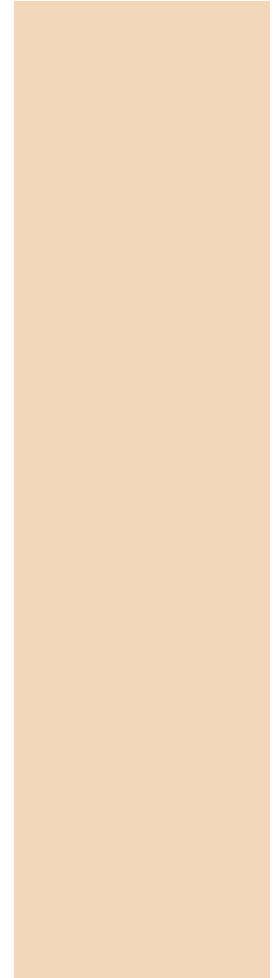




CELEBRATING BAPAK'S BIRTHDAY



*Bapak visiting the graves of relatives and ancestors at the end of Ramadan towards the end of his life.
(Photo by Mikhail David)*

On June 22nd, Subud members all around the world celebrated Bapak's Birthday, grateful to – him for the gift of the latihan, which he received and passed on to us, and sure that he still continues to watch over us, and that we benefit from the legacy he left of his talks and writings which continue to give us guidance such as...

"Bapak said that today the world is in a state of chaos: it is a time of chaos. But the way to avoid the chaos is to remain quiet. If you remain quiet then you will be the ones who will be able to escape from the egg when it breaks.

"Bapak said the way to escape from the egg when it breaks is to wait for the right time when the time is right, not to break it too soon. You have to wait until the time is right."

This is from Bapak's Talk 83 HAM 3

SUBMISSIONS AND DONATIONS

Submissions to Subud Voice on any aspect of Subud life are welcomed. Send to Harris Smart, 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

THE WCOT IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE 2022 WORLD CONGRESS LOGO

WCOT Coordinator, Rusdi Bustillo, writes...

The present crisis around the world practically brought the preparations for next World Congress in Kalimantan to a standstill. We are very aware of and have a deep feeling of respect and empathy for the difficulties many Subud members and their loved ones might be experiencing. Even so, we felt that the undergoing competition to choose the logo shouldn't be postponed and that perhaps, as we were in lockdown, it could serve as a time for our Subud artists to become inspired.

They proved us right! With the amazing participation of 48 Subud designers from more than 20 countries, we received a total of 116 different logo proposals! We are very grateful to all of the contributors and to our panel of five judges representing the wider Subud community (one member of the WSC, one member of the WCOT and one Subud member from each of the areas). Our judges are not only very committed to Subud and have been serving the needs of our members for many years, but they are also very competent professionals in business, visuals, marketing, graphic and industrial design, and the arts in general.

They worked diligently and harmoniously to select a logo to represent us all, which will be the face and branding for our 16th World Subud Congress. The winning logo was designed by our brother, Aswin Vogel, from Subud Perth in Australia!

From the judges:

"First of all, thank you so much to all of the wonderful members who contributed a design to this competition. There were so many excellent options and we [the judges] were blown away by the number of entries and quality of logos. To select the winner we first went through a round of voting where each judge independently shortlisted their top 7 designs – it was supposed to be top 5, but no one could limit their choices to just 5. We then held a round of discussions focusing on our shortlist and reviewed the logos for qualities related to content and use. The winning option was shortlisted by 4 of the 5 judges.

We felt that this final logo was best at capturing the elements we would like to be present in our world congress. It encapsulates the feeling of Kalimantan with all the possibilities that can unfold, while representing our Subud journey as a river leading up to the Subud symbol (our spiritual destination). This logo is also completely different from other congress logos – giving us a unique identity, for which our congress in Kalimantan will surely be a unique event.

We're excited to work with our winner and roll out the elements of the logo across the look and feel of our congress and branding, as we get closer to bringing this congress into reality. "We will continue



This final logo was best at capturing the elements we would like to be present in our world congress...



working for the congress preparations as the situation allows, taking into account that the COVID-19 pandemic has already impacted the world, and will probably continue to do so in the near future. We are very aware of the economic situation of the world and of how it's going to affect us all, and the way we plan our meetings will need to be adapted to the situation. But we also have the conviction that Subud and our lives need to go forward with faith in the Power of Almighty God.

Hopefully, the next world congress will give us the opportunity to be physically together again, to work together in harmony for the development of Subud and to enjoy each other's company. Our hope is that Kalimantan will provide us with a space which allows us to take advantage of the special conditions it provides—those of tranquility and inner awareness—in order to strengthen, deepen and maybe change our focus, our internal and external relationship with Subud, our way of seeing and living it and, ultimately, putting our Latihan into practice more actively in our daily lives ●

THE SHELTERED WORKSHOP

The Editor writes...

"How brief was my 15 minutes of fame!" the virus must be thinking to itself. Because it has been pushed off the front pages by riots and demonstrations in Hong Kong and riots and demonstrations in the USA which have now spread all around the world following the death in Minneapolis of a black man in police custody.

As I said in our last issue, my experience in Subud has been that as a rule we don't pay too much attention to events in the world until we are absolutely forced to. It seems that at the moment we are being absolutely forced to look at the world because of what is happening. We can no longer ignore the world or hope it will go away. The world with all its complications appears here to stay

Subud is always in the process of "coming out" but I cannot help feeling that right now is another coming out moment. A moment of entering "the world" with all its troubles more fully than we have done before.

After all, isn't this what we most value about Subud? Bapak's oft repeated message that we are here to fulfill our duty to God and also our duty in the world. It seems we are required to engage or at least pay attention to the world. We have no alternative. At least I think Subud Voice should pay more attention for a start.

It is as if we have grown up inside a protective bubble. I remember years ago a Subud member drew an egg with its shell cracking as a symbol of the development of Subud. A constant opening up. Well maybe another crack in the shell have been the events of this year. Bushfires, virus, political unrest, and demonstrations sweeping the world.

I like women with really sharp tongues, women who are not afraid to stand up for themselves or to speak their minds. I have known a number of them in Subud.

There was one period in my life when I was working for Project Sunrise in Sydney and a certain lady came to visit. I remember that she made a number of cutting remarks. One was something like, what are you all doing here in this sheltered workshop?

And it was true. In general, in many ways, we have been living in a sheltered workshop. We have been supported, subsidised, by the Almighty and given some time to develop ourselves and our skills within a sheltered environment.

But now perhaps we have learned enough, developed enough skills, so that now that we can move out of the sheltered workshop and engage with the world.

Well, not that we haven't engaged with the world in the past. And that some people in particular have very much engaged with the world, but in a general sense you must see what I mean, to some extent we have all been living in the sheltered workshop.



“ *Subud is always in the process of coming out...* ”

A last word from the virus. “Don't write me off yet. I'm going to be around for a long time yet continuing to cause plenty of trouble.”

If you would like to read my complete editorial, LOCKDOWN BREAKDOWN, which touches on moving out of the coronavirus lockdown and riots and demonstration all around the world, click here: <https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Breakdown-Lockdown.pdf>

If you wish to comment on this article or any aspect of Subud Voice email me at subudvoice@gmail.com. Mark your contribution as “for publication” or “not for publication”. If it is not marked one way or the other we will assume it is “for publication”...

I was recently included in the SICA Zoomuse series of Subud poets reading their work...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOnirYsiPRU>

My latest book about Subud, ADVENTURES IN SUBUD, is available from lulu.com. See advertisement in this issue for more info about what it's about. ●

KALIMANTAN COVID – 19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAM

Muhammad Bachrun Bustillo writes...

Since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak in Indonesia, Yayasan Usaha Mulia (YUM) and Borneo Football International Foundation (BFIF) have been working together in the implementation of the Kalimantan Covid – 19 Prevention and Response Program.

The BFIA/YUM team is also working in cooperation with the local government, the police, the health department and other institutions to provide support to local communities in Kalimantan.

Here there is a link of a video that shows some of the activities that are taking place in Kalimantan related with the Prevention and Response Program.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIfXemydqkk>

Through this initiative Subud is helping more than 2,000 families in the region.

For more information about this program click here...

