



**Dear friends
and colleagues.
Greetings**

First may I share my thanks with one and all who have sent me their good wishes and offered prayerful support during the time I have experienced intensive surgery and now undergo convalescence with the support of my family and friends.

I am well on the way to recovery learning how to be a patient - patient!

Whilst I would not wish to dwell emotionally on the experience it has dramatically affected my views on the work of the National Health Service (NHS) and can find nothing but praise for the surgeons, doctors, nurses and not least the ancillary staff.

Their dedication with amazing devotion to their respective duties for their fellow men and women is legend but needs to be experienced to be believed.

Even my two years National Service in the Royal Army Medical Corp did not prepare me though I signed the Hippocratic Oath in good faith!

But for the above 'experience' I would not have known so acutely that many colleagues in the Y's Retired of the UK too have suffered and still do from the health conditions similar to my own brought on partly from ageing affecting BODY, MIND & SPIRIT.

It is these three 'constants' of life which are embodied by our forefathers in the basic tenets of the founding of the YMCA.

The red triangle balanced on one of the three pinnacles with the three tenets clearly displayed of body, mind and spirit assist in reminding us that life is transient and that recognising our 'present' becomes the future all too quickly!

It is coincidental as I pen these words to receive electronically the Annual Report for 2017 from David Smith prepared with the support of Vic Hills boldly displaying in the top left corner the Red Triangle!

The Committee is conscious that the 'Report' for the year under review is too long and hasten to share that we will take action next year to reduce and even change the format!

Should any member wish to share any comments on the report please make contact with David/Vic.

As David mentions in his 'Report' we do wish to have your input to widen this excellent means of communication with colleagues and friends - by email please.

The Spring is Sprung and summer quickly approaches. May you have a pleasant 'break' and be refreshed for what the future holds for 'life' is really worth living!!

Jim,
President

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Hero medic who refused to leave wounded soldiers at Battle of Arnhem dies aged 96

With thanks to - Daily Express article – April 5th 2018

A HERO medic who was captured at the disastrous Battle of Arnhem because he refused to leave wounded soldiers he was treating, has died aged 96. Staff Sergeant Peter Clarke OBE set up an ad-hoc aid post on the outskirts of the Dutch town during the doomed operation that saw 9,000 British paratroopers cut off by German forces.



After holding out for eight days and taking hundreds of casualties, the remaining British troops evacuated across the Rhine river before the Germans overran their positions. Selfless Sgt Clarke passed up the chance to escape with them and instead remained at the aid station to carry on giving treatment and comfort to wounded and dying comrades.

In doing so he knew full well he would be taken prisoner. The moment the Germans captured the hundreds of stricken and bloodied men was depicted in an emotionally-charged scene at the end of the 1977 epic war film *A Bridge Too Far*, with the men singing the hymn "Abide With Me."

Sgt Clarke, a glider pilot, spent the rest of the war in a PoW camp in Sagen, Poland, until February 1945 when the Russians advanced from the east. This prompted the Germans to force march thousands of PoWs, including Sgt Clarke, over 300 miles west across Germany.

He was eventually liberated by the American 2nd Army. Although he became a respected solicitor later in life, Sgt Clarke remained a member of the Glider Pilot Regimental Association and regularly returned to Arnhem to commemorate his fallen colleagues.



One of those was his co-pilot, Sgt Arnold Phillips, who was killed at Arnhem and his buried at Oosterbeek, two miles from the town.

Last summer he gave a talk entitled 'A Bridge Too Far: A Veteran of Arnhem' at the Chalke Valley History Festival in Dorset. Sgt Clarke died on Tuesday at his home in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, following a short illness.

His wife Jean died in 2016 and he leaves two daughters.

Jane Barkway-Harney, of the Glider Pilot Regiment Society, said: "Peter Clarke was the absolute definition of a gentleman and a hero.

"His incredible story will forever be remembered and respected and he will always be an inspiration. I am proud to have known him and called him a friend. He always had a smile and a compliment for everyone."

Dr David Pasley, secretary of the society, added: "There were so many acts of heroism at Arnhem but Peter's was the one that stuck out for me. He didn't think it was special, he was just doing what was right. He had the option to withdraw across the river and live to fight another day but he chose to stay to look after the wounded and face whatever the Germans had in store for them."

Sgt Clarke joined the army in 1939 when he was aged 18 and served with the 133 Field Ambulance as a medic. In October 1939 his unit was sent to France but he was deemed too young to go and he was forced to stay behind. Then in 1942 he applied to join the newly-formed Glider Pilot Regiment and was taught to fly heavy Horsa gliders. He was posted to 6 Squadron and sent to North Africa but returned without seeing any action. He trained for D-Day and had been due to fly into Normandy with supplies on June 6, 1944 but his co-pilot fell ill and again he had to stay behind.

Then in September 1944 he piloted a Horsa glider containing paratroopers of the Border Regiment into Holland as part of Operation Market Garden.

The bold mission was aimed at taking several bridges spanning the Rhine and involved 40,000 airborne troops landing in Nazi-occupied Holland.

