

A tribute to late Y's Man Prof. Charles Senarath of the Y's Men's Club Moratuwa



It with much sadness that I pen these few lines on the Late Y's Man Prof. Charles Senarath of the Moratuwa Club who passed away on the 1st April after a very brief illness the nature of which none expected to be life threatening.

I first remember Prof. Charles on the day he was invited to be the Chief Guests at the annual Y's men Regional convention I think 34 years back. He and his Menette Nalini made a profound impression to those who were present at this event. These were the days where the Y's Men Region and the Moratuwa club in particular was at its helm with so many powerful personalities holding various positions and the organization was second to none in service activities in the country.

Prof. Senarath gave a well-received message which was appreciated by all and a few days later it was our Past President Darell Perera who invited them to join our club which he did without much hesitation. From then onwards he moved very closely with all our members and his Menette Nalini with the Ladies and his two children too joined in all our activities. He rarely missed our monthly dinner meetings and when it was their turn as hosts always gave us a very enjoyable

time, complete with fellowship and sing song that he and every one else thoughroughly enjoyed.

Being an erudite scholar, the members had a great regard and respect for Prof. Charles and often times gave us correct advice and counseling whenever the club or any member faced any problem personal or otherwise. He was a leader in his church and was a devout Christian, true friend, wonderful husband, father and grandfather set us an example on good Christian living where he always stressed the value of personal ethics in one's day to day life. He was a professional to the core being widely respected in the University where he was a part time lecturer after his official retirement till just a few months before he passed away. He was also a very regular participant at the monthly prayer meeting held at our home and was humble enough to seek clarification on any spiritual matters from the speaker who conducted our meetings. Lately he was very interested to learn more of the second coming of Jesus

He was a proud Maristonian and never missed any of their functions and was also a member of the Peter Pillai Foundation.

Prof. Charles was a past President of the Moratuwa club and was also a Regional Service Director for Leadership training in 2004/05 where the undersigned invited him for this position during his tenure as Regional Director. He brought new insight to this training program where he focused not only on Y's men but also more on learning as a lifelong experience.

He empathized with the poor, needy and down-trodden but stressed that Y's men should be more involved in community service rather than charity and often explained to us the difference between the two.

Yes indeed his counsel was evident last January 2020 Monthly Dinner meeting of our club where Past Area President Rita Hettiarachchi & her husband were the Chief Guests with a most appropriate suggestion which he requested me to present at the next RB Meeting which I did and I append below the contents in its entirety which are most appropriate for the times.

"Y's Men movement has been doing a lot of good work globally and in Sri Lanka to help those in need. This is a very noble activity and is appreciated. One main factor that keeps the clubs going is the Fellowship it promotes among the members particularly with monthly meetings.

The activities related to granting financial help or with various programs like day out for children and entertaining elders with meals or programs to make them happy have a value and must be appreciated. However they do not have a lasting effect to build up the recipients and society at large. Therefore, we need to concentrate on activities that build up people such as through self-help programs, health inputs, moral and ethical value building programs (there is a big need in this area for youth-school children-harmony in family and society), awareness in environmental conservation- racial harmony etc. These activities need more innovation and creativity and also getting assistance from those outside the Y's Men Movement such as for financial sponsorship, professional inputs etc."Words of wisdom"

This I believe was the last bit of advice which he imparted to the Y's Men movement.

Members of the Moratuwa Club, and personally my wife Delanie and I are certainly going to miss him and I take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to Menette Nalini and the family and pray that almighty God whom he believed in would give him eternal rest in his holy presence.

Veraan De Mel
Secretary –Y's Men's Club –Moratuwa

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