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/BorneoSoccerCovid.pdf>



Distribution of Educational Material: The local Schools have been closed since March and all the children are now isolated at home. One of our top priorities is to organize activities to help them during this time and to improve their education. ●

LITTLE HAVEN AMID THE TREES *SWN Editor, Osanna Vaughn. writes...*

As we gradually (hopefully) move out of the lockdown situation that has affected most of the world over the past three months, I hope that you are all safe and in good health or recovering well as the case may be, and that, despite the circumstances, these unusual times have brought some positive aspects into your lives.

As editor of Subud World News, I can see that this has been a time of relative 'quiet' for the association. No doubt, people are continuing with their lives and work; but the physical meetings and gatherings that are such a major part of our lives have been cancelled (or transferred to Zoom).



I know that SICA has launched some live, online events, and I hope they have been taken advantage of and appreciated; SDIA and MSF send out updates, while Zone 3 and SESI have also continued producing informative newsletters. Zone 4 has continued circulating various items of information, Subud Voice appears faithfully every month, and the WSA has scheduled another FYI newsletter this month. Much of this can be found on SWN by using the search engine or the links on the front page. Even so, the additional news often received from individual members or projects is not really circulating at this time – whatever the reason.

Then, just yesterday, I remembered Solihin Garrard's suggestion of a 'diary in times of covid 19'; so I decided I would start by sharing some of what has been my experience – and I invite you in turn to do the same: *Reprinted from www.subudworldnews.com – READ MORE AT: https://www.subudworldnews.com/userfiles/news/documents/2020/June/2_Covid19Story_OV_ReadOn.pdf* ●

Lockdown Ramadan

Marcus Bolt, UK, writes...

Because I've been self-isolating since the beginning of March, apart from not eating and drinking during the day, there seemed to be something remarkably similar between lockdown and Ramadan on an inner and outer level. I guess it's to do with a change of habits – one of the things, as a non-Muslim, I take on board as an important aspect of the annual fast.

However, I ran into trouble health-wise after twenty-odd days and was forced to stop fasting. Excuse the detail, but I became badly and painfully constipated, and none of the usual techniques helped.

So, I consulted *The Healing Power of Illness* – a clever book that suggests all illness relates to and reflects unaddressed inner problems, and these can be read and understood through both our symptoms and the way we describe them idiomatically ('symptoms make us honest' is the book's mantra). For example, if you're suffering from acid indigestion, the authors suggest asking yourself, "What's eating me?". Constipation, they suggest, is 'an inability to let go of the past'.

Wait a minute, I thought. How can I be doing that? True I still grieve for my wife, who died nearly four years ago, and still miss our life together; but I had recently moved house from the South West to the South East (on March 18th), downsizing and dumping a skip load of memorabilia, plus most of the furniture we'd collected over our 44-year marriage. Surely, I'm doing all the right things to move on?

And then it hit me – I am hanging on to the past still, because I don't really feel I have a present. I don't mean that in a dramatic sense, but because I can't do latihan with my new group (beyond 'at a distance'), nor socialise with them; neither can I meet neighbours and people from my new village, cannot yet register with a local doctor, dentist, or chiropractor; can't visit the local hairdresser, can't go shopping (I have food delivered), haven't yet found isolated walks (as I had before in the less-populated wilds of North Somerset) and can't even go to dinner with, or hug my family, living

just 20 minutes' drive away...

In other words, because, at 77 years old and having to take this disease seriously, I cannot yet put down roots and begin a new life until the pandemic's over and a vaccine is available. ●

URGENT SUPPORT NEEDED FOR BCU STUDENTS



DONATE TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND TODAY

CLICK
bcuschool.org/scholarship-fund

Your support is needed to secure the future of our students, and the future of BCU.

BCU School's Appeal

Many families in Central Kalimantan are facing hardships as the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted incomes. This includes BCU students, who now need extra support through our scholarship fund. Without this, students are at risk of dropping out of BCU, disrupting both their learning and access to quality education.

Of those impacted, 13 are children of Subud families, whose BCU education is nurturing them as the next generation of change-makers and leaders. These families are integral parts of the local and BCU community. Some parents are teachers, and others run local Subud enterprises. They are making profound differences through their work, allowing Subud to touch the lives of others.

22

Students currently on full and partial scholarships (local children from low-income families)

25

Additional students urgently in need of further support due to COVID-19 impacts

\$71,000 (USD)

Amount needed to increase the scholarship fund and secure the future of our students

BCU's COVID-19 crisis response

BCU is managed by a non-profit foundation, which supports 50% of the scholarship fund; the rest is fundraised. Tuition fees have already been reduced for all students by 10%, but for some this is not enough. We've reduced our operational costs as far as possible, but now face a loss of income this year, which means we cannot add more to the scholarship fund. Unlike in other countries, there is no government relief support available to us. Your support is needed to help our students, and their families, through these extraordinary times.

Please donate to the scholarship fund today.

For ways to donate, and for more information, go to:
bcuschool.org/scholarship-fund

NEW ISSUE OF WSA NEWSLETTER

A new issue of the WSA Newsletter has been released. I personally value it especially for the articles the newsletter has been running about the travel stories of the International Helpers. They write in this issue about doing their work in the time of the virus...

Our trips for 2020 started at the beginning of January. Those of us who returned home last went home at the beginning of March. Soon after that, borders started closing in what looked like a domino effect, one country after another. Our IH visits were being cancelled, tickets had to be refunded and decisions had to be made as to how we were supposed to go on and fulfill our role in this new, unprecedented reality we all had to face.

At the same time, WhatsApp and other social media groups kept appearing where our brothers and sisters were asking for distance simultaneous latihans, some of which coincided with each other; it was somewhat overwhelming. Little by little, we found a new way of operating in our role. Each area has their own simultaneous latihans and have found ways of communicating through all the media which are available to us.

There are groups who meet after their usual latihan times just to see each other, talk and perhaps organize to support each other in practical ways. Many groups have felt through testing how this trying time can be also about something else; a chance to review our way of life, pay attention to the important things, look after our natural environment and take better care of each other.

At this moment, our dear Ibu's advice and care came and it was widely felt that her contribution was similar to a wise and loving family member's support, opening our vision to another dimension of our current, trying experience. I would like to finish by sharing what was felt in the testing on how our association should be served during this difficult time: it was to remind each other to surrender and worship God Almighty. With love from the international helpers.

The newsletter is available in English, Spanish and French...

http://www.subud.org/dyn/file/info/news/Fwsa%20newsletter%20june%202020_eng.pdf ●

SUBUD EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (SEA)

Please find below a call for expressions of interest in joining with other Subud members from around the world who have developed the Subud Education Association. Included below is an excerpt from a letter from Rasunah Marsden, the group's convenor. Attached is the Association's mission statement. Rasunah can be contacted at: rasunah@shaw.ca

After Ramadan in Cilandak last year, I started an international Subud Education Association working party which is lodged with SDIA, and which I chair.

Members are Harris Roberts, Halimah Polk, Hadrian Pollard, Garret Thompson, Salamah LeClaire (formerly Dick) & Faustina Ramos Coco Pfeiffer.

We've had four monthly meetings to date and I have attached the SEA mission statement.

We are about to announce what we've been doing to National organizations but are still looking for a member for the working party from Australia/NZ & South America.

About the SEA working party members – although we stay pretty busy with the Covid-19 scenario and various other responsibilities as Subud members, we pretty much contribute our own tasks as we participate in working to set up the links, website, blogs, resources and other matters.

SEA was formed to create some continuity so that all of the Subud-inspired educational activities (as teachers or in school projects) would be able to access resources and share insights as educators based on the Latihan. There have been many inspired educational activities in past decades, but hopefully we'll be able to ensure that in future, we'll be able to provide connections needed by Subud educators and educational institutions globally.

So, if you might like to join the working party, please contact me.

Thanks,

Rasunah Marsden

(C)ENTERPRISING STORIES

SUBUD PORTUGAL'S CO-WORK SPACE PLANS

An inspiring story of determination and a desire to create a shared space for the group – from Anali Lopes, Chair for Subud Portugal. Here is the 'before' floorplan ...

We are trying to set a Centerprise Project at Lisbon Subud House: a Cowork Place where free-lancers, associations and small companies can work on their projects while using and renting our Subud space when latihan is not scheduled.

We've been paying a loan to the bank and it will finish in May 2022. Recently we had a great push from a local donor of 20,000€ to reduce our quarterly struggle. Before we used to pay 5300€ to the bank but now it has come down to 2700€ quarterly.

Zone 3 donated 1300€ to us last month so we could buy 5 new windows and fire extinguishers.

