



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

SEPTEMBER 2012

www.yretired.co.uk



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear colleagues and friends - greetings

We have experienced over the last few months amazing events both enriching and challenging as revealed in the following.

Royal Jubilee Celebrations, when Queen Elizabeth toured the UK, at her age, well past our retirement ages, dominates the year.

Athletes underwent often reported training for the Olympics, an occasion represented by the Olympic Torch travelling 8000 miles of the British Isles causing huge crowds to throng the streets whilst 8000 'runners' of all ages with and without celebrity status performed and personally experienced bearing a torch first hand an historic event before so 'great a cloud of witnesses'. The Olympics an outstanding event and highly praised has passed.

The Tour de France produced for the first time in 109 years of the race's history a British champion by the name of Bradley Wiggins! Oh yes there was the European Football Championships as well!

Yet in direct contrast to the above despite the amazing events referred to, what happened to that colossal discovery quietly reported on the 4th July 2012? It was of enormous proportions historically, theologically, said to be earth shattering, following 50 years of research.

Thousands of scientists worldwide rose in unison to acclaim this stupendous achievement, atheists and humanists alike, symbolically shouted to the whole of Christendom, "We told you so" in answer to which the universal church remained strangely silent. --- THE OCCASION?

Europe's Large Hadron Collider buried 100 metres below ground in a 27km long tube in a circle in Switzerland had discovered (so it was declared) the beginnings of how the universe began (The Big Bang - estimated 13.7 million years ago!) it was at last understood!

Had it really discovered, as declared, THE GOD PARTICLE? Despite the apparent support of our own Professor Stephen Hawkins, doubts were being expressed by a group of scientists who had not discovered THE GOD PARTICLE! Here I let it rest for it is ongoing! BUT! --- During this 'moment' in time my infantile consciousness recalled the story of the old lady who when challenged by a group of theologians about

her faith opened her family Bible at the opening verse of Genesis Chapter 1 verse 1 and quoted those timeless words, "In the beginning God". The quotation led to her faith in God in early childhood and into the twilight years of her life as she continued to live by simple faith.

Who was the more contented, the theologians/scientists struggling with answers for the universe - (The God Particle) or the old lady? Answers please in three words!

Most of us I suspect hold to our own personal belief in God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit sometimes nurtured from childhood with many claiming a religious conversion in the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour - in a public manner.

I personally value my career in the YMCA for I encountered such Christians, some Christian agnostics, humanists, atheists indeed people of all Faiths and of none the majority all fine people who helped to make the YMCA what it was then - not a group shouting from the rooftops, "I am a Christian - be saved" but by living their lives in the image of God as indeed those attending the Thanksgiving Service of our colleague Brian Barratt were reminded by the Rector, "This church and congregation are all the richer for having had Brian in our midst and all the poorer for his going from us". A salutary thought for us all!

Jim Lamb Aug 2012

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TRIBUTES TO BRIAN BARRATT

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR DEAR COLLEAGUES IN YOUR PRAYERS

Very pleased to report that our friend Roy Weaver is now at home and very much improved.

Rosamund Weaver Janet Ingamells
Bill Ayers from Bath Eve Lamb
Gareth Williams (Ex APS Treasurer).

If there are other Y's Retired colleagues that you have knowledge of who need our prayers, please communicate these to the editor.

Thank you very much, David, for Brian's recollections. They brought back memories as I had visited all the YMCA's at which Brian had worked and in many cases had dealings with them. Unfortunately I had written to Anne before I received his piece. Sadly I cannot go to the funeral. Many thanks for all the work you do for Ys Retired. With best wishes to you, Sue and the family
John (Naylor)

Dear David
Thank you for printing Brian's piece via the email. I had no idea. Some of the dates are wrong i.e. Skegness should read 1961 where our son Jonathon was born in 1964. But as Brian had Alzheimer's he did not do too badly - grateful thanks to all for the beautiful sympathy cards letters and prayers we received on the death of Brian, from so very many members and colleagues. Also to Jim, Sam, Ray and John for traveling to be with us. from **Anne and Jonathon Barratt**

