

The game was a success from the first toss-up onward and word spread that Naismith's class was having fun. Within a few days the class attracted a gallery. Teachers from a nearby girl's school watched the game and took it away with them to or-

ganise the first girls' basketball team. One of the students, Frank Mahan, suggested the game be given a name, and he and Naismith settled on "basketball".

In those earlier days of the game it was reported as "an uproarious game accompanied by much yelling and undignified cheering". In that respect it has changed little through the ages. "When the first game had ended", says Naismith, "I felt that I could now go to Kr. Gulick and tell him that I had accomplished the two



seemingly impossible tasks that he had assigned to me; namely, to interest the class in physical exercise and to invent a new game."

Naismith continued to control the development of the game and its rules for five years. He left Springfield for Denver to become the physical education Director for the YMCA in that city and to study for his medical doctorate.

Dr. Naismith and his wife attended the Olympic Games in 1936 when basketball became one of the Olympic events. He died in 1939 at age 78.

YMCA World Record Attempt in Basketball

Over 100 years later, YMCA members from around the world are being invited to take part in a YMCA World Record attempt in basketball.

Through their local YMCA, participants from around the globe have an opportunity to be involved in the record attempt on the morning of the Olympic Basketball Final at the London 2012 games.

The aim is to get at least 2 million people involved, from among 45 million current YMCA members.

National YMCAs from some 85 countries have already pledged their support for the World Record attempt. "Basketball

was invented by the YMCA and it's fitting that we will be using the sport to unite globally and showcase our work and impact," says David Thompson, Chief Operating Officer at Central YMCA. Central YMCA, based in London, is leading the campaign on behalf of the global YMCA Movement.

To find out more visit:

www.ymca.co.uk/worldrecord2012

YMCA: Timeline of

1844

George Williams establishes YMCA Movement in England.



1855

1st YMCA World Conference in Paris, France. "Paris Basis" mission statement is adopted.



1907

YMCA supports young migrants arriving in the USA.



1947

World Alliance of YMCAs awarded consultative status with UN ECOSOC.



Henry Dunant (Nobel Peace Prize winner and founder of the Red Cross) cofounds YMCA in Geneva, Switzerland.

1852



James Naismith invents Basketball at YMCA Springfield College, USA

1891



YMCA supports prisoners of war during World War II.

1939-1945

Historical Highlights

1955

100th Anniversary of the 1st YMCA World Conference in Paris.



1973

The “Kampala Principles” are adopted at the 6th World Council in Kampala, Uganda.

Kampala Principles

2005

150th Anniversary of the 1st YMCA World Conference is celebrated in Paris, France and Mumbai, India.



John R. Mott (long-serving YMCA volunteer and World Alliance staff) receives the Nobel Peace Prize.

1946

Dr. Charles D. Sherman becomes the 1st World Alliance President from the Global South.

1955



Challenge 21, the YMCA's contemporary mission statement, is adopted at the 14th World Council of YMCAs in Frechen, Germany.

1998

17th World Council of YMCAs in Hong Kong.

2010

Today: The YMCA IS...
A global ecumenical Movement working in 125 countries, with over 45 million members, empowering youth and transforming communities worldwide.



Interview with Dr. Bart Shaha: Secretary General of the World Alliance of YMCAs

How did you first come to hear about the YMCA?

It was early 1973. I was in our Chittagong home, and I had just returned to Bangladesh with 21 other Bangladeshi seminarians from Karachi, Pakistan, where for five years I had been studying Philosophy and Theology to become a Roman Catholic priest. I had already graduated from Notre Dame College in Dhaka and done a year's Novitiate in Sagardi, Barisal to enter the religious Congregation of the Holy Cross (C.S.C.).

Whilst back in Chittagong I saw the terrible dilapidated situation of the country following the liberation struggle of 1971, and the restlessness and want in the community. I was physically quite ill at that time and mentally felt very exhausted. I had come to Chittagong in 1971 and had witnessed the liberation struggle and so I had second thoughts about going back to Karachi, but my Religious Superior pointed out correctly that it was difficult really to know how long the struggle would last, so it was better to go and continue studies.

