



## The Subud Australia Congress 2020



*Congress group photo. About 140 people attended the Australian Congress including children and Bustillos.*

This year the Subud Australia Congress was held from January 11-18 at the Sunshine Coast Recreation Centre at Currimundi in Queensland, a location we have frequently used in the last few years. It provides access to the beach, making it very suitable for a family holiday as well as Subud business.

Our meeting was of course preceded by the biggest disaster in Australia's history. That is, the catastrophic bushfires which began in August last year, several months ahead of when the usual bushfire season begins, and fires were burning all across Australia as our Congress began.

Twenty-nine people have died in the fires. More than 2000 houses and other properties have been destroyed. Millions of hectares of forest have burned, and thousands of native animals have been killed and injured. The iconic

“ Best ever Congress... ”



*Bushfires 2019-2020; the biggest catastrophe in Australia's history.*

### SUBMISSIONS AND DONATIONS

Submissions to Subud Voice on any aspect of Subud life are welcomed. Send to Harris Smart, [subudvoice@gmail.com](mailto:subudvoice@gmail.com) We rely on donations to keep Subud Voice going. You can donate by going to the PAYMENTS button which is located in the toolbar at the top of the page. [www.subudvoice.net](http://www.subudvoice.net)

animals of Australia, such as koala and kangaroo, which appear on our nation's coat of arms, we now see on TV shivering from their burns.

The nation is now engaged in an often acrimonious debate about why this has happened and who or what is to blame. Not only for the extent of the fires, but also the years of unbroken drought which have devastated some parts of our country.

Is it all signs of the impact of climate change? Is it that there should have been much more burn-off of undergrowth? A Royal Commission will be held to investigate all this.

How did this affect our Congress? Perhaps very little on the surface. Very few of us were directly impacted by the fires. A few people had to evacuate their homes as fires approached. But none of us were killed or injured and one member lost property.

Some had to stay away from their homes in major cities like Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra where the air quality fell dramatically because of smoke from the fires. At one point during Congress, Canberra was declared the city with the worst air in the world. During Congress Melbourne was the declared the worst.

There were no big discussions about all this on the agenda at Congress. Perhaps there is enough of it already in mainstream politics and media.

The blessing was that for the period of our Congress the conditions of heat and lack of rain which had made almost every part of our continent vulnerable to fire abated.

A cyclone blew down from Indonesia, entered our country around Darwin, and spilled its rain in abundance in Queensland where we were congressing.

I know that for myself I very much appreciated the cool, moist conditions. It was still warm enough to swim in the sea and as someone remarked, "You can't get wetter than wet."

### Best Ever Congress

There was a general agreement that this was our best Congress ever. And not just best; it was a "quantum leap" forward, especially in terms of the relationships between us which became deeper and more natural than ever before.

In other words, an increase in harmony, of the real sort, which can create bonds strong enough to be the foundation for both personal development and collective endeavour such as enterprises and other projects.

The core of the Congress is always the latihan and many people commented on the power of the latihan at this one. Our National helpers had met for several days with the International Helpers to really prepare the "space". Bapak and Ibu were also present in recordings of their talks and videos of Subud members reminiscing about their contact with them.

### I Am in Transition

Perhaps the catchphrase of this Congress was, "I am in transition". If you sat down at a table someone was sure to say, "I am in transition", and someone else would say, "Me too! I'm transitioning", and someone else would say, "No, none of you know what transition is. I'm really transitioning."

I was having a conversation with a little girl and I thought she said, "I'm in transition", copying what all the adults were saying, but what she actually said was, "I'm in Transition". Transition



*Joyful spirit of Congress. Frances (Canberra) and recently opened Guy (Northern NSW).*



*David (Adelaide), Hussein (Templestowe) and Rashid (Brisbane). All in transition.*

is a special class provided in NSW to help children manage the transition between kindergarten and “real school”.

### An International Congress

More international visitors attended this Congress than we have ever had before. They included visitors from New Zealand, Indonesia, England, Switzerland, Holland and the USA. All six of the Asian zone International helpers were present.

Ramzi Addison, Kejiwaan Councillor from New Zealand was there. Hannah from Holland, currently the Zone Three Co-ordinator, flagged the meeting which is coming up in Assisi later this year. *(See the story about it in this issue.)*

Other international officeholders who came included Rusydah, from Germany, currently the SICA chair, and a strong supporter of the YES Quest as it seems to be fulfilling the SICA mandate of helping people find their talent.

Gaye from Indonesia, well-known for the eco-tourism enterprise she runs in Kalimantan, also talked about her role as the Co-Chair for SESI. She presented about all the projects in Rungan Sari, such as BCU School and the Permakultur Foundation.

Nahum, the WSA Chair was present, with Rosario, the Deputy Chair, and Suyono, the Executive Chair of WSA. They amplified our understanding of the international organisation and its current aims and concerns. This issue of Subud Voice carries the report put out by WSA about their meeting which was held in Indonesia last year.

There were many informal visitors, such as Andrew, well known for his "green oak" enterprise in England, using traditional materials and methods to create amazing structures. He is also a strong supporter of the YES Quest and was one of those attending the Congress who also attended YES Quest Facilitator Training in the period leading up to Congress.

Kenneth and Fatijah from the USA regularly attend our congresses. That's one way we have of telling when it's a congress time in Australia. Those migratory birds from the USA always appear.

There were also presentations about archives and MSF.

There was a sense from all these international visitors that Subud Australia is in good shape and has much to offer the rest of the Subud world

### The Bustillos

Also present in abundance were members of the Bustillo clan. About 40 of them came to our Congress. >

“ Being ‘in transition’ was one of the themes of this Congress.. ”



*Members of the Madden family from Sydney who were at Congress. Frances, Sophia, Harris, An Dien, Daphne (from Brisbane, not a Madden) and Sebastian who was appointed Co-SYA Coordinator at Congress.*



*Asian Zone International Helpers. Rohmana (Australia), Isti (Indonesia), Hermina (Australia), Hussein (New Zealand), Yadi and Madji (Indonesia).*



*Ramzi, Kejiwaan Councillor from New Zealand, at the ever popular coffee van.*



*Forty members of the Bustillo clan attended the Australian Congress.*

The total attendance was about 160 people including children, so it would have been a big hole in our numbers if the Bustillos had not come.

As is well known, the Bustillo family originated in Colombia and now boasts four generations in Subud. I believe that the original patriarch of the family was the first person to be opened in Subud in Latin America. The family, including those who have married into it, runs to perhaps hundreds of people in various parts of the world including Indonesia, USA and Norway and now many have also settled in Australia.

They add that touch of Latin vitality and colour to our meetings. Furthermore, it is very difficult to think of a Subud wedding that has happened in Australia in the last two or three years, which has not involved Bustillos as brides or grooms. Without the Bustillos very few young people in Subud Australia would have been able to find Subud partners.

Rusdi Bustillo has been appointed the on-the-ground organiser for the next World Congress in Kalimantan, Rusdi's cousin Bachrun was at our Congress and talked about the project that has developed in Rungan Sari around soccer. Their soccer foundation brings sport to thousands of young people who would otherwise not be able to afford a soccer ball. It brings spin-offs in health, education and self-esteem.

One branch of the family has created a chain of flower shops in Brisbane with flowers imported from Colombia. I congratulated Emiria one of the drivers behind this endeavour saying, "I hear you now have six flower shops in Brisbane."

"No, we don't," she replied.

"Oh, that's disappointing, I was told you did."

"No", she said, "we have seven flower shops in Brisbane."

