



Preparing for the Puebla World Congress

Dave Hitchcock – Zone 7 Rep



and took some of the brothers out in search of the place. Not far from the monastery he declared they had found the place shown in the dream. This legend is the source of Puebla's original name, Puebla de los Angeles.

At a height of 8,000 feet, Puebla is surrounded by a series of volcanoes, the most well known being Popocatepetl, from which a plume of smoke continually pours into the blue sky. The metropolitan area of Puebla comprises over 2 million people.

Congress venues are located in, and adjoining, the old colonial centre (approx 10 square blocks).

The area was first settled by the Spaniards in the 16th century. This area received a World Cultural Heritage designation from UNESCO in 1987, and is currently undergoing extensive refurbishment, with improved drainage, repaired cobbled streets & sidewalks, *continued* >

As we all know, the XIV Subud World Congress will take place in Puebla, Mexico in August 2014. The World Congress Organizing Team (WCOT) is hard at work with the preparations.

In the second week of January a number of representatives from the Wings, Affiliates, WSA Executive and International Helpers attended a planning meeting in Puebla. Mexico is an important part of Zone 7 so, as

Zone 7 Rep, I was asked if I would facilitate this meeting – a somewhat daunting, but exciting, prospect!

Here is a foretaste of what to expect at the Puebla World Congress and what was accomplished during the busy 5 days that we met, together with some of my personal impressions:

The City of Puebla

The founding of Puebla, City of Angels, began with a letter from the bishop of Tlaxcala in 1530, Julián Garcés, to the Spanish queen outlining the need for a Spanish settlement between Mexico City and the port of Veracruz. According to legend, the bishop had a dream about where to build the city.

In this dream, he saw a valley with woods and meadows crossed by a clear river and dotted with fresh-water springs on fertile land. While he was contemplating this scenery, he saw a group of angels descend from heaven and trace out the city.

Convinced he had seen a divine vision, he celebrated Mass,

IN THIS ISSUE :

- SICA at Congress P3
- Subud Legal in Cuba P3
- KGC Significant Results P5
- Origin of the word 'Subud' P6
- The Language of Subud 1 P8
- The Language of Subud 2 P9
- On the word 'Relax' P10
- Wait Until People Ask P11
- Opening Atheists (Bapak) P11
- Bapak's Assistants P13
- Art of Life & YES Quest P15
- Obituary & Short Articles P18
- Ads and Notices P22

building renovations and exterior painting.

You see colourfully painted buildings. Alluring cooking smells come from the many small take-out food outlets, offering different Mexican foods to those passing by. Smiling, friendly faces, from local people who are happy to share their city with visitors, although most do not speak English!

A constant cacophony of horns as car, bus and truck drivers navigate the bustling, narrow streets! Emergency vehicles with constantly flashing lights, whether or not en route to an emergency! Pealing bells from many of the alleged 365 churches in Puebla. Treed El Zocalo (town square) with areas to meet and explore surrounding colonnaded buildings, with stores and outdoor restaurants, selling all kinds of very reasonably priced food.

Safety in Puebla

Puebla is one of the safest cities in Mexico and has not been affected by the “Narcoviolence”. Puebla was named by the *National Geographic Magazine* (Fall 2011) as one of the top 10 cities in the world that should be visited. *Lonely Planet* readers named Puebla as one of the top 10 cities in the world to visit for 2012. The New York Times names Puebla #13 on the list of the cities in the world that you should visit for 2012. The latest Travel Warning provided by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs dated November 20th, 2012 goes into detail about the different dangers in Mexico, mentioning cities like Monterrey, Tijuana, Ciudad Juarez, Acapulco, Cuernavaca, Oaxaca, Guadalajara, etc. and they make a point to exclude Puebla from any travel warning.

Moreover, "The San Francisco Chronicle", in a recent issue, mentions Puebla as a city where "you can travel safely in Mexico" and "hunkered near the bottom of the crime rate list". I was not aware of these ratings at the time, but felt totally safe as we explored the old part of the city, both during the day and at nighttime.

Puebla has been named as one of the top 10 cities in the world

The Congress Venues

A modern Convention Centre with very large spaces for latihan, Opening & Closing Ceremonies and the Plenary Session; meeting rooms of various sizes; theatre; dining room and areas for socializing with new or old friends. A beautiful theatre (the oldest in the Americas!) for live performances. A nearby school for the family program and workshops. And much more!

Meeting Highlights

We began each day of our meeting with latihan and testing. I believe that this was instrumental in maintaining harmony in the group and helping us to move forward. We started the week with a kejiwaan morning, when we did latihan and tested together.

Testing questions included:

- Our individual role during the meeting
- The vision, nature, flavour, or essence for the 2014 World Congress
- How to work together without self-interest
- The quality we each needed to let go of/encourage during this meeting
- The correct inner state for each of us to perform our work, according to God's will
- The benefit to Subud members if we work harmoniously together
- Significance of the 2014 World Congress being held in Puebla

After the testing, we shared some of our receiving and identified a number of key elements for the 2014 World Congress. These included:

• Flowering of the latihan • Emphasis on the kejiwaan • Connection & integration with the people of Puebla

Introducing ourselves at the start of the meeting, we shared our individual aims, objectives and expectations for the meeting. I was struck by the talent, experience and enthusiasm of the group, with representatives from SDIA, SICA, SYAI, MSF, WSA Chair, Deputy Chair and Executive Chair, WCOT, and the International Helpers – Wow!