A few weeks after our return from Karachi, our Superiors arranged for all of us to complete our studies at the Pune Papal

Seminary in India. So, I went to Dhaka to join the other Seminarians to go to Pune. However, late at night on the day before our departure to India, after a lot of thought, I knocked on the door of Bishop Theotonius Ganguly, C.S.C. We were all staying at the Ramna Bishop's House. I had a long chat with the Bishop, who was very sympathetic and kind. He allowed me to go back to Chittagong saying that if I wanted to return to the Seminary again, I could do so any time. My parents were quite surprised that I returned back, but they were quick to understand that I needed care and family support. Within a couple of days two leaders of the newly formed Chittagong YMCA came to my home and asked me if I would be interested to come and see the YMCA. That's when I first heard about the YMCA.

From Chittagong YMCA to the World Alliance of YMCAs in Geneva... tell us about your journey?

Well, that's a long story... But it all seems like yesterday! Time goes so fast! After visiting the Chittagong YMCA which was then only a year old and located in rented premises of the Anglican Church (Christ Church) Hall, and meeting the leadership (from different denominations), I liked

the work they were doing with young people and particularly its ecumenical thrust. I used to go there frequently. I was also slowly recovering my health. Soon they advertised for the position of General Secretary and I too applied and attended an interview with the Search Committee together with several short-listed candidates. I was very fortunate to be appointed and began to work as the first General Secretary of the Chittagong YMCA from 16th October 1973. I went to visit the YMCAs in India and was greatly impressed with their work.

We had a very lively centre in Chittagong and I enjoyed my work which included running a variety of programmes, e.g. ecumenical prayer meetings, youth leadership, games and sports, cultural programmes of music and classical dance, choir, drama club, workshops and seminars on topics of the day, and social work projects, mainly in the impoverished slums.

This was the time when I wrote many scripts and songs for the Chittagong radio, especially during Christmas and Easter every year. I used to produce them with the YMCA choir. Many of these songs are now included in the Bengali Hymnal "Geetabali" together with other songs I

had composed during my Seminary days. In my YMCA work, I received full support and collaboration from Bishop Joachim Rozario C.S.C., Bishop of Chittagong, and all the other Priests, Sisters and Ministers from the different churches. There was also a lot of support from the community.

Mr. Lee Soo-Min, the then General Secretary of the Asia Alliance of YMCAs in Hong Kong, came to visit me in Chittagong during this time.

In September 1979, I took study leave from Chittagong YMCA to pursue a Master's degree at the University of Portland, Oregon, USA under a scholarship provided by the University through the Holy Cross Community in Bangladesh. My area of study was Social Communications, which also included subjects like Politics and Social Change in the Third World. I completed my studies in December 1980 and returned to Chittagong YMCA. In 1981, I was appointed by Lee Soo-Min as Executive for Leadership Development for the Asia Alliance in Hong Kong. It was during this time that I started the programme Asia YMCA Advanced Studies for senior YMCA staff from different countries in the region, which is still running.

It was a six-week annual training programme focusing on Social Development Studies, Contemporary Theology and Mission of the YMCA.

In 1988, I returned to Bangladesh as National General Secretary and was based

in Dhaka. There I began the Community Organizing programme for empowerment of impoverished communities through all the local YMCAs in the country. We worked with landless farmers and marginalized women forming groups for self-reliance.

In 1992, I took up the position of Executive Secretary for Global Programmes and Communications at the World Alliance in Geneva, when Mr. John Casey was Secretary General. I was also responsible for editing our magazine. It used to be called "World Communique". We changed the name to "YMCA World". I was also privileged to organise some global events, e.g. a Workshop on Participatory Development in Havana, Cuba (1994), and on Environment and Sustainable Development in Seoul, Korea (1995). As related Secretary for the Christian Mission and Ecumenical Relations, I was also involved in the Mission Review Process, which ultimately led to the formulation of Challenge 21.

In January 1996, I took up the position of General Secretary of the then Asia Alliance of YMCAs in Hong Kong.