They were to be reinforced by British armoured ground units which would take up to three days to link up with them along the 50 mile route.

The bridge at Arnhem was the furthest point from the ground forces and in the event proved a bridge too far.

The 9,000 British paratroopers at Arnhem held out for eight days with limited ammunition and supplies until the order came to withdraw. Only 1,900 men made it out.

Some 6,000 were captured and 1,174 were killed.

Dr Pasley, whose grandfather John Wetherall was also a glider pilot at Arnhem, said: "After landing eight miles outside of Arnhem a force made it to the bridge while the remaining men formed a perimeter around Oosterbeek to hold the area until reinforcements arrived.

"During the battle they took a lot of casualties. Peter Clarke was a trained medic and he took it upon himself to set up a Regimental Aid Post for treating the wounded men.

"One of the casualties Sgt Clarke, who only had bandages, morphine and blankets to work with, refused to leave behind was a man whose injuries had left him paralysed.

Dr Pasley said: "He remained there for the majority of the battle from September 18 to 25 until the order came to withdraw."



Peter Clarke received the OBE for his tremendous contribution to charity work which was dominated by his work for the YMCA.

Peter was, for many years, Treasurer and National Board member of YMCA England. Chairman and later President and then Honorary President of Romford YMCA.

THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

by Vic Hills

Singapore was the first stop on a journey to a long held destination on "the must visit before we are too old" - (and these days - travel insurance is no longer available or too expensive) bucket list. New Zealand had been our number one for many years.

We were with two friends and all of us had been strongly advised by our travel agent - "Do Not travel non-stop to New Zealand".

She was so adamant that she said that she would not let us take a direct flight all the way - we did not test how she would achieve that! We accepted her advice especially as she had been so knowledgeable about what to see and not to see in New Zealand.

Two days using the immaculately clean and modern metro - "with free wifi" and the hop-on and off Hippo buses (there are others) enabled us to explore a variety of the recommended visitor attractions and areas including Little India and Chinatown sporting Chinese New Year - "Year of the Dog" decorations.

These 3 photo's are taken from the Gardens by the Bay. Which have these incredible structures, which include the "scaffolding trees".



The sky walk way; accessible via a lift or 128 steps (which we scaled) up the centre of one of the "trees", and from which we could see how the many flowering plants, including orchids, had been enabled to grow by attaching themselves to fixed cork pads. Illustrated signs along the walkway explain the different plants that grow in the forest canopy.



The 3rd picture taken from the walkway shows the Marina Bay Sands Sky Park Observation deck, which provided some incredible views of the landscape below.



There were no cars on the F1 Grand Prix track we could see below. The Lotus flower was almost incandescent under the night time illuminations. The night time musical water display (at 8, 9 & 10 o'clock) is enchanting. The two displays we saw were different and provided some interesting spectral images. Our walk back to Promenade Metro station through the Helix Bridge provided a different view of the Skypark and the Flyer (wheel) which had a mechanical fault and had not run for several months.



The beautiful Botanic Gardens provided some curious plants and walks - in the warm yet heavy rain that tried to drench us.

We couldn't resist a brief visit to one of our "branches". Our two days in the very hospitable and friendly atmosphere of Singapore had helped us to adjust to the 14 hour flight and time difference. We hoped it had prepared us for the next stage of our journey and the 10 hour flight ahead. The baggage trolley gives away that the last picture is of the interior of Changi airport - even that was not just an airport terminal. There was so much we hadn't been able to visit including Raffles - closed for refurbishment. Maybe another time on another journey East!!





Excerpts from Mrs Moorehead's diary!

Re - the 'carrying's on' at the South West YMCA retirees in April 2018!

The first day, we congregated at Treloyhan Manor St Ives, and were allocated our bedrooms, the most able managing three flights of stairs to a budget room with a view! The old camaraderie is intact still and the greetings were warm and genuine!

Next day the wind blew gale force, and we got ourselves engrossed in a DVD about the life of CT Studd, one of the Cambridge Seven whose call was to China to follow in the footsteps of Hudson Taylor.

He came from an extremely wealthy background and gave it all away in the service of Christ. He married a woman of equal calibre and they had four daughters and one baby boy who sadly died in infancy. He and his wife led a sacrificial life and after China they both followed missionary calls separately elsewhere.

He went off to Africa, where he battled relentlessly against ill health, asthma and exhaustion, she dying before him. Their philosophy. 'One life only, when it is past, only what's done for Christ will last!'

The next night was cinema night, a well-established and enjoyable feature. David and Margaret Libby always manage to choose something which we will all get engrossed in, and chocs and popcorn are an extra embellishment!

This year it was 'A Street Cat named Bob,' so moving, as it followed the struggles of a young addict to overcome his addiction and steer through the drastic effects of withdrawal with the aid of a furry friend named Bob. Glad to say he overcame his addiction and a wonderful reconciliation with his estranged family was the icing on the cake. Not to be flippant, it made one think twice about the pavement buskers one meets in life.

The day always starts and ends with a devotional, shared between members.

