

Your



MID-AMERICAN

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March, April, 2010

A MESSAGE FROM THE AREA PRESIDENT . . .

Aloha!

The New Year is well underway and much has happened since my last message. In early January the Area executives met here in Hawaii to discuss mid year business and to prepare for the full Area Council meeting in July. We welcomed *MARY ANNE PHILLIPS* as the new Area President-elect. Our main concern continues to be membership growth and extension. ASD for Membership Arlo Pannkuk has developed a new brochure that he has sent to all regions that can be downloaded and printed and is a good introduction to the movement. We are also working on updating our Area website to make it more relevant and user friendly. PAP *FRED LEONARD*, in conjunction with the Regional Service Directors, is developing contacts with YMCAs that do not have Y Service Clubs and are near existing clubs. We are also assisting regions directly in club development and extension.

Leadership development is another concern. Many potential leaders at club, district and regional levels hesitate to come forward because of lack of knowledge about Y'sdom. ASD for IT *BOB DANIELS*, along with ASD for Training, *VERN KENNEY*, are currently working on a distance learning module for District Governor training that will be implemented via internet in April. These meeting tools will be made available to all regions and clubs in order to make training widely available and less costly.

During the meeting in January we talked about the change of name for our Area movement from Y's Men International US Area to Y Service Clubs International US Area. This requires a lot of paper work at the state and federal levels as well as a change to our incorporation papers. The Regional Directors recently voted to make the change so CFO *DAVE CRAYTOR* has begun the process that should take several months. We will also change the fiscal year to match international.

Later in January I attended the mid year International Council Meeting and Area President-elect training at IHQ in Geneva, Switzerland. This meeting is also a preparatory meeting for the full International Council Meeting that takes place just prior to the International Convention which this year will be held in Yokohama, Japan. Discussions included the progress of the implementation of the Forward Plan at the club level as well as the status of the Y Service Club Image Survey that was commissioned to determine how people view YSCI (Y Service Clubs International). Both member and non-members are invited to participate on line: Member url: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/english_members

Non-member url: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/english_non-members

I am delighted to announce that Y SERVICE CLUBS INTERNATIONAL will continue to participate in the Roll Back Malaria program for the next five years in partnership with the UN and the International Red Cross. More information will be forthcoming shortly from IHQ.

At the Area level, I am pleased to announce that *ANNE STUCKEL* of the Carondelet Y Service Club in St. Louis, MO has been elected as US Area Corporate Secretary for a two-year term effective July 1, 2010. Anne is a longtime YSCI member and current president of her club. We

EXCHANGE

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News and Views from the Heartland

look forward to welcoming her to the Area team at our council meeting in Hot Springs, Arkansas in July!

We are inaugurating a new Area service project this March in conjunction with Meals On Wheels. Clubs and regions have been invited to participate in anyway that they feel would most help their local organization. Food drives, fund raising and meal delivery assistance are suggested activities. The official "March For Meals" day is Saturday March 27, 2010 but projects may be done any time during the month. I'm looking forward to reading about all the good work we will be doing in our communities.

We are also working to establish Y's Youth Clubs in several states. Our Youth representative *JOEL TWYXCROSS* is hoping to establish one soon in Arizona. There are a number of youth from the Area who are planning to attend the Youth Convocation in Japan this summer and have applied for subsidies from International through the Brotherhood Fund.

Area representatives to the Regional conventions this year are as follows: Pacific Central: *DEBBIE REDMOND*, Pacific Northwest: *PHIL SAMMER* Hawaii: *MARY ANNE PHILLIPS*, Pacific Southwest: *FRED LEONARD*, North Central: *PAP TERRY BRADLEY* and South Atlantic: *PHIL SAMMER*.

The International Convention this year is in Yokohama. International Conventions bring the movement together in a way not possible electronically. Go to: <<http://ic2010yokohama.web.fc2.com/>> to register. Dates are August 5-8, 2010. Please feel free to contact me at any time at psammer@lava.net.