During this time I was also deeply interested in following up on the Advanced Studies Programme, particularly in regard to the theory and practice of transformational leadership. The process led me to a more systematic study and research at the University of Hong Kong under a PhD Programme as a part-time student. This enabled me to analyse the last 50 years' Development theories and connect it to transformational leadership. This study

was very useful in reviewing the programmes of the Area Alliance and the Leadership Development Programme in particular.

Thereafter, at the 15th World Council in Mexico in July 2002, I was appointed Secretary General of the World Alliance. I took office in January 2003 and moved from Hong Kong to Geneva.

Which YMCA colleagues and leaders have inspired you most?

There are many and the list around the world would be really big. So, I will be naming here some of the Secretary Generals and Presidents of the World Alliance with whom I worked closely and was much inspired.

I think Lee Soo-Min was the most influential in my life in terms of YMCA vision and work. He had very profound and progressive ideas about YMCA social response. I learnt a lot from him, including about YMCA management and formulation of organizational strategies, particularly when I was working with him in Hong Kong. He also had a very deep and contemporary theological basis, which I appreciated much.

Then, of course, it was Héctor Caselli who was Secretary General of the World Alliance when I used to come here from time to time for meetings on Leadership Development Programmes (LDP) since 1982. There was John Casey with whom I had the privilege of working from 1992-1995 and during that time met Dr. Paul Limbert (Secretary General of the World



Dr. Bart Shaha visits Sri Lanka immediately after the 2005 Tsunami.



Rev. Cesar Molebatsi and Dr. Bart Shaha in audience with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.

Alliance from 1953 to 1962) at the World Council held in Warwick, England in 1994.

He was 97 then, but was extremely alert and articulate. His writings inspired me a lot. He also wrote me many letters until he passed away at the age of 101 in 1998. As an Area Secretary in Hong Kong, I saw how Nick Nightingale managed the World Alliance at a very difficult time. I had the privilege of meeting and discussing with Fredrik Franklin (Secretary General of the World Alliance from 1962 to 1977) who came to visit me in Chittagong.

Amongst the Presidents, I worked closely with Caesar Molebatsi and Martin Meißner during my two terms. They encouraged me and supported me a lot. I also related with David Kwan-sun Suh and Martin Vogler, two past Presidents, as well as Philip Kwok and Cecil Chan who were past Treasurers of the World Alliance. Alice Pedersen, Deputy President from 2002 – 2006 was also a great inspiration. All these individuals came forward to assist whenever needed. There were other leaders – Officers and Executive Committee Members who were always there to help.

Besides these, I have had a large number of friends who were colleagues and leaders at the National, Local and Area levels. My grateful thanks to all of them.

In your time as Secretary General of the World Alliance of YMCAs, what do you consider to be your greatest achievement? And challenge?

At the Mexico World Council in 2002 where I was appointed, our Movement was quite divided on some critical issues. So as I began work as Secretary General, a lot of my time went in bringing the family

of YMCAs together and engaging them on specific issues we wanted to pursue. So, keeping the unity in the Movement was of great priority.

I was privileged to help formulate the Global Operating Plan based on the Strategic Directions Document that was adopted at the World Council in Mexico. Based on that, our work plan emerged for the period 2003-2006, and we were able to have a more systematic approach to movement strengthening, focusing on the three pillars we had identified, i.e. mission clarity, socially relevant programmes (transformational), and institutional viability. This was further sharpened in the Strategic Plan we adopted for the period 2006-2010 with three main components: capacity building, advocacy on youth issues and resource mobilization.

It was very challenging work to include Advocacy on Youth Issues as a core component, as we have a great diversity in the understanding and practical application of advocacy across the YMCA. There was a lot of resistance from some quarters of the Movement. However, through a lot of efforts we were able to move ahead involving all the regions and many national YMCAs.

Under the work plan, focusing on Challenge 21, we were also able to bring up our profile as an ecumenical movement, partnering with the World Council of Churches, the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity of the Vatican, the United Nations and the Alliance of Youth CEOs. Today, I am happy to see the results of all this work in the emerging new Strategic Plan following the discussions at the 17th World Council on those very components which I had the chance to initiate and pursue in the last few years.

