



## BASARA SPECIAL EDITION

### New Year at Basara



This was the scene on December 31, 2016, at the Muhammad Subuh Centre (MSC) in Rungan Sari, Central Kalimantan. This was Basara, "The Gathering"

A hundred and forty young participants came from 19 countries. They were supported by perhaps another 30 or 40 people. An organizing committee of young Indonesians, representatives of the Wings of Subud and the WSA, a YES Quest Team, International Helpers. There were perhaps another 50 people there as visitors or residents of Rungan Sari.

Basara was a break-through event, truly a step forward, a milestone in Subud's journey. Of course, there have been youth gatherings before but none of this size, intensity and intention.

As a witness, I was able to see how full of confidence these young people are. They are both very sincere about Subud and courageous in a natural way. Sometimes it is hard to see "progress" in Subud. It is very slow, it is hard to measure, it proceeds by almost imperceptible increments.

But at Basara you could see a big leap forward and "progress" measured over several generations. Many of those participating were second, third, or even fourth generation Subud members.

And it has made a difference. These young people are much more confident than previous generations. Of course, this is a big generalisation, but nonetheless it struck me as being true. And I know that others felt the same way. More confident, more active, more instinctively "enterprising".

Perhaps the essence of the event can be summed by some words spoken by George Demers, who was at the time the Chair of the Subud Youth Association International. (As is now well-known, George passed away immediately after the end of Basara.) But during Basara, George said something which seemed to me to sum it all up.

*"We're going through a generational change and it's time for the young people to step forward and take their place in Subud."*

That was Basara!

# ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY AT BASARA

As is now well known, George Demers, passed away on January 7, the day after Basara, the Kalimantan Youth Gathering which he had played such a large part in organising in his role as the Co-ordinator of the Subud Youth Association International. He had become ill towards the end of the event and died in Kalimantan while being taken to hospital by ambulance.

His death, totally unexpected, came as a great shock to everyone who had

attended Basara as well as to many people all around the world. We extend our profound condolences to his wife, Camille, and to their family of three children, Eliana, Jessie and Dimitri..

It seems strange in a way to begin our account of Basara with this tribute to George whose passing came at the end of it, but it seems to us to be the only appropriate thing to do. What he had to say then, is still just as relevant now.

Some parts of this interview could actually be read as a blueprint of how to support Subud Youth. It could be read as a message about the essence of the Subud Youth Association. I would think any future chair of that Association would want to read this because it is really like a guide to the inner nature of Subud youth and what it needs. Which is fundamentally loving support for it to find its destiny.

George was such an outstanding man and so sincerely committed to the cause of Subud Youth that we can think of no better way to initiate our account of Basara... and...and other events close to it such as the Human Force Camp which also happened in Rungan Sari, Central Kalimantan, just before Basara.

During Basara, I was able to interview George and we would like this interview to stand as our tribute to this man, and as an introduction to our account of what happened in Rungan Sari in December/January 2016/17.

I have kept in some details that George told me about his personal life and career, but the main point of the interview was what George had to say about his work with Subud Youth which he described as "the best job in Subud".

**Harris:** What's been your life work in general? What's been the theme of your career?

**George:** I've never really had any one career, I've had many chapters. I got married very young. I was 20 years old. My wife at the time was 17 years old. I was going to university so I quit university and just thought, "I guess I'd better get a job if I'm going to get married."

I had a career in television for a number of years. I started out, when television was still black- >



*Basara! From the Basara Facebook page.*

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and-white, to show you how long ago that was.

That first marriage came to an end and subsequently I married Camille and we have had a very happy marriage.

I've done various things careerwise. I was in a company that made custom houses for rich people. That was fun because we got to work on things that you never usually had the opportunity to work on, and to work with materials that you would normally not be able to afford to work with.

But then, I got tired of working for others and by then I was opened as well. I began a training enterprise with a Subud member who runs a counselor training school in Vancouver. It developed into a company running personal development courses with an outdoor adventure component.

Over the years Camille and I bought revenue-earning properties with the idea of deriving an income so we could retire. One of those properties was 100-acre piece of land in a beautiful valley in British Columbia where we now live.

We were living in Victoria, BC, but I still had this yearning to live in nature. So in 2007, we moved to the country, just outside of a small town by the name of Winlaw.

I've always been drawn to nature and wilderness adventure - when I was doing the counselling course, I was also doing an ocean kayak course with the idea of becoming certified as a guide.

We have large gardens, and fruit trees, and things to support us there. We grow much of our own food. Many people in the valley where we live are into food sustainability. There's a lot bartering and stuff like that. We have a cellar where we keep a lot of food we preserve ourselves. It's a simple, sustainable lifestyle. Our valley is a great place to be.

**Harris:** How did you get into Subud?

**George:** I came into Subud because of Camille. She was a Subud member when I met her. We were living in Victoria then. It was probably a year or two after we began dating before she actually told me what Subud was. It was a gradual introduction. One thing I understood was that if I joined Subud, I had to be doing it for me, not doing it to impress my girlfriend or just to get closer to her.

I finally got opened. I have no idea what year it was but it was after Bapak had died. I think this gives me an affinity with young members who are opened without having had any personal experience with Bapak when he was alive on this earth.

**Harris:** Did you have any intimation before you went to the Puebla Congress that you would be appointed to this job with Subud Youth?

**George:** No, as a matter of fact, I thought my days of being involved in the Subud organization were over. I've always been very involved in the organization of Subud. I've held various committee positions and organized different events in Canada and America's Gatherings, things like that. But after the last America's Gathering in 2012 in Vancouver, I felt like, "I've finally given enough. I think that's it. I've done what I can do for the organization of Subud."

I went back to our little place in the mountains, content and happy. I was looking forward to going to Puebla, as it was going to be the first World Congress that I'd ever gone to where I wasn't a delegate, or had a job of some kind. I thought that this time I could just go and experience, and explore, and follow my nose. That was my wish.

But shortly before we left for Mexico, I all of a sudden had this feeling.. Whenever I've had a Subud job, I knew it was coming. About a week before we left for Puebla, I told Camille not to be surprised if something happened at Puebla, but then we had gone through almost the whole Congress and nothing happened.

I thought, "Wooh, I ducked the bullet," so to speak, not that I thought of it as a bullet, but in the sense of, "Wow, maybe that was wrong. I can just continue to relax and enjoy." I think it was the >

day after I was asked to consider standing for the Youth position. That was like two days before we were leaving, so I had a very quick introduction to the job I had not been anticipating.

Interviewer: Right. So, there was testing and you were the one?

**George:** Yes, yes. It was a very powerful testing.

**Harris:** So you co-ordinate a team of young people with representatives in the various Subud areas. Is it difficult to work with a widespread team like that or is it good?

**George:** When you try and work together internationally like that, it's always a challenge. It's not that it's difficult but it's challenging.

Even to have a Skype meeting, which sounds simple enough, but to try and coordinate the different time zones that we have can be a challenge. Somebody is up at 5:00 or 6:00 in the morning and at the other end it's 11:00, or midnight.

There have been seven of these young adults in three areas. Their lives are so incredibly busy. Not just busy with little things but with life-changing events. We've had four babies during the first two and a half years of our term.

Two of the reps have made moves from one continent to another continent, and have had to completely re-establish their lives. When they're young, they're usually at the bottom of the chain as far as salary goes, so they're usually just struggling to make ends meet. Even if their expenses are paid to go to a gathering, they have to give up work to go, which often, they can barely or not at all afford.

The challenges that they face in their personal lives are very great. I went though that with my own children, but I had forgotten how it is for them. So this job brought all that back home to me. I know that it's true for many of these young people here.