Hi David!
What an excellent paper written by Brian. I had no idea that he had done all those things and that he was introduced to the Movement by my old friend and colleague, the late Charles Nunn. A similar paper from me would read - joined London Central, retired 14.5 years later, joined the Board of Governors and was appointed Deputy Chairman!
Regards to U2!
Col (Mawby)
Dear David,

Many thanks for forwarding the details of Brian's funeral with his 'CV', which was very interesting. I didn't know him particularly well, though we had chatted a couple of times having in common that we both did extended National Service of three years and attended the Bernard Gilpin Society at Durham, though at different times. It's interesting how it takes a time like this for such matters to be brought to mind!
Kings Lynn is a step too far, regrettably, especially that week. All good wishes,
John (Berry)

Dear David
I was so sad to hear of Brian's death, and happy memories of our reunions recently in Birmingham came back to me. A lovely man and a true YMCA soldier. I really enjoyed his reflections on a lifetime serving the YMCA - both informative and touching. I am so glad that I knew him. With many thanks
Ted (Milburn)



Brian Barratt

Born 3rd Feb 1932
passed away 14th June 2012
Thanksgiving Service was
Wednesday 27th June 2012 at
Snettisham Parish Church,
near Kings Lynn, the Rector
Rev Geoff Suart presided.

A well attended congregation shared in a fitting tribute to a life lived to the full in the service conducted by the Rector. The Rector gave a very warm welcome to all present and delivered a summary of the life of Brian referring in fine detail from birth to death. Included was Brian's educational background, his work from being an engineering apprentice in Chesterfield where he gained various National Certificates, followed by three years in the RAF after which he returned to engineering. As a layman he served on the management committee of the local YMCA where he met his wife Anne.

He served the YMCA as Secretary in Leeds, Durham, Leicester, Skegness, Reigate and the London City Hostel. In 1990 Brian suffered several heart attacks causing his retirement in 1992 and subsequently in 1996 his move to Snettisham.

In retirement he sat on Snettisham Parish Council, was churchwarden and assisted the Talking Newspaper for the Blind. Despite a stroke in 2002 he kept fit in visiting a local gym. His church continued to benefit greatly from his administrative skills!

The Rector summed up Brian in one word 'PERSEVERANCE' reflected in his continued support through his Christian conviction despite being no longer able to attend church.

He further commented and I quote, "This church and congregation are all the richer for having had Brian in our midst and all the poorer for his going from us".

Following the Rector's tribute Brian's son Jonathan spoke very highly of a father who cared and dedicated his life to ensuring the wellbeing of his family despite the demands of his work with the YMCA.

The service continued in the singing of three well known hymns, 'To God be the Glory', 'God is Working his Purpose Out' and 'Thine be the Glory' followed by the reading John 1 verses 1 to 18 read by Jim Lamb as President of the Y's Retired of the UK. Meaningful prayers were shared by a church member and an address by the Rector.

A short walk to the appropriately named Village MEMORIAL HALL for refreshments and meeting with Anne and those present was a fitting climax to the day. Oh yes let it be mentioned that the singing by a YMCA quartet on the front row of the church led the congregation - namely, Reg Wake, John Drake, Sam Johnston and Jim Lamb!

It was a good wholesome service well fitting our late colleague Brian. We noted that Anne had nursed Brian 24/7 through the most difficult illness of his later years and each offered her our prayerful support for future years without Brian, so loved throughout his life.

Jim Lamb 30th June 2012

To those 28 folk who were on the YMCA BBBF Training Scheme I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big 'Thank You' for letting me know that you were in BBBF, for the articles and recollections that you have sent me and for purchasing Barbara Vessey's book. All these records are carefully kept in a very large green folder.

While searching on the web 'YMCA BBBF', I came across 'North East CommuniGate' where George W Spenceley (GWS) has written 16 Chapters on his life. Chapter 3 is a long articles of about 23 pages on his BBBF days which are not in Barbara Vessey's book. Very recently I managed to trace and speak to George Spenceley. Attached to GWS's article is a Guestbook to which people have added their names together with short snippets of their recollections. I have added myself to the Guestbook to say that I am researching BBBF and that the book is still available.

I have been contacted by, or I have managed to trace, those who are in the Guestbook, even as far afield as Australia and New Zealand. There are 14 BBBF people in the Guestbook that I have not been able to contact.

