



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



**JUNE 2014**

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

**GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT**



**Dear colleagues and friends - greetings**

I trust that you are in as good a health as possible given the fine services provided through modern medicine and care of others! The latter does give rise for concern given the many illustrations of poor healthcare in some Care Homes together with fraudulent activity against those of us more vulnerable than others as we read or learn through the media.

I suspect the opening paragraph contains just words when compared with the large problems presently being experienced throughout the world and being brought into our living rooms by means of television, radio and other media.

I acknowledge that the majority of our Newsletter readers are of the Christian Faith by virtue of the nature of our YMCA connections and/or by personal choice and conviction causing us to be perhaps more shaken by the 'ills' of society and the strong emphasis of 'doubt' expressed through the media by televised religious programmes. These programmes can raise issues of importance to our life's learning and understanding of our 'faith' especially as we know we will not pass this way again!

Our faith in humankind can be sorely tested whatever our beliefs and the doubts raised on matters of faith held dear!

I heard a sermon recently on 'Doubting Thomas' the disciple who questioned second-hand evidence that Christ had died.

The fine preacher of academic repute for me if not others over emphasised the word 'doubt' illustrating each time the main points of Christian theology on the Resurrection.

At the same service the intercessory prayers by another person referred constantly to 'our' being 'riddled with doubts', suffice it to share that personally and probably 90% of the large congregation did not feel 'riddled with doubt'.

One would hope by the age of the majority of Y's Retired members we will have come to terms with the faith we proclaim and will continue during latter years an understanding of the nature of God.

A saying I have referred to before and repeat now, "I am packing my bags for eternity and it is amazing what I am throwing out!" – no more *dogma* (a set of principles intended to be accepted without question) about the Christian Faith.

A recent conversation with two elderly ladies over lunch sums up the point shared, that one can live the whole of one's life as Christians but not acknowledge God! One said "There is a difference between believing in God and knowing God! Dare I ask for your comments for publishing in the next Newsletter given our Editors agreement!?"

There is a great deal of pleasure and happiness in growing older as indeed I have found in fellowship with many YMCA colleagues, family and friends in recent years not least as we share experiences long forgotten!

Such will be the experience at the Reunion Lunch in Cambridge on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014, late registrations can still be made – phone Jim Lamb 01223 440228!! Keep well and in good spirits.

*Jim Lamb - May 2014*

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## Letter from Jerusalem



### Letter forwarded by David and Margaret (Libby)

Please extend my warmest greetings to fellow retired colleagues at the South West UK YMCA Reunion scheduled to begin April 28th, later this month.

I am most grateful for the leadership of Reg Wake along with Jim Lamb and David Smith who have worked tirelessly to encourage fellowship and exchange among YMCA Retirees in the UK.

The footprint and influence of the UK YMCA is well known around the world. During my tenure and before my retirement as Director General of the Jerusalem International YMCA (JIY), I am well aware of the first organization for the YMCA in Jerusalem in 1878 with support of the Manchester YMCA as the Y organized around the constitution and by laws of the London YMCA.

This was the first signal that the presence of the YMCA in Jerusalem would be of international acclaim. British Consul General Richard Makepeace was an active member of our Board of Directors. Lord General Allenby dedicated the opening of the famed landmark YMCA building in 1933 covered by British radio and broadcast around the world.

JIY also houses in its landmark building one of three replicas of the George Williams Room that was architecturally designed with every small detail from the original construction in the London Central YMCA.

When the London Central YMCA was destroyed in World War II, British architects were summoned to Jerusalem to take detailed measurements and notes on materials to restore the George Williams Room in the reconstruction of the YMCA in London.

Though we are separated by distance across continents and oceans, we share a bond of intense engagement to advance the mission of the YMCA during our respective careers. In the quiet of this day, may you know the greatness of His Spirit within each and every one of you, and may all your hopes fly on the wings of possibility.

Shalom, Salaam, Peace be with you always ...

Norris (D. Lineweaver)  
Chair Elect

World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees 2014 - 2018

## The Scottish Independence Debate

At a recent meeting of the YMCA National Council in Perth, guest speaker Fraser Falconer, soon to retire as Head of BBC Children in Need in Scotland, said that we should not just be looking for answers to question about finance but that the focus should be on values with the key question being "what sort of society do we want"?

The Church of Scotland too has said that the Scottish independence debate needs to go beyond issues like how much better off Scots will be financially.