Often I hear older people saying, "Where are all the young people, I don't see them." It's often the case that they're just so busy trying to live their lives and juggle all the balls they have going on, and at the same time having to try to make it to latihan or a group meeting at the prescribed time.

This doesn't always work for them and that's why they try to find alternatives that can work. It has been very educational for me to see again how things are for young people at that stage in their lives.

**Harris:** Could you talk a little bit more about how having this role has given you a feeling of certainty about Subud and the future of Subud?

**George:** Okay. One thing you often hear is older people saying, "We want the youth to be part of Subud because



*Registering for Basara. Elysha (left) and Alina, both from Canada.*



*George Demers.*

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the youth are the future of Subud." I guess, I would like to change that perception and have people come to realize that the youth aren't the future, they're the present. They're here, they're right now, they're working, they're doing things, and they want to be with the old ones but they're not waiting for the old ones.

But they're very much present, they're dedicated in a way that is inspiring to me. Dedicated to the latihan in a way that I don't see in all the other members, even. Now, that was my biggest surprise. They humbled me in their sincerity. I don't think people really have that image of the young people in Subud. Again, that was a revelation to me and humbles me when I encounter all the youth that I have met.

I guess, if there's anything I would like to shift it is this idea that they're not the future, they're the present. Knowing the youth I'm hopeful that Subud is in good hands and safe. I'm not any longer hopeful, I'm certain. I have enough experience.

It's certain these young people are every bit as dedicated in their way and the way it looks like for them. Being involved in following Subud. From a place of wanting to understand and know from the source, from Bapak.

**Harris:** Yes. It's been particularly interesting that this group of young Indonesians has emerged who have a very international outlook, I think much more so than the previous generation.

**George:** Well, they're amazing and God I love them. I love them so much. They've done such an amazing job. But young people nowadays are not limited by their geography. They still have that very Indonesian culture and stuff like that but they also have the influence of the internet, and all the media, and even an event like this. It's very much a showcase for Indonesian culture and it's also a cultural exchange.

They're being together with young people from all over the world. They're sharing ideas, and sharing thoughts, and looking at each other, and seeing how they do things and it's good for both sides. Both learning respect but also learning trust in oneself and that sort of thing.

I think for this team in particular the work they've done in organizing Basara is amazing. They've had to involve everybody in their country, as well as the international Subud communities across the world.

Everybody including the Indonesians, really wanted this to be a youth-gathering that is organized by the youth and to contain the things that the youth wanted. Not just the Indonesian youth but the international youth.

From all of Subud there was this real great intention to allow that to happen and they did it. I think for the Indonesian youth it's been important to have the experience of freedom within the context of their own country.

It has given them confidence and not only confidence but the experience that this team could put on a World Congress tomorrow if you asked them to. They have that capability. We've trained the next wave of organizers and facilitators. These are the people who are going to carry on this kind of work in Subud. It's incredible.

What I discovered is that if they know that the support is there and it's unconditional support, they can do big, big things. They have the capacity and what they lack in experience they have in the enthusiasm to jump the chasm and get to the other side, no matter what.

**Harris:** Wow, that's great.

**George:** It is.

**Harris:** What are some of the main things that have happened since you've been here?

**George:** Well, it's been wonderful to watch all the young people come here. For most of them

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this is a completely different reality to go from a western life. This is not only Indonesia, but Indonesia in the jungle, in Kalimantan. There is some uncertainty in the air and maybe a little trepidation, and stuff like that, but there is an expectancy as well.

We've seen all that trepidation evaporate. We see the groups come together, first of all, in their little cliques of those who knew each other in their countries. Now those little groups are dissolving and it's becoming just one, big happy family.

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## HUMAN FORCE IN RUNGAN SARI

A Human Force Camp was held in Rungan Sari just before the Basara Gathering. It was organised by Rosanne Favre from Australia and Solen Lees who also works for SDIA (Susila Dharma). The young Human Force volunteers worked with a Susila Dharma Project, Yayasan Permakulture Kalimantan, to develop a sustainable kitchen garden for the BCU school, also a member of SDIA. The volunteers painted a mural on the school illustrating the principles of permaculture.

**Harris:** How did Human Force begin?

**Solen:** Human Force was the brainchild of Alexandra Woodward from the United States, a young Subud member who wanted to connect youth to Susila Dharma projects.

The project hosting the camp needs to have a specific task that can be carried out in a short amount of time by a group of unskilled young people.



Gradually we have developed the program more and added a learning component. Obviously, the volunteers were always learning things just by being on a project and doing hands-on work.

But as time has gone on, we've developed the program and made it more structured. Participants are learning about issues like human rights, sustainability, conservation and development approaches. We're linking issues with what we're experiencing and seeing on the ground.

The project benefits the youth because they learn so much and they get a lot out of the experience. Since the first camp in Colombia, we have done two in Mexico, one in India in 2012, and two in Indonesia. The first in Cipanas, and the second one here in Kalimantan.

**Harris:** What was the theme of this one?

**Solen:** The focus of this one was permaculture and culture, environment and community. We worked with Yayasan Permakultur Kalimantan, which is run by Frederika and Jayadi, a married couple with three children. She is originally from Australia and he is originally from Indonesia.

We worked with them on the BCU School kitchen garden. So two Susila Dharma projects were involved which is great. The focus of YPK (Yayasan Permakultur Kalimantan) is on connecting with local communities and helping their traditions come back to life because a lot of them have been lost.

It involves making people aware of a more sustainable way of growing food and working with communities who have been persuaded to sell their land to palm oil companies which leads to

environmental degradation on a very large scale. It's one of the causes of the massive fires that occur here every year.

**Harris:** How many people came to this Camp?

**Solen:** It was the biggest number of participants we've had so far, 14 volunteers in total. Most of them were under the age of 25. We had one guy who was 51. He was the oldest participant. We also had a 30 year old person who joined us.

Five of the participants were local, and the others were from France, Britain, and Canada. It was a great group. It was really good to have the Indonesians with us even though a couple of them couldn't speak much English and we could speak hardly any Indonesian. We had a young woman who translated. She was great and really worked hard at translating between us so that we could understand each other.

Some of the young people were really good at trying to communicate, teaching the other volunteers their language and try to learn Indonesian. Even despite not being able to understand, there was a real connection there. We do icebreakers and activities to team build. That really gets the group's spirit going, and at the end we were all so sad to say goodbye.

It was really enriching to have people who are experiencing the social issues that we're talking about. They were actually experiencing them in their home villages. For example, one young man lives in a village which is facing this problem with palm oil. The land is being exploited for palm oil, and he and another young person from his village are the only ones who have tried to resist this.

**Harris:** It must be very difficult to resist.

**Solen:** Yes, decisions are made by the elders. If you're a young person, it's very difficult to be heard. The young lady who was translating comes from a family who was involved in palm oil, and she's against it; but for her as a young woman, it's even more difficult for her to be heard as a voice of dissent.

**Harris:** Will the school continue with the permaculture kitchen garden?

**Solen:** The creation of the garden began before we arrived. We just helped to develop it. The idea is that the school will continue to work on it. When the kids come back to school, there will be some places ready for planting so they'll be able to do the interesting and easier work of planting things and seeing results rather than all the clearing that we did.

We made quite a lot of progress despite the fact that we had a lot of breaks, and we did a lot of other things too. Frederika made a great program for us. We went out to see the orang-utans. We went out on a boat to see them. It was my daughter's 16th birthday, we had cake and everything. We went swimming in the creek. We went on a field trip where we visited one of the Dayak villages. It was quite an adventure. We had basket weaving and Dayak dance workshops.

**Harris:** It's really a rich program.

**Solen:** From the school kitchen garden, we learned a lot to use in our own daily lives, like making the garden beds without digging, and using compost.

