

# Words to the Y's



## PREZ SEZ

Each one of us at the recent 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration has something special to recall that made this occasion one of the best in our great history. Charter members, YMCA representatives, current members, friends, City North partners, and Y Service celebrities from other parts of the country—all gathered together in one place for one special afternoon and evening.

Sincere and special thanks to **Bill, Anne, and Matt Stuckel, Myrtle Mignerone, Fran Goebel, Joseph Oganda, Charley Redmond and Marilyn Chase** for hospitality, food prep, invitations, table decorations, mementos, and program features. Thanks to **Charley** for that fabulous collection of photos showing continuously for all to share. Thanks to all who came to make this a memorable time for us. One of the best comments of the day came from the hosts when asked what they did with all of their living room furniture to accommodate all of us in one place: "Oh, we just moved it into the garage!" Another comment—"Do we still have those pens?"

We thought of all of you who could not be there and all of the members who filled our

ranks and are no longer with us—our deceased members and founders—members who have moved away—members who truly contributed to making our club what it is today. **Joseph**, one of our newest members, brought our thoughts together as he expressed to us what it is he has seen among us that seemed to be the outstanding feature. He expressed it in the single word – LOVE - , perhaps something we have not consciously seen in ourselves. Sometimes it takes the mirror of another's view to paint the real image for us.

It was a great occasion!

**Good News** We will soon be welcoming a new member—**Nathan Barr** from our YMCA Staff.

**Special for January 2009**—our business meeting in January will focus on—"What is our future?" We have some lingering issues on fund raising, nominations for new officers, ways to implement the results of the meeting mentioned in another place in this newsletter. Also, check out the calendar for some date changes.

Rachelle

## GABRIEL'S QUESTIONS

By

**FRAN GOEBEL**



**Gabriel** must have scratched his head at this one. He wasn't one to question his God-given missions. Sending fire and dividing seas were all in an eternity's work for this angel. When God sent, **Gabriel** went.

And when word got out that God was to become man, Gabriel was enthused. He could envision the moment like this:

The Messiah in a blazing chariot.

The King descending on a fiery cloud.

An explosion of light from which the Messiah would emerge.

That's what he expected. What he never expected, however, was what he got: A slip of paper with a Nazarene address. "God will become a baby," it read. "Tell the mother to name the child Jesus. And tell her not to be afraid."

Gabriel was never one to question, but this time he had to wonder.

God will become a baby? Gabriel had seen babies before. He had been platoon leader on the bulrush operation. He remembered what little Moses looked like.

That's okay for humans, he thought to himself. But for God?

The heavens can't contain Him; how could a body? Besides have you seen what comes out of those babies? Hardly befitting for the Creator of the universe. Babies must be carried and fed, bounced and bathed. To imagine some mother burping God on her shoulder—why, that was beyond what even an angel could possibly imagine.

And what of this name – what was it—Jesus?

Such a common name. There's a Jesus in every cul-de-sac. Come on, even Gabriel has more punch to it than **Jesus**.

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**CHRISTIAN EMPHASIS**

## Malaria Project

Committee report on this project is so encouraging. Our joint day with our YMCA after their very important Part-Bayless partnership students at this writing have already ner Campaign to publicize this program and be available in raised more than \$1600.00. What can we do to honor the YMCA during a busy day to solicit funds from members who choose to know more about this project. **Marsha** is planning a special pledge thank you card for this.

Our own contributions to this project will include a special personal offering request. One net costs about \$7.50 to \$10.00. Perhaps each member can afford that. Others may want to save all of their coins from now until the January meeting to see how much they can accumulate for this project.

Our committee—**Marsha** and **Rachelle**—plan to request a

Final date for the campaign is March 31, 2009. We will be ready with our gifts before then. When you make your personal contribution by check, it will be processed here in the US to offer you the opportunity to make this a tax deduction for 2008 if you present it to **Marsha** before December 31, 2008. Otherwise, you can use it for the 2009 IRS tax report year.

## CCBF Adopt-A-Family

One of our club partners is the **Carondelet Community Betterment Federation**. (Check out their website online.). **Marsha** is our direct contact there. We have selected to make a contribution to this project with personal contributions which we gather at our Christmas event.

This project involves a food collection and gifts for a specific family. Instead of a gift sharing with each other we choose to support this community activity. Our Community Service Committee: **Marsha**, **Debbie**, and **Bill** will take care of the details for us. If you cannot attend the December 14 meeting and wish to contribute, please send your gift to **Marsha**.

## International Officer Election at December Meeting

Y's Men International announces these candidates for two International Offices.