Important Dates

March 27: National March For Meals Day
 April 10: District Governor training via Internet
 July 6-8: US Area Council Meeting, Hot Springs, Arkansas
 July 30-Aug 4: International Council Meeting, Tokyo, Japan
 August 5-8: International Convention, Yokohama, Japan
PHIL SAMMER, Area President

REGIONAL DIRECTOR ELECT

It has been a long, cold winter and I'm looking forward to weather reports that don't include wind chill. First of all, I would like to thank all of the clubs in the Region for making the effort to change their time lines for the dues and rosters. Let's hope that changes were actually made on the rosters this time. We won't have to worry about the rosters or the dues until summertime now. Hope you have also paid your money for Brotherhood Fund, Endowment and Time of Fast.

1. March is the month for Meals on Wheels projects. I would like to hear from you on what you decided to do and would definitely appreciate any photographs about the project.

2. Kankakee has agreed to hold the Regional Convention in the Fall. We will be doing a DUAL Convention with the Mid East Region this year. When I looked at the distance to Kankakee from the various clubs in both Regions, it looks as if this location is definitely centrally located. More information will be coming out about it. We are working to keep the costs down and provide a fun time for those attending.
3. Nominations for Regional Director Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and District Governor are now over. Each club will be asked to vote in March.
4. I am working on my list of Regional Service Directors. I am hoping to have people agree to helping in this area and would like to spread the jobs out to all Districts so it is definitely a group of people working for OUR Region.

Let us all go out and continue to provide iServicei to our Community, our YMCA, our Region and our Country as a part of this wonderful organization. If you need something, please feel free to contact me.

DEBBIE REDMOND, RDE

E-mail is dredmond@ymcastlouis.org.

Office number: 314-353-0439 -- Home number: 314-638-1441.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

First of all I want to wish all of you a Successful 2010 and best wishes for each one of you to accomplish your goals in the next 6 months. As your RSD for Leadership Training and Organizational Development, I would like to offer my assistance to you.

Enough has been said in the past few years about the decline of our organization and its irrelevance in today's world. So many are the excuses and reasons offered to explain the apathy encountered in many of our clubs: fewer members, older members, our name, lack of time, lack of interest in volunteerism, etc. etc. etc...

I ask myself: *iHave we lost the reason and the desire to make a difference?i* Today, more than ever, the world needs people who want and believe that they can make a difference. I believe that we just need a *ipushi*, we need to review what we are all about, in order to see that we are still a very viable, worthwhile organization - equal to none other service, not-for profit institution.

Then, *REVIEW, WE MUST*. Therefore, let's begin with the alphabet of our organization:

Leadership Training Review 1: THE PURPOSE

- We are an *INTERNATIONAL* Association of *Y SERVICE* Clubs..
- We are a *WORLDWIDE* fellowship of persons of *ALL FAITHS*, working together in mutual respect and affection.
- We are *BASED* on the *TEACHINGS* (service and love to our fellowmen) of Jesus Christ - but no one is denied membership due to race, creed, color, religion or national origin.
- We share a common *LOYALTY* to the YMCA.
- We strive through *ACTIVE SERVICE* to develop, encourage and provide *LEADERSHIP* to build a *BETTER WORLD* for all humanity.

For *88 years* (we were founded in 1922) we have provided an incredible amount of service through our many programs, keeping in mind the needs of our local YMCAs and communities, without losing sight of the needs of *OUR WORLD*.

Things change, it's right, and we should also change the ways we do things - Nevertheless... our basic purpose does not, and we should always have it present in our minds, otherwise, *WE* will lose the main focus and the reason for our existence.

Wouldn't you want to tell others about this? I know I *DO*. So, then, let's get to work and be the ones to help reverse the decline, let's be the ones to set aside the excuses and complaints, let's be the ones who are again filled with the *ENTHUSIASM* that will bring us the desire to talk about what Y's Men and Women are all about, let's be bold and intoxicate others with the same desire of service to our fellowmen.

I will be glad to come to your Club or District meeting to help you to reorganize and think with you about how to become again a relevant service club.

I am just a phone call/email away.

Ariani A. G. Friedl, RSD - LTOD

Phone: (312) 427-0584

Email: arianifriedl@hotmail.com

YOUTH EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

YEEP, is a program of Y's Men International by arranging International Exchanges for 16-18 year old children/grandchildren of Y's Men/Y's Menettes. Participants live with a family, receive education at a local school and share the everyday life of the community for a period of at least one year. If this is something a youth in your community would like to

apply for please contact me the undersign or download YEEP application from the International Office website: <http://www.ysmen.org>.

Note: Due to requirements of school districts, incoming YEEP students cannot be accepted.