**Harris:** You painted a mural?

**Solen:** Yes, we had a team of people who did a mural. They had no idea what they were going >



*It wasn't all hard work. There was fun too.*

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to do the first day, but they just brainstormed ideas and in one day, they had the design of the mural and started it. They managed to finish it exactly in the time they had. It's really nice.

**Harris:** I've seen it. It's fantastic. What sort of feedback were you getting from the participants? It sounds like it was remarkably harmonious. Usually in a group there's frictions, there's conflicts, it doesn't sound like there was very much at all.

**Solen:** I can't think of anything. There was no friction at all, no conflict, it was just good.

**Harris:** What feedback from the volunteers?

**Solen:** It was really positive. People have said things like...this has helped me decide what I'm going to study. I'm going to put into practice some of the things we learned in my daily life, like a more sustainable way of living.

People have said that it's one of the best experiences they've had in their lives. It was overwhelmingly positive. In our feedback forms, we always ask them to tell us things that could be improved, but some of the things that people have suggested to improve, other people have suggested the opposite. So we're going to study that in more detail.

**Harris:** How has it been for you personally?

**Solen:** It's been great. It's really, really been good. It has renewed my faith that the Human Force needs to continue because it's quite easy to doubt the whole thing. When you get to a certain point in the year, and your deadline has passed and you don't have enough applicants, you start thinking – why am I doing this?

This has really renewed my faith that this is a good thing, especially as, not only are the volunteers really satisfied and happy with the experience, but also the project wants us to come back. It's always nice when you've got it right with both sides.

**Harris:** You had your own children here?

**Solen:** Laury and Maïa. Laury's 17 and Maïa turned 16 while she was here. They also did the last one in Puebla. They already knew what they were letting themselves in for here. They loved it last time, and they loved it this time and worked hard and had a good time, made new friends. You should talk to some of the volunteers.

*At that moment Felix, one of the volunteers appeared, and so I talked to him. See the next article...* ●

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## I LEARNED SO MUCH...

*One of the participants talks about Human Force Camp in Kalimantan...*

Felix Adamson-Walter comes from the Lewes group in England. He has been involved in the work with refugees that has been undertaken by the Lewes group. His parents are in Subud. He finished studying in June, 2016. He did a Diploma in Sports Science, and after that worked up until the point of coming to Indonesia. What motivated him to come on the Human



*Learning about permaculture with Jayadi (extreme left) in the kitchen garden of BCU School.*



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Force Camp and how has the experience been for him?

My mom first mentioned it and I was thinking about doing some travelling and it fitted in well. I didn't want to just travel with no intention, I wanted to experience something first-hand, that's why I decided to do Human Force. It's given me an amazing insight into the real-life of Indonesia – the local people that live here, the problems that they face and also the amazing things about the country.

We did a lot of work with Jayadi who lives here doing permaculture which means permanent agriculture/culture. We helped to maintain the BCU school kitchen garden. We did that most mornings and we also had various trips and activities that we did alongside this.

We had a few boat rides to go and see the orang-utans in the wild. We had a trip to go and visit a Dayak village and also to go and see the devastation that the palm oil plantations have made.

There were various activities like that, so I'm learning about different environmental problems and social issues that we have come across. I knew next to nothing about permaculture, and now I've got a strong insight into what it is.

Permaculture is a different way that you can put all of your resources and re-use them in a way to benefit your garden. For example, instead of just throwing out your old cardboard, you can use it as a layer to make a garden bed. You find different ways to re-use resources together with plants to bring them together in a harmony that will work well together.

At first I found it quite hard to adjust to the heat here after the English climate. But that was only for the first few days, and then I really got into it. Everyone in the group got so close and I felt I learned so much from Jayadi, and from everyone in the group and all the people here.

I'm staying on for Basara Camp which starts today. I've had a week in between Human Force and Basara. It has been really nice to have a week's downtime, and to see everyone here and meet all the people around Basara.

Basara is a big Subud Youth gathering. It's a way for young people from all around the world to meet up and get to know each other. ●



*Getting close at Human Force. Felix is the fourth face from the left.*

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## BASARA BEGINS!

The Basara Youth Camp began on Thursday December 29 2016 in Rungan Sari, Central Kalimantan. “Basara” is a word from the Dayak language meaning “Gathering” and it aims to enable Subud young people from all around the world to get to know each other and to understand the vision for Kalimantan inspired by Bapak Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo.

140 young people have come from 19 countries to participate in the event which will continue for ten days until January 8. As well as the young participants, Basara has also involved or attracted many others from both Indonesia and abroad, so that more than 200 people are in Rungan Sari to experience and support the gathering. Basara provides an extremely rich program to enable the participants to meet and mix and find out about Kalimantan.

A team has come from the YES Quest who will facilitate a series of workshops enabling participants

to explore their own lives in the context of Basara and Kalimantan. The chairs or representatives of the Subud Wings are present to help the participants understand the purpose of the Wings and their relevance to their young lives. There is also a team of helpers, including International Helpers, providing a foundation of kejiwaan support for the event,

The opening ceremony began in the late afternoon and evening of December 29th when we all gathered at the Muhammad Subuh Centre (MSC). A traditional Dayak ceremony was held to welcome everyone to Central Kalimantan. As was explained to me, the ceremony enabled “our spirits to meet with the spirits of Central Kalimantan”. It was as if we were “knocking on the door” of Central Kalimantan and asking for permission to enter. Many people with experience of doing projects in Kalimantan testify to the importance of these ceremonies as a way of asking for protection and the smooth development of the work.

An entrance gate had been constructed of bamboo and palm branches. The “seal” of these gates was broken by a display of Dayak martial arts and then we were all invited to pass through this symbolic entrance to be welcomed to Basara by Dayak elders. The ceremony was accompanied by a traditional dance performance by girls and young women from a nearby orphanage.

This was followed by an evening program involving speeches of welcome from many of those involved in organising and sponsoring Basara, including the Chair of the Organising Committee, Tauhid Pandji, and his deputy chair, Eka Juliana. Tauhid, who is Chair of Subud Indonesia Youth, explained how Basara had arisen over visioning and meetings going back to the Puebla World Congress. One of the highlights of the evening was a fashion show with garments designed by Eka Juliana using Kalimantan fabrics with all proceeds from their sale to go to YUM.

There were also speeches welcoming people to the event from including, Irwan Samsudin, Chair of Subud Indonesia, and Elias Dumit, Chair of the World Subud Association. A representative of the Mayor of Palangka Raya from the Department of Tourism then declared Basara officially open by striking a gong.

Throughout the evening there were performances of traditional Dayak dance and it all ended with celebratory dancing by the Basara participants in the forecourt of the Muhammad Subuh Centre.

Basara has begun... Ten days of an incredibly rich and varied program is planned to follow... ●



*Performances of traditional Dayak dance were a feature of the opening ceremony at Basara.*



*WSA Chair, Elias Dumit, participates in the traditional Dayak welcoming ceremony which began Basara.*

## WHERE DID THE IDEA FOR BASARA COME FROM?

The starting point for Basara was a young Indonesian man named Tauhid Pandji who is currently the Chair of Subud Indonesia Youth. He is part of a new generation of Indonesian Subud members. They are very western in their outlook and running their own businesses. They preserve traditional Indonesian values, such as appropriate respect for elders, while at the same time being fully plugged into the modern world of business, IT and social media.

Tauhid is originally from Bandung but now lives in Jakarta and attends the South Jakarta Subud group which meets in the latihan hall in Wisma Subud. His business interest is in finance. It was while he was the youth coordinator in this group that the idea which became Basara started to take form in his mind.

Members there talked to him about Kalimantan and Bapak's vision for its development. He was urged to take the idea of a youth gathering in Kalimantan to the Puebla Congress. His confidence was very tentative. He was not at all sure that the idea would be accepted and he did not like to push himself forward.