We still need to improve some aspects of the Subud house to be more efficient and spacious for coworking, and for the growth of the Lisbon group and Subud members' entrepreneurship. The full budget of the needed renovations is estimated to be 4000€, and the group is committed to raising that money. Here are the proposed renovations.

If you are interested in supporting us by donating to help us reach our 4000€ renovation target then please contact Anali Lopes, chairlady for Subud Portugal at anali_lay@hotmail.com ●

ARRIVING IN KALIMANTAN

Ruth Taylor, Zone 3 Secretary, writes...

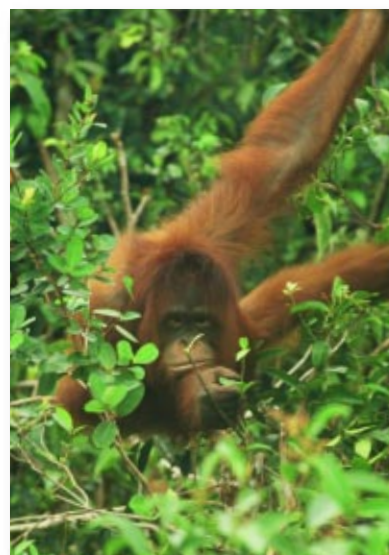
I landed in Kalimantan on 13th February, but my journey here started some time ago...

Although I was opened in 2012, I was yet to experience Subud in a wider context outside my local group.

World Congress in Freiburg should have been an choice, but I didn't go. It was the early days of my freelance consultancy business, and being preoccupied with work I let the latihan take second place...

To read about Ruth in Kalimantan, click here...

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ArrivingInKalimantan.pdf> ●



AND THE WHOLE WORLD SMILED

Dahlan Simpson writes from Australia...

It was no particular day. It would have happened countless times before: two people smiling at each other. No-one else would have known. Just like that time over 30 years ago when a lady leaned back in her chair and we smiled at each other. I still remember her smile as if it were moments ago. But this smile was different. Oh, entirely different. Because it changed the world. Unbelievable? I have no idea. But what I do know is that unbelievable things happen all the time. Just like Earth orbiting the sun.

But back to that smile. A very ugly man smiled very warmly, amazingly warmly, at a very ugly woman. And this time, somebody saw it, and their smiles were so radiant, that she smiled too. And someone saw her. And all of a sudden, people were 'catching' smiles all over the world. Oh, it was far more contagious than a virus. Covid-19 was a snail, this travelling smile was a bird.

Country borders were no obstacle. Airline pilots and crews immediately caught the smiles and all of a sudden all the passengers were smiling. The smile 'took off' like the sweetest hurricane, no-one was untouched, no-one could be untouched.

Yes, it was amazing: from that very first smile, it took just 33 hours until Vladimir Putin smiled the biggest smile you could imagine. And since he was on TV at the time, suddenly millions of Russians >

were smiling. Oh, you should have seen it. Well, of course, you were there, so were you smiling before Putin? Or after? I'm just curious.

And it didn't stop there. No, smiling was just the beginning. All of a sudden, gangsters were opening car doors for old women, policemen were offering help to complete strangers in the street, even the Queen was seen shaking hands with a passing beggar.

Oh how infectious it all was! Goodness broke out like you would never believe. Immediately there was no fighting – well, how could there be, if soldiers just smiled at each other? Even Donald Trump himself appeared on TV and pronounced, smiling broadly as if he couldn't stop, that henceforth the defence budget would be cancelled and all the armed forces would be brought home. I was actually in the US when it happened. No-one could believe it, they just smiled stupidly at their TV sets, in total disbelief.

The First Peace War – no, don't be silly, no-one was calling it that. But that is what it actually was. Everyone was helping others, the ferocious profit motive sagged, and on a rainy day you couldn't count the number of people with umbrellas helping those without.

Well, you're hardly going to believe some things that happened. Just an example. With the entire defence industry and support ones closing down, thousands of people lost their jobs overnight. Tell me, have you ever seen people who have just lost their jobs wearing a huge smile? Walking out the gates with their very last pay cheque, smiling at each other and joking? Optimism has never smiled as she did that day, the day that the militaries the world over closed down.

Some people thought that no, the Chinese will never do that, never. But there was President Xi on State TV, yes, smiling very broadly, saying, look it's obvious that there are no threats anymore, we don't need all those silly fake islands in the South China Sea, and we are going to abandon our armed forces immediately.

Well, he continued, and I still cannot believe that smile, who needs an army or an air force when your enemy has disappeared because all they do is smile at you? It is just pointless. Think about it. Now, we are free to devote more precious resources to building our country, lifting all out of poverty, giving everyone a job that adds happiness to peoples' lives.

They will be talking about that 'original' smile forever, I suppose. It had such an enormous impact. For a smile to go around the world in 48 hours was breathtaking. And the outpouring effect of love and kindness knew no bounds. You'll never see the impact in GDP numbers, because smiles and cooperation are free, but it was huge. Immense. Stupendous. Within just five short years, couldn't have been more than that, there were no countries anymore.

The UK started it off. One day, the PM announced that the UK would henceforth be an open society of international citizens. Everyone exchanged their UK passport for an international one. One by one, countries followed suit. Within a year, a tenth of the world were international citizens, within three years, half the world, and by five years, there was only perhaps a few lonely islands in the Pacific that weren't.

But in time, they would be too. It was a kind of small joke: if you had a passport from the Solomon Islands, you were entitled to travel to the Solomon Islands and to the whole world; nobody cared!

All of a sudden, it was us and the universe. Humans and beings 'out there'. On Earth, no more 'them and us'. It was only us.

It is only us.

It is only for us to realise that and the world will be a happier place. For two people, ugly or not, to smile so strongly and sweetly at each other that they infect the whole world.

I am waiting for that day. It will be the happiest day of my life. My story is science fiction. But it's a dream I hold close to my heart.



“ *And it didn't stop there...* ”

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL HELPERS...

AREA 2 -VISIT TO LITHUANIA –NOV. 15-18, 2019

Howard Ray & Mariam Tikale write...

On Friday evening 15.11. the chair lady of Subud Lithuania very kindly met us at the airport in Vilnius and drove us in her car to our hotel. After a short chat with her we've had a free evening, which was very welcome due to a 3am start to the day for one of us. For both of us it was the first time in Lithuania, and after supper we explored a part of the beautiful old city of Vilnius, the capital. Next morning, Saturday 16.11., we were collected from our hotel and driven to the latihan rooms nearby. For many years, the group have rented rooms in the same building, but the new owner now has other plans for the space, and they are hoping to find a suitable and affordable new place for next year.

Subud Lithuania is small and has limited funds. At the moment, there are seven women and five men in Vilnius, and 2 men in the city of Kaunas. Subud was introduced to Lithuania by some members who had been following Gurdjieff and read about it in Bennet's book. The first openings took place in Poland, about 18 years ago. Several members moved abroad after being opened, and others have left, but the members we met are very dedicated.

On Saturday Mariam met with two women, the chair lady and one helper.

Howard met with four men: two helpers, one of whom is temporarily inactive for health reasons, and two members.

Unfortunately, we missed both KCs, because they were abroad during this weekend. Additionally, one lady who had been recently opened at the Zone 4 meeting in Kaliningrad, was unable to attend. After a short welcome and a chat with men and women we had parallel latihan. The majority of the members of Subud Lithuania,

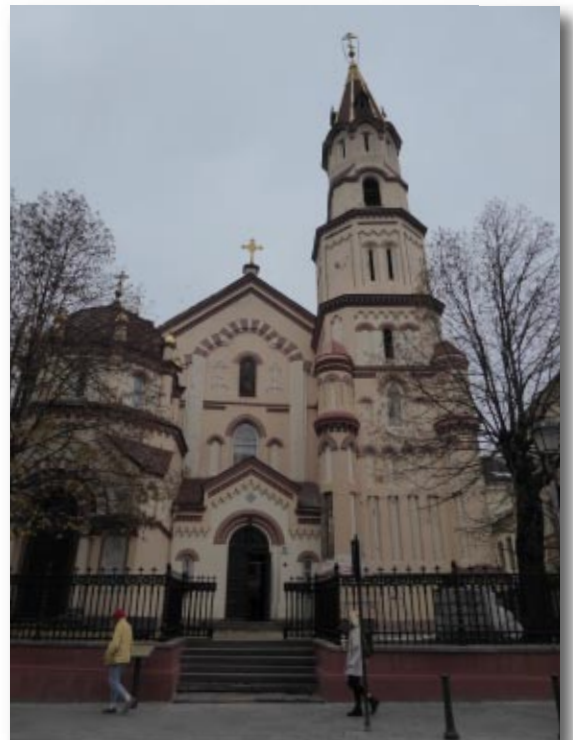
It was very intense for the three women. After finishing Mariam asked if they would like to test. They talked for a while, with the chairlady translating for the Russian-speaking helper. One issue was how to deal with the current situation in the world, but we decided to postpone this until the next day and started with kejiwaan questions. The following testing was very intense. After a break and a sharing, the ladies wanted to go on with testing, and because the men had finished, they changed the rooms and continued testing. At the end we all felt very touched and surprised because it was unexpected.