### **The YES Quest**

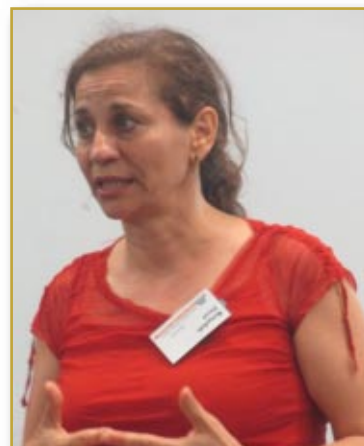
Transition is very much the theme of the YES quest which was developed more than 20 years ago in Australia by Peter Jenkins, originally with



*Hannah (Holland, Zone 3 Coordinator) with Talia (New Zealand, originally from Israel).*



*Gaye, riverboat entrepreneur and Co-SESI Chair with David (National Australia Chair).*



*Left: Rusydah (Germany), International SICA Chair; right: Nahum (Perth, Australia), WSA Chair.*

the idea of helping young people in Subud find direction in life. But in the last year or two it has been gathering energy and momentum and it also provided a backdrop to this Congress.

It is "in transition" to becoming a much bigger endeavour involving many people, with courses directed towards the general public as well as to Subud members. There are plans to create a, "Communiversities", where various locations in Subud around the world could be utilised to provide Gap-Year activities.

In the weeks leading up to the Congress, YES Quest activities were held at Sine Cera, the rain-forest retreat property which is part of the Subud charity Dharma Care.

First, there was a training program for people who are interested in becoming YES Quest Facilitators. This was facilitated by Marlena Bassler and Roland Fraval. Then there was an actual full-on YES Quest attended by the founder, Peter, who had never actually attended one before as a participant. Everyone says he did very well, and he is the oldest person yet to have done the YES Quest.

And there were others too. Maxwell and Asmaniah from Canberra, no spring chickens, also did the Quest. So, it's no longer just for young people, but also for older people who may be wishing to find new directions or to clarify, confirm and strengthen those they already have.

Asmaniah gave me a lucid and fulsome account of what it's like to go on a YES Quest. (Her son Roland was one of the facilitators.) The way she put it was that she wanted to make sure she didn't die with a sense that there was something she should have done and had failed to do it. She wants to make sure that all her potentials are used up before she passes over.

It was noticeable that the Quest as well as bringing participants new insights and aspirations, creates very strong bonds between the people who have done it.

### Business

The Subud Australia Council met for several days under the guidance of chairman, David, and committee councillor, Bruce. One of the major initiatives to emerge from the meeting was that the council committed funds to begin the process of designing a building to house the WSA archives in Canberra. This long overdue process will also require the assistance of brothers and sisters worldwide.

There are also moves afoot to redesign our congresses so that we can develop them on properties we own as our own Subud Centerprises.

New appointments at Congress included new Subud Youth reps, Raqema Evans for the women replacing Rosalia Lonergan, and Sebastian Madden for the men. Kenneth Colette was replaced as vice-chair of Subud Australia by Latimah Jones. Alana Simpson was replaced as the SIHA coordinator by Matthew Pienaar from Perth.

So in reality the Subud community is not an organisation, but a brother and sisterhood among the people of the whole earth. And what we keep referring to as the organisation is not an organisation in the ordinary sense of the word, but rather an administrative structure and record keeping that serves our Subud community."

Bapak Muhammad Subuh, Coombe Springs, UK 1959

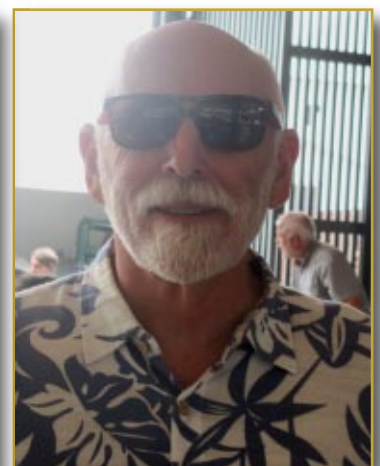
*I was much struck by this quotation from Bapak in the WSA presentation about the Subud community being not so much an organisation in the ordinary sense, but as a family.*



*Andrew (UK entrepreneur and YES Quester), Davina (Switzerland and YES Quester) and Peter (YES Quest founder).*



*Aldo, a new member and YES Quester from Brisbane.*



*Irwan Wylie (Northern Rivers) CEO of Dharma Care (formerly Morningside Care).*

Irwan Wylie, CEO of Dharma care, talked about the many projects that this charity is involved in including those in Australia and overseas such as the project supporting women in Cambodia. For several years now Dharma Care has also spearheaded plans to acquire land and create a Subud community.

Irwan was able to report how this idea has developed from the model of a retirement village which is subject to many regulations, to a much more suitable and flexible concept known as Manufactured Home Estates.

### Trivia Night and Other Diversions

As well as the official business there were of course many opportunities for just relaxing and having fun. Though the weather was cool, and the rain frequent you could still swim in the rugged surf or the placid lake of the estuary. As someone remarked, "You can't get any wetter than wet".

An innovation at this Congress was the trivia night, conducted by Latimah. She combines so many roles. She is a wife, a mother, a medical doctor, and now our vice-chair.

The first 10 questions in the trivia quiz had to do with Subud. I felt that the information behind one of the questions was incorrect, and I called this out to Latimah.

She replied, "Oh, really? Is that so? Well I got the information for that question out of Subud Voice."

So that certainly took the wind out of my sails.

But the next day Latimah told me, "Well I'm not really sure I read it in Subud Voice, but I know I read it somewhere."

The trivia night was a double-barrelled fundraiser for both Susila Dharma and bushfire relief. An auction of paintings was conducted by Bruce, our committee councillor, which raised \$610 for bushfire relief which went to the Red Cross, and more than \$950 for Susila Dharma.

### Culture Couch

A tradition at our congresses, and it has also been done at World Congress, is what we call Culture Couch. This is like a TV-style "Parkinson" interview program with congress attendees. The idea for this originated with Sebastian Flynn when he was the SICA chair in Australia and he invited me to take it on because of my experience as an interviewer.

I really enjoy doing it. People tell the most extraordinary stories. Of their work in enterprises, of their spiritual experiences and how Subud and the latihan affect every aspect of their lives.

Of particular interest at this Congress were interviews with members of the third generation of Bapak's family including the international helpers, Madji and Yadi and WSA Executive Chair Suyono, all of whom carry the name Sumohadiwidjojo.

### Workshops

Many workshops were held including a sampler version of the YES quest attended by about 20 people in which the newly graduated trainees got to exercise the skills they have learned under Roland's supervision. Though it was only three hours long, compared to a full-on YES Quest which is usually a five-day live-in experience, the power of the Quest was evident in the sampler.

I know that it had a very strong impact on me, not so much bringing new directions, but emphasising how much we need the support of other people and how quickly the YES Quest enables people to bond.

Brianna, our Australian SICA chair organised a fun project. Children were shown how to build their own drive-in cars out of cardboard boxes and then attend a movie. A games afternoon was also held.

There were other workshops on ballet and many on health such as crisis and mental health, touch for health, preventative health, men's health issues, and healthy sleep. As some relief from health, Gavin ran a workshop on keeping native bees.



*Busy Latima (Wollongong), wife, mother, doctor, now deputy Chair of Subud Australia, conducts the trivia night..*



*Culture Couch, a TV-style interview program. Here Harris interviews the three male International Helpers of Zone 1 – Yadi, Madji and Hussein.*

## Entertainment

As always there was lots of informal music making, and the Congress concluded on Friday night with entertainment.

One recalls how long ago in the days of yore, these entertainment programs were often a groan, and one wondered how Bapak was able to sit through them. But this was a really high-class program. Really professional and exciting.

As has become a tradition at our congresses, Audrey from Tasmania assembled and rehearsed a stand-out choir from amongst us.