MCKINLEY JOHNSON, RSD/YEEP

314-652-7871

mc_johnson@sbcglobal.net

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Y's Men International Fiscal Year will end on March 31, 2010. We will begin on April 1, 2010, the 2010 ó2011 Fiscal Year and end March 31, 2011; therefore, any Endowment Fund Contribution we receive now will be credited to 2010ó11. In the next MAX I will have a detailed report.

If your Club missed the deadline, please, send the Contributions and Tributes you have NOW, We missed our Goal of \$ 1,000.00 this year. Hopefully, we will do much better this fiscal year.

I wish to promote Endowment Tribute and Contributions for your current members. Let's pat them on the back while they are alive. If other members in your Club would also wish to honor them, it takes at least a \$ 10.00 contribution . List their names [single or family] under your Club name at the end of the Tribute. Please, limit the Tribute to 250 words.

JUNIOR FISCHER, Endowment RSD

jfischer@wvc.net

1320 Upper 11th Street, Vincennes, IN 47591

SHORT TERM EXCHANGE PROGRAM (STEP)

STEP, is an opportunity of a lifetime. The program is designed for a short period of time. Normally not to extend longer than 11 weeks. It is a chance for youths to share life experience, have a lot of fun, learn a foreign languages and meet new friends. If this sound like something young people in your community that fall under our general guidelines, please contact me or go on line to our International website for additional information. <http://www.ysmen.org>.

MCKINLEY JOHNSON, RSD/STEP

314-652-7871

mc_johnson@sbcglobal.net

WASHINGTON Y'S MEN AND WOMEN

The Washington Y's Men & Women's Club had to cancel two meetings due to snow/ice/cold!

The December Christmas Guest Night was rescheduled to January 26. Weather cooperated and 13 members and 4 guests attended. A meal was enjoyed with the high school vocal group entertaining.

The February 9 meeting was to be the Washington Community Y Annual Dinner. Due to more ice/snow/cold it was cancelled!

The February 23 meeting had a guest speaker, *JOHN MITCHELL*. He told of his talent and ability in making anatomical models of the human body. He worked with *DR. PONSETI* at the University of Iowa Hospital to make a workable model of the ankle-foot as a teaching model. Dr. Ponseti specialized in the nonsurgical treatment of club foot.

LORI BAUER, Reporter

ST. LOUIS PAGE PARK Y SERVICE CLUB

Our club Page Park will host the Heartland District Meeting of the Mid America Region on Saturday, March 27, 2010, commencing at 10:00AM. The meeting will take place at the Monsanto Family YMCA.

According to our District Governor (DG) the results of the balloting for DG will be announce as well as he hope to secure additional district officers to assist him to provide information throughout our district.

In addition, our club Page Park will host its first annual golf tournament on Saturday, May 8, 2010. The tournament will consist of a 2-man scramble, women included and will be held at the Cloverleaf Golf Course, 3555 Fosterburg Road, Alton, IL 62202.

We are extending an invitation for Y's Men and Women and/or your friends throughout our region to participate. To sign up or for more details please contact our club golf chair *LOUIS MOORE* at 314-436-2252 or 314-409-1404.

Submitted by,

MCKINLEY JOHNSON, President

INDIANAPOLIS YIS MEN AND WOMEN CLUB

The Indianapolis Club observed February as Black History Month with two special luncheon programs featuring outside speakers concerning black history.

Special effort and promotion was made to invite and include others from the YMCA and the community.

The club is conducting its 35th Annual Essay Contest for 7th and 8th grade students in the Indianapolis Public Schools. Judging has been completed. The awards lunch for honorees, parents, teachers and principals will be held on March 17.

The 42nd annual Good Friday Breakfast, sponsored in cooperation with the YMCA of Greater Indianapolis, will be held, of course, on April 2. Our Good Friday Breakfasts represent a well regarded and well attended observance for the Indianapolis community.

We periodically have staffed Saturday morning pancake breakfasts at the Ransburg/Eastside YMCA Branch for service to young people and adults who are there and as a modest fund raiser. The most recent breakfast was on March 6.

The Indianapolis Club continues to pack boxes monthly containing books and magazines, snacks, personal items and personal notes to be sent to American military personnel in Iraq.