Although finishing earlier, the men also had a very deep experience. A number of kejiwaan questions were followed by some personal testing. As with the ladies, all this receiving was felt to be a great blessing and was felt to be sufficient for the day.

Following the testing the women and men sat around a nicely prepared table and shared cake, fruit and drinks provided by the group. We were asked why we IH had decided to visit Lithuania, and we talked about our work as IH's, and how we always tested in our IH dewan if it would



The members in Lithuania...



The church of St Nicholas in Vilnius...



be appropriate to visit a country.

The lady helper said that this intense meeting on one day had given her more than the whole Zone 4 gathering in Kaliningrad. As we had previously received a complaint from elsewhere, we asked those present how they felt about the kejiwaan content of the Kaliningrad gathering, and none expressed any discontent.

When the meeting closed, we were taken by car for a short tour around Vilnius, which is in a beautiful wooded setting, and contains many beautifully kept and very well attended churches. We saw the golden Angel, symbol of Vilnius, which was the inspiration for a Subud artist from Vilnius, now living in London, who created an Angel as a present for Puebla during the World Congress 2014.

On Sunday morning, we met again with the group and were joined by a third woman and the two men from Kaunas. We started nearly directly with latihan, again very strong for all of us. The ladies asked again for testing, so did the men.

Again, although not a long session, this was felt very deeply, and there was a strong feeling of gratitude to Almighty God for what we were able to receive.

The group had prepared a table with wonderful food, and after the testing the women and men sat around it together, discussing how we could talk about Subud to non-members, and the benefits of holding an annual national congress or gathering at which members could also have the opportunity to test about taking on new roles in Subud.

Although there are no organised wing activities in Lithuania, one brother is a very talented and nationally respected sculptor and artist. So, after the meeting on Sunday, we were taken into town and showed a life-sized bronze piece which he made. This had been commissioned by the city and is in a very prominent place.

In Vilnius, they meet twice a week for latihan. They have a small library with Bapak's and Ibu's talks and a new helpers' guide in English. We spoke about Assisi and the next Bi-zonal gathering in August 2020, but all said that it is too early for them to think about that now, and they don't know if it will be possible for them to take part.

As the planned programme for the weekend was over, Mariam flew home early on Monday morning, but as Howard's flight was later in the day, he was able to join some of the men for latihan with a brother from Moscow who was visiting Vilnius. After a light lunch, Howard was very kindly taken to the airport by two of the brothers.

It was a very nice visit.



In Vilnius...

“ All this receiving was felt to be a great blessing... ”



Group members sitting on Daniel's bronze in Vilnius...

During the latihan and testing we all felt very close. Unfortunately, neither of us speak Russian, and only three of the members present, understand English well. So, there was always something of a language barrier, and it is possible that some things were lost in translation.

This of course did not affect the working of the latihan, which felt deep and clear. We suggested trying to arrange for all the KCs of the Russian speaking countries to come closer to each other and take part in future Zone 4 dewan zoom calls, helped by a Russian translator. We were happy to hear that the chair lady had decided spontaneously to take part in the Russian national congress the following weekend.

Saying Goodbye, we were asked to come again and, subsequently, testing at our dewan meeting showed that this should be on our programme for 2020.

This article is republished from the MARCH ISSUE OF WSA F.Y.I NEWSLETTER The March issue of WSA F.Y.I contains important articles including the work of the international helpers and reports from the Zones.

To read the complete newsletter in English

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/FYI-newsletter-march2020.pdf>

And in Spanish

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ESPANOL-FYI-newsletter-march2020.pdf> ●



The Area 2 International Helpers dewan in December 2019.

Change!

Anthony Bright-Paul writes...

It must have been in '95 that I first went to Cilandak and Eileen and I first stayed with Mas Haryono and Ibu Ismana before moving to the compound for the conference.

It was while we were there that Ismana remarked to me quite suddenly 'Tony, you cannot change your nature.' That really puzzled me. What else had I been trying to do all these years, if it was not to change my nature? You know what I mean – in the colloquial I was hoping to change into a better person as long as I would not have to change too much and too painfully. It was a matter of profound belief that unless Man changed (manusia) then nothing would ever change.

Of course, when Subud arrived in the West and most particularly at Coombe Springs, we constantly looked out for changes in our friends surrounding us. I even tried to write about it in my book Stairway, as if unless there were visible changes in everybody, then Subud was not working.

It has taken me a long time – Eileen my wifey constantly assures me I am slow on the uptake – to realise something that I never understood before. And that is this. There is a profound change in every person who is opened from the very moment that they are opened.

The thing is this. We look for change in the functions, in Subud language we look for change in the nafsu, but what we cannot see is the change in the jiwa. Why is that? It is because we cannot see the jiwa, actually we can never comprehend the >



A recent photo of Anthony Bright-Paul by George Bennett, son of John Bennett.

jiwa, nor does it make any difference whatsoever if we change the word jiwa to soul or psyche or whatever. The change that is instant occurs in the Will and since we cannot see that either or even begin to comprehend it, we just don't see and cannot see what is really happening within a person.



What we can never see is the change in the jiwa...



From the very moment that a person is opened he or she is opened to Will. That is why a person who is once opened can never leave the kejiwaan, although they may leave the organisation of Subud. It is all there in Susila, Budhi and Dharma. Before a person is opened that person has no Will whatsoever.

Oh yes! Everybody thinks they have Free Will and are constantly making choices, with the result also that everybody is blaming everybody else for making choices that they opine are wrong. That is the normal world, where the standards of right and wrong are set from outside. Once a person is opened in Subud then they at once have an inner direction, whether they know it or not, and whether they foster it or not.

But a direction is not tangible entity. Of course we have desires, which we mistake for Will. And if a person has very strong desires, like to get rich for example, we consider that such a person has a strong will and is much to be admired. In England such a person may well be elevated to the Lords and given a resounding title. But Bapak made clear that we are governed by Lower Forces or Lower Wills, which drive us hither and thither without the interest of our true and hopefully eternal selves.

It is interesting that even our wish say to be a better person, still belongs to the lower orders, it is only the urge that comes from our essence that is the true friend of that Higher Will to which we have been opened and which mercifully operates in the background. ●

THE BEEFALO AWARD

Lucien Hinkle writes from the USA...

I live in east central Vermont. I characterize myself as *hermiteous*, adj., of or pertaining to living like a hermit. This covid 19 is no big deal for me, as I have a 102 acre farm which, even though I no longer raise Beefalo cattle, takes a lot of time and work which I greatly enjoy. Perhaps some time one of us can make the journey to the other.

I must tell everyone of a wonderful experience. When I started raising Beefalo beef cattle back in 1994, there were 2 somewhat bitter rival national Beefalo associations, the American Beefalo World Registry (ABWR) and the American Beefalo Registry (ABR). To make things more complicated, there were a number of state and regional associations, some of which were independent, and some that joined one or the other national association. I was part of the North Eastern Beefalo Association (NEBA) run by a fellow who wanted to stay independent and not take part in any merger of the 2 Nationals.

When I eventually became president of NEBA I journeyed to Missouri to a meeting of the ABWR at which I was to state our wish to join that association. Not only did the ABWR accept our application, but to my utter surprise that Board wanted me to be their president, which I accepted! Talk about having to make a split second (test) decision.



Beefalo.



Lucien's farm in Vermont USA.



To make a long story shorter, over the next few years as I traveled around the country in my official capacity I made friends with both sides, got almost everyone to agree to merge, rewrote the association bylaws to merge the 2 nationals into the American Beefalo Association, and held the ABWR annual meeting at my farm at which we officially ratified merging with the ABR. The ABR shortly followed suit. I eventually left the Board about 7 or 8 years ago.