In a report based on the views of more than 900 people who went to 32 community events run by the Kirk, the top 10 values turned out to be equality, fairness, justice, education, respect, honesty, community, opportunity, compassion and tolerance.

The word prosperity didn't appear until about number 53 in the list of priorities. Sounds to me like the sort of values the YMCA is about at its best.

Best wishes **John (Knox)**



On 28 April, Shantae Whyte, 22, will gather her belongings and move from her room in YMCA London South West and in to the red and black Y:Cube prototype currently placed outside the hostel. For one week, Shantae will get to experience living in the acclaimed self-contained studio apartment designed by world renowned architects Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners.

She will be writing daily blog posts and updates on social media on everything from the temperature inside the Y:Cube, how much storage space there is and what's for dinner. "What I look forward to most is to cook my own food", she explains. "Living in the YMCA, I really miss having a kitchen and being able to decide myself what to eat".

Shantae has been a YMCA resident in Wimbledon for two months. For just over a year, Shantae sofa surfed at the homes of friends or relatives, constantly moving on from one place to another. Early on in this period, she contacted her local authority and asked for help with her housing situation: "I was thrown into a never ending loop where I was referred from Merton council to Croydon council and from Croydon to Lambeth before I was referred back to Merton. Everyone I talked to told me different information and it was a time of emotional stress and financial strain. In the end I broke down in the Merton Council offices, simply because I was so exhausted of being a shuttlecock between different councils and agencies that I couldn't take it anymore. I think they almost called security to take me away, but luckily, after this they actually looked into my case and shortly after I was referred to YMCA in Wimbledon".

## Member's correspondence

Hi David

My mother lives in Evesham, Worcs. Last week, whilst visiting her, I glanced through the local paper and found a photo of a YMCA tea van from WWII called Bertha, registration number JSJ 713 which a local business man tracked down in the Netherland. It is going to be used at Croome (a National Trust property near Pershore, Worcester).

Having worked in Germany in the 1980's with the British army where we still operated YMCA tea vans, going out on the firing ranges to take drinks and snacks to the troops, I found it of particular interest. I am without a printer at the moment but will try and scan the article and send through to you.

Hope you and Sue are well and have survived the winter storms without too much destruction.

Mary (McGinty)



### Rare 1940s find is Businessman's Cup of Tea

Tea and coffee will be served from a rare, original WWII tea car that has been found by a delighted Evesham businessman. The catering outlet with a difference is due to open at the visitors centre restaurant in Croome in time for a busy Easter and Summer period at the National Trust property. Ali Aldkish from Avonside Motors, who imports classic and vintage cars, travelled 500 miles after tracking down the car in the Netherlands. The YMCA tea car, called Bertha from the name on its side, will be an atmospheric addition to the 1940s style restaurant.



### YMCA LONDON SOUTH WEST BRANDING

A new logo to spearhead a re-brand for YMCA London South West – the largest YMCA in Europe. A contemporary, youthful and distinctive mark with enough gravitas for weightier publications and enough broad appeal to reflect YMCA's inclusive approach to running their facilities.

This logo is used on all communications from head office and for housing services. Different names and brands have been developed for other services

Hello David

Greetings from the other side of the world and before you wonder if this email is spam I hasten to add that before coming to Australia I worked with the YMCA for some 11 years and hadn't in fact thought of any other career until the momentous decision to emigrate to Australia.

I was a member of the famous or should that be infamous "Class of 1960-61" and still have email contact with a number of others from that era. Indeed my wife and I have also been lucky enough to attend some of their reunions while we have been back to visit the old country. It was a memorable time and has left me with lasting happy and treasured memories.

Recently I was reminded of the Y's Retired website and having jumped on board spent a considerable amount of time enjoying reading the back numbers of the Newsletters and photos of reunions. I was pleasantly surprised at the number of people I remembered and of course pleased that my ageing brain was also able to put faces to names and then confirm by viewing the photos. What a handsome bunch!

What is my reason for writing you may be asking yourself – well it is mainly to give you a pat on the back for your effort with such an interesting website and to let you know that it is being viewed with enjoyment out here in Australia.

I recently received an email from Reg Wake which gave me much pleasure – it was greatly appreciated and brought back many memories of holidays in Lakeside as a "knock-kneed" youngster from Llanelli some 60 years ago. In fact I was telling Reg that I think I went there about 8 years in succession and he and his staff feature greatly in those memories.