We each suggested ways that we might collectively arrive at a common vision, nature, flavour, or essence, that would help us plan the Congress, both from the inner and using our individual talents while working as a team.

SICA at World Congress

Roland Fraval of SYA joins the SICA team as Artistic Director and Production Coordinator for SICA's Cultural Programming for the upcoming Subud World Congress in Puebla. (After testing confirmed this is indeed the right job for Roland, he jokingly announced we could now call him 'Señor Creativo.')

Welcome aboard, Señor C!

You may know Roland as a director, actor, improviser, sound mixer or Creative Quest activist. But he is also the Events Coordinator at Federation Square in Melbourne, and brings great talent, enthusiasm, and skills to the job.

PS. Roland is looking for a great TD. Let him know if you're interested. And, if there are things you want to do, Contact Roland at roland.fraval@gmail.com



Roland Fraval in a children's theatre production.

SUBUD is Now legal in Cuba

From Cuba, Samuel Perez Morillas, writes the brief story of a process...

On April 28th 2008, being at the time Subud Cuba National Chair, Samuel Morillas, this servant of Subud, went dossier in hand to the Ministry of Justice in Havana and visited the lady head of the dept. in charge of registering religions and associations, requesting the legalization of Subud in Cuba.

After four years, nine months and 14 days of presenting this dossier, at last on February 14th, the day of Love and Friendship, legalization was granted in Cuba in the name of Subud Cuba, with the status of religion.

ALLELUYA! Thank you Almighty God for His grace in granting to all who love Subud in Cuba the freedom to practice our beloved latihan kejiwaan openly and legally.



Samuel Perez Morillas with his family in Cuba

The Story

The first latihan was held in Cuba on August 24th 1958. Cuba was the first Latin American country to receive that grace of God. Bapak was invited by some well-to-do Cubans, but received not to come, and sent a couple of helpers who opened many tens of Cuban men and women. But by that time the Rebel Army was beginning the offensive in the central part of the country.

Four months later the revolutionary movement led by Fidel Castro succeeded, and took over on January 1st 1959. A political, social, economic and military turmoil then began in my country and people who were opened, those of middle and high class, began to leave Cuba.

Subud almost disappeared, and those who kept the flame alive, together with a few new members, went into hiding. Only old established religions were admitted; no new religious movement was allowed. Subud was therefore illegal.

However, in 2007 when I was the Subud Cuba Chair, the first thing I did on the kejiwaan side was to organize in Manzanillo the first kejiwaan workshop on the history of Subud Cuba, with all the *continued* >

national helpers invited and also some other helpers from Manzanillo, plus other groups. During that same gathering we tested about the next step, a big national gathering, the biggest ever organized in Subud Cuba. It was intended also to be held in Manzanillo, from February 29th to March 2nd, 2008.

Representatives of all the groups came, from the west and from the east, with all their Chairs, as well as all the active helpers and national helpers, and almost every young member. The youth had their own place and their own workshop, the helpers had theirs', Susila Dharma had its activities, and a group of members visited our humanitarian project in Manzanillo. The SD national representative met with the SD representatives of several groups who were attending the gathering, and we also held a great SICA event in a wonderful place under the stars, with music, poems, and dancing.

But, and this bit is very, very important, the event was going to be so big that it caught the attention of the authorities, and suddenly I received a call from the municipal delegation of the Ministry of Justice (the entity now in charge of religions and associations in Cuba). I had to be there at 3 pm sharp!

When I met the officer, he told me he knew me; he had been at the wedding of my son with the daughter of a friend of his – wonderful!

Officer: I need to warn you however, remember that Subud is not legal, and that the National Office of Religious Affairs does not know of this gathering you are planning.

Samuel: Of course they don't know, because we did not inform them; I know we are not legal, but now I am informing you.

Officer: Well my friend, you are not allowed to have this event, and we warn you not to hold it!!

Samuel: Ok, no problem, we are very serious, very good citizens, and have good discipline. You can be sure we are not going to hold it.

I had several days left to make the final decision before beginning to call everyone.

I cannot remember if it was the next day or two days later. I was walking in front of the place where I had once been practicing Yoga, and saw the door open. I bought a piece of bread at the corner and decided to go back to say hello to my teacher, friend and Subud member (inactive). Just as I passed the door the professor greeted me, saying Andres (my legal name), I have a message for you. Yesterday I was praying at home, praying for my parents, my family, and suddenly Andres came to my mind. Ok, I kept on praying, and again Andres came to my mind, but this time with a message.

The message: Don't worry, everything will have a solution.

Days after receiving this message (I don't remember how many) another call, this time from the Officer in Charge of Religious Affairs of The Municipal Committee of the Communist Party.

Officer of the Party: Mr. Andrés (my legal name), the event has been authorized. And on April 22nd you have been authorized to present the request for the legalization of Subud, and to have a meeting with an important officer at the Office of Religious Affairs of The Central Committee of the Party (the highest level) in charge of Fraternal Associations (such as Masonry) Spiritism and Subud.

The National Gathering was a total success, and immediately afterwards I began to work for the legalization of Subud in Cuba.

I received another call, this time from the Provincial Officer of the Party in Charge of Religious Affairs. He said he would meet me tomorrow at the Party Office in Manzanillo. In that meeting he told me to meet not the municipal delegation of the Ministry of Justice, but the head of the Provincial Dept. of Associations. I did that, and met the provincial officer on March 5th in Bayamo, the provincial capital. He gave me all kinds of suggestions and help as to how to fulfill the requirements of the Law.

