



**Y's RETIRED OF THE UK**  
Affiliated to the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees



**MARCH 2014**

[www.yretired.co.uk](http://www.yretired.co.uk)

**GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT**



**Dear colleagues and friends - greetings**

The Newsletter this month takes the form of the Annual Report for 2013 with an introduction and devotions for want of a better description!

**Introduction**

It may be recalled the January 2014 issue of the Newsletter included the request for prayers for individuals including my name! Many thanks for those of you who obliged and called me personally with concern prior to our Editor reassuring all that I was not ill but as some of you are aware I am the registered full-time Carer for my wife Eve hence the prayers!

Annual Report for 2013

**Devotions**

The mention above of PRAYER does awaken us to the value of 'prayerful support' in the context of circumstances calling for such a response. Whatever may be our personal attitude to 'praying' I am aware, so evident during my career in the YMCA (a Christian organisation), meeting with sincere colleagues holding varying viewpoints and each deserving the greatest respect.

I share that one of the best definitions, I recall from my callow youth, on prayer was quote: "Prayer is the turning of our wills to the will of God that he/she may do with us that which is for our highest good!" As such and put into context it is not so much an assumption but an assurance of a relationship with God.

Irrespective of personal 'belief' or 'faith in God' it is well documented there are those of us who in difficult circumstances call upon God in prayer – the saying, "Man's extremity is God's opportunity" is often quoted despite those of us who do not have an understanding of Christian theology - for Prayer is related to people of all Faiths and of none from the Tibetan prayer wheel to Eucharist in Westminster Abbey or the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem! The prayer of Jesus for his disciples before entering Gethsemane that they 'All may be one' continues "...that the world may believe..."! Amen - means 'so be it'!

**The Appeal**

A highlight of the year under review has been the result of the appeal made on behalf of colleagues from Africa, Latin America and South Asia not able to raise sufficient funds to attend the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees Conference in Estes Park, The YMCA of the Rockies, Colorado USA.

For some it will be a lifetime experience fully justified when considering their service to the YMCA many without adequate pensions from State or YMCA service.

I am delighted to announce that the total raised was £2385 which includes £1300 raised by our Scottish colleagues under the good auspice of John Knox. Converted to US\$ we will have donated a little over 10% of the target of US\$40,000.

Renewed thanks to all who contributed to this fine total, it will be wisely administered for the purpose given.

Jim Lamb  
President - Y's Retired of UK

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## Member's correspondence

### YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS PLEASE

Dear Colleagues - prayers are requested for dear friends and colleagues whose names I bring to your attention - those that are suffering with specific illnesses and ailments. Please also remember in your prayers, their families and carers - **Rodney Stone - Eddy Brady - Colin Mawby - Bob and Barbara Brunswick.**

Dear colleagues,  
An advanced notice/invite for both regular and new colleagues! We have arranged our Annual Lunch for **Friday 23rd May 2014 at the Girton Golf Club, Girton, Cambridge.** All members and their spouses are invited for what has proved in recent years to be a very happy socialising occasion. **NO SPEECHES** just a pleasant get together for lunch in an excellent venue in a private room and costing only £15.00 per head. Those more distant from the venue will find it most worthwhile not least a pleasant day out in Cambridge.

I appreciate the date is well ahead and personal arrangements are not easily confirmed BUT it would be most helpful even at this early stage to have acceptances and numbers. I have already five confirmations and apologies are needed - it helps in my administering the event!! I even accept responses by return email!

Warm regards,  
Jim Lamb



Dear friends Pearl and Des Willcox enjoying a break from the incessant wet weather in Lanzarote along with a number of members who enjoy their winter break in the Canary Islands.



### Our Biggest Project

*Vancouver, Canada in April:* I am at the NAYDO conference when a minister from the Canadian government meets with us. And I am there with Canadian change agents.

*Tokyo, Japan in June:* Meeting with YMCA leaders from all over Japan. When I give a speech on youth empowerment, my translator is a young Japanese change agent.

*Melbourne, Australia in November:* Together with 80 CEOs from Big City YMCAs at the World Urban Network conference. On stage, under the bright lights, an Australian change agent is speaking to us about youth empowerment and social media.

*Prague, Czech Republic in August:* 5000 young YMCA people are singing together because they Love2Live at the YMCA Europe Festival. 200 Change Agents from 68 countries are there in the crowd. They are there for a week of training to bring change and inspiration to this movement we love.

This is the highlight of my year. I get to spend a week together with them. To listen and watch them work, discuss, and enjoy life together. Their work and energy is a perfect example of the strength of the YMCA movement.

*Geneva, Switzerland in December:* In the midst of the winter cold, I cannot stop reading their essays. These are honest young leaders. Willing to analyze themselves for areas of growth and development. They are service-minded leaders who deeply love the YMCA they serve. As I am reading I can see their faces and I know them. This is the biggest project I have ever been involved in. It is about unifying a world movement. It is about change.