Mervyn spoke the first night and shared a book review from this place in Pembrokeshire where there is 'Grace outpouring' and people feel marvellously blessed and led by the Spirit of God.

We had an update on 'British Boys for British Farms' by Stephen Milner. And so to bed!

It was the turn of Tom Libby and Paul Harper the following day and on the Wednesday we had a bus outing to Scorrier Christian Centre, where Brian, an ex-policeman, fish and chips shop owner and Plymouth Argyle supporter hosted us and spoke, Then on to lunch at Boscastle and Tintagel, the home of King Arthur.

In the evening the Rev Alistair Sharp gave his testimony and what a testimony it was! Called away from a high flying business career to minister in a part of Rotherham, in a most deprived and under privileged area highlighted by Jamie Oliver who tried to reform their dietary habits, featuring in a TV programme a while ago. Now he is back in the South West! A bit different from Rotherham!

Next morning it was Ray Allen's turn who gave us an interesting focus on the life of St George, it being St George's day imminently. In the evening he hosted a quiz, which was fun for everyone.

The final night we had David Smith who shared a wonderful DVD and devotional with us, sharing the promotion of the "Thy Kingdom Come" (10th May Ascension Day to 20th May Pentecost) call from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

Opportunities for sharing with non-members do arise and two very nice local preachers who had a hundred years of preaching between them, enjoyed our fellowship.

Mervyn and I were privileged to be asked to pray for a couple who needed encouragement from Somerset and there was lovely opportunity to pray with each other too and we felt the presence of the Lord there!

Next year Margaret has paid a deposit for the week starting April 1st to 5th April 2019. Put the date in your diary now. Hope to see YOU there?



New Secretary General of World YMCA announced

President of the World YMCA, Peter Posner OBE, today announced the appointment of Carlos Sanvee as the next Secretary General, commencing 1st January 2019. Carlos is currently General Secretary of the African Alliance of YMCAs (75%) and Special Advisor to the Secretary General for the World YMCA (25%). He will succeed Johan Vilhelm Eltvik as Secretary General when Johan's 8-year term concludes at the end of 2018.

Today's announcement is the culmination of a 15-month process undertaken by the Search Committee on behalf of the World YMCA Executive Committee.

"After a thorough and rigorous process our unanimous recommendation for the position was Carlos", confirmed Peter.

"Congratulations Carlos, our next Secretary General! May God support you in your work for the World YMCA in the years to come."

Carlos has a long history with the YMCA movement.

Currently he is General Secretary of the African Alliance of YMCAs, based at its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, a role he has held since September 2007. Under his leadership, the African YMCA movement has made great strides in positioning itself as a united continental body focusing on the niche area of youth empowerment in Africa.

He served as Executive Secretary of Finance and Administration at the World Alliance, Geneva, from 1999-2007. Here he was centrally involved in the development of strategic direction of the World Alliance and the subsequent Global Operating Plan, was responsible for the Inter-Movement Support Services (IMSS) and instrumental in the introduction of a new policy and management of the John R. Mott Fund as well as launching a serious Review of the World Movement Fair Share formula.

Carlos began his journey with the YMCA as a volunteer for the Togo YMCA to recruit new members as part of the revitalisation of the movement. He joined the staff of the Togo YMCA in 1987 as a Leadership Development Secretary, and worked his way up to Deputy General Secretary, in which position he served for five years, before working for the World Alliance. He holds a first degree in Physics and Chemistry from Université du Bénin in Togo and a "Diplôme des Hautes études de pratiques sociales (DHEPS)" from Université Lyon Lumière II, France.



Passing of Chris Batten 28th February 2018

As recorded in the previous newsletter Chris was suffering from terminal cancer that took him from us on 28th May 2018.

Sadly, we were not aware of this or Chris' funeral arrangements until notified by Rev Ron Ingamells who kindly phoned all those listed in the previous newsletters needing our prayers.

Rev Ron spoke to his wife Mary who shared this sad information.

Message from Chairman of WFYR

Jim Lamb is recovering from major surgery involving removal of half of one lung. He has his daughter's family staying with him to support full recovery. He has his usual sense of humour intact. Jim says he passed up the local marathon from his bucket list.

Jim Lamb has been a YMCA ambassador of goodwill from the UK on a number of international fronts to advance the mission of the YMCA world-wide.

In a leisure moment, a word of encouragement from you will be appreciated. If you know Jim, keep it funny and light. But not too funny!!!

Jim Lamb j.lamb22@outlook.com

Norris D Lineweaver - Chairman - World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees



Thy Kingdom Come

10th May through till 20th May 2018

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops' of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

The hope is that:

- people will commit to pray with God's world-wide family - as a church, individually or as a family;
- churches will hold prayer events, such as 24-7 prayer, prayer stations and prayer walks, across the UK and in other parts of the world;
- people will be empowered through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses ...to the ends of the earth. When he had said this...he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight...Then they returned to Jerusalem ... and were constantly devoting themselves to prayer... When the day of Pentecost had come they were all together in one place... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit... and that day about three thousand persons were added." Acts 1,2
"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." Archbishop Justin Welby