April 4th another meeting with the provincial officer. I gave him a draft of the dossier. He would call to inform me if everything was in order. With the dossier checked I then travelled to Havana.

On April 22nd I had the meeting at The Office for Religious Affairs at Havana. The officer was a lady, a very professional one. First of all she told me that they had never received any complaint against Subud. She asked me to explain Subud to her, something I did as best as I could, after quieting myself to receive some guidance, and suddenly she said: You are a Religion! A GREAT ECUMENICAL RELIGION!

I could not argue against that, besides, I realized that I was in front of a specialist in religions, something I was not.

*To practice
our beloved
latihan openly
and legally...*

continued >

Something she then indicated to me very clearly was to request the legalization of Subud as a religion, because the process for this request is much easier than for an association and besides Subud as an organization didn't have two things required by the Law: To be registered as an association we would need A PHYSICAL HOME (a building), owned by Subud (Impossible!) and patrimony (we didn't have that either). So in practice there was only one way: to request the legalization of Subud as a religion. And that was what I did.

The lady then asked me to meet the head of the Dept. of Associations of the Ministry of Justice, something I did, giving her the dossier on April 28th 2008. She received it, because I came to her as referred by that high level officer, and registered its receiving in an official book.

After that Subud Cuba held its last National Congress on September 2009 in Manzanillo, in the southeastern part of Cuba. We had a big discussion in the administrative group Religion/Association. It seems to me that God wasn't willing to change the Cuban law. Being legalized as a religion is a low price for the legalization of Subud Cuba. The new Subud Cuba national Chair, brother Asis took over the problem; a lot of members were against the status of religion, but time showed that there was no other way than to accept the status of religion.

The law states very clearly that the authorities have two months to give an answer, but instead Subud had to wait almost five years to receive it, and thanks to God Almighty it is a positive one.

But now the following-on process is coming up; to register the places where the latihan is going to be practiced, another dossier must be given to local authorities, requesting permission to practice the latihan legally in our houses or other venues, according to the present regulations for religions. So the process has not ended... yet.

From a Spanish speaking member

Sabina Herschmann writes in appreciation of Spanish Subud Voice. Subud Voice Espagna is translated and reproduced in a facsimile version of the English edition every month by Samuel in Cuba... a stupendous effort!

Que la Guía de Dios nos haga comprender la importancia de los enviados de Dios para la Humanidad, especialmente de Jesus, cuyo nacimiento se celebra en estas fiestas.

May God's Guide let us understand how important God's messengers are for Mankind, specially Jesus, whose birth we are celebrating in this holy days.

También damos gracias a Dios Todopoderoso por el Latihan, sin el cual no podríamos comprender lo que todo significa.

We also thank God Almighty for the latihan, without which we couldn't understand what everything means.

Y al Subud Voice team, que mensualmente nos muestra lo que esta pasando y nos permite volar por el mundo sin un avión que nos tenga que llevar.

And also to the Subud Voice team, who every month show us what is happening and allow us to fly around the world without having a plane to take us.

KGC “Significant results”

Kalimantan Gold reveals significant copper drill results from Beruang Kananproject...by Jamie Ashcroft at www.proactiveinvestors.co.uk

Shares in Kalimantan Gold (LON:KLG) soared this morning as the company revealed drill results from the Beruang Kanan prospect which show significant copper mineralisation.

This included highlight results with copper grades of 0.63% to 1.03% in an intersection of more than 60 metres in length.

The company plans to have a preliminary resource estimate for the Indonesian project during the second quarter of this year.

After soaring as much as 50% in early deals on AIM the exploration share settled around the 4.12p mark – up 0.75p or 22% on the day.

“We are extremely excited and optimistic about *continued* >



our 2013 exploration programme,” said chief executive Faldi Ismail.

“With our budget set this year at up to US\$16.2m, an additional 14 major prospects will be explored this year to generate drill targets with the intention of achieving up to 3,000 metres of drilling per month initially.

“To date, 15,108 metres of drilling has already been completed. Our community programmes are flourishing in all 21 local villages; we have around 300 staff and things are certainly gearing up all round.”

The campaign is being advanced through a partnership with Freeport-McMoran, and the investment in the considerable budget for 2013 could be seen as a sign that the joint venture partnership is one for the long haul.

This is also reflected in the deployment to the project of two deep drilling rigs, each capable of drilling to 2,000 metres. This also points to the likelihood that the partners’ progress will accelerate going forward.

So far, 15,108 metres of drilling has been completed to date, and the drilling work is currently progressing at a rate of 2,500 metres per month.

Kalimantan also revealed today that its deep drilling work at the Beruang Tengah prospect has intersected porphyry style mineralisation with moderate grade copper-gold and molybdenum mineralization.

This included three metres grading 25 grams per tonne gold, and 170 metres with 0.22% copper, 0.14 grams per tonne gold and 114 parts per million moly.

Elsewhere at the eastern end of Beruang Tengah, mapping work has identified strong sulphide mineralization in outcrop. This measured 250 by 250 metres and preliminary assays yielded up to 9.6 grams per tonne gold.

Please note that this article is included for its news value only and is not intended as a promotion for the company or an encouragement to invest.

To read the latest KGC newsletter, go to Subud Voice homepage and click the link:

[KGC NEWSLETTER.pdf](#)

Extremely
excited and
optimistic

The origin of the word “SUBUD”

In the January issue we published an explanation about Subud by Léonard Lassalle. Luke Hale wrote in to ask a question about the origin of the word “Subud”...