The club continues to explore and seek opportunities for expansion or the start of a new club or new clubs in Indianapolis branch Y's or in other Indianapolis area and Indiana communities.

Submitted by *DAVID REES*.

CARONDELET Y SERVICE CLUB
Words to the Y's

Clubs in the US Area are being encouraged to participate in some kind of project connected with Meals on Wheels during March. The Carondelet Y Service Club has chosen to conduct a lobby campaign at the Rec Plex to attract some new drivers for the Carondelet Community Betterment Meals on Wheels Program. Treasurer and club member *MARSHA BRANN* has sent info about the program details: time, duties, etc.

We have selected March 22 and March 25 to conduct this campaign. Club President *ANNE STUCKEL* has volunteered to do a poster. We will have some information sheets along with our club info sheet and our club banner to attract some attention. The task is a big commitment to weekly deliveries. We hope we can do something to help with this program.

Earlier this year our meetings centered on Y Service Club international programs: Brotherhood Fund and Y Service Church Sunday. Our BF program ñ Chili and Chocolate ñ featured a Chili cookoff with prizes and something chocolate for dessert. Members brought their favorite recipes for the competition. *MATT*

STUCKEL provided a PowerPoint program on his trip to Trinidad-Tobago in summer 2009 ñ the St. Louis YMCA youth exchange trip.

Y Service Church Sunday brought 11 members together to the historic Third Baptist Church for worship and for a luncheon and business meeting following. Our Time of Fast evening focused on current projects and a simple soup and bread meal. Coming up will be our Mystery Trip and the launch of the 32nd Book Fair Kickoff and the accompanying six months of preparation. Fun and workóthatís why we call ourselves a Service Club.

We will add a new member or two this month too bringing us to 29 or 30óseniors, youth, men, and women, Y staff and volunteers. We are proud of our history and look forward to many more years of service to our YMCA and to our neighborhood.

Submitted by *RACHELLE REEG*



MID AMERICA REGION, Y'S MEN'S INTERNATIONAL

| | BUDGET 2009-2010 | 7/1/2009 3/8/2010 | TOTAL TO DATE |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$2,064.25 | | \$ 2,064.25 |
| INCOME | | | |
| Regional Dues, October 09 | \$1,513.00 | | \$ 1,479.00 |
| March 10 | \$1,513.00 | \$ 688.50 | \$ 688.50 |
| New Club Gift | \$200.00 | | |
| Recovery - Dues in arrears | | | \$ - |
| Interest Income | \$4.00 | \$ 0.34 | \$ 2.76 |
| Area Dues, October, 09 | \$1,525.00 | | \$ 1,466.25 |
| March, 10 | \$1,525.00 | \$ 688.50 | \$ 688.50 |
| Y'Men Int'l Dues, October, 09 | \$2,404.00 | | \$ 2,760.00 |
| 10-Mar | \$2,404.00 | \$ 1,458.00 | \$ 1,458.00 |
| Convention Advance | \$500.00 | | \$ 500.00 |
| Convention Registration 09 | | | \$ 2,940.00 |
| Convention Offering 09 | | | \$ 144.00 |
| Region Service Directors | | | \$ 280.00 |
| BEG BALANCE AND INCOME | \$13,652.25 | \$2,835.34 | \$14,471.26 |

EXPENSES

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Regional Director | \$250.00 | | \$ 18.50 |
| Regional Director Elect | \$150.00 | | |
| District Governors | \$150.00 | | |
| Regional Service Directors | \$250.00 | | |
| Secretarial Expenses | \$50.00 | | |
| Treasurer Expense | \$50.00 | | \$ 38.25 |
| Regional Bulletin | \$1,000.00 | | \$ 684.38 |
| New Club Gift | \$200.00 | | |
| Regional Board and Council | \$2,000.00 | \$ 225.50 | \$ 531.00 |
| Extension | \$200.00 | | |
| Mid Year Meeting | \$700.00 | \$ 56.50 | \$ 56.50 |
| Awards | \$50.00 | | |
| Regional Conv Seed Money | \$500.00 | | |
| Reg/Dist/Club Officer Training | \$200.00 | | |
| RD Area-Int'l Convention | \$200.00 | | |
| Dues - Int'l October, 09 | \$2,404.00 | \$ 1,327.78 | \$ 2,961.57 |
| March, 10 | \$2,404.00 | | \$ 1,327.78 |
| Dues - US Area October, 09 | \$3,084.75 | \$ 692.76 | \$ 1,457.75 |
| March, 10 | \$1,525.00 | | \$ 692.76 |
| Convention Offering and fines | | | \$ 144.00 |
| Account Payable | | | \$ 212.29 |
| Regional Convention | | \$ 488.10 | \$ 2,679.73 |
| Youth Expenses | \$100.00 | | |
| Misc | | | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$15,467.75 | \$ 2,790.64 | \$ 10,804.51 |
| Balance on Hand 3/08/2010 | | \$ 3,566.75 | |
| Balance - Dave Elder Award | \$640.58 | | |