### International President Elect:

**Hirotooshi FUJII** (Japan East Region, Asia Area)  
**Bill SCHMIDT** (Australia Region, South Pacific Area)

### International Treasurer Elect:

**CHUNG Ki-sung** (Korea Center Region, Asia Area)  
**T.M. MATHEW** (Mid West India Region, India Area)  
**Finn PEDERSEN** (Norway Region, Europe Area)

## Dues Are Due

Y Service Club dues are paid twice yearly, in October and in April. The October dues bill for each full member is \$16.50 and are payable now. Our two Family youth members are responsible for \$10.50 each. Our club's gift to new members is one non-paying semester so no dues are expected from **Joseph Oganda** and the **Stuckel** family. Please send your check as soon as possible to Club Treasurer, **Marsha Brann**, 706 Loughborough, 63111.

## Websites to check out for more information!

[www.ymcastlouis.org](http://www.ymcastlouis.org) (St. Louis YMCA –for Carondelet YMCA—click on “find branch)

[www.ysmenusa.com](http://www.ysmenusa.com) (US Area Y Service Clubs *BobDaniels is the webmaster!*)

[www.ysmen.org](http://www.ysmen.org) (International Y's Men website for Malaria Project—click on NEWS)

[www.ccbf-inc.org](http://www.ccbf-inc.org) (Carondelet Community Betterment Foundation)

[www.baylessk12.org](http://www.baylessk12.org) (Bayless School District)

### **International News**

#### **Mid Year Council Meeting - Jan. 2009 St. Louis, MO**

Our calendar shows this special meeting because it is being held here in St. Louis for the very first time. This meeting venue is the Sisters of St. Joseph Mother House in Carondelet and involves 15 leaders. Because it is in St. Louis our two clubs will be involved in a number of ways: airport transportation, spouse entertainment, club(s) reception, some local touring and other events. Please be liberal with your volunteerism when called on. We are privileged to meet our leaders, some of whom have been in St. Louis before but for other reasons. Plan to share our spirit of global citizenship!

Although the dates listed in the calendar are the actual meeting dates—other dates before and just following may need our service in some ways. So—check out when you might be able to help out any

time between Jan 21 and Jan 29. Specific plans will be made from which you can choose. More later!

#### **International Council Meeting & Convention 2010, Yokohama, Japan**

#### **US Area News**

2009 – U.S. Area Convention - Date and place to be announced

#### **Mid America Region News**

Our next Regional convention scheduled for September 18-20, 2009, in Saint Louis.

#### **Club News**

It is time to pay our dues for the semester October - April.

*To Acknowledge The Duty That Accompanies Every Right*

**This newsletter can be seen on the  
internet @ [www.ysmenusa.com](http://www.ysmenusa.com)**

TO OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS...

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

5:00 PM

HOME OF MARILYN CHASE 6538 WALSH

CALL FOR RESERVATIONS PHONE: 314-832-5724

COME FOR

SANDWICHES

COOKIES

CHEER AND TRADITIONS

BRING COOKIES (NO CHOC CHIP, PLEASE)

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE AT CHRISTMAS.....

PARTICIPATE WITH BAYLESS ROLLBACK MALARIA PROJECT

COOKIES FOR SALE \$2.00 PER BAG

CONTRIBUTE TO ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROJECT—

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE IN CONJUNCTION WITH

CARONDELET COMMUNITY BETTERMENT FEDERATION

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Call the baby Eminence or Majesty or Heaven-sent. Anything but **Jesus**.

So **Gabriel** scratched his head. What happened to the good old days? The Sodom and Gomorrah stuff. Flooding the globe. Flaming swords. That's the action he liked.

But **Gabriel** had his orders. Take the message to Mary. Must be a special girl, he assumed as he traveled. But **Gabriel** was in for another shock. One peek told his **Mary** was not a queen. The mother-to-be of God was not a regal. She was a Jewish peasant who'd barely outgrown her acne and had a crush on a guy named **Joe**.

And speaking of **Joe** – what does this fellow know? Might as well be a weaver in Spain or a cobbler in Greece. He's a carpenter. Look at him over there, sawdust in his beard and nail apron around his waist. You're telling me **God** is going to have dinner every night with him? You're telling me the source of wisdom is going to call this guy "Dad?" You're telling me a common laborer is going to be charged with giving food to God?

What if he gets laid off?

What if he gets cranky?

What if he decides to run off with a pretty young girl from down the street? Then where will we be?

It was all **Gabriel** could do to keep from turning back. "This is a peculiar idea you have, **God**," he must have muttered quietly to himself.

Are **God's** guardians given to such musings? Are we? Are we still stunned by **God's** coming? Still staggered by the event? Does Christmas still spawn the same speechless wonder that it did two thousand years ago?