Dear Harris, Thank you so much for all that you put into this wonderful publication, SubudVoice. Brother Leonard, in his explanation, writes, "Subud is apparently a very ancient word." Most of us in Australia, I think, have never questioned the story that Bapak coined the name, Subud, as a contraction of Susila, Budhi and Dharma. These three individual words may be ancient Sanskrit words, but Subud, we have been told, is not a pre-existing word. If Leonard knows a different account it would be great if Leonard could tell us about the source of that account.

The question arises, what are we going to tell ourselves (more so than brothers or sisters who are making an inquiry) that Subud is, in fact, about? If the "Susila Budhi Dharma" account of the name, Subud, is incorrect, (and if we happen to develop a culture of scrupulously avoiding the word God), then is Subud any longer about Susila, or about Budhi, or about Dharma? And is the latihan any longer our worship for God through surrendering to the power of God?

But I do take Leonard's point about words. The word God does have a bad, bad history, right up to the present. But at the same time, on the topic of words, it would be good if we could be clear about what Leonard is actually saying regarding the origin of the name, Subud. Harris, thank you very much for your time. Cheers, Luke.

Léonard replied...

Dear Luke, I do understand your query and will answer it from my own experience and from the origin of my information.

In 1957, the first person to translate Bapak when he gave talks at Combe Springs was Mr Bennett. *continued >*



Léonard and Melinda Lassalle

He was a linguist and learnt enough Indonesian & High Javanese to attempt translating Bapak.

Bapak was explaining the meaning of the word Subud and said that the true meaning of the word is contained in the three Sanskrit words: Susila, Budhi & Dharma, of which we now all now have the translations.

Mr Bennett used the word "abbreviation" when trying to explain what Bapak was saying: "Subud is an abbreviation of Susila, Budhi and Dharma". This is probably where the confusion started, later people used different words like "contraction" or "shortening of".

Now, many years later, in 1989 at the World Congress in Sydney, I met a very old Indonesian painter (I have just now forgotten his name) and had a long chat with him; he was one of the first to start latihan with Bapak in the first years. In our conversation I asked him if SUBUD was actually a word in itself and he replied that it was indeed a word in its own right and that it came from a very ancient language, older than Sanskrit, and that it meant "Complete" in the sense that it contained the Origin of the WHOLE. In its wholeness it is not static but in continuous growth and movement.

The reality of Susila, Budhi and Dharma are indeed contained in the word "Subud".

He also told me that he was present when, in front of a few followers, Bapak received the word SUBUD and explained that it meant whole, complete and that the three words Susila, Budhi and Dharma would be the closest way to explain what Subud is. I was fully satisfied with his explanation

Many of the young people today are not familiar with the religious language used by some of the older generation; the latihan is for all who ask for it, therefore it is appropriate to adapt our language to the listener. This is why I have written "About Subud, an explanation".

I do use at times a religious language myself but only when the person enquiring about latihan uses it him/herself. I personally love the word God and say it in myself all through the day.

I hope that will answer your questions about my not using the word God in my explanation about Subud. ●

...he was present when Bapak received the word 'Subud'

Personal impressions of *Source of Life*

Melinda Wallis writes...

"Wow, man, far out!" one would have exclaimed in the 1960s in response to reading Léonard Lassalle's book, SOURCE OF LIFE. Well, the book was just published in August of 2012, but still I would exclaim "Wow, man, far out!"

This is a fascinating book. The story wanders through Léonard's own life story, meeting his beloved wife-to-be (Jean, later named Melinda). Sometimes you are taken through the facts (lived here and there, did this and that to make money), sometimes you are taken journeying through Leonard's many spiritual experiences, his training acquired through the latihan, his experiences with Bapak, his allowing the latihan to affect his work and daily life.

This book is written for NON Subud members as well as members... I often wondered how the contents of the book would strike me as a 21st century non-member. I think "wow, man, far out!" applies! We all know that each individuals' Subud experience is uniquely their own, and Leonard is good enough to mention this more than once. MY Subud experience is different than Leonard's, but hey, that's what we're here for!

Léonard's great sense of humor surfaces frequently, and you see him having to surrender deeply and get Guidance to get himself out of some fix he had gotten into. You'll be chuckling along with him.

The enduring impression I have is the emphasis on the need to continually surrender, reaching inside to get Guidance. And Léonard's gratitude to God is palpable throughout.

I ask Léonard's forgiveness if I have misrepresented him in these comments. So – I recommend you check out this book! It is available from www.subudbooks.com and www.lulu.com

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/leonard-lassalle/source-of-life/paperback/product-20703185.html> takes you straight to the order page. ●



The language of SUBUD 1

Anthony Bright-Paul writes in response to the January number of Subud Voice where Simon Klitzner wrote the following:

The thing that is slowing down the Subud movement is the Indonesian and Islamic words that are used; words like nafsu, jiwa and Allah. The words need to be less Indo-Muslim as it scares many people away. It makes it sound like a crazy Islamic movement. I like the word "relax" as it is used in your wife's story. I like words like exercise, soul and God. Subud people say that the word "meditation" should not be used in Subud but I use it with non-Subud friends, saying it's kind of a meditation for oneself.