Other exciting acts were Alyssa from Melbourne who sang a scorching soul song, and Lucida from Cairns, a well-known singer-songwriter who also performed an indigenous song with movements.

However, the most fun act of the night was possibly three girls who performed a song and dance about bananas.

## On the way home

I want you all to know that I too have in transition. Sometimes I think my life is a YES Quest.

This year I moved from Melbourne to where I now live in the Northern Rivers. I have bought a caravan in the Mount Warning caravan park from where Subud Voice now emanates.

Mount Warning, or Wollumbin as it is named by the indigenous people, is the iconic landmark in this area, the central plug of an ancient volcano at the centre of a vast caldera, and I am right next to it. People attribute great powers to the mountain.

Around here, they say, what is meant to break will break, and what is meant to come together will come together.

But it is not only in my place of residence that I am seeking to transition. I also want to become more of a performer and my aim is to be a stand-up comic but one who also tell stories that are, meaningful and transformative.

I am very grateful to this Congress as it gave me an opportunity to launch myself in this new direction. I performed as a stand-up comic on the entertainment night. I was able to talk about various funny thing that had happened to me at Congress such as Latimah on the trivia night, or the little girl who is in Transition.

I also inquired into why our WSA chair always wears black. It reminds me of that movie of several years ago called Men in Black about some CIA agents who didn't apprehend ordinary crooks but instead dealt with ghosts, demons, monsters and other entities coming through from the fourth dimension.

In the same way I am sure our "Man in Black" has our backs.

As I drove back to where I live after congress, the time of fire had been replaced by the time of flood. At one point I had to leave the highway because it was flooded. Scarcity of rain had been replaced by abundance.

In Australia these days it is often a choice between fire and flood because near where I now live, in the town of Murwillumbah there had been flood a few years ago in which people had died.



*Audrey (Tasmania) leads her amazing Congress choir (there were many more in the choir than depicted).*



*Young talent. Alyssa (Melbourne) sang her heart out on the entertainment night with a scorching soul song. She got a standing ovation.*



*The rainforest was once again wet and the veins and arteries of the country flowed again.*

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### Asking permission

We have amongst our number a wise, but shy and modest woman who lived for a long time in Kalimantan and became very familiar with the notion that there are unseen forces in the world and sometimes it is necessary to ask their permission when we enter their territory.

So, she suggested to me that since Wol-lumbin is such a powerful geomantic force it might be good for me to ask permission of the mountain before I take up residence beneath it.

So, when I came back, I drove up the Mount Warning Road further than I'd ever been before, up past the caravan park to the mountain itself to ask permission to enter.

It was good to be in the rain forest which was now drenched with rain and all the trees and other plants were drinking up this unaccustomed moisture. And once again the streams, veins and arteries of the country, were flowing.

I was grateful that our Congress had been cool and blessed by rain. And at least in this part of Australia, the bushfire threat had abated.

Though in the days since Congress, the weather in some places is hot, while in other places rain falls, but does not fall in the drought-stricken places that most need it.

And in other places like Canberra and Sydney, hailstones as big as golf balls have wreaked havoc, and powerful winds have uprooted trees trapping people in their cars. In some places there are floods; in other water restrictions are being introduced. Weather has become extreme and unpredictable.--

Special thanks to Bruce, who is our committee counsellor, and Natascha who organised this Congress. I witnessed the enormous amount of work they put into making it all happen both in the lead-up and at the event itself.

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*From the Northern Rivers, Natascha (Congress Organiser) and Bruce (Committee Councillor).*

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## World Subud Association MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

The Executive Committee would like to sincerely wish you all a blessed and joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The F.Y.I. December edition is a special one, reporting on the WSC Meeting, which happened in October 2019. In this edition, we would like to share the feeling and the atmosphere brought about by the gathering of all the council members during the World Subud Council Meeting in Wisma Subud, Cilandak.

The preparation for the meeting started early, at the end of 2018. Choosing the meeting place, working on the budget, defining the agenda, coordinating with other Subud organizations, and preparing the venue was a first-time experience for the new Executive Committee. Thanks to God, and with the help of local members & groups, council members, and the Indonesian National Committee, we completed the WSC Meeting successfully.

Please enjoy reading our Newsletter. *With love, The Executive Committee*

To read the complete newsletter go to:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/wsa-newsletter-wsc-meeting-edition.pdf>

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## Choosing Names for Subud Children

*Harris Smart writes...I'd like to introduce a new feature in Subud Voice. As editor, I am going to republish from time articles from past issues which seem particularly memorable or relevant. For the first of these I have chosen the article "Choosing Names from Subud Children" by Lucas Augustine Adamson which first appeared in Subud Voice in June 2019.*

*At the WSA meeting in 2019 Ibu Rahayu announced that she wished to retire and would no longer be* >



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able to answer members' questions or give names. She is appointing a team of three people (Raymond Lee and Tuti and Sharif Horthy) to take over this work.

At a meeting with the International Helpers during her 87th birthday celebrations, Ibu Rahayu had already announced that she will no longer be giving names, saying that we should, by now be able to ask and receive for ourselves. The following prescient article was written by Lucas Augustine Adamson in 2006, updated for a second article in 2013, and here finally! updated in 2020.

*Lucas writes...*

Reading (on Facebook) a new member's questions about Subud name changes has reminded me to share my experience of choosing my three sons' names, in the hope that it might encourage people to test for themselves what their child's name should be.

It is well known that Bapak left Ibu Rahayu in charge of name changes in Subud, and although she received my name for me soon after I joined in 1997, by the time my first son was born, it felt like a huge imposition to ask her to test my son's name on my behalf. Also, I felt that, if I hadn't developed enough in my latihan to receive such a critical thing for myself, then I'm certainly not standing on my own two feet.

I have learned that, as the father, you are the perfect person to test the child's name, being afforded a certain grace to receive the answer.

Just before my first son was born, I was at Loudwater Farm during a visit from a party of national and international helpers. It seemed like an obvious time to test a name and so I grabbed hal dozen or so of them, threw them in a room, and we all tested for a letter.

Let me tell you, it was an eye opener on testing! The helpers received every letter and sound under the sun, and no two were alike. Some helpers were pretty sure they were right, too – after all, a lot of Ibu's responsibilities had been passed over to them by now, so I guess they must have felt competent to do this kind of work.

#### [Spiritually Connected to the Situation](#)

I received an EEEEEEEEEEE if it was a boy, and a UUUUUUUUU if a girl. In the face of a whole host of received options, I went with what I had personally received, not out of arrogance, but because I felt that if anybody in that room was spiritually connected to the situation, and qualified to receive such things, then it was most likely to be me.

Unlike personal testing, where we might be subject to a whole host of forces acting upon us to confuse the receiving, I felt quite guided during this session, and able to receive cleanly and clearly, as though testing something abstract, upon which I had neither opinion nor motive. After running through some E names, my son's name was settled as Eli. I wussed out and asked Ibu Rahayu, who confirmed that it was the right name. He's 12 now and it certainly still feels right.

It was that testing session that really cemented for me how important it is to place greater emphasis on one's own receiving than that of other helpers, no matter how great their experience in the kejiwaan.

No doubt it was very helpful to have helpers to test with, broadening the channel through which we can receive, but it feels very important (to me) to receive for myself, and not to "go with the helpers" on things. I was very bold in asserting that I would go with my own receiving, because I guess sometimes you just know, and the helpers were very supportive with that, as it should be.

Six years later, in 2012, Susannah gave birth to our other boy, and this time I tested with Marcus, Susannah's dad. He was super supportive and lovely, insisting that it was his role as a helper to support me in my receiving, as he felt that was the key thing. I happen to agree. Testing is an incredible tool for all of us to receive for ourselves. What others receive "for us" is often compelling, but hardly the point of our training. We asked for a letter. I received dee, dee, dee, dee, dee, dee, dee, dee, dee, dee, dee, dee. It was not ambiguous.