Each year the ABA would decide on giving their highest award to someone who they thought had been especially dedicated to advancing the breed and the organization, an award I never got. I was not too miffed, as I thought bringing about peace and merging all the associations was just part of my destiny in this world, which I fulfilled, and that was good enough.

Yesterday I received this strange package in the mail, and wondered what my wife had ordered now. She helps to keep the US postal service, UPS, and Amazon in business. To my utter surprise it was a plaque of the ABA's highest award! I am so grateful.

I hope all of you are doing well.

NEW SONG FROM IZELLAH

Izella has recently released a new song, STOP, written by one of her USA based writers and produced by Konstantin Kersting, producer of Tones & I chart busting 'Dance Monkey', which has had 1.4 billion Spotify streams and 1 billion YouTube views. STOP is available on all music streaming platforms and a music video is available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4sXAYLx47tk&feature=youtu.be>

Gold Coast's Izella Connelly working with world's best producers

Emily Halloran, emily.halloran@news.com.au, Gold Coast Bulletin

One young Gold Coasters dream of becoming a superstar is closer, as she jumps into studios to record more songs with one of Australia's best producers.

IZELLAH Connelly's dream of becoming a superstar is getting closer as she jumps into studios to record more songs.

The 13-year-old from Southport has been working on new music with Brisbane producer Konstantin Kersting, the person behind Tones and I's ARIA award-winning hit Dance Monkey.

"It's been a dream since I was two-years-old," said Izella.

Izella Connelly. Picture: Glenn Hampson

"I want to be like Katy Perry, Taylor Swift and Ariana Grande. They are all big inspirations. Ariana Grande can sing and dance and perform and that's what I want to be."

Izella is no stranger to working with big industry names.

She has made several trips to Los Angeles and New York to work with producers and writers behind international artists such as Eminem, Dua Lipa, Justin Bieber, Celine Dion and Kylie Minogue.

"I'm beginning to write more songs myself," she said.

Izella Connelly has been writing songs with some of the world's best producers. Picture Glenn Hampson

"But with my new song (No Hard Feelings) I co-work with the producer of one of Dua Lipa's songs, which is pretty exciting. I did that in New York at Warner Brothers Studio and that was really, really fun. I loved that."

Izella, who boasts more than 80,000 followers on Instagram, rose to fame in Matilda the Musical, which included 84 shows across Australia and New Zealand.

"Everyone thought it would be hard (juggling school



Izella has a new song out.



work) but it wasn't. School always comes first," the St Hilda's School student said.

"My friends are very supportive. I love to include them in my music videos."

She has released eight singles and an EP available on all streaming networks.

Izellah is a finalist in the Bulletin's Gold Coast Woman of the Year awards, in the teenage category.

The winners of eight categories and the popular vote winner will be announced on June 27. ●

THE BIRTH OF MY SON BIMA

Subagio writes another of his spiritual experiences...

Each one of my experiences is unique and special to me and this one is no less special than those of earlier or subsequent ones.

But it is probably one of the most difficult ones to "transport the experience in words" – to other people, because of its "out of the ordinariness" and "strangeness" also because of the inadequacy of language to describe one's feeling.

As you probably still remember from my previous story, my wife and I had to wait for almost 5 years before God the Almighty bestowed upon us with a child.

It was indeed to our surprise and joy then when, my wife discovered that she was expecting a baby again exactly nine months after the arrival of our first child.

I can't remember why, but then I decided to do a little bit of PRIHATIN.

My PRIHATIN was devoid of any "nafsu" wish, as since I was in SUBUD my surrender had always been one of PASRAH BONGKOKAN, a Javanese expression for surrender in totality or unconditional surrender. PASRAH means surrender and BONGKOKAN literally means a (bundled) sheaf.

So PASRAH BONGKOKAN means to surrender as if one gives himself in like a bundled sheaf or to leave one's life or affairs entirely and unconditionally in the hands of another person.

But to say the truth, I always harboured or harbour still a secret wish or a prayer in the corner of my heart. It was and is that my children will recognise the presence of God and worship God according to God's will. (Not according to my wishes and I don't specify how they should worship God; I would leave it to Him)

In some other forum and some other time perhaps, I shall expand my above pronouncement but not here and not now.

Yes, in the positive knowledge that my wife was expecting a baby, I decided to exercise some PRIHATIN... [To read Subagio's complete article click here...](#)

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/SubagioAndSon.pdf> ●



Subagio and his son Bima.

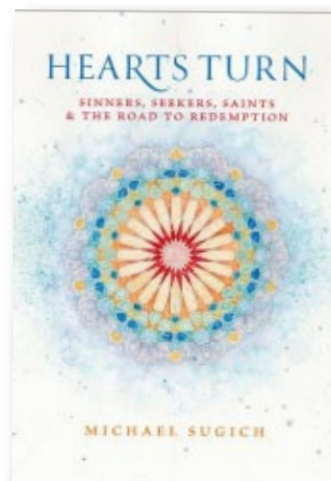
HEARTS TURN: A REVIEW

Harris Smart reviews Hearts Turn: Sinners, Seekers, Saints & the Road to Redemption by Michael Sugich which Harris says "opened a door into the world of Islam" for him...

During the month of the ancestors in the lead up to Ramadan, a friend recommended to me this book Heart Turns by Michael Sugich.

The book is a collection of stories, some contemporary, some from the history of Islam and some from Sufi sources, which deal with the theme of repentance in Islam. The author says...

"In English, 'repentance' is a forbidding word that suggests a puritanical finality. But in Arabic the term tawba is dynamic, meaning to turn or return. Al-Tawwab is one of the Names of God, the Oft-Returning. It is an active



constant, an ongoing reality that renews every moment we are alive.”

The theme of repentance is central, but the book does many other things as well. One thing I would say is that it gives the most positive and sympathetic presentation of Islam to a person like me than any other book or presentation of Islam I have seen.

By people like me I mean people of Western upbringing and sensibility who have probably sown a few wild oats and approach all religions with profound scepticism. The author himself is extremely frank about his own “walks on the wild side” when a young man, which is encouraging to us all.

The book shows the deep religious quality of Islam, but it also shows its cultural richness which comes as a surprise when all we usually hear about Islam is terrorism and fundamentalism. The author draws on the rich, humane traditions of Sufism.

A concept that is expressed several times is that right behaviour can bring about an uplift in “status” and well-being in life. Drawing close to God, repentance, prayer and fasting, all these things make a tangible difference to how we fare in life. They bring palpable benefits as does turning away from God bring suffering. This is a very interesting concept and experience which is now almost unknown in our western modernist societies.

I would say the book unveils values of Islam that are not only almost totally unknown to those outside Islam but are also often not generally understood within Islam.

The book profoundly sparked my interest in Islam and opened the door to my experience of Islam during Ramadan. I learned from the book that one of the 99 names of God in Islam is, God the Opener of Closed Doors.

Doubtless there can be many reasons why we do not turn to God. Pride, arrogance, ignorance they all can play a part. But also there is unworthiness. Why should God take an interest in me, so small, so insignificant, so corrupt, so contrary, so inconsistent, so disobedient, so heedless of even his own best interests, so ungrateful.

Why should God pay any attention to me? How could it be possible that one so distant from God as I am could experience these miraculous things that are spoken of. That even I, a consistent sinner, should experience in tangible, palpable, practical ways the rewards and benefits, the actual improvement to my quality of life and well-being which arise from turning towards God.

Also see my article in this issue “Ramadan with my Group” which tells of the part that Islam played in my experience of Ramadan this year.

I should also mention that this was the first book I ever read on Kindle which I found to be a very satisfactory experience. When I went to Amazon to buy the book, I saw a paperback would cost me \$50 and then there would probably be another \$20 for postage and the book might take weeks to reach me. With Kindle it cost \$5, arrived on my computer instantly with an easy download of the Kindle app and was very clear and enjoyable to read off the screen.

Hearts Turn by Michael Sugich is available from Amazon.com (in various formats including Kindle) and good booksellers.

For interviews with the author and commentaries on the book go to:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=michael+sugich+hearts+turn ●

CORONAVIRUS, 5G AND CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Marius Kahan, France, writes about the conspiracy theories which have arisen around the coronavirus.

He refers to some commentators who are perhaps better known in the UK than other parts of the world. David Icke, whom Marius mentions for example, is an extreme right-wing English conspiracy theorist and a former footballer and sports broadcaster. He has written more than 20 books and has lectured in over 25 countries.