In the UK I am in contact with 4 former BBBF Wardens: David and Vivian Berkley, Margaret Peebles, Jean Saunders and Peter Parfitt as well as 24 people who were on the BBBF scheme. So far I have only managed to meet 4 former BBBF members here in the south.

Another find, quite by chance, after our Sunday morning service, while having a coffee and chatting to one of our parishioners, John Kennedy, about BBBF. He said that he was sure that he had lectured to the BBBF boys at the Scarborough Summer School. He has written an article in which he states that he lectured to BBBF boys at the Scarborough Summer School in 1957/1958. John Kennedy moved down from the north and became Vice Principal of Dorset Agricultural College, Dorchester, now Kingston Maurward College attached to Bournemouth University.

Did you know that a film about YMCA BBBF scheme was shown on ABC Independent TV around 1965? This film is held in the archives of the British Film Institute. The BFI is currently being re-furbished. I will speak to the archivist again to make sure the film is being kept.

Peter Parfitt was Warden at Wilderwick for 18 months 1959-61. Peter would very much like to hear from anyone who was at Wilderwick. A letter would be much appreciated. His address is 29 Callum Welch Court, Morden College, 19 Saint German's Place, Blackheath, London SE3 0PW.

Jean Saunders, and her late husband Walter Saunders, were Wardens at Wilderwick from May 1949 to October 1952. Jean would like to hear from you, her address is: 21 Farm Road, Milton, Weston-Super-Mare BS22 8BA. Tel: 01934 - 623355 Email jean.saunders@sky.com

As I am now retired, it will give me more time to travel as I really would like to meet as many of you as possible. Currently I am looking at July and August for the southern half of England (east and west) and in September to travel up north.

Recently I was informed that about two years ago YMCA BBBF was mentioned on Countryfile. On 24 May 2012 I sent BBC Countryfile an email to tell them about the book and the film, and suggested that a documentary on BBBF may be of historical interest. I await their reply.

For the moment this brings us up to date and I look forward to keeping in contact. With best wishes

Stephen J Milner

CONGRATULATIONS

Hello fellow retirees,

I'm not sure whether or not the news has reached you yet that at the Annual Charities Aid Foundation Awards in London on Thursday 14th June 12, YMCA Scotland received the award for the best charity in the UK for children's and youth work.

It was to do with their mentoring work over the past three years. CAF says that the Charity Award is the highest profile event in the charity calendar. Awards are presented in 10 categories with each of the winning charities having been judged by an independent panel of sector leaders as having demonstrated outstanding best practice from which other organisations can learn. Doubtless there will be more information later, but I thought you would like to hear this great news.

Well done YMCA Scotland. Best wishes

John (Knox)

"The Grapevine".

News of the wellbeing or otherwise of members of our fraternity, especially of illness or death, is vital to our purposes. Our 'Inter-Com' system provides for the rapid spread of any such news. We rely on the prompt action of members to pass on any such information garnered by them.

Until quite recently, regional CEOs exercised pastoral care for retirees in their 'parish' and provided a valued and vital link in our news gathering. Reduction in the number of such officers and changes in the role of those remaining means the loss or at least a weakening of a vital link in our "Grapevine".

It is therefore all the more important that all members keep eyes and ears open for news of illness or death of a fraternity member and promptly convey such information to David Smith (Tel: 01734 719432) or Reg Wake (Tel: 01372 275402) in order that where appropriate the 'Inter-Com. can be activated.

Please keep the "Grapevine" healthy and effective!



Guess who is running through the water curtain in the Garden of Surprises in Burghley House! Any ideas!! Email the editor with your answer.

Dwight Lyman Moody



Dwight Lyman Moody was born the sixth child of Edwin and Betsy Holton Moody in Northfield, Mass. on February 5, 1837.

Dwight's formal education ended in the fifth grade, and he rapidly tired of life on the farm.

He left home at age 17, seeking employment in Boston. Failing to secure a desirable position, he asked his uncle, Samuel Holton, for a job. Reluctantly, Uncle Samuel hired him to work in the retail shoe store he owned. However, to keep young Moody out of mischief, employment was conditional upon his attendance at the Mt. Vernon Congregational Church.