#### [Looking for the Name beginning with D](#)

I went away and looked for D names that began with not just a letter D, but a DEE sound. They are few and far between, mostly Indian and on my desperate list of about 8 names, I even had Dilraj, until Susannah noted that it was not actually a child's name but an Indian restaurant in Lewes!

Among the options was Dylan, which was about 85% right when we tested it (and a name Susannah had independently intuited for the child). Dhillip and Dilshan were also 85%-ish. Dilbert was also OK (but that was never going to happen.) I was looking for a name that, upon testing, would be a "100% correct" receiving, not an 85% also-ran.

I got quite confused afterwards, and then, realising that the D-L\_\_\_ names were almost right, 85%ers, returned for a second session with Marcus the next day despite having run out of names. Idly chatting before >

the latihan, I considered that maybe I'd been mistaken in my thinking that it was a DEEL\_\_ sound. I came out with, "Bloody hell, wouldn't it be a Subud conspiracy if it was yet another Subud Dahlan!"

My eyes widened, and that wave of revelation came over me as I said the name, and I realised that it was the right name for my son, the one we'd been looking for, and said so to Marcus.

We tested it immediately: it was 100%! So now we have a little Dahlan. I know of 10 of them; all in Subud. The name isn't even a real name out in Muggles world! Good though. I love it!

It's 2019 and Dahlan is 6 years old now, and Susannah and I have just welcomed our third, AND FINAL!!! son together into our family. On the day he was born, our little baby was rushed into the special measures intensive care unit of Hayward's Heath hospital, as he had been born a month premature and by Caesarian section, with both mother and baby having had a rather aggressive fever brought about from sepsis (blood poisoning), the biggest killer of infants and mothers-to-be in pre-industrial times. So, he was born by the surgeon's knife to a life of intravenous antibiotics, a UV light bed, oxygenated breathing assistance and a very worried mother and father that could neither pick him up, console him, nor help in any way beyond our prayers.

I was reminded of the story of how Bapak himself had been in a touch and go medical situation as a child, and how his mother had been instructed to change his name as a matter of urgency in order to save his life. It's with that in mind that Grandad Marcus and I set about to find the right name for the baby on the day he was born.

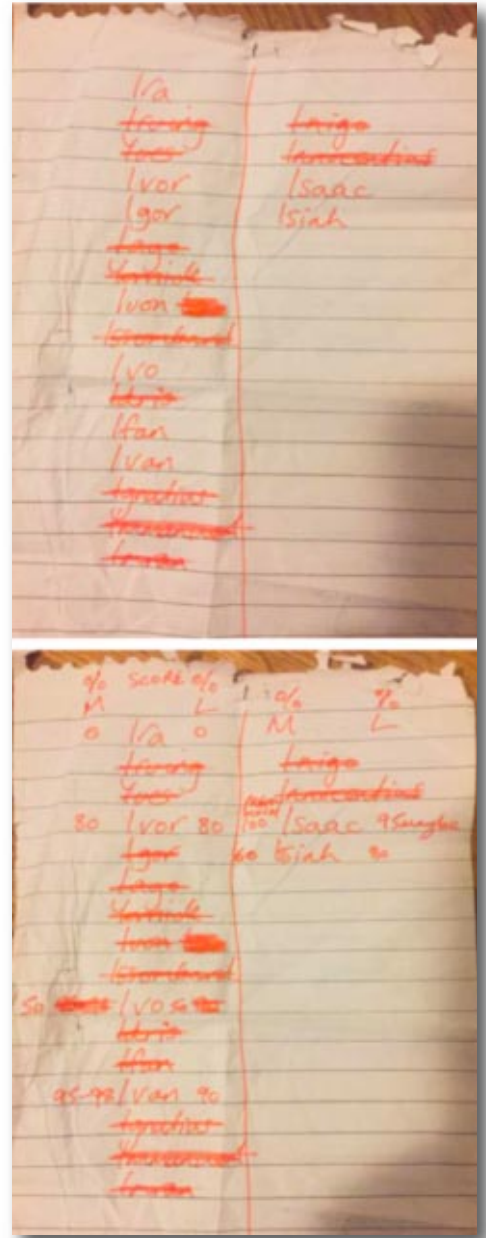
We asked first of all for an initial letter. I received I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I. Reassuringly unambiguous and clear, yes, but certainly in my mind it was hard to trust that I really could receive it that simply and clearly, so aware am I of the influence of my constantly chattering, egotistically driven mind. I guess that's why it's so important to really saturate oneself in the latihan for a good solid half hour before any such testing. I also remember now that we did do a few tests prior to the asking of the letter:

1. How I receive a "yes/positive response/light feeling/the will of God."
2. How I receive a "no/negative response/heavy feeling/not the will of God."
3. Whether it is appropriate to do testing about the name of the baby at this time.
4. To receive the state of inner quiet required to receive properly and clearly.

This preparation is actually really important, and actually saves time, avoids confusion, and leads to the testing being really effective, I've found.

Marcus and I (and Susannah by phone) went about writing a list of as many I names as we could think of. I've included a photo of that scrappy list, written on the back of a shopping list. From there it was simply a case of going through the list, testing each one. But first, a short-cut: We tested how it was if the name began with an "EYE" sound, and how it was if the name began with a short "i" sound. This allowed us to cross off all of the names beginning with "i" such as Iago, Iain, Inigo, Idris, Ignatius, Immanuel, Imron, Irving etc.

From there, we had 8 names to test and after



The testing results notes for 'I'...



L to R: Isaac, Dahlan and Eli Adamson.

each one, we would each give a percentage score to them: Ira, Ivor, Igor, Ivon, Ifan, Ivan, Isaiah and Isaac. Here's how it turned out:

In the end it was a toss up between Isaac and Ivan, but a second confirmation test clarified that it should be Isaac, and we left feeling confident that in just 1 and a half hours, and on the day of his birth, we had found the right name.

Whether it is true or not that this helped little Isaac we can never know, but it was quite remarkable how fast he healed, each day bringing new positive milestones in his recovery, and within a week he was brought home and is now a happy and healthy bouncing baby boy.

So really, I just want to encourage fathers (and mothers, grandparents!) to test the name of your children for yourselves. It's a really great "rite of passage" venture into fatherhood, and greatly adds to the amazing spiritual experience of parenthood. I feel sure that all parents in Subud can do this for themselves with a little help from Subud family and friends experienced in the kejiwaan. ●

## ZONE MEETING IN ASSISI



*Hannah de Roo writes from Zone 3...*

Since the announcement of a joint Zone 3 and 4 gathering in Italy, a lot of interest has been shown and not only by members and delegates from our own zones.

Subud International Cultural Association (SICA) and Susila Dharma International Association (SDIA) will hold annual meetings there, while

Subud International Cultural Association (SICA) and Susila Dharma International Association (SDIA) will hold annual meetings there, while health practitioners in Subud will also be present and offer their services. Subud Youth Activities International (SYIA) will be actively involved as well, and we also want to encourage families with children to participate. The full dewan of International Helpers will meet before the start of the gathering and quite a few of them will stay around a bit longer. Both our WSA chair and executive chair are planning to attend, as well as the coordinator for the next World Congress.

Still, our main focus is on being together with ALL ages, enjoying each other's company in an inspirational and relaxed way.

As you will see, prices are very affordable, especially for this top location in Europe and no registration fee is charged for anyone under 25 years.

However, to make sure we can make this gathering a success, we need your help and support. Therefore, we are setting up an Assisi 2020 Sponsoring Campaign.