Any words of advice for the incoming leadership?

The Ecumenical character of the YMCA is a great treasure. We were pioneers in the field, beginning with George Williams, Henry Dunant and many others who followed throughout our long and outstanding history. The Movement is challenged to continue to give progressive leadership in the midst of contemporary global challenges, clearly pursuing justice and peace in an increasingly complex and difficult world. With our programmes and networks in 125 countries involving so many millions of people, and having a great track-record of our work in local communities for over 160 years, we are in a very advantageous position to respond to our calling. I pray that God will continue to inspire the new leadership to be true instruments in responding to the contemporary mission of the YMCA.

What will you miss the most as you end your term at the World Alliance?

I will miss my colleagues and key volunteer leaders here at the World Alliance and the National Movements, Areas and Partners around the world. I enjoyed being connected with them to pursue our tasks. Their feedback and constant support gave me immense joy and enthusiasm to engage in newer and wider roles. It was a great privilege to be able to serve in this position as Secretary General.

What will you do next?

I wish to focus more on the issue of Spirituality. I would also like to give time to writing and composing new songs and hymns, particularly for Worship and Liturgy.



Dr. Bart Shaha receives Honorary Life Membership Award from Mr. Martin Meissner at the 17th World Council of YMCAs in Hong Kong.

Celebrating the 65th Anniversary of YMCA Taipei : In God We All Trust

Written by David H. Lee
YMCA Taipei
Taiwan



Following World War II, a group of twenty-two individuals noticed the need to establish a YMCA in Taiwan, and began recruiting volunteers, particularly from members of the church. 250 people attended the opening of YMCA Taipei in the Da-Dou Chen Presbyterian Church on 10th October, 1945. In 1948, YMCA Taipei held its first general assembly and a mission statement was adopted, "Uniting the youth of the world. Promoting Christ's spirit. Developing healthy characters. Building an ideal society."

This year, around 500 lay leaders, staff, teachers, students, members and 19 overseas guests from seven YMCAs commem-

orated the 65th anniversary of YMCA Taipei on the 23rd of October. In addition to having an Anniversary Thanksgiving Service and various celebratory activities, we also used this occasion to promote one of the YMCA's elderly care programmes.

Despite the political, economic and social challenges across Taiwan over the past years, we are grateful for God's guiding hand that has kept our YMCA going, and we are delighted to move into the New Year in peace.

About YMCA Taipei

The YMCA in Taipei has seven local branches, two campsites and three sports

centres which were commissioned by the Taipei City government. Through a variety of programmes and services it focuses on childcare, youth development, social and community services, health and fitness promotion, international humanitarian cooperation, and hotel accommodation.

From the north to the south of Taipei City, YMCA Taipei serves more than 6,000 members each year. We believe that a strong YMCA should be judged on much more than its finances, it should be able to support individuals in the community, and help them to grow. This is not an easy task, it requires time and hard work, but with God's guidance we can do it.

YMCA Sri Lanka Annual Youth Conference

Written by Hasika Dunusinghe
Executive Assistant
YMCA Sri Lanka



From 5th to 7th November 2010, 50 youth leaders from 22 local YMCAs came to Point Pedro in the Northern Province for YMCA Sri Lanka's Annual Youth Conference. YMCA Sri Lanka's Youth Committee felt that holding the meeting in Point Pedro would be a strong symbol of peace, because this area was ravaged by conflict and unrest during the 30 year war in Sri Lanka that recently came to an end.

The Annual Youth Conference is one of the most important programmes organised by YMCA Sri Lanka's Youth Department. The aim of the Conference was to train and equip YMCA youth volunteers with leadership skills, and also to identify

their existing skills, and how these can be used transform them into active youth volunteer leaders in their communities.

During the conference, youth from the North and South of the country, who had once been separated by armed conflict, had the chance to meet and share their past experiences. This helped to build understanding and trust between both communities. Both groups shared their ideas on youth development and explained how their YMCAs are implementing programmes for youth in their communities. Young people also had the opportunity to discuss the roles and responsibilities of youth volunteer leaders at the local and national level.