Well I guess that is a rather lengthy congratulations for the work you and others are doing on behalf of YMCA retirees and I look forward to the next newsletter and updates. I have to admit that I'm not sure if we have met but as I say several names and faces are very familiar to me and I send greetings and good wishes to all.

I guess to paraphrase an old saying..."You can take the person out of the YMCA but you can't take the YMCA out of the person". Isn't it interesting how the lifecycle continues.

With greetings and good wishes from Down-under

### Allen (Isaac)

Dear Allen - what a joy it was for me to receive your very kind accolade. Over the six years of fulfilling both the bi monthly newsletter and the website I often wondered if there were people out there (except for a few regulars) that ever viewed the archives, entered the galleries, read about Women's Auxiliary, but my faith is strong, so I ventured on. Sometimes it seems like sending out a satellite to identify if there is any life out there, so to receive your very kind and positive email made all the six years, for me, so worth it.

So many many thanks for your communication and I hope that as time continues, I now know there are YMCA friends in Australia who take time out to read about their ex YMCA colleagues recent exploits and enjoy the back editions. Do keep in touch and thank you again.

David (Editor)

### Thirteenth meeting of the Scottish YMCA retirees

The thirteenth meeting of the Scottish retirees group took place in Fife at Cupar YMCA-YWCA on Tuesday 8 April 2014. A special note of greeting was received from David Davis, WFYR Vice-chair for Oceania. In his note of greeting he pointed out that his mother was born in Aberdeen of the Fraser Clan and as his grandfather was a Welshman there is a "fair drop of Celtic blood in this Aussie".

As well as the usual catching up with each other's news we

- learnt about the very significant work in Cupar Y, saw around the excellent premises, visited the Youth Café and talked with young people who had come along specially to meet with us
- noted with gratitude that we had exceeded the donations target we had set ourselves in October 2013 to help some retirees from other countries attend the WFYR meeting in Denver. We were also reminded by Jim Thomson that in October we had pledged continuing support over the next six months for Secours Speciaux. This pledge was confirmed by the group
- John Naylor, President of YMCA Scotland and a member of the retiree's group, made a presentation regarding new directions in the work of YMCA Scotland, resulting in a raised profile for the YMCA in Scotland. One example given of new work was the development of the Plusone mentoring programme, working with vulnerable young people to help divert them from lifestyles that could lead them into offending behaviour. This had resulted in YMCA Scotland being awarded the UK Charity Award as overall UK winner for work with children and young people in 2012.

As we symbolically ended the meeting by linking hands and saying the Grace together, it was agreed that the autumn retirees meeting on 6 October 2014 should link with the YMCA Scotland Annual General Meeting as it had done for the past two years

John Knox



## Late Mr D S Chinnadorai

On April 17th Chinna celebrated his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday in Sheela Home in Coimbatore. He lived there ever since the premature death of Christie in 2002 and well cared for. His daughter Leila, who is the National General Secretary of the YWCAs of India along with her husband, gave Chinna a pleasant surprise. They both travelled all the way from New Delhi and knocked at his door to join in the celebrations!. After spending a few happy days with him they returned.

On Easter Sunday, Chinna was at his church. The following day –April 21<sup>st</sup> – the staff at the Home noticed that Chinna had not gone out for his morning stroll. Being unusual, one of the staff members knocked at his door and later entered the room only to realise that Chinna had a very peaceful death.

Two of Chinna's boys- Vasan and Jay, who live in the UK, Leila and John, who are in India along with their spouses were able to attend the Funeral Service held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at CSI Tamil Church, Gandhipuram where Chinna was an active member.

At the service many known to Chinna including the local YMCA Staff and members were present. On behalf of the National Council of YMCAs and Coimbatore YMCA, wreaths were placed. Jay and Leila paid attributes to their dad. While Dinaz, his daughter in law read out all the messages.

Jeff his son in law sung an especially composed song at the service. The same evening a Memorial Meeting was held at which the General Secretary of the local YMCA spoke. Vasan –the eldest thanked everyone. The youngest in the family- John along with his nephews coordinated the events of the day.

Chinna had served the YMCA in different capacities starting his career at the Madurai YMCA. A sizeable period of his time was spent at Hyderabad YMCA as its General Secretary. Between 1975 and 79, he was in charge of the YMCA Indian Student Hostel, London.