But what he found was that the idea was immediately embraced and supported by others. When the new Subud youth team was formed at the Congress, Tauhid had found that they loved the idea. He did not have to push it at all.

This has been his experience all along. At the WSC meeting which was held in San Diego, Chile, in 2015 the idea was even more broadly and strongly supported. In particular the idea began to develop of a YES Quest working together with the Wings in a Subud gathering.

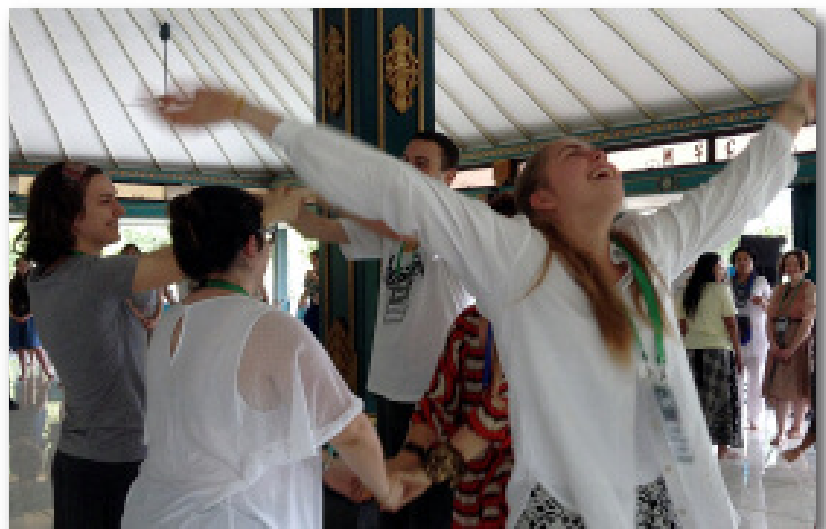
Tauhid headed up the Organizing Committee which made Basara happen. Here he is pictured with his Deputy Chair, Eka Juliana, another member of this "new generation". She has her own fashion label in Jakarta.



*Tauhid Pandji, Chair of the Basara Organizing Committee, with the Deputy Chair, Eka Juliana.*

## THE YES QUEST AND THE WINGS

The young Indonesian team had a clear vision of what they wanted to do, and that was to bring Subud youth from around the world together, not only to have a wonderful gathering with lots of Subud activity but with the specific idea that everyone would come away understanding more about their connection with Kalimantan, with Bapak's vision for Kalimantan, and more importantly how they could contribute to putting his vision for Kalimantan into action.



*. At the YES Quest My Basara workshop.*

I then met with them, representing the YES Quest and they asked us to design a program for Basara. That was the brief. And we proposed that the YES Quest team would handle the opening >

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ceremony, the closing ceremony and three major workshops, My Basara, My Subud and My Life. We then brought in all the Wings, SES, Susila Dharma, SICA and SIHA, who also agreed to come here and participate. SICA, for example, became involved in creating the opening and closing ceremonies and all the Wings, were going to be there.

The idea of bring together YES Quest activities with the Wings had been presented to us at the WSC meeting in Santiago, Chile, in 2015.

The idea has been to integrate all the parts of Subud into delivering a holistic experience everyone can share from day one right through Basara. For example, at the second workshop, My Subud, all of the participants will explore those parts of themselves which correspond to the Wings, the enterprising part, the welfare part, the culture part, and the health part.

And they may discover there's something there within them that they can develop. They can come out of workshops and go straight to the Wing stations. All the Wing stations are located at BCU School and the international helpers will also be there. And they will work with them, and try and help them through the process of Basara to achieve a really good outcome.

But then SES has introduced another element, the idea of awards for project proposals. Everyone is invited to develop a project either individually or in teams. And that project can be any kind of project, not just enterprise in the narrow sense. It could be about welfare, it can be cultural, and it can be about health. But they particularly would like to see people, or teams of people, develop a project here in Kalimantan that's really going to take up the original aim of development in Kalimantan.

We have passed the opening and the closing ceremonies over to SICA. The SICA chair, Sebastian Flynn is here and SICA will be organizing all kinds of entertainment. There'll be dance; there'll be singing and drama that will culminate in the closing ceremony.

Many of the young participants will also want to run workshops and other activities. 140 people are registered from 19 countries around the world. It's going to be fascinating to see how it all goes.

The YES Quest workshops, My Basara and so on, will all be morning workshops. They will last for two to two-and-a-half hours and they will be facilitating by young YES Quest facilitators whom we have trained especially. Everything is going to be fantastic. ●

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## WHAT CAN I SAY ABOUT BASARA?

*Isti Jenkins, Area 1 International Helper, writes...*

It is already part of a dream come true to be together here in Rungan Sari, Kalimantan with 150 youth from around the world!

Why so? That is a long story.....and goes back to when Bapak bought this land and encouraged us to become enterprising and develop projects and businesses here in the early 1980s.

Many of us responded by buying plots of land here with the intention to build houses and form a community. Then to celebrate Bapak's 100 year Birthday Anniversary, the Muhammad Subud Centre (MSC) was designed and built, houses



*Peter and Isti Jenkins at Basara..*

were built, the hotel designed and various members from around the world came to settle.

The Eco-Village was designed and built especially for the youth of Subud. To serve them as a

second home and provide them with the opportunity to experience Kalimantan.

Peter and I lived here in Rungan Sari, Central Kalimantan from 2002-2004 working to fulfil Bapak's vision for the future of Subud. Now it is 2017, but some of the young Subud members are here and they are keen to learn more about the different aspects of Subud.

They are already experiencing how it is to feel bonded and united as one family. They are sharing the journey of discovering the true purpose of the Wings of Subud and where they fit in. Some are coming every day for kejiwaan advice or to hear stories from the older generation about Bapak and his experiences. All are clearly developing a much better understanding and this is happening every day between 5.30pm - 6.30pm when some of the helpers meet at the Helper Station.

My first and best connection with the youth was when I had breakfast with them at the Eco-Village between 7.30am and 9pm one morning. The same day was the My Subud workshop where we were helped to form groups of members with the same interests. Mine being the Basara storytelling cafe workshop. Naturally there was a bonding between us with time to discover that our talents were complimentary.

The Basara team have devoted endless energy, time and consideration to making this happen and now we are seeing and feeling positive results. Arriving in a strange place and different culture has been a difficult and slow process, but finally it is working and we are all receiving the benefit.

The newly formed Wings Teams have already had follow up meetings. Some of the youth turned up to decorate and help round the Basara Storytelling café. The first night simply being an occasion for singing and guitar playing and joining in to what became a truly uplifting and inspiring event!

On the 5th January the youth made their presentations after spending three mornings between 7am and 9am engaged in the Subud Storytelling Cafe, and I handed over the project called Our Subud Story to them, remaining as the SICA Liaison and staying connected for Helper advice for the team.

It is absolutely wonderful to have the presence of second, third and fourth generation Subud members because they all bring a light and fine quality for us to embrace, and a number of new young ones are now ready to be opened.

As well as Isti, Basara was attended by International Helpers, Matthew and Rosario Moir, and Sahlan Crona.



*The new "Our Subud Story" team meets in the Kedung Jati Café.*

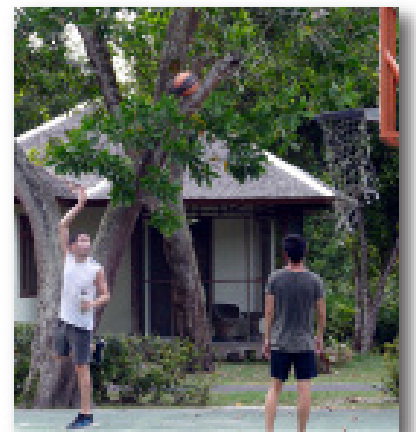
## SPORTING LIFE

### And other fun & educational things to do at Basara...

There was plenty of activity to keep even the most active people fully occupied during Basara.