You can donate a product or a service as an individual or as a group, and this product or service can be purchased online. For instance, a stay at your B&B or Centerprise accommodation, a work of art, coaching sessions, or whatever else you can think of to offer. The profit will be for the organisation of Assisi 2020.

This will allow us to sponsor delegates and members from countries that have less funds than others, in particular several East-European countries.

So please make an effort and join in with this campaign, either as a donor or as a buyer!

Of course, we will also need your help for the organisation itself. There will be many things to prepare and take care of, so have a look at the list of vacancies on the website, under 'Join the team'.

Thank you!

# INSPIRED HEALTH

*Alena Kennedy, event organiser, writes from Wollongong, Australia...*

Inspired Health was a regional gathering held over the Easter weekend (April 2019) at the Subud Wollongong house on Hillside Farm, Dombarton, NSW.

Its aim was to combine aspects of the Wings of Subud, in this case Culture (SICA) and Health (SIHA). The Human Welfare Wing (Susila Dharma) was also represented as the event became a fundraiser for educating two refugee and asylum seeker women who are supported by Susila Dharma Australia.

The program was greatly enhanced by meals, cakes and coffee provided in a café setting by local members. Visitors could relax between workshops and chat or go for walks.

Inspired Health was part of an ongoing program by Subud Wollongong to host modestly sized culturally uplifting special events. Alana Simpson, Australian Chairperson for SIHA organised the Health program and Alena Kennedy organised the Cultural program and fundraiser.

Members of the Subud Wollongong group took responsibility for aspects of the event including catering, accommodation, venue preparation & improvements, art exhibition, market stall and performance night (including the auction). Bridie Temple recorded the event with her camera.

Saturday evening was the busiest time with over 40 participants (including 7 children) sharing dinner and attending the performances. Saturday was open to non Subud friends and families of members. Kendra Pietruszewski played an important part by organising play activities for children and performing the Acknowledgement to Country. Sunday was reserved for Subud Kejiwaan (spiritual) activities but included a couple of workshops and discussions.

The event was partially funded by SICA Australia with a grant of \$500. We are grateful for this help to our project. We thank all those who contributed in a variety of ways. We particularly thank those who facilitated the workshops and activities which were the lifeblood of the event.

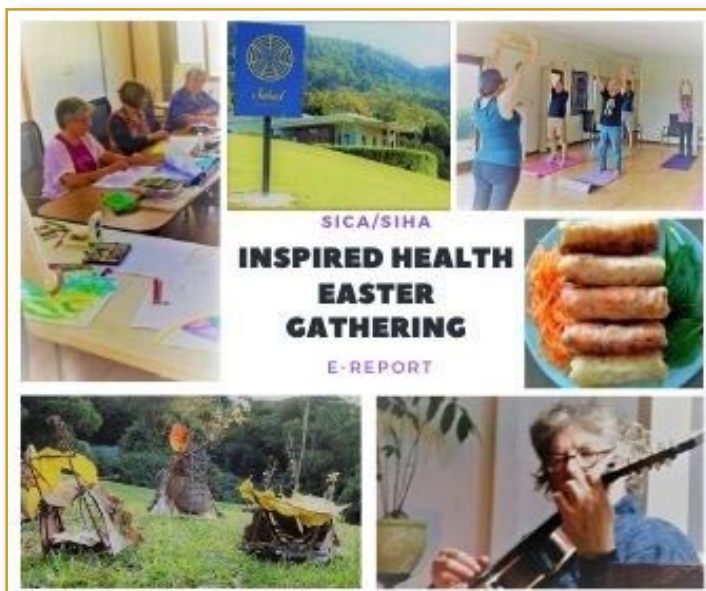
SICA Australia provided us with another grant to fund the production of this e-book. I thank Bridie for her insightful photographs of the event. Rosanna Cox did an excellent job co-producing this e-record in the midst of moving and starting a new and demanding job, for which I am very grateful.

I trust that this record and others like it may contribute to the kaleidoscope of glimpses of Subud and its development in this still early stage of its history. Sharing such experiences enables stimulating and inspired connections to be made both locally and in the wider Subud context.

I am immensely grateful to our dear founder Bapak Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo for the gift of Subud which he passed on to us and which healed me and opened my life to a spiritual journey of profound potential. I am also deeply appreciative of his daughter Ibu Rahayu who continues to provide us with insights and explanations about Subud.

To read the complete document click here...

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/InspiredHealthGathering.pdf>



*Glimpses of Subud and its development in this early stage of its history...*



## Sharing Experiences of Doing the Latihan

*Daniela Moneta, WSA Archivist for Area III writes...*

Nobody said that the latihan would be easy. It sometimes helps to hear what others have experienced. The new Subud Archives Online website available to Subud members only has several hundred interviews made for the Memories of Bapak project (1995-2000) of members recalling their memories of Bapak and experiences of the latihan. See instructions at the end of this article about how you can have access to these interviews and much more.



*Hearing about other people's experiences can be inspirational and confirming...*



One young Subud member said that after he was opened, he took a nap on the floor during latihan for about two years and later found that that was probably the only way he could have gotten quiet. One day he didn't need to take a nap and was singing and moving around during latihan. (Stephen Camp, 1995).



*Stephen Camp, 1995.*

A young hippy member recalls going up to Bapak at the airport in Manchester in 1970 not long after she was opened. Bapak was standing alone with Tuti and Usman waiting for his flight back to London. The helpers were trying to give Bapak some space -- when the young woman and her boyfriend walked up to Bapak. Bapak, through Usman, asked "Is there something she would like to know?" Her question and Bapak's way of responding was an experience of a lifetime. (Ismana Carney, 1995) Another member said that after he was opened at his first World Congress at Briarcliff, New York, he started leafing through some Subud books for sale on a table and was astounded to find on each random page -- all the answers to the questions he didn't even know that he had. (Matthew Mayberry, 1995.)



*Ismana Carney, 1995.*

A longtime member who was opened in 1957 at Coombe Springs, said that at the time of his opening he was told nothing about Subud, just asked by John Bennett if he and the others with him wanted to be opened into this new way. All said yes. He recalls at his opening that nothing apparently happened to him. Afterwards, he went for a walk alone in the adjoining park and spontaneously started singing hymns at the top of his voice for about an hour and a half. He just couldn't stop himself. So, he knew that something very important had happened to his life. (Lester Sutherland, 1995.)



*Mathew Mayberry, 1995.*

Another Subud member said that she was planning to end her lengthy stay at Wisma Subud after the World Congress there in 1971 and relocate to London on Bapak's advice. She was then offered a full-time job teaching at the Jakarta International School. This was a dream job for anyone who wanted a reason to continue to stay in Cilandak. She then went to the Big House to see Bapak who was just leaving for a World Journey. Tuti took her up to Bapak's room and she asked him about taking the job at the International School. He said it would be fine. She then asked Tuti to remind Bapak that he had earlier advised her to move to London. Bapak then said clearly in English, and he repeated it three times: "London is best, London is best, London is best." And London was where she went and where she met her husband. (Halimah Bellows-Rochford, 1995.)



*Lester Sutherland, 1995.*

In one interview from the Memories of Bapak project, a member asked Bapak in 1959 on Bapak's visit to Norway, "Why do people change names?" Bapak closed his eyes and received for a while and then he said "Your name should begin with an 'H'." (Halstein Stralberg, 1995.) Watch Halstein's Memories of Bapak interview on the archives website to hear what happened after he got his Subud name.



*Halimah Bellows-Rochford, 1995.*

Sometimes just hearing about other people's experiences in Subud, and the ups and downs that happen when we are opened, can be inspirational and a confirmation about what we are going

through; just what a new member might need or what an older member needs to remind them of the value of the latihan. If you are a helper, you might consider directing new or isolated members to the Subud Archives Online website. See what interesting and helpful things are there.