Salvation

At Mt. Vernon Moody became part of the Sunday school class taught by Edward Kimball. On April 21, 1855, Kimball visited the Holton Shoe Store, found Moody in a stockroom, and there spoke to him of the love of Christ. Shortly thereafter, Moody accepted that love and devoted his life to serving God. The following year brought Moody to Chicago with dreams of making his fortune in the shoe business. As success in selling shoes came, so did an interest in providing a Sunday school class for Chicago's children and the local Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

YMCA

During the revival of 1857 to 1858, Moody became more involved with the YMCA, performing janitorial jobs for the organization and serving wherever they needed him. In 1860, when he left the business world, he began spending more and more time serving the organization. In fact, in the 1861 to 1862 annual report, Moody was praised for all his efforts. Although they could not pay him, the YMCA recommended he stay "employed" as city missionary.

Mission Sunday School

Meanwhile, Moody's Mission Sunday school flourished. What set this school apart was Moody's desire to reach the "lost" youth of the city, the children with little to no education, less than ideal family situations, and poor economic circumstances. Soon the Sunday school outgrew the converted saloon used as a meeting hall. As the classes grew, associates encouraged Moody to begin his own church. Eventually, on February 28, 1864, the Illinois Street Church (now The Moody Church) opened in its own building with Moody as pastor.

Civil War

As the political landscape of the United States changed in the 1860s, Moody's connection with the YMCA proved a useful tool in his ministry. As the Civil War approached, the Union Army mobilized volunteer soldiers across the north. Camp Douglas was established outside of Chicago, which Moody saw as a great evangelistic opportunity. Along with a few others, Moody created the Committee on Devotional Meetings to minister to the troops stationed at Camp Douglas, the 72nd Illinois Volunteer Regiment. This was just the beginning of Moody's Civil War outreach. From 1861 to 1865, he ministered on battlefields and throughout the city, state and country to thousands of soldiers, both Union and Confederate. All the while, he maintained the Mission Sunday school.

The Chicago Fire

On Sunday, October 8, 1871, as Moody came to the end of his sermon for the evening, the city fire bell began to ring. At first, no one thought much about it, as these city bells often rung. However, this night was different – it was the beginning of the Great Chicago Fire.

Moody's first concern was for his family, locating them and making sure they were somewhere safe. After securing his family's safety, Moody and his wife stayed in the north side of the city to help other residents. The fire finally burned out Tuesday afternoon, after consuming much of what Moody had built.

This was a poignant time in Moody's life and the fire forced him to re-evaluate his ministry. It was during this time of evaluation he realized he needed to heed the Lord's call on his life. For years, he had been moving forward and then asking God to support his plans. He knew from this point on, his call was to preach the Word of God to the world.

Revival Abroad

In June 1872, Moody made his first trip to the United Kingdom, during which a few close contacts urged him to come back in a year. In June 1873, Moody, with his wife Emma, their children, good friend and musician Ira Sankey and his wife all travelled from New York to Liverpool, England.

Moody and Sankey travelled throughout the U.K. and Ireland holding meetings, helping to fuel the revival that was slowly sweeping the region. Moody's visit made a lasting impression, inspiring lay people across the region to begin children's ministries and ministry training schools for women.

Moody was revolutionary in his evangelistic approach. Despite conflicting counsel from friends and trusted contacts, he and Sankey travelled to Ireland during a time when Catholics and Protestants were constantly at odds with each other. Moody was different: he did not care what denomination a person claimed, but just wanted the message of Christ to be heard. As a result, the revival swept into Ireland, and he won praises of both Catholics and Protestants.

Moody's Schools

Moody was on the cutting edge of ministry, and in 1879, Moody opened the United States Northfield Seminary for Young Women to provide young women the opportunity to gain an education. Not long after, Moody created the Mount Hermon School for Boys with the same goal as the girls' school – to educate the poor and minorities. Moody had an amazing ability to bridge the gap between denominations, which was apparent in the diverse religious backgrounds of the school's students. In 1886, the Chicago Evangelization Society (today, Moody Bible Institute) was founded. Moody had been focused on ministry near his home in Northfield but he came out to Chicago to help raise money for the Society, and see his dream become a reality. That same year, Moody assembled a large group of college students at Mount Hermon for the first "College Students' Summer School." This conference would birth the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions. By 1911, it was estimated that 5,000 student volunteers from America alone had come out of the program. Moody's vision for the mission movement grew as it spread around the world to Europe and South Africa.