There was plenty of support for sport.

*There was basketball...*





*There was volleyball...*



*There was football...*

Football was organised on a very large scale by Borneo Football International Foundation. This foundation is a non-profit based in Rungan Sari. Its primary mission is to serve underprivileged children and youth in Central Kalimantan through football and education.

They have cleared a large area of land at the back of the MSC where a series of football contests was held amongst the nations represented at Basara. As usual, the Colombians won.

Then, the action moved to the football stadium in Palangka Raya where the Colombians were again victorious against a local Indonesian team.

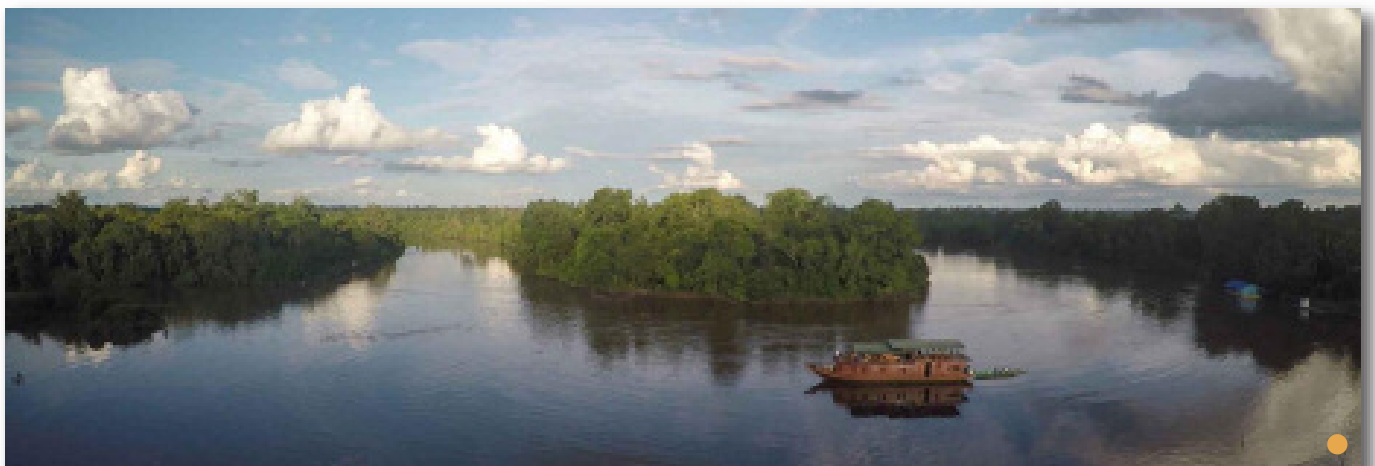
Osanna Vaughn who attended this event told me, "The Colombians won, 3-0. But the Indonesians played really well, really like a team (all the Colombians agreed). However, I think they were a bit overwhelmed by these powerful Colombian players."

### [Push bike alert...](#)

You had to be careful, especially early in the morning while traversing a jungle track, not to get run down by a whole bunch of cyclists all fully attired in absolutely correct Lycra bicycling attire. Elias Dumit, the chair of WSA, was often glimpsed leading the bunch as they whizzed by. They were known by the glorious name of the "Borneo Cycling Tour".

There was also something called "Rungan Safari" led by Bjorn Vaughn.

The way to get to see an orang-utan was to go on one of the river voyages which were held every day and were organized by the riverboat enterprise WOW Borneo. On this voyage you were guaranteed to see some orang-utans. The river cruise ran through a section of the river where orang-utans are being rehabilitated on an island. They can be seen in the trees and up close in the jungle along the shoreline.



# BASARA PROJECT SHOWCASE

Certainly one of the highlights of Basara, and one of the most concrete outcomes of the event, was the Basara Project Showcase awards which were provided by Subud Enterprise Services. Hadrian Fraval, SES chair, organized the event, assisted by Harris Madden.

Participants in Basara were invited to submit project proposals with a view to receiving grants from a total of US\$10,000 which SES made available for this purpose. Projects could be submitted by individuals or groups.

The guidelines included...

*Your idea can be business, social, cultural or health-related. Or a combination of these. It might be a project for Kalimantan, but it can be for anywhere in the world. It might be a project you've already started that you'd like to develop, or it might be an idea that comes out of your experience here at Basara.*

A total of 14 Projects was presented at the MSC on Thursday, January 5, and were evaluated by a panel including representatives of the Wings.

A number of projects were awarded grants of US\$500. A furniture enterprise in Java received \$1000 as did a project to improve road safety in Kalimantan.

\$1000 also went to a new fashion project for T-shirts around a "Just Fruit" theme.

\$2000 went to an IT start-up project.

And another \$2000 went to a project from the film company Borneo Productions to provide training in filmmaking to local people in Central Kalimantan.



*Hadrian Fraval, Chair of SES, congratulates Kitbi, whose furniture enterprise in Java was the recipient of a \$1000 award in the Basara Project Showcase. It is intended that when she recoups this money from a contract she has underway, the \$1000 will pass to a performance project being prepared for World Congress.*

Project Showcase Presentations	
• Mahmud: Budi2Budi	• Bakhtiar: Road Safety \$1000
• Roland: Retreat	• Kibti: Kibti Furniture \$1000*
• Guillaume: Dance ATG \$500	• Anwar: Just Fruit \$1000
• Rosalia: Tas Experience \$500	• Pierce: Kallwood MTH \$2000
• Agnes: Songwriting \$500	• Robyanto: (Subud / IT) \$2000
• Rhyana: Int. Cook Book \$500	• Osanne: Congress Perf. \$1000*
• Elias: Borneo Football \$500	
• Gracie: Subud Stories \$500	

*The roll call of the 14 projects which entered for the Basara Project Showcase and the grants they received from a total of US\$10,000 available.*

## A VISIT TO THE MINING SITE

*Hadrian Fraval, SES Chair, writes...*

I've been to Kalimantan many times and I've always wanted to visit the mining site but I always had too many other things to do and it never eventuated. During Basara I was also busy but fortunately I had Harris Madden working with me and he did a fantastic job and so I was able to get away for a couple of days. Mansur told me he was taking a few people up to the mining site and I was able to join in.

It was a 7 hour drive up there and we were able to stay overnight before coming back the next >

day. Perhaps the thing that struck me most was that there were no white faces to be seen. The whole workforce is Dayak. Mansur told me that he had recently taken the Governor of Central Kalimantan up to the site and the governor had also been struck by the same thing. He had asked, "Where are the white people?" And he could hardly believe it that even the foreman is a Dayak.

Indeed our whole mining effort has depended so much on the deep and authentic relationships that Mansur has forged with the local people from the very beginning. He is a profoundly respected figure throughout the area.

On the way back we stopped at a Dayak longhouse and the leader there and Mansur got into a conversation and it turned out that they knew people in common which gave us instant entrée. We were invited into the longhouse and shown their collection of trophies and memorabilia.

Some things I saw up there first. Not things we were doing, but things other people were doing. There was a whole area near the mining site where the forest has been devastated and illegal palm oil plantations are being created. I am glad that we are mining copper and not gold, because if we were mining gold would become the center of a gold rush. Masses of people would come to work illegally around us. Thankfully they are not so interested in copper.



*. Hadrian and Mansur at the mine*



*Mansur Geiger with mining team.  
Where are the white guys?*

## WORLD CONGRESS

One evening at Basara we had a presentation about World Congress given by Subud members from Germany. We were already thinking about the World Congress which will be held in Freiburg from July 26 to August 6 2018.