Conference participants were also given the opportunity to take part in exposure visits through which they met the local coastal community that was severely affected by the 2004 Tsunamis and later by the armed conflict.

On the final evening of the Conference, there was a cultural night, during which participants could share their local culture, and their own talents through singing, dance and theatre.

For more information about YMCA Sri Lanka's activities please visit:

www.srilanka-ymca.org/



Evaluating the YMCA Global Operating Plan: for Movement Strengthening

By Simon Pluess
Executive Secretary
World Alliance of YMCAs

At this year's World Council of YMCAs in Hong Kong, the global YMCA Movement celebrated eight years of intensive Movement Strengthening work under the Global Operating Plan (GOP), and reviewed its achievements and challenges.

Discussions in Hong Kong were based on the GOP Evaluation undertaken by the World Alliance earlier this year, with support from Michael Wardlow, a seasoned YMCA volunteer and professional consultant from Scotland.

New Ways of Working

The report of the GOP Evaluation highlights that the adoption of the GOP in 2002 in Mexico has led to a major paradigm change in the YMCA, with new ways of working together as a global Movement. It has led us to rethink how we do international cooperation in the YMCA. We have learnt that we are more effective and efficient when we work through a coordinated multilateral framework and ensure good communication between all actors including YMCA International Partners, National Movements and Area Alliances.

New Vision and Energy

According to the report, the GOP has also brought new impetus, vision and vibrancy to most of the 24 YMCA Movements that have received assistance through the GOP. All the Movements that contributed to the Evaluation indicated that their mission and organisational objectives had been sharpened; most had developed new vision statements and strategic plans. This positive change was felt on both sides (both in the YMCAs receiving GOP assistance, and the YMCAs providing support); by sending staff on GOP field visits or providing donations to support a Country Focus Group, national and local YMCAs often benefited from new energy and inspiration for their own work, as well as a deep sense of global solidarity.

New Programmes and Partnerships

Many of the YMCAs involved in Movement Strengthening work have built new partnerships with local and national government authorities and other NGOs working on similar issues. This has often led to new funding sources, opportunities for capacity building, or joint advocacy campaigns. The GOP Evaluation report also highlights that there has been a large increase in new programme initiatives. Many new flagship programmes are emerging, including global citizenship education, and work with migrant communities. Most of these programmes go beyond the provision of services, and instead focus on empowering participants to become responsible citizens with their own voices.

The Keys to Success

For the GOP process to be successful, all actors (including the leaders of YMCAs receiving assistance and International Partners) have learnt that they must align to a shared vision and direction, and be open to mutual learning and intercultural understanding.

Quite often, the GOP process has had more impact at national level than local level. However, when National Movements have worked intentionally to “drive” learning down to the local level, there have been good results.

The GOP Evaluation report also highlighted that a key success factor is passionate, professional and focused leadership. When YMCA leaders were able to “catch the vision”, the Movement Strengthening process took off and delivered significant impact. YMCA Sierra Leone is a good example of this; the serving National General Secretary stood aside to allow a new colleague to lead the GOP process and set up a more visionary board – the results have been excellent.

Movement Strengthening efforts have also been more successful in situations where young people assume leadership roles at different levels. Empowering young people to be YMCA leaders is not just about fulfilling our core mission but is also a crucial factor for sustainability.

The Challenges

Despite the success of the GOP process that began in 2002, significant challenges remain. Some YMCAs still lack strong Project Management skills; few are using solid monitoring and evaluation techniques to measure the impact and effectiveness of programmes. This makes many YMCAs vulnerable, as it is more difficult for them to show potential donors the quality and impact of their good work.