Later Years

Moody continued to evangelize throughout America, often preaching in major cities and at various universities. His heart was for his schools, and he spent much of his time in Northfield. Moody was a visionary who always seemed a step ahead of the status quo. From training women, to reaching out to lost children, to bridging the gap between denominations, he was unlike any other.

Moody was a man of great discernment. He had an innate ability to find capable, godly people to put into positions of leadership and bring his ideas to fruition. This enabled him to continue his evangelistic outreach while his ministries flourished. Throughout his life, Moody always found time to be with his family, making every effort to show his love and care for them.

Moody died December 22, 1899, surrounded by his family.



Back row: K.B. Thomas, Tom Mckillop, Ivor Cresswell, forgotten, forgotten, George Vater, forgotten, Yorrie Thomas, Peter Brookes, Hugh Helliwell, Stewart Page, Wilby Beaumont, forgotten, forgotten, Joe Burrows;

Middle row: Ken Stafford, forgotten, Mrs Vater, forgotten, Marie Thomas, forgotten, Roland Smith, Sam Johnston:

Front row: forgotten, Ann Cresswell, Hilary Page, Olive Brookes, Mrs Burrows, Marian Smith, Mrs. Johnston, Children: Young Cresswell, Angela Page, Timothy Brookes and two of the Johnston family whose names I simply cannot remember.

Whilst in conversation with Sam Johnson I mentioned this photograph taken at Coleg y Fro in 1967. Unfortunately I cannot remember every name but I have done my best: Not bad, 23 names out of 35, wow, that's 64%. Can anyone else out there help find the names of those missing? Peter (Brookes) Please help Peter fill in the gaps, thanks and good luck – Editor

YMCA MEMORIAL UNVEILING

Y's Retired members will be heartened to know that specific invitations are to be sent out at the appropriate time to those who have helped and contributed in making it possible to have a YMCA Memorial at the National Arboretum.

The event will be hosted by Colin Williams and will take place on Tuesday 11th September.

Those receiving the invitation will be requested to arrive by 11.45am for light refreshments before proceeding to the Chapel for a service which will be conducted by Rev Ron Ingamels.

General Lord Dannatt, head of the Army between 2006 and 2009 will highlight the merits of the YMCA.

At the conclusion of the service those attending will be invited to make their way to the site of the unveiling of the YMCA memorial which stands in a quiet and peaceful part of the Arboretum now being reserved for monuments connected with civil organisations.

Any one who feels they may not have had the opportunity to financially contribute in this exciting project, it's not too late. It is estimated that an approximate amount of £500 may still be required.

Huge appreciation must be expressed to all who have already given so generously to reach the sum of £20,210 Should any member not receive an invitation but was expecting one they should make contact with Rachel Nettle at YMCA England. Tel No 0207 1869539 no later than Monday 3rd September 2012.

Sam Johnston

YMCA MEMORIAL AT NATIONAL ARBORETUM - STAFFORD



As an ex serviceman 1942/1946 (Royal Army Service Corp), I appreciate Sam Johnston for his initiative in creating a Memorial in recognition of the splendid service the YMCA gave to the armed forces for nearly two centuries.

This YMCA Memorial is a tribute to all our people who served in difficult circumstances and to those who gave their lives in hostile areas.

Like many of those conscripted into the military I greatly appreciated those YMCA huts staffed by volunteers in the UK and overseas with the provision of refreshments plus a lounge, a reading and writing room and (stationery provided) to write home to loved ones and above all, a warmth of welcome to temporarily relieve ones mind of an uncertain future.

In North Italy my unit was stationed in Bologna, a garrison town. On one side of a main street was a NAFFI (Navy, Army and Air Force Institution) with a similar service to that of the YMCA.

Almost opposite the NAFFI the official body who served forces closed at 9.30pm before the film at the garrison cinema finished. The YMCA saw the need to serve and remained open until 11pm.

The difference between the statutory and voluntary bodies has remained with me ever since.

Arthur W Bennett - Nottingham