They are expecting 2500 people and are currently working on defining what the costs will be for Registration and so on.

They have already formed a strong team looking after the many separate departments which are required in the organization of such a big event. Eugenia, for example, is looking after the travel that people might want to make before and after the Congress to other parts of Germany and Europe.

Freiberg is ideally situated close to Switzerland and France. For those coming to the Congress, there are various options for getting there. One good one is fly to Frankfurt and then take the train to Freiburg. The town is close to famous attractions such as the Black Forest and the Rhine.

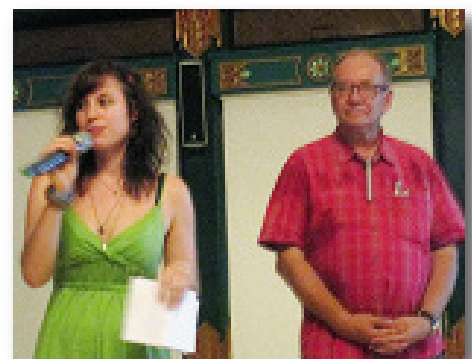
Viktor is performing several roles in the preparations for Congress including Susila Dharma Liaison. He also says, "I have been to 12 World Congresses so I know a little bit about them!"

After the presentation the evening became interactive with participants encouraged to go to various corners of the room where they could interact around questions such as...

*What was your experience of previous World Congresses?*

*What is your expectation of this World Congress?*

*What do you have to bring and contribute?*



*Viktor Boehm and Eugenia talk  
about World Congress.*



## A BASARA REUNION STORY

I was sitting with SICA Chair, Sebastian Flynn, in the garden at BCU School which for Basara has been converted into a café. Sebastian told me that he had just met a man called Brian Lillis in Rungan Sari whom he hadn't seen since the Anugraha congress (1983) when they had played Irish tunes together on their fiddles.

Brian and his wife Esme were visiting Rungan Sari for a couple of days. They had booked months ago completely unaware that Basara was going to happen. Just then Brian and Esme appeared at the BCU café and I realised they were people I had visited in Ireland 33 years ago when I was gathering stories for my book 'Sixteen Steps'.

They lived at that time in a former priests' house in the area near Galway called the Burren which is famous (amongst other things) for its fantastic network of underground caves. Brian and Esme were running a cave exploration enterprise.

Sebastian got his fiddle out and they borrowed one for Brian and they played some Irish tunes together again after all these years. Irish tunes in a Kalimantan garden.

No doubt this is just one of many reunions stories which are happening at Basara.

Brian and Esme have moved on already. They have gone to Semarang planning to visit the house from which Bapak made his ascension and to see the hospital he was passing by one night when he first received the latihan.

From Semarang they plan to visit Bapak's birthplace in the village of Kedung Jati and then to Australia to visit children and grandchildren.



*: SICA Chair, Sebastian Flynn, is reunited with Brian Lillis from Ireland. They hadn't seen each other since 1983.*

## HOW DID IT GO?

*At the closing ceremony, I asked Peter Jenkins how he felt Basara had gone. He said....*

I must say that I feel very happy that the event has worked out so well. As the days went by I was always wondering, "Is this going to work?" Well, the participants kept coming and asking for more. Another very positive thing is that many of the participants have expressed a wish to come back to Kalimantan. So I can say that, Yes, it has worked.

Marlena Bassar and I worked together to design the Yes Quest program and to train the young facilitators, Guillaume, Roland and Rhyana and they performed extremely well. The three YES Quest workshops, My Basara, My Subud and My Life gave participants the opportunity to explore their own potentials and to give expression to them through Wings activities in enterprise, health, service and creativity.

The result of this can be seen in the fact that people came up with 14 projects that were submitted for awards from the \$10,000 that was provided by SES.

I think that is a good result.



*Aswin from Indonesia. Many of the participants expressed a wish to come back.*

## FROM ELIAS AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY

This has been such a beautiful experience. This place has been so full of joy, so full of life. You can feel the harmony. The latihan is all around us. There have been many activities and we have been surrounded by a feeling of family.

There has definitely been a step forward in terms of the involvement of young people in Subud. I can point out, for instance, the process by which the organising team has worked together. I am sure it has been an important learning experience for everyone. What I saw in the young people was their genuine interest in Subud, of how they have participated and become closer to the latihan.

The integration of the Wings and the YES Quest and the others who have contributed to the organisation of this event has been a highlight. We were having a wrap-up meeting last night and we all felt clearly that this is a direction we should continue to follow.

The next step is not yet fully clear, of course. It is too early to try and be too specific. But there is a general feeling that we need to develop what has been begun here. Various suggestions have been made. For example, that there might be further Basara meetings in the periods between World Congresses, but it is too soon to be too specific. We certainly believe that the energy and momentum that has been generated here will be a foundation for the future.



*: WSA Chair, Elias Coragem Dumit, with Deputy Chair, Lucia Boehm.*

## NEW YOUTH REP IN AREA 1

In the lead up to Basara, Rahman Schionning stepped down as the SYAI Rep. for Area 1. Rahman moved to Los Angeles, got married and has had a baby with his new wife in his new country. He felt the need to concentrate on fully creating a new life there and is becoming more involved with the local Subud group as a helper.

The new SYAI Rep is Robiyanto Sudarmadji Sumohadiwidjojo. His short name is Robi and everyone feels this fourth generation Subud member will be a great addition to the team.

*Robi from Indonesia, Bapak's great-grandson, is the new Youth Rep in Area 1. He is seen here during the Basara Closing Ceremony on Friday, January 6, which was also his birthday. >*



## IN PAMULANG

On Saturday morning, January 7, about 70 people who had been attending Basara left on early flights to go to Jakarta. At Jakarta airport we were met by buses which took us to Wisma Subud.

Wisma Subud is of course very much changed from the days when Bapak was in residence here. Changed from the way the compound was in 1971 at the time of the World Congress...Or how it was when people use to come here for Bapak's birthday or Ramadan... All this is gone now.

I can remember a time when paddy fields came right up to the boundaries of the compound. >

When you could hear a delightful chorus of frogs at night. When you could walk down nearby streets and it was like taking a walk in the country.

Jalan Fatmawati, always a jam-packed thoroughfare, is now totally impossible to negotiate because a monorail is being built down the middle of the street.

The latihan hall remains of course, and the guest house, but the “big house” where Bapak lived has now become a function center and a wedding was being held there when we arrived on Saturday afternoon. The amplified proceedings, songs and announcements, boomed throughout the compound. Apparently there were a lot of weddings in Jakarta at that time because the Javanese astrology was auspicious.

That night we went to Pamulang where Ibu Rahayu lives in the house built by Bapak. She greeted each one of us individually and then she said she would say a few words about Pamulang and the house that Bapak built here. She had said it was not going to be a “talk” but it soon became one, even if only a relatively short one of about one hour’s duration, including the translation by Raymond Lee.

Ibu explained how this area had once been a forest of rubber trees, and how Bapak had chosen to live here because it was quiet. He had built the house and then lived in it for three months before his passing. She talked about other aspects of Bapak’s life and went on to say how happy she was that Subud youth had shown its commitment to the latihan. She then invited us to partake of a magnificent dinner she had provided.

During that dinner, the news came through that George Demers had died while being taken by ambulance to hospital. I do not think there was anyone in the room who was not shocked to hear this completely unexpected news and there were tears, especially from some of the young Canadians who had been particularly close to George.

We observed a moment of silence. It was a blessing that we were then able to do latihan in the beautiful, traditional Javanese pendopo space at Pamulang.