From August 1979 until the end of May 1988, Chinna served as the General Secretary of the National Council of YMCAs of India, providing matured leadership to the Indian movement. On retirement both Chinna and Christie opted to settle down in Coimbatore. They were blessed with 6 grand children. Chinna continued his interests in the YMCA. He associated himself with the World Federation of YMCA Retirees in different capacities and was instrumental in the formation of the IFYR and its UK Chapter.

Chinna was very loveable and kind. He had travelled widely home and abroad even after retirement. Though not keen on computers, his un-grumbling overworked typewriter was his constant companion! He maximised its use to get in touch with the wider world. He was never tired of sharing both personal and official news with many. We all will miss him.

It is now time for us to rejoice with his family and thank God for Chinna.

**Rupert (George)**

Doubtless you will have collated other materials from the tributes paid to Chinna, all of which speak to his remarkable and long service to world wide YMCA.

As of possible interest I would only add from personal experience, his powerful support and contribution to the founding of WFYR in 1994. The inaugural meetings in Canada brought together representatives of just six retiree organisations. If ever a case of "from little acorns" this was it! Chinna had a wonderful capacity for friendship and caring to ward his extensive kinsfolk and YMCA folk worldwide. A big-hearted person in every way and a privilege to have shared his friendship.

**Warmest regards. Reg (Wake)**

## **'Y.M.C.A Retirees '2014 at Treloyhan Manor, Christian Guild Holiday Home, St Ives, Cornwall**

As of other years a great time was had by one and all. This is a fellowship built on a common interest, of Christian gentlemen and their feminine counterparts, where the ingredients of warmth, humour, and a mutual love for the Lord are the ties that bind them together!

Various talents manifest during the four days spent together. There is wonderful preaching to uplift the soul, and fine devotions on which to focus the mind. Music, to soothe the troubled breast, (if it is troubled!) or to find a vocal expression in worship and then, a programme, to inspire and stimulate the antennae to feel for what is happening currently in the area of what is called 'Fresh Expressions!!

For example, who would have thought that a redundant Methodist Church could be turned into a Surfer's paradise? That is precisely what happened in Polzeath overlooking the vast expanse of the Atlantic ocean!

A most imaginative backcloth to the once chapel altar has been devised in a marquetry mural of the shape of a giant wave or 'Tube', and beneath the tube is the CROSS! The surfers go through the tube in their endeavours to resurface on top of the crest of the wave, so it is symbolic!

A very nice wood burning stove is central, and informally placed bean bags are scattered and sofas upon which to lounge!. The wooden pew chairs are relegated to the adjoining Marquee, around prettily painted tables, and a supply of simple home cooking is produced in the adjoining kitchen. Plain, nourishing and warming .

The surf boards are stacked against the wall and the wet suits hung up to dry! The lingo is modernistic, Even the Preacher man interspersed every other sentence with the adjective COOL!

It was' COOL' and refreshing and relevant to the congregation who come to hear him and end up saved!

We went to the pictures one night (metaphorically speaking) and all sat in a cosy lounge munching Thornton's toffees and popcorn. The 'Young at heart' and how we enjoyed Maggie Smith and Dame Judi Dench in a thirties classic as 'Ladies in Lavender'.

The food at Treloyhan manor is superb, and those of us in budget accommodation, felt delightfully not guilty at the indulgence of our taste buds as there were three flights of stairs to negotiate, quite a challenge to the overweight. However, for the less mobile there is alternative accommodation.

We enjoyed a walk into St Ives and there is the Zion chapel, now turned into a Christian bookstore, and cafe. The proprietor there has got to know us and welcomes us back.

The Anglican church is well worth a visit and after Eastertide there is always a magnificent Easter garden, assembled. The altar is so realistic, carved alabastine figures of among others 'The Transfiguration'. The light flowing from behind makes it so realistic, radiant and beautiful.

There I had an interchange with a young French tourist making his way to Camborne who wanted to know all about Richard Trevithick. I could have told him more about Stephenson and his 'Rocket', but fortunately Sarabeth, my Cornish friend was able to fill him in and direct him on his way, and she told him about the mine newly reopened at 'South Crofty'

Our sincerest thanks to the Libbys who organise it all, and negotiate the best price possible, to Liz Harper who puts considerable time and effort into making us all 'Eggheads' on quiz night, to the locals who provide a choir. This year it was the Cantabile choir and the pieces they chose were inspirational and of course to Des who plays the piano for us

All in all a break to be thoroughly recommended. See you next year?