Anthony Bright-Paul

This happens in Subud every now and then, that somebody wants to change the language. But does Simon want to change the word 'latihan'? Well, we mostly do also use the word exercise, but only with people in Subud who know that we are referring to the latihan. For though the word latihan could equally be translated as drill, or exercise, if we were speaking to people outside Subud what would these words mean? For most people the words drill or exercise have a precisely opposite meaning to the way we use the word latihan. For these words imply an activity that arises from the will.

Now the latihan is more correctly called the 'latihan ke-jiwa-an'. Here I have deliberately put the word kejiwaan in hyphens in order to emphasise the way that Bapak himself pronounced the word, but also to emphasise that the exercise is the exercise of the jiwa, or by the jiwa. Now we all know that as we relax, as we begin, we are moved from within, we are moved to walk, or to dance, or to speak, or to sing. We are moved by our jiwa. Is that the same thing as the soul? I am not so sure.

In any case do we know what we mean by the word soul? Outside of Subud the word is used loosely, as if everyone must know its meaning. Yet there are a large number of people who doubt that they have a soul, and moreover doubt that anyone else has. So using the word soul to people who have not been opened and who have not been moved by their jiwans, could give a very wrong impression.

In 'The Tests of Bapak' there is one test that is repeated often. That is, Bapak would ask a person to walk as they normally walked and then he would ask them to stand and relax and then walk as they were moved by their jiwa. Then Bapak would ask whether they experienced a clear difference. How can you explain that to someone outside of Subud? The truth is that you cannot.

Again the word 'meditation' also gives entirely the wrong idea, as for most people meditation is thinking strongly and purposefully on a given theme. Or in some cases repeating a mantra. In every case this word implies the use of our will, not the laying aside of it.

So I would ask that we keep to the words that Bapak used, and the context in which Bapak used them – which was very specific.

This begs the question, 'How do we explain Subud to people outside Subud?' What does Bapak himself say in his opening talk at Coombe Springs on the 14th June 1957?

"For those of you who are not yet opened it is not time for you to listen to this, for what Bapak is going to explain is more or less the direction and requirement of the spiritual way."

In those early days we had virtually no explanation at all, except to take off our shoes, ties and watches, to stand with eyes closed, relax and wait and allow what happened.

Unfortunately most of what we say only serves to put people off. However when people, or Simon as an American might prefer the word 'folk', are first opened and experience, very often there is an instant and dramatic change in that person and that results in their friends being drawn to Subud by what is sometimes called magnetic centre. As Icksan Ahmed explained to me long ago there is a right time for a person to enter Subud and if we try to force the pace we often only succeed in fouling things up. They may get opened prematurely and leave prematurely. It is a bit of a chicken and egg situation.

Lastly what about the word nafsu? Is there anywhere an English or an American equivalent?

Trusting that these words of mine cause no offence either to Simon or to any other Subud folk!

continued >

How do we explain Subud to people outside Subud?

Postscript:

Say someone asks you about Subud. Say you begin to explain but you feel tongue-tied, embarrassed and the words stick in your throat. However hard you try to explain with your nafsu nothing works – it is shambolic. So you stop. And they stop.

Now someone else asks you about Subud. You say just a little, even unwillingly. But your enquirer wants to know more. As you begin to explain the words come out easily, you are even surprised at your own explanations, and every time you stop the enquirer asks another question. What is happening? As you are speaking spontaneously you are accompanied by your jiwa. At the end your enquirer asks how he can join this Subud, how he or she can have this experience. To which you reply that you have only to ask. They may even request to be opened at once! ●

The language of SUBUD 2

Simon Blond writes...

Many thanks Harris for airing what you feel is a taboo subject of what's wrong with Subud. I would like first to congratulate Ilias Baker on his respectful, and articulate analysis of Reynold Feldman's article in the December issue of Subud Voice. I would like to add a couple of comments to his argument.

Reynold's article was yet another analysis of the reasons why Subud isn't growing. Its arguments are well known because they have been repeated many times over the last ten years. When David Weeks was chair of Australia a few years ago, we had a similar analysis. The three most common causes cited are:

- the Javanese terms still used in Subud
- the theistic language
- the three months waiting period for applicants

I would like to add a short comment on each of these to supplement Ilias's insightful article.

1. The most common Javanese terms that we used to hear in Subud were nafsu and jiwa. These are rarely heard today and are usually translated into English as lower forces and soul. So I can see little to grumble about. But more importantly where is the evidence that foreign terms hold back people joining Subud?

How is it that the hundreds of thousands of westerners who flock to Buddhism and the varieties of Buddhist meditation are not put off by terms such as samadhi, sunyata, samsara, koan, karma, nirvana, ashram, bodhi, bodhisattva, etc?

I've never been interested in Buddhism and only mention those terms I already know from my general knowledge of religions, but anyone who is a Buddhist will know many more. Weighed down by all those foreign words Buddhism should according to Reynold's theories be in steep decline in the West, but in fact the opposite is true. It is one of the fastest growing religions for Westerners. So the evidence seems to be against Reynold's theory.

2. We all acknowledge that, as Bapak has made abundantly clear, no one needs to use the term God when they enter Subud. In the opening statement and in explanations of Subud it is always an option to use whatever term they are comfortable with to indicate the possibility of a power higher than the human. I myself would not use God in my opening and preferred instead as many people do, the Great Life Force.

However some people such as Reynold think that the use of theistic language is one of the things that is holding Subud back. To erase theistic language I think would be throwing away one of our best draw cards. Supposing I'm an atheist who would not join any movement that mentioned God. I would have dozens of different meditational movements to choose from all well known and well tried, all of whom don't mention God. If Subud didn't mention God why on earth would I choose Subud rather than a more well known practice? Now let's suppose I'm a meditator who is finding my meditation not getting me where I want to go. Why would I join Subud if it is explained in similar language, why would I leave my atheist meditation movement to join another atheist meditation movement?