If you want to give it a try, request access at this email address: [admin@wsaarchives.org](mailto:admin@wsaarchives.org)

The Subud Archives Online website is restricted for Subud members only. It contains movies, videos, photographs, stories, interviews, newsletters, and many documents about Subud from the early days up until today and will be there for members in the future. It is a place you can go for a full Subud experience.



*Halstein Stralberg, 1995.*

## THE UNFILTERED LATIHAN

*This article has been taken from the December issue of Reminders of Reality which is edited by Emmanuel Elliott who writes...*

*It's a joy to bring you this wonderfully eclectic range of contributions, with our thanks to all who shared with us this smorgasbord of 'food for thought.'*

*Love and blessings, Emmanuel*

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### **The Unfiltered Latihan** By Anonymous

Some spiritual experiences are not easy to put into words and share, but it can be helpful to others if we do so. We are fortunate to have Reminders of Reality for this purpose. Thoughts are energy and when we think of others, then that energy goes forth to them. For that reason, I prefer anonymity.

I'm a 79-year-old man, opened in the UK in 1967. After seven years I asked Bapak about my name and also about where I should be living. I then moved overseas with a new name.

Lately, in the midst of a quiet and contented life, I've been experiencing so much synchronicity, so many mini-miracles, that life has become exciting and special.

Accompanying this have been occurrences which I just accepted as signs of ageing. For example, I'd go to think something and the thought just floated off before I could think it.

Then a week ago, I sat in a chair at home to relax and feel quiet when I suddenly found myself on 'the other side'! This wasn't alarming at all and I was gently and lovingly sent back here, but now I know that this is not yet my time to die.

All of the above seems to have been a preparation for what happened yesterday:

At my local Subud group, I'd no sooner stood up to receive, when whoosh – the latihan just spontaneously took off and took over.

I sang and sang in what felt like pure worship of God but so powerful and seemingly independent of me was it, that I literally could not tell if I was singing loudly or softly, because IT was singing ITSELF (as though I wasn't present.) The whole half hour was like that.

Wow! What a surprise. After 52 years of Latihan - many of them spent as Bapak's helper locally and internationally - I was gifted with a totally 'unfiltered' latihan. I hadn't even known my latihan was filtered.

We were told long ago that we could ask "Is there more?"; But all these years I've been quite content to plod on with what felt like a satisfying Latihan.

I attend Latihan once a week and the following latihan (and those since) are back to my "everyday latihan".

No regrets, no ambition is required of me I must just be "Like a corpse in the hands of the body washer" as the saying goes.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, God is as close to us as our breath and this Latihan which we are privileged to receive is a worship of God, which does not come from our ordinary will, but from the Will of Almighty God.

Thank you, Almighty God, for the Latihan and thank you Yang Mulia Bapak for being the channel for this Grace to come to all of mankind.

# PRIVATE LATIHANS WITH MAS SUDARTO

*Subagio writes from Adelaide, Australia...*

Following my opening in Subud at Cilandak by Mas Sudarto and Mas Prio Hartono I participated in the Group Latihan on every latihan night. Normally I would arrive at Mas Sudarto's apartment, one hour or so before the latihan time and Mas Sudarto's very charming wife would serve Mas Sudarto and me a cup of tea soon after I arrived, and then she would disappear for the rest of the evening.

So, before we joined in the group latihan Mas Sudarto would talk of his spiritual experiences since he was opened in Subud over a cup of tea, interestingly enough never talked about RULES in Subud.

(A striking difference from what I saw later on in Australia, where Helpers are very keen on telling new members of the RULES in Subud, eg. Dress Codes for ladies and took great delight in having the power to command "BEGIN" and "FINISH", and nothing about their spiritual experiences).

After a couple of times in group latihan I told Mas Sudarto and Mas Prio Hartono that the noise in group latihan distracted me from having proper latihan. In those times it was Bapak's routine to do inspection round in the Cilandak compound after dusk, then sometimes he called by at Mas Sudarto's before returning to his house.

At this opportunity Mas Sudarto and Mas Prio Hartono mentioned to Bapak of my problem having latihan with the group.

Bapak paused for a moment's thought, then said to Mas Sudarto and Mas Prio Hartono: "Then one of you must have separate latihans with Subagio", or something to that effect.

(On reflection some twenty five years later I realised that Bapak and senior helpers like Mas Sudarto, as I had experienced myself occasionally, was capable of having "instant testing and receiving").

From then on Mas Sudarto and I had our private latihans separate from the group. Of course I was grateful to Bapak and Mas Sudarto for the special attention given to me in my spiritual development.

## When talking and listening can be in latihan

On one latihan evening as usual as soon as I arrived at Mas Sudarto's apartment his wife dutifully served us with a cup of tea, then disappeared for the rest of the evening in the back room.

As usual Mas Sudarto started talking of his spiritual experiences, words of wisdom and some most intimate subjects like how a married couple should consummate their marriage. Once he also told me he was driving Bapak through the streets of Jakarta to the hospital while in a state of latihan. Some of his spiritual experiences are written in *Pewarta Kejiwaan Subud* publication and compiled in "The Experiences of Mas Sudarto Martohudojo".

He just kept talking and talking and when I looked at my watch it was already 12.00 midnight. I asked Mas Sudarto; "Mas Sudarto, I thought I was supposed to come here for a latihan with you?".

In a most caring tone he replied softly and politely:

"My younger brother Subagio, did not you realise we have been in latihan in last 4 hours!"

I said: "Oh! have we?". "You realise Mas Sudarto it is midnight already, may I go home now?".

I walked the pitched dark narrow road of Cilandak 5 kms back to Kebayoran, still trying to believe I had been in latihan for 4 hours. The understanding did not come to me until 30 years later when I found myself occasionally talking to someone receptive on spiritual matter in a state of latihan but not quite for 4 hours though, watching TV, or even writing my emails, in effect one has to "connect" or "be in touch" with one's inner all the time.

NOTE: I remember Bapak ever said that he could be in latihan while he was watching TV. Bapak also said in his book "Adam and his children";

"If we want to experience the possibility of improving our being – that is, of returning our being to its original state, to clean it out completely – we have to receive this latihan every moment, every second, every pulsebeat. Every heartbeat, we need to feel the vibration of the life within our life".

My regular private latihans with Mas Sudarto that went on for several months were a special memorable >



*Mas Sudarto.*

*“ We have to receive this latihan every moment, every second, every pulsebeat...”*

experience to me. I always remember Mas Sudarto and his wisdom with love, fondness and gratitude. My special gratitude to Bapak for the latihan and for instructing Mas Sudarto and Mas Prio Hartono to have private latihan with me.

Click here for “The Experiences of Mas Sudarto Martohudojo”

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/TheExperiencesOfMasSudarto.pdf>

And click here for some memories of him by Harris Smart

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/MemoriesOfMasSudarto.pdf>

## FOUR EXPERIENCES WITH BAPAK

*In this article Harris Smart writes about four experiences he had with Bapak, including one of doing sunkum...*

### SHOULD I WEAR MY HAT OR NOT?

Back in the 70s and 80s I was often fortunate enough to travel around following Bapak on his various tours and I would sometimes write articles about it for Subud publications.

But I was frustrated because I could never get a really good photograph of Bapak.

I am a rather shy person and I find it difficult to walk up to people and thrust a camera in their faces and take their photo. And of course, I was particularly sensitive to this in the case of Bapak

So, I was always taking photographs of him from the back of the room when he was sitting up on the stage and they were always too long distance to be any good.

So, one time when Bapak was visiting Melbourne, I decided to ask if I could make an appointment to take a photograph of him. Sharif arranged this.