## SUKA MULIA

On Sunday, January 8, two busloads of us set off from Wisma Subud to visit Bapak's gravesite at Suka Mulia. This is situated near Cipanas, about 90 km from Wisma Subud.

We left at 2am. This was necessary because traffic is now so heavy on this narrow mountain road that only by leaving at that time could we hope to get up there and back in reasonable time.

We arrived at 5am just as dawn was breaking. We paid our respects at the grave and also I did latihan. The mood was very quiet and reverential from these young people.

At 8am we set off back for Jakarta. The first obstacle we struck was that the road is now so busy



*Ibu Rahayu with Konrad Munoz from Colombia who had been a participant at Basara. Ibu received visitors from Basara at Pamulang on Saturday January 7.*



*At Suka Mulia.*

in both directions that at various times the road are shut off, either to the traffic going to Jakarta, or the traffic coming from Jakarta.

At about 9am the traffic going to Jakarta was blocked and we were stuck there for about two hours before the road was opened again.

Even then, the traffic was so heavy that it actually took us 11 hours to get back to Wisma Subud. Strangely enough, this long journey did not seem very stressful. No one got upset. Some walked along the road as it was possible to move much faster than the traffic-logged bus. It was an opportunity to see the wonderful views from the mountain passes, to enjoy the rural landscape and to explore the village life along the road.

However, a crisis arose in that Sebastian Flynn, the SICA chair, and his son, Daniel, were scheduled to catch a flight at 7pm from Jakarta airport. As the afternoon wore on, it became increasingly clear that they were not going to make it back to Wisma Subud in time to get to the airport.

Action was required. Sebastian and his son were able to find two local men on motorcycles who agreed to take them down the road to the point where they could catch a taxi to the airport. A phone call to Wisma Subud arranged for their luggage to be taken to the airport to meet them there.

There was something about all this that reflected the spirit of Basara, a spirit of confidence, courage and action!

The rest of us arrived back at Wisma Subud at 7pm after 11 hours on the road.



*Farewells by the roadside for Sebastian and Daniel Flynn.*

## THE AUSTRALIAN CONGRESS

From Jakarta, I flew back to Australia to attend the Australian Congress which was being held in Adelaide.

The venue was an exclusive school known as Westminster which rarely makes its facilities available to the general public. Apparently the first approach to Westminster about holding our Congress there was made by a Markus Fraval who had once been the dux of Westminster school in England. It was this connection that opened the way for us being able to use the school.

About 150 people including many children attended from all around Australia.

The Congress had started on Sunday, January 8, so I joined a few days later. Some extremely good news which has emerged from this Congress is that Kenneth Collette, a very highly respected Subud member in Australia, has become the new chairperson.

In the previous committee he was the Committee Councillor and he and the Chair, Hussein Briedis,



*Kenneth Collette, the new chair of Subud Australia.*

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worked closely together so there is great continuity from the previous committee to this one.

The Committee Councillor role in the new committee has been taken by Bruce Ray, a member from northern New South Wales. He is a relatively recent Subud member, having been only opened four or five years! It is really good to see a fresh face on our national committee.

Bruce was immediately thrust into the world of Subud organization because this Australian Congress was accompanied by a meeting of the Asian Zone (Zones one and two).

This was attended by representatives of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as by the international helpers, Matthew and Rosario Moir and Nahum Harlap.

One of the topics which came up for discussion was the need for maintenance of the beautiful Subud house in Colombo, Sri Lanka, which was completed several years ago. This is a magnificent asset for Subud but the Sri Lankan group has been struggling in recent years with dwindling numbers and no new members.

There was also the discussion of some countries in Asia where it has become difficult to practice openly as a Subud member.

A highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Amalijah Thompson about her work in archives, particularly the preservation of the tapes of Bapak's talk. The delegates were most impressed by this and understood the need for continued funding to support this essential archival program.

The Congress was packed with workshops, talks, film showings and, of course, latihan, often followed by testing sessions in which we sought to integrate the latihan into our everyday lives.

It came to a celebratory end on Friday night, January 7, with an excellent program of entertainment. Once again, Audrey Lonnergan and her daughter Rosalia, created a very good choir which performed on the night.

More than \$2000 was raised during the week for Susila Dharma and on the Friday night there were a series of raffles and auctions. One of the targets for the fund raising was to get the money needed to build a fence around the brand new Subud house in Canberra which has just been completed and will be officially opened in February.

Irma Armytage, an artist in textiles in the Canberra group, donated two of her quilts to the fundraising effort. One quilt raised \$760 in a raffle won by Hammond and Renata Peek from the New Zealand. The second was auctioned and the winning bid was \$775 by Mardijah Simpson who wanted it for her new home at Nowra on the New South Wales coast.



*Quilts by Irma Armytage, raffled and auctioned at Congress, brought in more than \$1500 to help pay for a fence for Canberra's new Subud House.*

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## IBU RAHAYU'S MESSAGE TO THE AUSTRALIAN CONGRESS

Pamulang, 3th January 2017

To my brothers and sisters of Subud Australia whom I love and respect;

Thank you for allocating time for me to present something about the spiritual path of Subud, which was guided by our beloved Bapak Muhammad Subuh. Indeed, to give 'weight' to a Subud congress, when we come together and unite to advance Subud's mission, a message from someone senior in Subud is needed. I have no objection to providing that. And even after I am no longer here, Ibu's Office can assist with that.

Brothers and sisters, we have left the old year behind and let us embrace the New Year with >

fresh enthusiasm. Though we will grow old and not be as active as when we were young, we will continue to have the obligation to accompany younger members, and those who are new to Subud, to become good and useful human beings who can continue Subud's mission, in line with government regulations, while forming their true individuality. That is why we need to become models of people who think wisely and who work together harmoniously. Getting used to acting like that has a significant effect when you need to resolve difficult problems, because everyone is willing and works to avoid the feeling that they are right.



*Ibu Rahayu receives visitors from Basara at Pamulang on Saturday January 7, 2016.*

Though Subud is 70 years old now, it can be said that the spiritual training of Subud, is still new and it is something that people who are not in Subud find difficult to understand.

This is the end of my brief address. I join you in praying that the National Congress of Subud Australia, and the Zone 1 and 2 Meeting, will be peaceful, go well, and be a success.

On behalf of Subud, I thank all the committee members for their successful work under the guidance of Hussein Briedis. I send my greeting to all the members of Subud Australia and God bless you all. Sincerely, Ibu, Siti Rahayu Wiryohudoyo.

## GEORGE'S FUNERAL

While I was still at the Australian Congress, I received these messages from Isti Jenkins who was still in Rungan Sari...

Twenty-four hours after George's passing our emotions have settled and our ability to surrender has provided the calm and strength we have needed in the situation.

Every day has been filled with hours of work from the community to deal with all the complicated detail that occurs when someone dies in a foreign country.

Nevertheless, Camille has remained focused and on track with everything. Today, the two children of George arrive and tomorrow her daughter....they will have time to see and farewell George who remains in the Rungan Sari Hall guarded by security day and night. Tomorrow will be the day of the funeral...

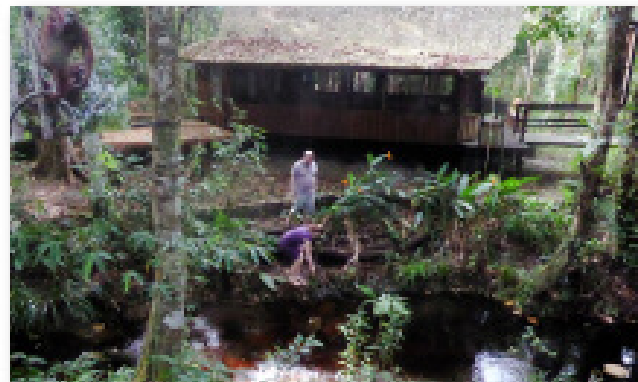
George was a Catholic who died at a multicultural gathering in an Islamic country at the completion of a major and successful project, Basara.