Whilst most GOP countries have been able to raise additional resources, either through YMCA International Partners and their back donors, through new programmes, or by developing their land and property to generate income, others have been less successful. The GOP Evaluation report highlights that the YMCA Movement still needs to build a culture of fundraising. The global initiative launched in 2008 to build YMCAs’ capacities to fundraise is therefore very timely.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The Evaluation report provided concrete recommendations for GOP work in the future:

- The YMCA Movement still needs to invest more in capturing and sharing existing knowledge and expertise. We can take inspiration from the Latin American and Caribbean Alliance of YMCAs who

have become pioneers in the use of web-based technology; regular collaboration and exchange takes place between YMCA Movements and practitioners via internet platforms and online communities. The World Alliance of YMCAs’ Global Online Community (<http://elgg.ymca.int/>) and its Tools and Good Practice Library (<http://www.ymca.int/resources/extranet0/>) are also very positive initiatives in this field.

- The YMCA needs to invest more into the solid measurement of programme impact to become a serious interlocutor for the donor community.
- Priority needs to be given to leadership training at staff and volunteer level with special focus on young leaders.

Whilst some YMCAs have exceeded their Movement Strengthening targets, and gone beyond expectations, others need more time for lasting change to take place. The lessons learnt over the last eight years will be used to further enhance GOP strategies in the future. For more information on the GOP and to read about GOP success stories, please visit our website: <http://www.ymca.int/what-we-do/building-vibrant-ymcas/what-is-the-gop-global-operating-plan/>





YMCA-YWCA Week of Prayer and Fellowship 2010

This year's Week of Prayer and Fellowship was celebrated from the 14th – 20th November 2010 under the theme of "Women Creating a Safe World". This is also the theme of the World YWCA Council which will be held in July, 2011 in Zurich, Switzerland.

On Monday 15th November, staff, members, friends and well-wishers of the

World YWCA and World Alliance of YMCAs gathered at the Ecumenical Centre of the World Council of Churches in Geneva to worship together and celebrate the beginning of the Week of Prayer. Following the theme, the prayers for the service were dedicated to women, mothers, nurses, models, daughters, sex-workers, literate women, abused women, women of all classes and creed.

The prayers were also dedicated to their daily struggles to create and preserve spaces of equality within their societies and homes. To download a copy of the Week of Prayer booklet which includes reflections and prayers for each of the six days, and to view more photos from the service, please visit our website:

www.ymca.int

New Resources Now Available Online!

An International YMCA Coordination Protocol for Emergencies and Emergency Response Templates

There is a long-standing international YMCA tradition of showing solidarity and raising emergency funds in order to support YMCAs in need. Our organisation is extremely well-placed to quickly respond to the urgent needs of its members and the communities it serves. At the same time, emergency response efforts have not always shown the desired results, often due to weak analysis and implementation capacities, and resulting in the duplication of efforts.

The World Alliance of YMCAs is therefore proud to present the first International Coordination Protocol and Emer-

gency Response Templates for the YMCA Movement. These documents have been produced by the World Alliance of YMCAs in collaboration with Y Care International, and in consultation with the YMCA Regional Alliances and International Desks of National Movements.

The Coordination Protocol was officially endorsed by the World Alliance Executive Committee in 2009 and outlines all the necessary steps to be undertaken during an emergency, as well as the different roles and responsibilities relating to international coordination efforts.

The Emergency Appeal and Reporting Templates provide the necessary guidance to National Movements on the information and analysis needed to prepare an international emergency appeal and to report back to donors.

We encourage the entire Movement to use these tools and guidelines as necessary, so that in the future the YMCA's emergency response work can become even more rapid and even more effective for those whom the YMCA seeks to serve.

The Protocol and Templates will be made available on the World Alliance website under "Resources": www.ymca.int

YMCA Project Management Tools

The World Alliance is delighted to announce the launch of Volumes One and Two of the YMCA's new Project Cycle Management tools.

The donor community has become more and more demanding vis-à-vis a growing NGO community, which competes for available resources. YMCAs are challenged to prove to their beneficiaries, the wider public and the donor community,

that their projects are relevant, efficiently managed and that they provide the desired social impact.

Please note that whilst Volume One provides the necessary theoretical frameworks, Volume Two is the result of a unique effort to harmonize and compile the most commonly used Project Management Templates within the YMCA Movement. Therefore, the two Volumes

are closely linked and constantly cross-referenced.