What amazed me was how seriously Bapak took this matter. Here was I, a lowly and unknown Subud member, but Bapak took this matter of the photograph as something of great importance that had to be got right. So, there were detailed discussions with Sharif translating about such things as whether it should be indoors or outdoors, and whether he should wear his hat or not.

Finally, it was agreed that it should be outdoors and that he would wear his hat.

I was very nervous taking the photograph because I was in such awe of Bapak and felt so unworthy. Consequently, it was not a very good photograph even though Bapak had prepared himself so conscientiously for it.

I guess every action in our lives is stamped with our thumbprint and in this little anecdote you can see one aspect of me, of how I am sometimes shy and nervous. And this does not produce a good result.

### SUNKUM

I was fortunate enough in the 70s and 80s to several times a go to Wisma Subud for Ramadan. On Idul Fitri of course, many people would gather at Wisma Subud, both foreigners and members from all over Indonesia, to do sunkum to Bapak.

So usually a queue of about 1000 people would line up to kneel before Bapak to ask his forgiveness.

So, you waited, waited, waited in the queue and eventually your turn came. And then for the last 10 meters or so you approached Bapak on your knees, and then you rested your forehead on his knee, and you asked forgiveness' (inwardly or outwardly) and then you got up and went down the line asking forgiveness of the members of Bapak's family, before asking forgiveness of everyone.

Well, I always had mixed feelings about this ceremony. I am Australian and we are extremely egalitarian, and we do not believe in standing on ceremony. “Jack's as good as his master” is often our attitude and this is particularly true of the Australians of the Irish variety of which I am a member. We do not believe in bending the knee to anyone.



*A Javanese dancer does sunkum to Bapak.*



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So, one part of me wanted to go along with this sunkum, and another part of me was in deep rebellion about it. Of course, I understood that it was an Indonesian custom and Indonesian society particularly at that time was still feudal in some of its customs of respect, and so I went along with it.

The divisions and conflicts within that were felt intensely at that moment reflected a fundamental fracture in my attitude to being in Subud. Yes, I want to do it. Yes, know I must do it, I know it is the way for me, but something in me resists it.

So I approached Bapak on my knees several times, but part of me did not really believe it. Part of my heart was not committed to it. Nevertheless, I did it.

I remember one time approaching Bapak in this way and putting my forehead on his knee, doing it and resisting it at the same time, and then I felt Bapak touch me on the back and there was such a feeling, even to my divided heart, of love, comfort, understanding and forgiveness..

## BAPAK FALLS IN LOVE

I was fortunate in the 70s and 80s to go several times to Wisma Subud, sometimes for Ramadan, and sometimes for other occasions such as Bapak's birthday.

The usual custom was that when your stay in Wisma Subud was complete, you went to Bapak's house to say goodbye to him. So, one time I did this and altogether there were about 100 of us who were leaving Wisma Subud and wanted to say goodbye to Bapak.

So, we met in his house in the morning and then he came down from upstairs, unshaven still and in an open necked shirt. He seemed to be in a particularly light mood, and he told us that he had been writing his autobiography.

He said that as he travelled around the world, he would spend some time each day writing his autobiography as light relief, and Sharif had been translating it into English. Would we like to hear some of it?

Well, of course we would.

So Bapak had Sharif read the episode where Bapak is travelling on a train to visit a friend who is ill, but at a certain station a young woman gets on the train to whom he is attracted. He notices how the wind twitches her sarong around her ankles.

And he visits his friend, but he can't stop thinking about this woman. So, on his way back home again he gets off the train at the station where the young woman alighted, and he asks about her, and he finds out that she is the daughter of a local religious leader. Subsequently, appropriate approaches are made to her family to open a courtship, and eventually Bapak and Rumindah are married.

It is a very touching and simple episode and the best thing about it is that when Bapak, the Messenger of God, falls in love, he falls in love in just the same way that the rest of us do. He just concentrate on anything except the object of his affection. We glimpse the woman on the train, and we are instantly attracted to her, and we can't think of anything else until we have found her again.

So, we all then said goodbye to Bapak and went out from the big house. A light rain was falling. It was one of those rain's that really seems to come down like a blessing or to mark a special event.

## SO MANY LEVELS

One time when Bapak visited Melbourne, I happened to be the chairman of the group. During the visit I had this dream.

We were all sitting in the hall and Bapak was giving a talk. It was very realistic. It was just like the way things were in real life.

Then I noticed a kind of whispering going around the room and eventually the whispering reached the row in front of me and a man turned to me and said, "Bapak needs to go to the toilet and you have to take him."

I protested, "Why must I take him?"

"Because you are the chairman," the man told me.

So, I had to take Bapak from the hall to the nearby house where there was a toilet. In reality, between the hall and the house there is a fairly smooth lawn, but in the dream this had changed, and instead of a nice lawn there was a cactus garden with lots of jagged rocks and cacti and in the dream Bapak was his real age and I was very afraid that Bapak would fall and break some fragile bones and everyone would blame me.

But we made it safely to the house and Bapak went into use the toilet and I sat on a bench waiting for him. Then I looked up and I saw that the house had many levels and women were moving around these levels carrying out various household tasks. And I looked down and I saw that the house also went down for many levels.

And I thought to myself, "Wow! I never knew this house had so many levels!"

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AVAILABLE ONLINE FOR THE FIRST TIME  
A GIFT FROM GOD &  
BAPAK: THE MAN AND HIS MISSION



*A landmark production  
presenting a vivid and coherent  
account of Bapak's life and  
the story of Subud...*



For the first time Subud Voice is making available online four video programs which document the history and development of Subud from Bapak's birth in 1901 to his 100th anniversary in 2001. The programs are...

**BAPAK THE MAN AND HIS MISSION**

Part 1: 1901-1959: The Origins of Subud. 1 hr 16 mins

Part 2: 1957-1971: Preparing the Vessel. 1 hr 20 mins

Part 3: 1971-2001: Putting the Latihan into Practice. 1 hr 26 mins

Then all three were compiled into one handy 65 minute version  
**A GIFT FROM GOD 1901-2001.**

For more information and how to get the programs  
CLICK ON THIS LINK

<https://www.subudvoice.net/shop/>

This will take you to a page where the four videos are listed, each one identified by a thumbnail of Bapak.

If you want more information about each of the videos click on the thumbnails of Bapak, which will take you to a page describing the contents of the video and its duration.

Each of the videos costs **US\$25** to purchase the rights to watch online, as many times as you like.

Or you can purchase the rights to stream all four for **US\$60**.

The site will ask you to set up a LOG-IN with username, email address and password in order to purchase the rights to view. Please make a note of this information in case you need to access the site on future occasions.

The site will give you the option to pay for the videos from a PayPal account or from a credit card. Once you have made the payment you will receive in your email account LINKS to whatever videos you have purchased to view.

Remember that we are selling the rights to these videos in order to support the ongoing production of Subud Voice.

# THE COVENANT OF MUHAMMAD

*Sebastian Paemen writes...*

The Ashtiname of Muhammad, also known as the Covenant or Testament of, is a document which is a charter or writ ratified by the Prophet Muhammad granting protection and other privileges to the followers of Jesus, given to the Christian monks of Saint Catherine's Monastery, at the foot of Mount Sinai, Egypt. The document is said to be written by Ali, son in law of the Prophet, who dictated it to him. It is sealed with an imprint representing Muhammad's hand. Āshtīnāmeḥ is a Persian word meaning "Book of Peace", a Persian term for a treaty and covenant.

"This is a letter which was issued by Mohammed, Ibn Abdullah, the Messenger, the Prophet, the Faithful, who is sent to all the people as a trust on the part of God to all His creatures, that they may have no plea against God hereafter. Verily God is Omnipotent, the Wise. This letter is directed to the embracers of Islam, as a covenant given to the followers of Jesus the Nazarene in the East and West, the far and near, the Arabs and foreigners, the known and the unknown.