So Subud would be throwing away the one thing that distinguishes it, that for many people would make it intriguing: a way of worship that requires no creed, no set of beliefs other than an openness to a higher power. On top of that of course are the many who have rejected religion but still believe in God or a life force, as well as the many who continue to belong to a religion but are dis-satisfied with it. None of these would join Subud if they thought it was an atheistic movement.

Another factor that is important is that if we delete God from our explanations we would be guilty of the well known "show and switch" selling technique. You show the punters something that you think will arouse their interest and desire, but once they've paid up you switch it for a different reality. In other words you get them to enter Subud in the mistaken belief that it is an atheistic movement, only for them to find out that you have dishonestly tricked them. As soon as they read Bapak or Ibu they will find that God is central to all their explanations. *continued >*

3. The three month waiting period for applicants comes up again and again as holding Subud back. Iljas has already pointed out how important this is with respect to the accusation of Subud being a cult. I would like to add my own personal take on this as a helper. This isn't a receiving, nor even a feeling. It's just a thinking and I know many people will totally disagree with me but it remains my point of view.

Bapak has said in several talks that when God gives us a gift it's a bit like when a parent gives a child say a bike. You want your child to use that bike. You certainly feel unhappy if your child rejects the bike altogether. So when God gives us a gift we need to use it.

I think it's a bit like this with the latihan. It's a very great gift and grace to us. So if we don't use it or if we reject it without giving it a sincere and patient try then I think that we have made a mistake. So for me the three months waiting period has this other purpose: to protect those people who might otherwise get opened out of casual curiosity without any feeling of commitment and who might, if there were no waiting period, leave after a few latihan without giving it a sincere trial. Now I'm not claiming this would be a sin, but I do think it's not good, it's a mistake.

So if someone is opened by me after the three month period or at least tested after two months, and then followed up with further help needed, then I've done all I can and if that person leaves without giving Subud a sincere try then there is no fault that I'm aware of on my side. I might not have been ideal but I've tried my best. If however the three month waiting period is scrapped because people think they have a better understanding of this than Bapak, then we are to blame for that person trying out the latihan in a casual way without any feeling of commitment.

So according to this thinking of mine the three months waiting period is there not only to protect Subud against accusations of being a cult, but is also there to protect the applicant and the helper. So if this period was officially scrapped I would have to resign as a helper – not in protest, but simply because I would not dare go against Bapak's guidance and against my own thinking, knowing that I would be to blame for another person's mistake. I realize that many people will disagree with this point of view totally and that some might well feel quite angry, but I'm not claiming any universal truth to this, it is just my own personal point of view. ●

When God gives a gift, we should use it

On the word 'relax'

Robert Mertens writes...

Hello Harris, I want to tell you how much I am enjoying your recent addition to Subud Voice; the articles with a creative perspective.

For me, this is where most of the gold is buried. I particularly liked your article, "Relax, the Body Knows the Way". I have a few questions and a request.

*Was Libby able to play Rosalind?

*If so, how did you help her?

*Is the girl in the picture Libby (I don't think so)?

*Did you know that Husein died recently, and that I have some nice stories about the time he lived with me a couple of years ago?

The request – Please expand upon "relax" in future installments. (I remember that Bapak always said this before he said "begin" when he was with us). I think this is an extremely important thing for me, and I was looking for you to get back to it at the end of your article.

With gratitude for the richness you are giving to me, Robert

PS - Would you still like to run something from me, about my work? If so when is your deadline?

PPS - Some new work that features wave form transformations.

In reply...

Hi Robert, thank you for your very encouraging email.

Libby certainly got into the spirit of Rosalind but I never heard how she did at the audition because I moved away from Wollongong soon after. You are right. That was not a pic of Libby herself. I got someone to show the pose.

The only help I gave was to make her aware of what she was doing and that this character *continued* >

required a different body language. (To briefly remind readers of the article "Relax! The Body Knows the Way", it was about how I saw an actress in a play portray a shy teenage girl by adopting a very contorted body language, but when she read a speech for me by Shakespeare's character Rosalind, a very strong woman, she used the same, in this case not appropriate, body language. The point of the article was how our minds influence our bodies. The complete article is available on our home page under the Literary Supplement listing.)

I don't know that I have much more to say about "Relax!" I think I said whatever I had to say in the article. I would be interested to hear other people's experiences. Since Bapak used it, and it is often still used to begin latihan, I sometimes think perhaps it is one of the most important words in Subud. A simple word we can all understand.

I would certainly be interested in your stories about Husein (Rofé?). I will run one of your images with this correspondence. I want to use the one called "Hole". But why this title? Can you explain more? And please do write something about your work. It would go into April issue. *Best wishes, Harris*



Robert Mertens' 'Hole'

Wait until people ask

Matthew Mayberry writes...

I am writing to comment on issues raised about Subud in recent issues of Subud Voice .

For several years this business about Subud's survival in this world has ebbed and flowed more or less as a function of the impatience and concern of our respective minds and emotions. Bapak was for letting our own actions be the source of peoples asking about Subud. It's like Pak Sudarto once told me... wait for people to ask, because then they are ready to listen... meaning to me that they are then open to receive your reply.