We hope that this tool will help YMCAs to elevate the quality of their projects and programmes to a higher level, thus allowing for increased funding, visibility and impact.

Volumes One and Two will be made available on the World Alliance website under "Resources": www.ymca.int

IT Corner: From the Typewriter to a true Document Management and Collaboration System

Written by Claude-Alain Danthe
World Alliance of YMCAs

From the Mechanical Typewriter to the Personal Computer (PC)

In the early 1980s it was very common in the non-profit sector to write letters using a mechanical typewriter. When you made a mistake, you had to use the “magic tippex” to correct it, or were “forced” to re-type your entire document.

A few years later in the early 90s, many organisations took a big leap to enter into the PC era. What a relief! You could make mistakes and correct them immediately, and you could create, modify, store and print documents in electronic format.

From the PC to Networks

Next came the network era, where computers were linked together through a fileserver: from two to one hundred people (depending on how sophisticated your server was) could access shared documents on a server through the same virtual space. For the last 15 years, this is how the World Alliance of YMCAs has stored and shared its electronic documents.

After spending many years using this system, and many years creating policies on how and where to store our documents and on how to label them, the limitations of this system are still visible: it’s hard to search for and find a particular document in the jungle of folders in our network system; it’s hard to know which is the latest version of a document; it isn’t possible to store the same document in different places; we cannot index our documents or include short descriptions. In the World Alliance network system we have 31,448 files and 2019 folders!

One of the problems with a standard network file system is that the filename we give to a document becomes its “identifier”. So when searching for a particular document, we have to remember its filename, otherwise it is very difficult to locate. Another problem, is that a document is physically stored in just once place – e.g. K:\Documentation\History\Paris_Basis. But what if this same document also has information about the Kampala Principles and Challenge 21?

the same way as a database; there are several different routes you can take to find one document. It’s like a library catalogue where you can access a book through its title, year of publication, author, theme, or keyword for example.

So today the question for any organisation with a significant amount of data is not do I need a document management system, but which one should I select?

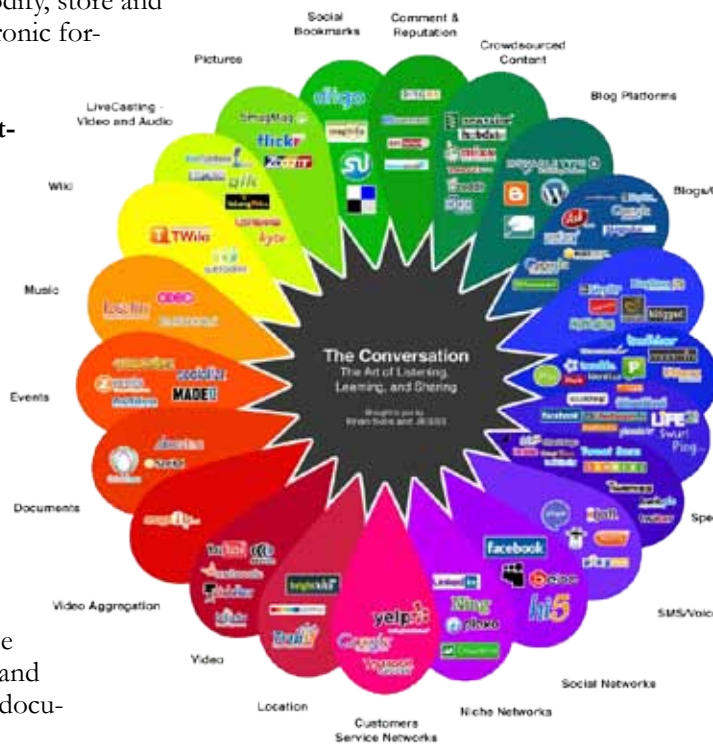
...And to an Era of Collaboration

Over the last few weeks we have been testing a free open source solution called: Alfresco. The founder of Alfresco (2005), John Newton is the co-founder of a very famous and expensive solution for document management called “Documentum”.