This letter contains the oath given unto them, and he who disobeys that which is therein will be considered a disbeliever and a transgressor to that whereunto he is commanded. He will be regarded as one who has corrupted the oath of God, disbelieved His Testament, rejected His Authority, despised His Religion, and made himself deserving of His Curse, whether he is a Sultan or any other believer of Islam. Whenever Christian monks, devotees and pilgrims gather together, whether in a mountain or valley, or den, or frequented place, or plain, or church, or in houses of worship, verily we are [at the] back of them and shall protect them, and their properties and their morals, by Myself, by My Friends and by My Assistants, for they are of My Subjects and under My Protection.

I shall exempt them from that which may disturb them; of the burdens which are paid by others as an oath of allegiance. They must not give anything of their income but that which pleases them—they must not be offended, or disturbed, or coerced or compelled. Their judges should not be changed or prevented from accomplishing their offices, nor the monks disturbed in exercising their religious order, or the people of seclusion be stopped from dwelling in their cells.

No one is allowed to plunder these Christians, or destroy or spoil any of their churches, or houses of worship, or take any of the things contained within these houses and bring it to the houses of Islam. And he who takes away anything therefrom, will be one who has corrupted the oath of God, and, in truth, disobeyed His Messenger.

Jizya should not be put upon their judges, monks, and those whose occupation is the worship of God; nor is any other thing to be taken from them, whether it be a fine, a tax or any unjust right. Verily I shall keep their compact, wherever they may be, in the sea or on the land, in the East or West, in the North or South, for they are under My Protection and the testament of My Safety, against all things which they abhor.

No taxes or tithes should be received from those who devote themselves to the worship of God in the mountains, or from those who cultivate the Holy Lands. No one has the right to interfere with their affairs, or bring any action against them. Verily this is for aught else and not for them; rather, in the seasons of crops, they should be given a Kadah for each Ardab of wheat (about five bushels and a half) as provision for them, and no one has the right to say to them 'this is too much', or ask them to pay any tax.

As to those who possess properties, the wealthy and merchants, the poll-tax to be taken from them must not exceed twelve drachmas a head per year (*i.e. about 200 modern day US dollars*).

They shall not be imposed upon by anyone to undertake a journey, or to be forced to go to wars or to carry arms; for the Muslims have to fight for them. Do no dispute or argue with them, but deal according to the verse recorded in the Quran, to wit: 'Do not dispute or argue with the People of the Book but in that which is best' [29:46]. Thus they will live favored and protected from everything which may offend them by the Callers to religion (Islam), wherever they may be and in any place they may dwell.

Should any Christian woman be married to a Muslim, such marriage must not take place except after her consent, and she must not be prevented from going to her church for prayer. Their churches must be honored and they must not be withheld from building churches or repairing convents.

They must not be forced to carry arms or stones; but the Muslims must protect them and defend them against others. It is positively incumbent upon every one of the follower of Islam not to contradict or disobey this oath until the Day of Resurrection and the end of the world.'

*Note that when the letter uses the word 'Islam' it refers to those who 'surrender to God'. This includes anybody, Christians, Jews, etc. The religion of Muhammad wasn't called 'Islam' yet in those days.*



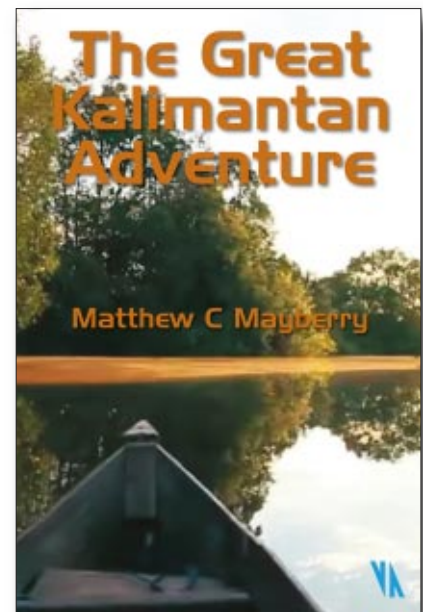
*The Covenant document, Note that the drawings on the document were added later. It is not clear by whom.*

*The provenance of this document is strong. It is mentioned in reliable hadith. Nevertheless, there are both Christians and Muslims who question its authenticity because it doesn't suit their agendas.*

## The Great Kalimantan Adventure Matthew C Mayberry

“Bapak can tell you that there is gold, there is silver, there are diamonds, there are many precious stones, there are other things like oil and so on. Bapak went to Kalimantan and met people in authority like the Governor of Central Kalimantan, who was stunned, he couldn’t believe it. He said: ‘How does Bapak know that in this place there is that and in this place there is this and so on?’ And Bapak said ‘Oh. I didn’t learn it anywhere, I know it from myself’.” Talk at Slough, UK, 4 September 1981

“This book is about my impressions and personal experiences while leading six expeditions (September 1982 to September 1986) in exploring for gold and other minerals. These expeditions were the highlight of my professional life, and the area was legendary, especially in the villages known to the Dayak people as Data Hotap.” [Matthew C Mayberry](#)



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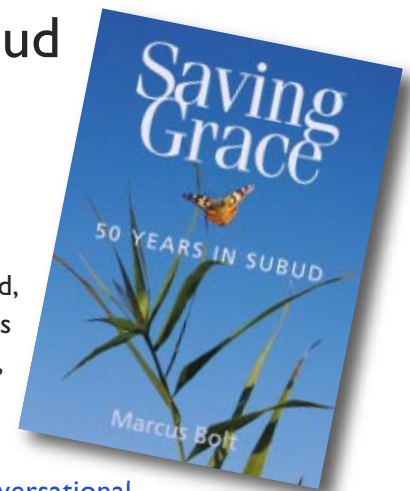
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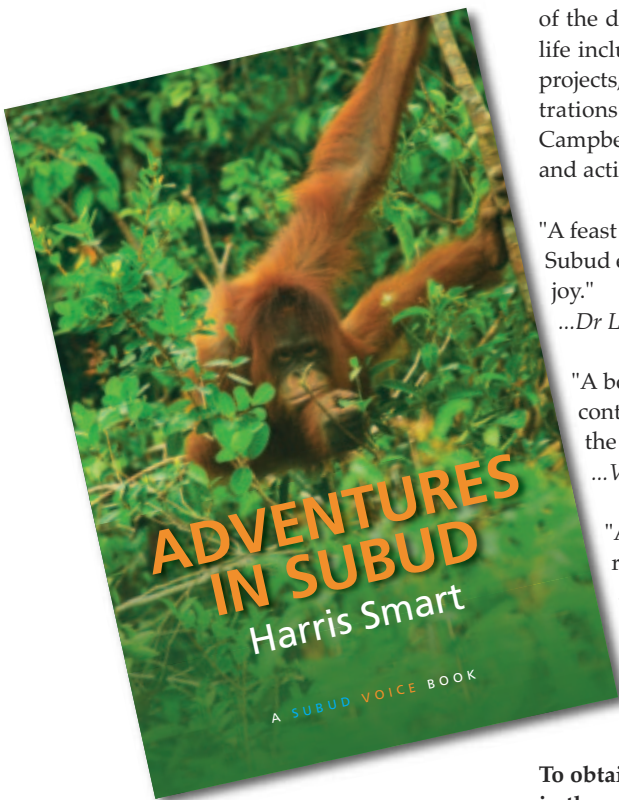
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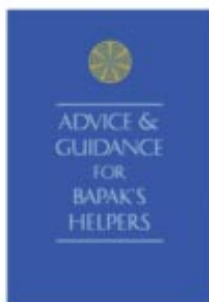
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