

210 BROTHER CLUBS

To improve our knowledge, understanding and to cultivate international brotherhood is the foundation on which Brother Clubs are built.

Usually it begins with a Brotherhood Fund visitor or at an international convention. New friends are made. They are interested in exchanging club bulletins and personal letters. It expands to pictures, cassette tapes and on occasion, exchange visits.

Brother Club relationships are many and varied. Some people may have to translate letters from an unfamiliar language. Some clubs exchange gift items which are sold by club members - a practice which is profitable to both clubs.

But the main intent is for people of different cultures and climates to share together in order that we might understand and appreciate the contribution each makes in the world that must house us all.

WHAT IS BROTHER CLUBBING?

Brother clubbing joins in partnership two (2) clubs each located in different countries for their mutual benefit and better understanding. It is a program designed to assist Y's Men to know better and exchange ideas between Y's Men's Clubs whether over the closest border, or across the Y's Men's World.

HOW CAN A CLUB JOIN THE PROGRAM?

It's simple. Contact your nearest Area Coordinator for International Brother Clubs or its International Director. Your District Governor or Regional Director can provide the address. Request that your club be joined with another club and if possible please give the Area of your club's preference.

CAN A CLUB CHOOSE ITS OWN BROTHER CLUB?

Certainly, and whenever possible the International Director or Area Coordinator will grant the request of your choice providing that your preference accepts and responds to your club's request. This is not always possible sometimes because language difficulties create a problem in accepting the required invitation. In this case patience is important and the Brother Club Director will try to fulfill your request with a compatible club in the area you had requested.

HOW SHOULD BROTHER CLUBBING BE ORGANIZED?

Select a committee of reliable and enthusiastic members led by a capable chairman. This committee should plan immediately the initial operation of the project involving as many club members as possible.

Upon establishment with the Brother Club, keep in touch regularly. Don't start with a tremendous burst of enthusiasm and then lose interest. Don't be discouraged if your brother club is slow to respond. Perseverance pays dividends; this is why enthusiastic committee members are important.

Report Brother Clubbing activities regularly to your club, share all contacts and exchanges with all club members, as well as your Area Coordinator or International Director. Use imagination to find new ways to keep the project alive and interesting.

CAN A CLUB HAVE MORE THAN ONE BROTHER CLUB?

Certainly and if a club has shown that it has successfully maintained its Brother Club, then that club can have as many Brother Clubs as they want. However, one successful partnership is preferable to two or more haphazard relationships.

BROTHER CLUB TRIANGLES - A NEW EMPHASIS

A new concept in this program is to establish a Brother Club Triangle, which means that two Brother Clubs invite a third into their partnership. Such a Triangle opens up new and challenging prospectives; two of the three Clubs could be geographically close enough to meet once a year, and the third Club could be in a far away and maybe less developed country; thus the contacts between the three Clubs in a Triangle could help to further develop international brotherhood and understanding. The three Clubs could even run a project together. The two Clubs in developed countries could financially support a local project selected and monitored by the Brother Club in the less developed country. With your creativity, a Brother Club could renew and give new dimensions to your involvement in Y'sdom

REALISTIC ENTHUSIASM

This program of Brother Clubbing is a great challenge and opportunity. It ties together Y's Men from the world over, into a common purpose of Brotherhood. However, in your enthusiasm to promote this ideal, remember, countries and their people are used to many different ways of life. A quick enthusiastic response from one club may be counteracted by an equally sincere, but more cautious approach by another. When it is winter in the Northern Hemisphere, summer is in full swing in the Southern Hemisphere. The best way to carry out a successful Brother Club relationship is to make it an on-going program twelve months each year.

PLEASE

With good management your club will operate a successful Brother Club relationship. Don't keep it under your hat. The Brother Club Director and his team are interested in every partnership in Y'sdom, particularly the successful ones. Keep them posted; your success can be used to publicize Brother Clubbing. It's good public relations for your club, to inspire other clubs with the advantages of Brother Clubbing.

AIDS TO SUCCESSFUL BROTHER CLUBBING

- * A strong club committee is essential.
- * Never rely on just an exchange of correspondence, even the most avid correspondent can lose interest. Use E-mail or Air Mail when possible.
- * Imagination is the key to successful Brother Clubbing, new ideas keep the project fresh and interesting.
- * Learn everything possible about your Brother Club - its town, state or district, country, people, etc.. If possible arrange for a knowledgeable guest speaker to address your club on this subject.
- * Plan a forward program of Brother Club activity
- * Exchange club bulletins and YMCA publications, magazines, journals, newspapers, slides, photos, tape recordings, video tapes, small gifts, seasonal greetings, etc. Don't overlook simple items - trade and business in your country may be of great interest to your Brother Club.
- * Encourage members of each club with similar vocations or professions to exchange ideas, experiences, etc.
- * Send newspaper cuttings of items relating to the country of your Brother Club; everyone likes to know how others see them.
- * Send news cuttings which gain publicity for your club or YMCA.
- * Compile a set of slides depicting the everyday life of your average member, illustrating club life, home and family, work, recreational activities, etc. and combine with a descriptive tape recording. Send the set to your Brother Club and request them to do likewise.
- * If a member of your club or community travels abroad try to arrange a visit to the Brother Club; this can be a wonderful stimulus to Brother Clubbing.

Date: April 1989 210 Page 4 of 4