You can however test a free community version of Alfresco on your computer:
www.alfresco.com/try/

While testing this product, we have realised that Alfresco is much more than a document management system; it can drastically change your working style by creating a much more collaborative environment in which you can: blog, have a wiki, have your own profile with all your contact information, create a private collaborative space for a certain group of people to work together on a special project or document, and of course classify (tag) and manage all your files.

The Alfresco solution has a lot of possibilities, but as with most IT (information technology) projects, the greatest challenge lies less with the tool, and more in changing the working habits of your colleagues, and having a clear idea of your end goal and objectives.



The other major problem with a network file system is that there is no automatic versioning of the document you are producing, so when you collaborate, this can soon become a nightmare if you do not set up a very strict policy among the different collaborators.

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Secretary General
Bart Shaha, PhD
World Alliance of YMCAs

Wishing you the Best

Time goes so fast! At the end of December this year (2010), I will be completing two terms (eight years) in this position as Secretary General of the World Alliance of YMCAs and then move on to the next phase in my life.

When I joined the YMCA in 1973 as the first General Secretary of the Chittagong YMCA in Bangladesh, I never imagined what God had planned for me. Since then, I have had the privilege of working in several places, with different responsibilities within the movement. My assignment took me from Chittagong to Hong Kong at the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs as an Executive for Leadership Development, after that I was back to Dhaka, Bangladesh as National General Secretary, then moved to the World Alliance in Geneva as Executive Secretary for Global Programmes, then to the Asia and Pacific Alliance as its General Secretary, and finally to Geneva again, in my present position. Each assignment brought me face-to-face with new situations, different realities, new learnings and varied challenges. There were exciting times, joyful moments, difficult issues, but overall, I very much enjoyed my work and I am happy that I came to the YMCA just when I felt I was ready to immerse in social response after years of academic studies.

The journey has been long and demanding, but never dull or boring. And, for this, I am most thankful to the host of friends – leaders and colleagues of the YMCA at the national

councils, local YMCAs, regional alliances, World Alliance and to other friends around the world. I am thankful to each and every one of you with whom I related, for bearing with me and for helping me to search for the direction and thrust of the YMCA.

I have had the opportunity of working in grass-roots communities with people in dire need; with landless farmers, marginal peasants, and dwellers in slums and shanty towns. I also had the opportunity of meeting and sharing with world leaders, politicians, economists, doctors, scientists, United Nations and NGO leaders - policy-makers who influence the destiny of large masses of people, and those who have the resources – knowledge, funds and technology, to make a change.

I have also had the privilege of being with and discussing youth agendas with many spiritual leaders, not only from Christianity but also from other faiths like Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Shintoism, etc. And every time I have been inspired to move forwards. One of the precious moments of my life was the time spent in prayer, at a special altar just in front of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, together with many other religious and world leaders at the Funeral Mass of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II. I recalled the discussions I had with him during several audiences.

My journey has also taken me to youth groups in different continents to find together with them new meaning to life amidst the depressing conditions. Every time I was moved by

their creativity in addressing issues and their honesty.

My journey took me to the victims of human-made and natural disasters – earthquakes, cyclones, floods, tsunamis, and many a times amidst riots, wars and conflicts where the YMCA worked to bring people together for peace and harmony.

Sometimes I was able to speak out, sometimes I was able to do something right away; but many a times I had to come away silent, not knowing what to do. I found solace by sharing with sympathetic hearts, gathering their support, engaging in new actions, and hoping for the day when change will really come.

I have found the YMCA to be a unique Movement, open to new ideas, not afraid to engage in new approaches in trying to fulfil its mission, which in my understanding is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, working for a world where there is peace, knowing full well that lasting peace comes only where there is justice.

So, dear friends, as I complete my term of office, may I wish you well. I wish you courage and strength as you continue your journey, and I hope one day our paths will cross again. May God be with you and give you and your family abundant blessings!

I wish the new Executive Committee under the leadership of Mr. Ken Colloton, President, and my successor Rev. Johan Vilhelm Eltvik all the best as they guide the work of the World Alliance of YMCAs to newer heights.

Bart Shaha
Secretary General

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