In 1990, while spokesman for the Green Party, he visited a psychic who he said told him he had been placed on earth for a purpose and would begin to receive messages from the spirit world. These events led him to announce the following year that he was a “Son of the Godhead” and that the world would soon be devastated by tidal waves and earthquakes...

For more information about him see his Wikipedia entry... >

Popularised by alternative media platforms such as the ironically named London Real, the current crop of inexplicably popular conspiracy theories about Covid-19 and 5G have created panic by convincing some people that we are living through the endgame of a global totalitarian takeover orchestrated by a shadowy elite.

Proponents such as David Icke and Dr Rashid Buttar, who approach any major global event with the pre-conceived assumption that evil is afoot, brazenly disseminate 'news' that genuinely is fake. They get away with it too, because disciples take them at their word, even though their supposed facts are easily debunked at the drop of a Google search. There is no virus, they claim; hospitals are empty and staff are sitting around twiddling their thumbs. In which case, why are people – including medical staff – dying?

Enter the circular logic of conspiracy theorists: when faced with good research and science that undermines your claims, shout loudly that this is proof that the establishment is hiding something. So when Icke claims that mortality rates have remained unchanged from the norm throughout the pandemic while official figures show a pronounced spike, it simply confirms that government agencies routinely massage statistics.

“ *Enter the circular logic
of conspiracy
theorists...* ”

With no indication of where they source their vastly superior data, the conspiracists hold that a fake pandemic is the penultimate move in a long-term play – a globally coordinated effort in which signals are beamed to Earth by Tesla founder Elon Musk's network of data satellites and broadcast via the 5G network to infect people with the coronavirus (or, in the scenario where the virus doesn't exist, to induce symptoms that mimic it) in order to impose a lockdown.

This is paving the way for a campaign of forced vaccinations containing nanobots that will lodge themselves in the brain, enabling the aforementioned shadowy elite to exercise mind control over all of humanity and enslave us in perpetuity. Crikey!

It takes a particularly fantastical mindset to link such a disparate set of events. Especially troubling is that in today's intellectual vacuum, ill-informed and irresponsible celebrity voices carry more weight than information supplied by people who've spent entire careers deeply engaged in clearly defined areas of important scientific study, whose conclusions – which should be valued – are instead questioned or ignored.

If this crisis were a hoax, success would depend on widespread cooperation from significant numbers of people in several walks of life; the notion that a majority of corporate titans, politicians, scientists and doctors is playing along with a grand conspiracy to put an end to civilisation as we know it is patently absurd.

Yet conspiracists claim that only a tiny handful of their own number have the real scoop, thereby implying that everybody who works for The Guardian, The Independent, The Telegraph, The Times, The FT, the Mirror, The Sun, The Star, The BBC, ITV and Sky News etc. is complicit, stupid, or simply unconcerned by the trivial matter of fact checking. By extension, nurses and doctors providing feedback from the front line must be lying because, as Icke and Buttar have made clear, hospitals are empty.

David Icke's biggest coup, as you are probably aware, is that without a shred of evidence, he has convinced a large number of people that the world is ruled by a cabal of shape-shifting lizards from another dimension. Beyond the obvious question of which mushrooms he had for breakfast, this raises a handful of other issues, such as why they would bother, and why they didn't come up with a simpler way to go about things.

To read the complete article go to

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Anti-conspiracy.pdf>

The Lovers

Sebastian Paemen writes...

I met two special people tonight. I saw a woman in the street on my way to the supermarket. This lady was in her late sixties, she walked in an odd way, rocking from left to right, wearing tight leopard print leggings, a sleeveless top and a lot of make up. The English expression 'mutton dressed as lamb' can come to mind when you see an older woman dressed like a teenager, except that in this case it gave her a peculiar sort of innocence which made her unusual.

I parked the car and went into the small supermarket where I got some milk and teabags which I carried in a basket. While queuing up, social distancing style, six feet between customers, I saw her again. She was at the till paying for her groceries. The man behind the counter said something to her after which she went to get a pack of crisps from the shelf near to me. The sign read, 'Two for the price of one.' The lady apologized as she passed by and said to me with a friendly smile, 'We are just like lepers, aren't we?!', referring to the social distancing. I noticed her beautiful, childlike eyes. They were full of love and happiness. 'How uncommon,' I thought. The woman paid, greeted the cashier and left, carrying her groceries in a plastic bag while hobbling her way out of the store.

When it was my turn to pay, this lady suddenly peeked through the shop window from outside. She stuck her tongue out at the man behind the till, like a little girl. We both laughed. 'That's a cheeky lady. I like her,' I said. 'So do I,' he responded. He was a very friendly, chubby man in his late thirties with a big round head and a thin curly beard. He continued, with a broad smile, 'Actually, we are engaged.' Then I noticed that he had similar eyes full of love and innocence, just like his fiancée. He too looked so happy.

I realized that the age difference between them must have been about thirty years. For a split second two options of how to feel about what he just said popped up in me. The first one was to judge and think, 'For goodness sake, don't be ridiculous, she is old enough to be your mother!' The second option presented itself immediately after this and was to look at the 'facts'. How often do you meet people who radiate love and happiness with which they touch others? I went for option two. 'What an incredibly unusual couple,' I thought. 'Congratulations. You are both very lucky people, and thank you for sharing this positive news!' I said, while smiling at him. He smiled back and thanked me for my comment. I left the supermarket feeling happy for these two people who felt so much love for each other that it spilled over to those around them.

To read Sebastian's blog go to... <https://adutchmanbythethames.weebly.com/blog> ●



DREAMS AND OTHER SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES

These stories by Hussein Rawlings were first published in Reminders of Reality and we are grateful for the permission of Emmanuel Elliott to republish... www.remindersofreality.weebly.com

Spiritual Operation

Over the years, my experiences have usually occurred while receiving the Latihan sitting, or lying down. Only rarely have they happened during Latihan, as this one did in the 1990s.

I had been moving about, then came to a standstill, waiting for what may follow. >

Suddenly I became aware of a man close in front and no sooner was I aware of him than in one sure movement he swiftly cut me open from chest to navel. He immediately inserted his hands into the cavity, deftly moving organs out of the way with one hand while the other, with the knife blade held close against his first two fingers, moved the knife deep into my chest.

The moment it happened I felt the Power of God that guided him, the authority with which he acted, the skill and assurance of his hands, and even knew how the blade was held against the fingers.

There was no fear, only surrender. – As one hand reached behind some organs I felt the other extend the blade beyond the fingers and cut something away. Then he removed both hands, and something from my body. He quickly ran his thumb down the cut, sealing it. Then he was gone, leaving me to Thank God.

On arriving home I went straight to the bathroom and inspected my chest to see what marks were left. Nothing. Not a trace on my body. I was just the same, but some of my experiences became deeper.

Dream of Impending Death

I once had a dream alerting me that a colleague of mine would die. – In the dream we were playing rugby, (a game that often appears in my dreams to represent the ‘game of life’). –

I looked out from the position where I was playing, and saw my colleague take a particularly hard tackle – so hard that the game stopped while the medics attended to him, and then carried him off the field and out of the game. –

All the time my colleague was saying “It’s not fair, it’s not fair!” – When a player is injured to the extent that he has to be carried off the field then clearly that game is over for him. – For this reason I understood that to be ‘carried out of the game of life’ indicated death, but he was only 38. –

Shortly afterwards he became ill, and after a progressive wasting of weight and energy he died. – This dream, a year in advance of the death, presaged it with a deterministic inevitability.

Dream of Dead Cousin

My cousin, married with two teenage children and who was the same age as me, died in her forties. – Her maiden name had been Corn. – Some two or three years later I dreamed I was standing on a low rounded hill at the edge of a rolling paddock of young corn shoots, green and about 6 to 8 inches high, growing in the rich dark soil.

As I looked out over this promise of a bountiful harvest my cousin appeared walking out from a gazebo a few yards to my left, smiling that delightful warm smile so characteristic of her. – She looked so alive and relaxed and real. – Even in my dream I knew that she had died, so I thought ‘this must be her spirit or some apparition, so I will test it’. –

I moved towards her, greeting her as if she was alive, and holding out my hand to her, fully expecting that as I took her hand I would confirm the insubstantial quality of this figure in front of me. – She took my hand warmly, and I was surprised at how real it was, and the warmth that flowed from her palm. – Then as I stood smiling, holding her hand and about to speak, she evaporated before my eyes. – When I awoke I felt very happy for her.