Charlotte R. Fischer, Treas

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

The MAX is going paperless for those persons who would like to receive their copy of the MAX by e-mail. This will result in a significant cost saving to the Mid America Region in printing and mailing costs. Your editor, and his wife and friends, also would appreciate the savings in time and effort in collating, folding, tabbing, labeling and mailing.

Your MAX would be sent in full color with more legible pictures and artwork.

To get the next MAX by e-mail, just send a request e-mail to:

FRED LEONARD at fleonard@cablelynx.com

You will be added to the list for the March/April newsletter.

I thought that you might be interested in this update on the work of the YMCA in Chile and Haiti. Gifts can be sent to Dave Craytor, US Area CFO, 12405 W. Lewis Avenue, Avondale, AZ 85392 or as noted on page 7. Gifts sent to Dave will be grouped together as a Y Service Club, US Area gift for recognition but will be tax deductible since US Area is a 501 c-3 organization.

Fred Leonard, Editor

Global YMCA Update: March 4, 2010



YMCA of the USA

Global YMCA movement: responding to community needs at home and abroad

For more than 160 years, YMCAs around the world have addressed the most pressing social challenges and provided innovative responses to serve their communities. As an interconnected global movement with locations in more than 120 countries, the YMCA is well positioned to launch critical strategies and services to meet the needs of society – especially in times of crises.

This year, after devastating earthquakes hit Haiti and Chile, the global YMCA movement quickly responded with resources to help the YMCAs in the impacted areas serve the many displaced survivors in their communities. In 2005, the YMCAs from around the world offered support to the YMCA of New Orleans and surrounding communities after Hurricane Katrina. In 2004, the global movement immediately mobilized technical and financial resources for YMCAs in Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia, in response to the unprecedented destruction of the tsunami that devastated many Asian countries.

In each case, the global Y network came together to support the affected national movements to ensure their ability to respond to and serve their respective communities. In a similar manner, on a day-to-day basis the global movement works together to ensure that each national YMCA is a strong, self-sufficient organization with effective operations, relevant programs and strategies for long-term sustainability. As one of the largest social service organizations in the world, the YMCA has the scale and scope to positively impact the human condition globally.

Below you will find updates on the YMCAs of Chile and Haiti:

Chile YMCA:

In the early morning hours of February 27, Chile suffered a massive 8.8 magnitude earthquake. The quake was the strongest the region has experienced in decades.

Mr. Oscar Ordenes, the National General Secretary of the Chile YMCA (based in Valparaiso), reported that all staff and volunteers of the affected YMCAs survived the quake and are safe. YMCAs in the impacted areas suffered minor damage to their facilities.



Youth participants of the Chile YMCA (prior to earthquake).

- **YMCA Concepcion** is located directly in the area of the earthquake's epicenter but the newly constructed facility withstood the impact with minimal damage to its main building.
- **YMCA Temuco** is located a few miles from the epicenter and sustained minor damage. Staff/volunteers were able to remove debris and reopen to members within days of the earthquake.
- **YMCA Valparaiso** is located 200 miles from the epicenter and incurred more extensive damage (gym floor, fallen ceiling tiles and possible structural damage). In addition, the YMCA George Williams School, Rukantu (the YMCA residence for children) and other social outreach facilities managed by the Valparaiso YMCA, sustained minor damage and all of the children are safe. Staff/volunteers are focused on removing debris and resuming normal operations at the YMCA main building as soon as possible.
- **YMCA Santiago** reported minor infrastructure damage to the central building and the San Bernardo YMCA branch is closed because of ceiling damage and a fallen wall.