Bapak repeatedly favored surrendering the spread of Subud in the world to the grace of Almighty God. There is little evidence that the body of Subud has attained Susila, Budhi and Dharma in our collective and individual lives to the point of attracting large numbers of new members. May I respectfully suggest the possibility that this is a time of testing through the grace of God, That this is a time of "surrender with patience, trust, courage, acceptance and a willingness to let go" or maybe a willingness to "go with the flow", to look inward and tend to our own latihan in preparation for the resulting new members?

It is my recollection from Bapak's Talks and Ibu Rahayu's Comments, that the Latihan is a Grace received by Bapak direct from God that was unexpected and not requested. The Grace of the Latihan and the Testing came to all of us through Bapak and now Ibu Rahayu. May I respectfully suggest that we all "Let Go and Let God" for a couple of years and see what happens ?

Please forgive me if I have offended anyone. These comments are simply for Subud Voice consideration.

Love to you, Ilaina and all the Subud Voice Staff. *Pak Mat*



Opening atheists

From Bapak's talk on August 19, 1971, about Education for the Child. This extract has been selected by Ilaina Lennard. The complete talk is available at www.subudlibrary.net

Just recently Bapak heard from Francis von Kahler, who asked for a directive on how to cope with people who wish to join Subud but do not believe in the existence of God. They have not yet received proof or evidence that the Power of God exists within them or that God is Almighty, but they wish to join Subud.

As the helpers abide by the rule that a person may only join *continued >*

Subud if he believes in God's existence, Francis von Kahler did not dare and was not able to open a person who lacked that belief.

Bapak's reply was: 'This is a special case; that is to say, although a person does not believe and has no faith in Almighty God, he can be accepted if he wishes to join Subud, provided he is willing and ready always to follow the latihan kejiwaan'. And we ourselves, brothers and sisters, should not insist that a person must believe in God, when he has not yet been able to have evidence of His existence, when he has not yet been able to witness it.

Bapak had experience of such a case when he was in England. Maybe some of you have heard that when Bapak was in England for the first time there was a surgeon, a doctor, suffering from a brain tumor. Other doctors were consulted by his friends, and he was told he must have an operation. However, he himself was a surgeon. His friends said: 'Your illness requires an operation, but we cannot guarantee that you will live. Maybe you will die'.

He himself considered: 'If I have to die anyway, it is no use operating. I would rather not have the operation if I just have to die'. He happened to know Mr. Bennett.

This matter was discussed with Bapak, and Bapak said: 'Yes, he may be opened.' Now this was a man who did not believe in God. He said: 'I wish to join Subud, but I do not believe in God although I am a Christian'. Bapak answered: 'Yes, you may join Subud even if you do not believe'. Bapak opened him in the usual way for new members.

When Bapak had opened him, he fell down and rolled on the floor. What's this? He fell, got up again, and sat down and wept. Bapak stopped the latihan and asked: 'How are you, Doctor? What is the matter with you?' 'I do not know what is the matter with me, Bapak.' 'Ah', said Bapak, 'this is the latihan kejiwaan!' 'Oh,' said the doctor, 'if this is the latihan kejiwaan, then I truly believe that the Power of God is within me. Really. Now I begin to believe that God exists.' This is what happened.

So it was all right to open him, brothers and sisters. That is why I told Francis von Kahler to make exceptions. But if possible, open people who believe in God, and so abide by the regulations of our Spiritual Brotherhood of Subud.

Here in Indonesia itself, Bapak received a letter from a group of Christians who asked for a Subud helper to come and give a talk about Subud in their church. Because, they said, nowadays many educated young people who are Christians feel dissatisfied. They had received no evidence or proof whether there is truth in religion. So, having heard that evidence about the kejiwaan can be received in Subud, they would like explanations about Subud in connection with religious matters.

Bapak did not accept the invitation because it is against our principles to make propaganda in order to spread Subud beyond itself and to influence the public, and so cause many of them who already have a religion to join Subud. Bapak feels concerned lest it then be said that Subud puts pressure on the religious. There are people who worry in case religions decline and Subud rises.

That is why Bapak does not allow a helper to give talks in a church. In fact Subud holds to the principle: 'We give to whoever needs it, but not to anyone who does not need it.'

So if people really wish to know about Subud, and want to feel what it contains, it would be better for them to come to Subud and ask to be opened. But Subud does not go to the churches to give talks there. For even if we speak to them a thousand or more times, as long as people cannot yet feel, cannot yet receive, or are not yet opened and so have no experience in the kejiwaan, they will not be able to understand or be aware of what Subud is.

It is as if you explained to someone that an apple tastes nice and sweet and somewhat tart. How could he believe what you say if he had never in his life tasted an apple?

So we only give clarifications to those who, in some degree, have already felt or experienced what we say. As now, with Bapak talking to you. Although you have not yet fully experienced what Bapak talks about, you have done so in some measure. Hence there is something in you to which Bapak can speak. In other words, you are already able to receive.

So Bapak hopes you will not give talks about Subud which may offend people who are not in Subud and who as yet lack experience of what you are saying. It will suffice if you give talks on what you can speak about: if necessary, for instance, about psychology. Just speak about aspects of psychology that you have studied. You may say a little about Subud, but do not seem to be making propaganda for it. For even if you have a strong wish to explain Subud as clearly as you can, people will not believe what you say, because they have not experienced it for themselves.

When helpers become Bapak's assistants

David Likas writes...