At every stop of the world I travel, there are YMCA Change Agents ready for the task. As this first group of change agents integrates into all levels of the YMCA, recruitment will soon begin for a second group to join them. Can you imagine that? We are everywhere and we are there for good. To stay.

*Estes Park, Colorado USA on the 29th of June, 2014:* 1200 YMCA participants from every corner of the world will join together. 220 Change Agents will be there to lift up the World Council and let it shine. Empowering young people, after all, is about living God's vision of a just community—one where young people are given the space to stand up and raise their voice; where they have hope for good employment, a healthy life, a society that they can influence, and a green earth they can enjoy for future generations.

We do not victimize young people because we see them as strong and resourceful. We do not want to live or decide their lives for them. We want to empower them to live full lives, where they can stand up for themselves and help others around them, who are less privileged, do the same. These wonderful change agents need to be fully integrated in our movement locally and nationally. We want them to stay with us forever. They are our new leadership!

I am proud of our young people, as I am of our change agents and our mentors. Ken Colloton and the Executive Committee are leading this work with great vision and strong courage. I thank God for them.

On January 8th we will send out the "Playbook for 2014"—our collective YMCA work plan—which is an invitation to join us fully in this biggest of all projects.

God bless you all and have an exciting New Year!

**Johan**  
*Secretary General of the World YMCA*

## GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Dear David

Please pass on my condolences as I first knew Roy when I was a student and worked during the summer at the YMCA holiday centre at Skegness. As others have said, I found him to be a kind, thoughtful man who had a great insight.

Regards - Paul (Smillie)

Greetings!

I write to share that I am winding down the Appeal having passed the deadline of 1st December but continued due to the January Newsletter being circulated in December. It included a final appeal by way of the President's Letter which I now feel has been exhausted.

Please confirm the amount raised by Scottish colleagues which will be added with due recognition to the present so far raised of £1,085. Your previous communication referred to £1,000. If so this is a fine total toward a most deserving cause. I have knowledge of a possible further donation but not yet received. The final total will be revealed in the next Newsletter by way of report.

Jim (Lamb)  
January 2014

**ST IVES CORNWALL 2014**  
Very last call - relax in St Ives

Dates:- 28 April - 2 May 2014

Prices (including Wednesday day trip)  
£200.00 - with ensuite  
£170.00 - non en-suite (all rooms  
include washbasin)

All rooms now have a TV.  
(cheques made out to Margaret Libby  
- please)

When booking please indicate the sort  
of room you would prefer. Treloyhan  
have kept the price virtually the same  
as last year but have reserved the  
superior rooms for their own use.

God bless - Margaret  
Please Note :- our change of e-mail  
address which is now  
dandml@hotmail.co.uk

## ON THE OCCASION OF THE PASSING OF MADIBA

Greetings YMCA family and friends -

Last night we got the news we were all not willing to hear: the father of the South African rainbow nation, the father of the dream of the African Renaissance, is no more. What a great man you were and will continue to be Mandela.

What a great legacy you left behind. What an inspiration for our generation and the coming generations. You have planted millions of seeds in our hearts and our lives... seeds of resistance, seeds of resilience, seeds of forgiveness, seeds of visionary leadership and seeds of love.

Mandela, your seeds germinating all over the continent. Millions of young people across our land look to you as their role model, inspired by your actions and life-long fight against oppression, regardless of its form and expression.

But we know one thing, all of us, combined with the legacy you sowed in our hearts, will not equal you. You are unique Mandela, you are the gift from God for Africa and for humanity. Farewell Mandela. We can only let you go physically but you will always remain our hero. We will live your legacy.

Carlos Sanvee AAYMCA General Secretary

## BRITISH BOYS FOR BRITISH FARMS

My name is Stephen Milner a retired member of YMCA staff and I am following up the YMCA British Boys for British Farms Training Scheme (known as YMCA BBBF) which ran from 1932 to 1968.

The YMCA BBBF Farm Training Scheme was basically a forerunner to Farm Institutes and Agricultural Colleges.

Both the book: "British Boys for British Farms: The Story of the YMCA Farm Training Scheme" by Barbara Vessey, published by the YMCA in 1995, and the YMCA BBBF Farm Training scheme have very historical places in British agriculture.

There were 14 centres across England. I am currently in contact with over 40 former BBBF boys, 12 staff and 2 lecturers. More than 20000 boys aged between 14 and 16 went through this YMCA farm training scheme. Some of the boys went on to work in Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The 1st National YMCA BBBF Reunion is being held in May 2014.

I would like to hear from anyone who in any way was connected to this farm training scheme together with any recollections and photos for the YMCA Archives.

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Stephen Milner  
January 2014