Chilean YMCA leadership at both the national and local levels are conducting a needs assessment of the affected YMCAs and surrounding communities and will develop a response plan that will be implemented with support from the global YMCA family. Several YMCAs in the United States have relationships with YMCAs in Chile and are actively showing support and solidarity to our Chilean colleagues and friends.

Haiti YMCA:

Gwenaël Apollon, General Secretary of the Haiti YMCA, reports that more than seven weeks after the January earthquake, life in Port-au-Prince continues to be very difficult with slow progress towards re-establishing basic services and the rebuilding of the city's infrastructure. Many people continue to leave Port-au-Prince, Leogane, Grand Goave and Petit Goave for more secure locations; however, most people are helping others to rebuild their lives. Gwenaël further stated:

Generally speaking, foreign organizations, the United Nations and the 5,000 NGOs on the ground in Haiti are busy with clean-up and rebuilding. Ambulances and fire trucks are everywhere, while heavy trucks and equipment work on the demolition of cracked houses and buildings. Many people sweep and remove debris from the streets as part of a "food for work program."

As we move into March, a more complex period of transition between the emergency phase and the reconstruction phase has begun. Although the persistent fragility of the people in the communities and the debut of the hurricane season are pulling us back, we should, while paying attention to help our communities, not overlook the task on hand which is empowering YMCA Haiti to increase its capacity and ability to serve youth and families for the mid-and long-term.

We are meeting with our Y global partners, including YMCA of the USA, YMCA of Dominican Republic and Latin and Caribbean Alliance of YMCA team members from March 2-9, 2010. The objectives will be to take next steps to rebuild YMCA Haiti as an organization to increase and expand its reach in terms of providing relief support and strengthen its role and presence in Haiti as a partner organization for the development of youth and families.

YMCA of the USA would like to thank the local YMCAs and individuals across the U.S. for their valuable technical and financial support. *If you would like to help, please make a donation to YMCA World Service at www.ymca.net/worldservice or by calling (800) 872-9622. If you wish to designate your support, please be sure to specify that your contribution is for "Haiti Earthquake Support" or "Chile Earthquake Support" At this time, Y-USA will not coordinate the collection/distribution of supplies due to the extreme logistical challenges - including transport, distribution and storage - on the ground in Haiti and Chile. We will continue to post information as it becomes available. You can find all updates at www.ymca.net/worldservice. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.*

Selma A. Zaidi
Vice President, International Group
YMCA of the USA



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WE SERVE GOD BY SERVING OTHERS BY RICK WARREN

Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Mark 10:43

We serve God by serving others.

The world defines greatness in terms of power, possessions, prestige, and position. If you can demand service from others, you've arrived. In our self-serving culture with its me-first mentality, acting like a servant is not a popular concept. Jesus, however, measured greatness in terms of service, not status. God determines your greatness by how many people you serve, not how many people serve you.

This is so contrary to the world's idea of greatness that we have a hard time understanding it, much less practicing it. The disciples argued about who deserved the most prominent position, and 2,000 years later, Christian leaders still jockey for position and prominence in churches, denominations, and parachurch ministries.

Thousands of books have been written on leadership, but few on servanthood. Everyone wants to lead; no one wants to be a servant. We would rather be generals than privates. Even Christians want to be "servant-leaders," not just plain servants. But to be like Jesus is to be a servant. That's what he called himself.

While knowing your shape is important for serving God, having the heart of a servant is even more important. Remember, God shaped you for service, not for self-centeredness. Without a servant's heart, you will be tempted to misuse your shape for personal gain. You will also be tempted to use it as an excuse to exempt yourself from meeting some needs.

God often tests our hearts by asking us to serve in ways we're not shaped. If you see a man fall into a ditch, God expects you to help him out, not say, "I don't have the gift of mercy or service." While you may not be gifted a particular task, you may be called to do it if no one who is gifted at it is around. Your primary ministry should be in the area of your shape, but your secondary service is wherever you're needed at the moment.

Your shape reveals your ministry, but your servant's heart will reveal your maturity. No special talent or gift is required to stay after a meeting to pick up trash or stack chairs. Anyone can be a servant. All it requires is character.

It is possible to serve in church for a lifetime without ever being a servant. You must have a servant's heart.

How can you know if you have the heart of a servant?

Jesus said, "You can tell what they are by what they do" (Matthew 7:16).

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