The Three Jinns

Late one night, after midnight, while receiving the latihan (doing Zikir) in my home – it seemed the house and room no longer existed. I was suspended above treetops in a tropical region, in the presence of three giant beings (jinn?). One was about twenty stories high, and the others were smaller at about only ten and twelve stories high!

The canopy of an extensive tropical forest extended out below, and I felt a cool, clear tropical air. None of the beings said anything, but all three were observing me.

The experience lasted only a few seconds.

I did not know that such giant creatures existed but, but as we discover in these sorts of experiences – no matter how out of the ordinary – it all seems to be perfectly normal and natural at the time.

I had always intended to visit Kalimantan, whenever it seemed ‘right’, but in the thirty plus years since I first formed a readiness to go there, it just never seemed to fit during any of my visits to Indonesia. But with this experience I felt these beings held some kind of guardianship responsibility for Kalimantan, and I was being invited to visit. I felt the way would open easily now.

In 2006 I had made the so called Raja Pilgrimage as thanks for deliverance following a very difficult twelve year period that began the year Bapak died. This pilgrimage comprises visits to Bapak's birthplace in Kedjungati , to his house at Bogata Kalisari when he received the Wahyu (Ascension), and to his grave at Suka Mulia.

Before this visit our Government had issued a travel advisory against visiting Indonesia due to bird flu, volcanoes, and active Islamists. My wife held these concerns also, "...and you expect to go there and come back smiling!?"

But this was the first opportunity for me to make this visit since my period of difficulty had ended in 1999, and I felt this opportunity had been given to me. So I did go, and yes, I did come back smiling, for it was one of those visits when "every door opened" as I approached it. I returned having kept my promise to God and feeling blessed by the experience of having been to those places.

Some months after I returned and was talking with members about my visit, and I noticed my wife looking somewhat wistful. When asked if she would like to visit those three places of Bapak's life she agreed she would. So we completed arrangements for a few months later, to leave about a year after my own visit. –

My experience of meeting the three jinn occurred after these arrangements were made. I asked Rachman Mitchell about accommodation in Rungan Sari and he told me he would be there at that time and I could stay with him. However, shortly before we left Rachman told me he was unable to be in Kalimantan, but insisted I use his house, putting me in touch with his servant and advising on managing food, etc., for all of which I was very grateful

After accompanying my wife on that tour, she returned home as planned, while I continued on to Kalimantan on a flight containing a number of Subud members. Hartati gave me a ride to RS. I settled in and ate, sat up late, going to bed around midnight. I was lying in bed with sleep still not approaching when a 'sakima' (latihan of blessing) came over me and I knew that something was going to occur. Into the darkened room came three round disks of light, each about the size of a side plate, all moving in together with the disks arranged in a column with one above the other.

One of them had a distinctive pattern (no doubt I'll come across it again sometime, and learn its significance). The other two were just of light. The three disks came just inside the room, staying for a few seconds arranged vertically at the foot of the bed, then all left together. I felt that those same three beings had welcomed me now that I had actually arrived in Kalimantan. I gave thanks that I could come, that so many arrangements like leave, accommodation, and transfers had been 'taken care of', and that I have been made so welcome.

I passed four days there, days which were full of experience and meaning for me. After four days I felt everything shut down within me and knew my visit was over, so I left that day and returned to my own country.

ORIENTATION

Dr Rachman Mitchell writes...

One of the tests done by GPs or family doctors is the test for orienting oneself for time and place. It is a test done to find out whether someone is suffering from dementia or as they say, "diminished mental acuity" alongside tests of recent memory. It is done by simply asking "What is the day of the week? What is the month? Where are you now?"

It is a common thing for older people to go for a walk and lose themselves and I know that I can lose myself easily at night in London if I go for a walk. The father of a friend who had dementia in Canberra went for a walk and got lost. His body was not found until six months later

However, for me, as I become aware of an ever-increasing rate of the passage of time, a need, a very deep need arises. The need to orientate myself to the Author of my own being...

To read the complete article click here...

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Orientation.pdf>



Dr Rachman Mitchell at a Subud Australia Congress.

RAMADAN UNDER THE MOUNTAIN

Harris Smart has written a long article in which he tries to do three things. He wants to tell you about how Ramadan was for him this year, and he also wants to tell you how Ramadan was as a group experience with his Subud group, and he also wants to create a kind of picture or context about where he lives now in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales where all this happened. As a taster here is part of an email he wrote to a friend after Ramadan, it will give you an idea of what is in store for you if you decide to read the whole article...

What is one really good thing you got out of doing Ramadan this year? I will tell you one of mine. First of all I must say I had a very Islamic Ramadan, the most Islamic Ramadan I have had for a long time, and it was like a return to Islam for one thing.

So I had this very Islamic Ramadan this year, from the month of ancestors, it is largely due to a dear friend who for many years kept sending me Islamic – information which I completely ignored because I wasn't interested in it, but this year his persistence really paid off and he recommended to me a great book which opened the world of Islam to me again (it's called Heart Turns by Michael Sugich: see review in this issue.)

And also he sent me links to all these videos about Islam from a place in England, Cambridge Muslim College it's called, and I watched lots of those doing Ramadan, and a friend also joined me in this activity so we had a very convivial latihan Ramadan time

And I'll just give you one thing that I got out of this. I read this story that at one point the people who hated Muhammad in Mecca wanted to discredit him as a prophet so they went to some people who were supposed to know about these things, and they asked these people, tell us some things that a prophet should know, and if he doesn't know them, it means that he is not a prophet. So, these people told the Muhammad haters some things they could ask him.

So they went to him and they asked him these things and he said, I won't give you the answers now but come back tomorrow morning and I'll give you the answers.

But when the people came back in the morning it was very embarrassing because he had nothing to say. He had no answers. And eventually he figured it out that the problem was when he said come back in the morning and I will tell you, he had failed to say come back in the morning and I will tell "insh'Allah".

So, I really learned from this and now I really am trying keep that phrase "God willing" in my approach to life. Whenever I talk about something that will happen in the future I say, God willing, and the interesting thing is once you start doing that all these, other things start coming in as well, all these other Godly ways of looking at and dealing with life.



All these Godly ways of looking at and dealing with life...



To read the complete article click here...

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/RamadanUnderTheMountain.pdf>

Life and Death

Anthony Bright-Paul, that multi-talent, plans to publish a collection of poems. We will keep you posted as to when the book is coming out. In the meantime, we will publish some in Subud Voice as a taster of Tony's talent. I personally like his poems which speak clearly and directly of spiritual truths. What I like about this first poem is that it is very comprehensive tackling the whole of life and death and everything in between. In this way it approaches other works of literature such as War and Peace and The Agony and the Ecstasy...

Every day we have a choice
Between
Living and dying.
Between Life and Death.
And the terrible thing is
Most of us
Choose Death.

Every day we have a choice
Between
Becoming more alive
Becoming more sensitive
Becoming more aware
Everyday we have a choice
Between
Becoming or not becoming...

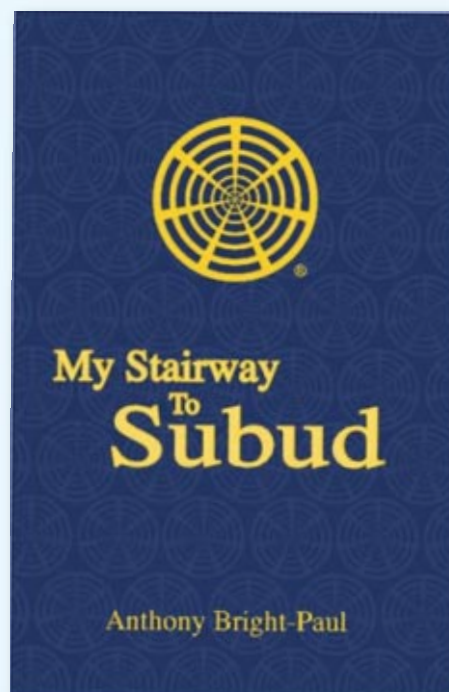
It is better to be alive
Than to be dead.
It is better to be living
Than to be dying.
How can anyone survive death
Who is not already alive?

Much of *My Stairway to Subud* first appeared as the record of a young man in the early 1950s searching for values and inner understanding. At various times he was an admirer of Mahatma Gandhi, a student with the Sri Ramakrishna Vedanta Society, then a follower of G.I.Gurdjieff for seven years under the direction of J.G.Bennett, author of *The Dramatic Universe* and *What are we living for?* – His search reached an explosive climax when Pak Subuh, the founder of the international spiritual movement Subud, came to England in 1957.