His body was washed in the Christian way at the hospital, taken back to the Latihan Hall at Rungan Sari. Muslim prayers were held on the third day here in our Hall.

Tomorrow, on the day of his funeral, and after a morning latihan at 11am, there will be a reading of Susila Budhi Dharma, followed by a wake and an exit of members and staff at 1pm to the Cemetery.

*Later...*

On Wednesday, January 11, after George's children had arrived from Canada, a Balinese Hindu cremation took place. Camille and the children remained in Rungan Sari up to Sunday 15.1.2017, before returning to Canada with George's ashes, some of which had been scattered by members of his family in the stream at Rungan Sari.



*Members of George's family scattered some of his ashes in the stream at Rungan Sari.*

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To witness this extraordinary event has been for many of us an example of how different cultures and religions can work harmoniously together to bring about a peaceful and successful result through love and unity.

*A couple of days later, I received this from Isti... She quotes Elias Dumit who attended the funeral...*

“During the last stage of the funeral at dusk, the Hindu priest came to perform the final prayer. But at the same time the Islamic Maghrib prayers also began.

“Looking at the sky to the West we could see the colours of the sunset and while looking to the East one could see the full moon rising from low in the sky... It was an auspicious and spectacular moment!”

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## BACK HOME

I hope you have enjoyed this description of Basara and other recent events.

For me, it has been quite an epic journey, beginning on December 23 and just now completed on January 14 when I reached home again. In a way I had been looking forward to coming home as I had had enough of living out of suitcases and all the other inconveniences of transient living.

It was only when I got home, that I realized how profoundly I had been affected by the whole Odyssey. I felt like I had spent time on another planet, or perhaps even in another dimension.

The “result” of these events is largely in the getting together and the collective experience of the energy of the latihan. Out of these other things flow. Links are forged. Relationships are formed. Some of these are a foundation for the future.

For me personally it was an incredibly rich experience, packed with meaningful moments. I think everyone who attended Basara agrees that something significant has happened in Subud. That the young people of Subud have emerged with a clearer, stronger presence than ever before. And certainly they now have a much deeper understanding of the realities and the potentials of Kalimantan.

I would like to thank everyone who assisted me on my travels, especially those supporters of Subud Voice, who sent some money to help me make the journey. I would like to thank particularly Siti Ismana Tsujimura in whose house I stayed while living in Rungan Sari. Thank you for all your many kindnesses.

Of course, I would like to thank everyone else associated with the organization of the Human Force Camp, Basara and of the Australian Congress.

And all the people I met along the way, the moments we shared. You come to my mind now one by one....

Finally, I give thanks for Bapak and the way he has opened all of this up for us.

For more about Basara... [www.basarayouthcamp.com](http://www.basarayouthcamp.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/basarayouthcamp>

*Harris Smart, Editor, Subud Voice*

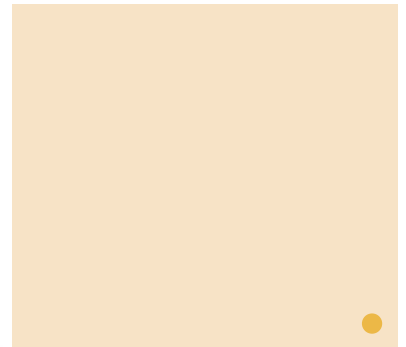
*Special thanks to the many people who shared their photographs with me including Osanna Vaughn, Isti Jenkins, Viktor Boehm, Konrad Munoz, Solen Lees, Mansur Geiger, Colin Vallance and WOW Borneo.*



*As part of the Closing Ceremony at Basara a number of people were asked to enact various iconic, mythological or archetypal figures. The Editor of Subud Voice was designated to be “The Scribe”. My job is to write it all down.*



*Dayak dancers invited us to join with them in one last dance of Celebration bringing Basara to a close.*



## THE FINAL WORD

*The Ceremony for George Demers at Rungan Sari...*

On the morning of the 11th January, the family of George and Camille came to the Rungan Sari Hall where his body had stayed in a special Coffin from the early hours of the 8th January.

At 11am a Ceremony had been arranged by the residents of Rungan Sari to farewell and pray for his safe journey in the life after. This began with an assembly of family, and Subud members surrounding the outer edge of the Hall in silence.

Pak Iksan lead the Islamic prayers with other Muslim members on mats in the centre of the Hall. After the formal Prayers Isti Jenkins read her own prayer on behalf of all the International Helpers of Bapak. Pak Susilo followed by singing the first five verses of Susila Budhi Dharma.

Isti Jenkins read the translation in English and Suteja read the translation in Bahasa Indonesian. Here are the words of Bapak :

*So that a certain spiritual truth, which has been received both inwardly and outwardly, may be given form and carried into effect, here its entire essence has been expressed; to beautiful melodies and meters, in the hope that the evidence that is needed is obtained.*

*These are the words of divine counsel received and so far as was necessary written down in the historic city of Yogyakarta in the year 1952.*

*To begin with, let it be explained here that, soon after the mind has stopped thinking and has been separated from the feelings as a result of the opening, a vibration of life is felt which goes on to encompass the whole body and soon causes movements that seem strange to the mind.*

*This state is indeed truly strange to the mind, because it is not something that thought can bring into being, but something real that can be received and witnessed by a feeling no longer influenced by the thinking.*

*When you have received and witnessed this reality, go on to feel truly what in fact is happening within you. By so doing you will get an indication of the right path; moreover, the authenticity of the true inner self will become apparent. Amen.*



Agnes McKingley, who was accompanied by Arasi Vogel on the guitar sang a song that George had requested if and when he passed on. The song is called "When I go".

After the song Camille spoke of her love for George and how blessed she felt to be surrounded by her Subud brothers and sisters. George's son Dimitri thanked everyone for their help in making this sad event proceed so smoothly.

At 1pm the Ambulance arrived to transport the Coffin to the Hindu Crematorium. Everyone present boarded the school buses that were made available or followed by car.

### **"When I Go"**

*Come, lonely hunter, chieftain and king*

*I will fly like the falcon when I go.*

*Bear me my brother under your wing*

*I will strike fell like lightning when I go.*

*I will bellow like the thunder drum, invoke the storm of war*

*A twisting pillar spun of dust and blood up from the prairie floor*

*I will sweep the foe before me like a gale out on the snow*

*And the wind will long recount the story, reverence and glory, when I go.*

*Spring, spirit dancer, nimble and thin*

*I will leap like coyote when I go*

*Tireless entrancer, lend me your skin I will run like the gray wolf when I go.*

*I will climb the rise at daybreak, I will kiss the sky at noon*

*Raise my yearning voice at midnight to my mother in the moon*

*I will make the lay of long defeat and draw the chorus slow*

*I'll send this message down the wire and hope that someone wise is listening when I go.*

*And when the sun comes, trumpets from his red house in the east*

*He will find a standing stone where long I chanted my release*

*He will send his morning messenger to strike the hammer blow*

*And I will crumble down uncountable in showers of crimson rubies when I go.*

*Sigh, mournful sister, whisper and turn I will rattle like dry leaves when I go*

*Stand in the mist where my fire used to burn*

*I will camp on the night breeze when I go.*

*And should you glimpse my wandering form out on the borderline*

*Between death and resurrection and the council of the pines*

*Do not worry for my comfort, do not sorrow for me so*

*All your diamond tears will rise up and adorn the sky beside me when I go.*

Memorial video for George: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_B6iUZIFmQU&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_B6iUZIFmQU&feature=youtu.be) ●

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