I've been asking that question lately – to myself. As I write, Christmas is only days away and something just happened that has me concerned that the pace of the holidays may be overshadowing the real purpose of the holidays.

I saw a manger in a mall. Correct that. I barely saw a manger in a mall. I almost didn't see it. I was in such a hurry. Guests coming. Santa dropping in. Sermons to be prepared. Services to be

planned. And presents still to be purchased. The crush of things was so great that the crèche of Christ was almost ignored. I nearly missed it. And had it not been for the child and his father, I would have.

But out of the corner of my eye, I saw them. The little boy, three, maybe four years old, in jeans and high – tops staring at the manger's infant. The father, in baseball hat and work clothes, looking over his son's shoulder, gesturing first at Joseph, then Mary, then the baby. He was telling the little fellow the story.

And oh, the twinkle in the boy's eyes. The wonder on his little face. He didn't speak. He just listened. And I didn't move. I just watched. What questions were filling the little boy's head? Could they have been the same as Gabriel's? What sparked the amazement on his face? Was it the magic?

And why is it that out of a hundred or so of God's children only two paused to consider His Son? What is this December demon that steals our eyes and still our tongues? Isn't this the season to pause and pose **Gabriel's** questions?

The tragedy is not that we can't answer them, but that we are too busy to ask them.

Only heaven knows how long **Gabriel** fluttered unseen above Mary before he took a breath and broke the news. But he did. He told her the name. He told her the plan. He told her not to be afraid. And when he announced, "With **God** nothing is impossible!" he said it as much for himself as for her.

For even though he couldn't answer the questions, he knew who could, and that was enough. And even though we can't answer them all, taking time to ask a few would be a great start.

From: "When God Whispers Your Name" by  
Max Lucado

*"And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end." Isaiah 9:6-7*



## Club Calendar

## Meeting Dates and Events

**Sunday, December 14**  
**5:00 pm**

**Annual Christmas Party (see flyer)**

**Sunday, January 11**  
**5:00 pm at the Y**

**“What is our Future?”**

**January 24 through January 28—International Council Mid Year Meeting 2009**

**Sunday, February 8**

**Church Sunday**

**Audrey Miller, chairperson**

**Sunday, March 8**

**Time of Fast Event**

**Time of Fast Committee**  
**Bill, Joseph**

**Sunday, April 19**

**(date change because of Easter Sunday on April 12)**

**Saturday, May 16**

**Mystery Trip**

**Saturday, June 13**

**Joint Installation of Officers Meeting with City North**



## Carondelet Y Service Club

2008/2009

Chartered October 1978

President: Rachelle Reeg  
Vice President: Marilyn Chase  
Secretary: Debbie Redmond  
Treasurer: Marsha Brann

### Members:

Dianne Daniels  
Eleanor Eichenberger  
Rea Finn  
Fran Goebel  
Gertrude Jones  
Karen Karl  
Nancy McCullough  
Myrtle Mignerone  
Paul Mignerone  
Audrey Miller  
Joseph Oganda  
Mike Pfefferkorn  
Sandy Pfefferkorn  
Charley Redmond  
Jim Redmond  
Dan Schulze  
Shirley Snodgrass  
Anne Stuckel  
Bill Stuckel

### Youth Members

Stephen Karl  
Daniel Redmond  
Matt Stuckel

Bulletin Editor: Bob Daniels  
Email: bdaniels3@prodigy.net



## Travels with Bob and Rachelle

**Bob Daniels** and I were honored with an invitation from the US Area to participate in a North America expansion project planning session held in Minneapolis from November 16-21. This meeting centered on an intensive and honest analysis of the status of the Y's Men movement in Canada and the United States. The resulting plan offers specific steps to propel our movement forward. Success will depend on the good will and acceptance by all members to work towards this goal: to strengthen ourselves and to energize others into greater visible service within our communities and with our partner—the YMCA. Movement strengthening begins “at home.”

**International Executive Officers—IP V. S. Bashir, PIP Lasse Bergstedt, and IT Klaus Dietzel—joined ISG Rolando Dalmas, Area Presidents Fred Leonard and Bill Irwin, and Region leaders** in group discussions. Taking an honest look at our

strengths and weaknesses, our opportunities and our threats, the participants have formulated a plan to reach our intended goal: stronger clubs, new clubs, and ultimately increased service to others.

One of the most interesting but very simple plans involved a 2-1-1 focus for a club's annual work. Each club could select and engage in **two** local, **one** region or national, and **one** global project. When asked by prospective members, “**What does your club do?**”, a member can easily identify a specific service opportunity. Merely saying—“we support the YMCA”, “we work at the Book Fair”, “we have Time of Fast projects”—may not be a clear enough purpose for a new member to consider.

What would be our reply to that all important question, “**What does your club do?**”