Anthony Bright-Paul gives an acutely observed account of the Gurdjieff methods as performed and practised at Coombe Springs with John Bennett, and a first-hand account of both the euphoria and the upheaval caused by the arrival of Pak Subuh who brought with him the latihan kejiwaan, the spiritual training of Subud.

Because he was so devoted to the ideas of Gurdjieff, and to John Bennett personally, the story of his initial resistance to Subud, and then his complete reversal, makes poignant and dramatic reading. His chronicle of the early days in Subud in the western world is unique for its detail of this period. Available from SPI at: www.subudbooks.com

PRICE £10.00 incl P&P UK (*plus Postage rest of world*).



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.

PLEASE NOTE THAT AT THIS TIME WE CAN ONLY PROVIDE THE VIDEOS IN ENGLISH. THE SPANISH VERSIONS SEEN RECENTLY ON ZOOM ARE NOT YET READY FOR STREAMING. WE HOPE TO MAKE THEM AVAILABLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

UNAUTHORISED DOWNLOADS OF BAPAK: THE MAN AND HIS MISSION



Recently Subud Voice co-operated with the International Helpers and some Subud members in the USA to have the series of programs about the Bapak's and the history of Subud, BAPAK: THE MAN AND HIS MISSION, broadcast over zoom so that Subud members could experience them in the lead up to Bapak's birthday.

The programs included new features such as Spanish translation. We are very glad to hear that many Subud members enjoyed watching them.

Unfortunately we know of at least one case where a Subud member has downloaded the programs and is now distributing them to other people. These programs were produced by private individuals at considerable expense and effort at the time of the Bapak's centenary celebration.

At the moment, apart from donations, they are the only source of income which enables Subud Voice to keep going. Furthermore, it is unfair to the Subud members who have purchased the streaming rights that someone else should now give them away.

We have made them available for streaming at the very cheap price of AUD\$60 for all four programs. Information about how to obtain the streaming rights is included in this issue and we would ask people to use this way of obtaining the programs and so supporting our efforts to keep Subud Voice going.

For further information, contact Harris Smart, subudvoice@gmail.com

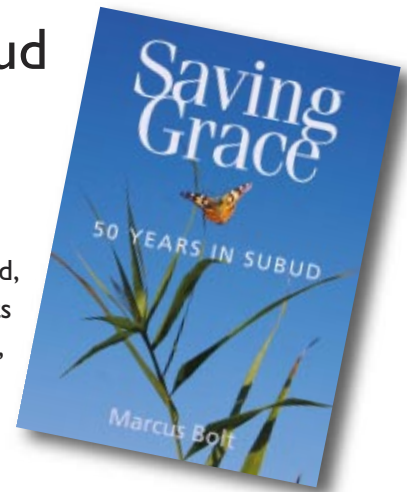
NEW

Saving Grace – Fifty Years in Subud

Marcus Bolt

Fourth Edition (revised 2019 with corrections & additional material).

Saving Grace is a book written for those wishing to find out more about Subud, a rarely publicised, modern, yet seemingly ancient, spiritual movement. It charts one man's fifty-year involvement through his personal take on its organisation, its culture and the latihan – the transformative process at its heart.



“Entertaining and instructive by turns, Marcus writes in an easy, flowing conversational style that gives the reader the feeling of being personally addressed. Unpretentious and refreshingly free of sanctimony, there is a generosity and a warmth of spirit about his narration that quickly befriends the reader and invites positive participation...”
Laurence Clark MA (Oxon), CBE

“In this refreshingly straightforward narrative, Marcus Bolt reflects on his years in Subud with humour, affection, insight, courage and delightful candour. There is nothing pretentious or preachy. It's all straight stuff, but straight from Marcus. And that's what makes it work...” – *Latifah Taormina, SICCA*

Price £11.00 plus packing and postage from SPI at www.subudbooks.com

A percentage of sales goes towards SPI's Bapak's Talks Retranslation Project

The perfect lockdown read

Buy a copy of *FIFTEEN WRITERS IN SUBUD* and have a most enjoyable lockdown – read, while donating to *Subud Voice Online* at the same time!

The 31 stories in this book were given free by Subud member writers from Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, the UK and the USA to help fund *Subud Voice Online*. The writers are:

Maurice Baker, Leo Batt, Marcus Bolt, Lawrence Brazier, Stefanie Brown, Rohana Darlington, Sahlan Diver, Stefan Freedman, Rachman Hopwood, Marius Kahan, David McCormack, Sandra McElroy, Angelina Sanchez, Mardijah Simpson, Harris Smart.

These writers are all at varying stages in their writing careers, and their stories are from 2 to 20 pages long, covering a diverse range of subjects.

Reading them, you'll find pathos, shock-horror, humour, psychology, spirituality, dystopia – you name it!

In buying this book, you too will help fund *Subud Voice Online*.

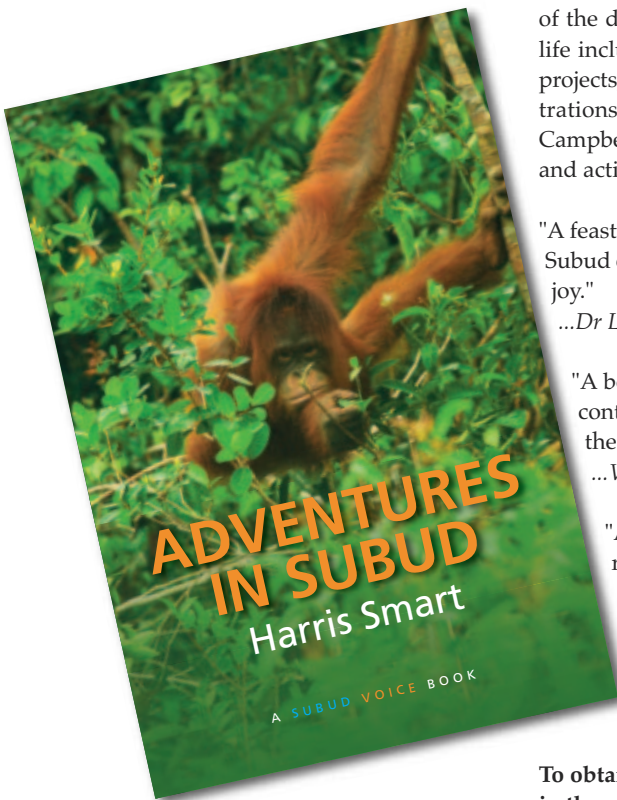
FIFTEEN WRITERS IN SUBUD: Paperback, 278 pages. Price GBP£12 plus postage
 (Eu13.60/USD\$15.50/AUS\$21.60/CAN\$20.50 – plus postage and depending on exchange rates)

To order your copy(ies), go to:

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/marcus-bolt/fifteen-writers-in-subud/paperback/product-23954156.html>

and follow the on-screen prompts.





Adventures in Subud is a new book by Harris Smart. It presents an overview of the development of Subud covering practically every aspect of Subud life including spiritual experiences, enterprises, welfare projects, cultural projects, health and healing and youth. It is 360 pages long with 120 illustrations including photographs and cartoons by Marcus Bolt and Dirk Campbell. It shows Subud as a dynamic movement combining spirituality and action in the world.

"A feast of a book... a masterful and at time heart-wrenching record of our Subud experience... replete with hope and disappointment, revelation and joy."

...*Dr Livingston Armytage*

"A book that will open doors to enquirers about Subud and is a major contribution to our knowledge about Subud and its positive impact on the world."

...*Valentine Navey*

"A varied and colourful collection of lived adventures that well reflects the diversity of human nature."

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"It aims at providing a 'one stop shop' for enquirers with coverage of all aspects of Subud."

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To obtain the book go to www.lulu.com and enter *Adventures in Subud* in the search slot on the home page

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To order the book (£12 plus postage), click the link, www.lulu.com then type [23595226](https://www.lulu.com/product/they-were-there-3/23595226) into the search box, then follow the on-screen prompts to the shopping basket, and set preferred payment method, delivery/billing address(es) and postage rate. Books normally take 3 to 5 days to arrive.

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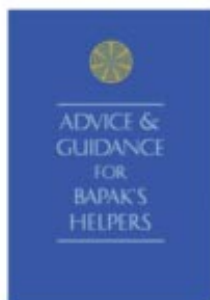
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