## **The dates 2015**

**Monday 20th - Friday 24th April.**

Cost half board en-suite £205, standard with washbasin £175 - all this including day trip into darkest Cornwall.

Deposits £40 per person by 20<sup>th</sup> October balance 20th February 2015, payable to Margaret Libby 1 Lyndrick Road Hartley Plymouth PL3 5TA. 01752 773040, [dandml@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dandml@hotmail.co.uk)

Many thanks  
Margaret

**tribute to Dad, Chinna saab, friend,  
brother, uncle, thatha, guru, guide,  
counsellor.....& the many other ways  
he endeared himself to us.**



**Photo Credit: Dr. Manohar (Chinna's cousin (Dr. Gita's husband) And as you will notice, he is proudly wearing his YMCA tie - & the photo was titled – "Dressed to Kill"**

On behalf of our family, we wish to thank the Hyderabad YMCA, its volunteer leadership, members, staff and friends, who are thoughtfully organizing the 'Shradhanjali' – a tribute to 'Chinna', on May 1<sup>st</sup> – labour day, for it is significant and probably very apt for a man like him who in his first early years of his career, worked on issues of social justice.

Here is a small quote from one of the several letters of comfort that are still pouring in, and this one is from his cousin – Mr. Chelladorai Samuel;

*"All of us know of his immense contribution to the YMCA movement. But how many of you know that he was also a labour leader?*

*He worked for a time as an Engineering Supervisor with a German firm which designed and executed the Kandla Port Project.*

*He always hated exploitation of the working class. And that was exactly what the German firm and their Indian contractors were doing. So he organized a labour strike. It developed into hunger strike. Unfortunately a couple of workers, who were supposed to be on hunger strike, were eating sumptuously after midnight. When Annan discovered the trickery, he called off the strike. That was a demonstration of his innate honesty and integrity."*

We firmly believe that Hyderabad, till his very last day, was close to his heart and soul, BUT most likely till he breathed his last the YMCA was in his utmost thought & prayers.

Hyderabad because his 4 children, except his eldest - Vasana were born 'Hyderabadis'. He named all his children with names, to represent the diversity in the religion and culture of the State of Andhra.

His third child- Zarine was born in Hyderabad and passed away as an infant there, but Vasana insisted on naming his first daughter Zarine who happened to be born on May 1<sup>st</sup> & as she wrote on hearing her grandfather pass away – *"I was the first grand-child and my grandfather doted on me & made me feel extra special"*

The Hyderabad YMCA to our father, remained 'extra special', for the many years of work that he enjoyed, valued, and cherished the friendship of people who walked through the YMCA, and some who continued to journey with him, dreaming the dreams he had for the movement, visioning with the many who owed their accomplishments to the YMCA. He was always so proud of the 'boys' or 'Young Men' and women who are doing so well today, be it in the field of politics, banking, administration, teaching, business, academics, theology, art,...or the YMCA.

We are certain, that he will continue to count on each one of you to uphold the values of a movement such as the YMCA, which has an important role in changing and transforming people's lives and society. He always had faith in people, and as one very close associate put it so powerfully in his letters;

*"He is up there watching over us and I will always remember he is watching what I do. It will be tempting to let down my guard and opt for mediocrity. But I'm sure his voice will gently but sternly remind me to keep striving to be better and to do more."* – Ranjan Solomon

PLEASE be assured that the Hyderabad YMCA and its membership has 'Chinna's Blessing' always, for he often said, much of who he was, he owed it to the Movement. He taught us also to give back to the movement, by serving the communities in and around us, in whatever way possible.

As you pay your tribute to 'Chinna', our father, we as children join with you today in love and prayer, and wishes for a beautiful and memorable day, when we should be celebrating his life & not mourn his passing away, for this is how, if Chinna were here, he would also do.

With much warmth and appreciation to the YMCA of Hyderabad for dedicating this day *"To Chinna with Love"*.

Warmly

Leila & Jefferson Passah

Vasana, Karen, Zarine and Shireen Chinnadorai

Jay ( Thambus ), Liz, Stephen and Andrew Chinnadorai

John ( Pammy ), Dinaz, Sanaya and Zahan Chinnadorai

May 1<sup>st</sup> 2014

Hyderabad YMCA