

212 TIME OF FAST

In the closing moments of the 1973 convention in Jamaica, it was suggested that we leave behind funds to construct a school for the street children in Kingston, who were suffering because of lack of facilities. \$10,000 was raised and today that school is open and functioning.

In 1974, we officially began to establish a yearly goal for assisting third world nations in self-help educational programs. From that first \$10,000, we began to expand our base. Now, with yearly funding continuing to increase and totaling in the tens of thousands of dollars, we are able to provide significant assistance to projects undertaken.

To date, programs and funding have been used primarily in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Each year a committee screens the several requests received. Y's Men work closely with the World Alliance of YMCA's in the process of reviewing and selection of worthy projects.

Each year Y's Men's clubs around the world have been very generous and have over-subscribed the amount contracted with the developing YMCA organization. From these extra funds, in 1977, the International Council authorized the International President to spend up to \$2,000 each year on an emergency situation that required quick funding. On occasion this has happened, with the funds rapidly going to the problem area.

In the 1978 meeting in Melbourne, Australia, the International Council authorized \$15,000 of this surplus to be placed in an emergency fund that could be drawn on by the World Alliance of YMCA's at times when monies would be needed quickly. These funds are a loan to the YMCA and replaced as quickly as possible - to be available for the next emergency situation.

Time of Fast. Giving up a meal, or a dollar or two, so that those in need might be given the tools to prepare a better life for themselves.

For more detailed information refer to the following website from International:

www.ysmen.org

Click on 'downloads' and search for Time of Fast. Otherwise contact your Regional Service Director for Time of Fast.

Date: July, 2006

212 Page 1 of 1