I became Subud secretary in Montreal, after Bapak and Ibu had arrived with Dr. Zakir in 3 May 59, who were preceded by John Bennett and his wife Elizabeth in early February, and all together they opened over 140 people. After the mid 60's, Subud slowly declined to about 75 members. Until 1963, there was no waiting period when new members would leave after a month or even less. The latihan attendance would increase again after Bapak's tour, or after a visit by one of Bapak's 'Assistant helpers' like Prio.

I suspected there was something about people's past experiences that makes them stay or leave Subud, or until Bapak commented somewhere that "we are ordinary, but different!" Was he hinting that people who stay and make progress in Subud are somehow different? Then I remembered something about my own youth.

By the age of 8, I was considered as being 'somewhat unusual' by some teachers, priests and friends. My curious parents asked a clairvoyant friend for an opinion about me, who with penetrating eyes said- "Yes... this one is different... with a talented destiny...!" In fact, many years later my engineering employers had similar opinions, so I capitalized on 'being different' as a conceptual designer.

Why Subud pioneers were in kindergarten

Subud was planted in Java and found by pioneering spiritual seekers who were thirsty for a new spiritual way. Some were 'born that way' and eager to improve their shortcomings that would require purification of body and soul; something they had already tried and knew it could not be accomplished by any human power. Bapak had remarked that the early pioneers were already in kindergarten, because they had mostly finished their spiritual preparation. This meant they were aware of the difference between 'sensation and feeling', and therefore had 'ears to hear' the urgent warnings from spiritual experts, to not become candidates for perishing!

The question is, can today's 'helpers in preparation' and others, soon qualify for kindergarten, or even better as Bapak's assistants? Yes, sooner than they think! Because the Subud latihan comes with a bonus attachment, which are 'Bapak's Spiritual Explanations' – as downloaded by the power of God. Because without this 'latihan bonus', anyone in preparation may need a similar time as the early pioneers to qualify even for kindergarten. Except we must be careful with deadly spiritual pride, because I heard there are some competitive helpers who are reluctant to accept those with deeper experiences.

The prophets had similar problems too. Imagine a prophet having to run away from followers who were concerned about 'who was the greatest' amongst them. Bapak also had the same early problems with dissidents and the inevitable spiritual competition.

But soon the world changed and new people appeared in a New Age that is now a virtual reality matrix, moving people around and confusing the truth about what they learn to know. ("Feel who is moving us around" – Bapak/Malang/58). Then imagine sub human forces preventing people from knowing or doing the right things. So today's helpers are more limited to testing everything, as a slower and hazardous way of preparation; 'hazardous' because some 'circle testing' became so popular that in some places it slowly drifted into inevitable fortune telling.

Why helpers have no authority

There are helpers still in preparation after 10 years or more. There are helpers with no spiritual experience who want to forward their own self interests, by reforming Subud and getting rid of Bapak's explanations. Some helpers want men and women to mix in latihan, or as Bapak said – "to have a lootihan, or a fooling around latihan!" There are helpers who wish to correct people that actually conflicts with a growing awareness for 'self-correction' through the spiritual process of purification in latihan'. There are helpers who want 'no waiting period' that perchance may accommodate mentally disturbed people, who by law require psychiatric help. (John Bennett in England, also the Montreal helpers had this terrifying experience in the early days of Subud).

These helper shortcomings have something to do with insufficient helper 'purification', meaning a 'preparation'. Varindra had said that, "Helpers have no authority, only responsibility." Yet we know that responsibility carries its own authority, or as in someone 'who speaks with authority', which in Subud means authority received from God. And so, individual helpers are cautioned not to speak with authority; instead, they discuss problems with testing and Subud explanations, only in a group of helpers. *continued >*

Authority is at the root of leadership in a material world. Yet Subud is not a community or culture with leadership. Subud is a multi-cultural association of scattered people around the world, but with no particular collective mandate to lead socially or spiritually. Only the Satanic material force can lead us back into this material world; whereas Subud is lead by a conscience inspired directly by The Highest Life Force, an active spiritual reality that cannot be found in any tradition, book or manual of instructions.

Are Bapak's Helpers afraid of becoming authorities? Subud testing is such a nice way of not being an authority. But many helpers still ask complex or wrong testing questions that end up as a nafsu mix of long and confusing answers. This means that helpers may still have less than a 50% capacity to help, whereas a real helper like Rahayu, meaning 'Bapak's assistant' requires at least a 90% capacity to give more difficult spiritual explanations.

Preparation is necessary everywhere

Everyone needs to have a preparation, whether to live in this material world or in the spiritual hereafter, or even in both worlds at the same time, as in the following:

Over four decades, I had heard and read many times all of Bapak's and also Rahayu's explanations that are the so-called 'Subud Roadmap of Explanations'. Because Subud explanations are like a compass with directions for our inner self while we are still in this world². I read them around the clock and often went to sleep reviewing them, but they were too vast in scope to remember in detail.

Then I realized that to the ordinary mind, Subud explanations were an 'information overload' and far too difficult for unprepared people; and that's why 'unprepared people' want to get rid of Bapak and his 'all revealing' spiritual explanations that only a larger capacity jiwa can contain. However, Bapak explained in 1959: "Bapak is forbidden by Almighty God to not reveal everything." Somehow, Bapak and Rahayu could receive 'pages' of information as if compressed into a few sentences. Both speak with focus and direction, or as if in 'symbols' that can transfer volumes of information to those who can already 'see and hear.' (If the eye is already alive, it just looks and you understand everything." Also, "God Creates instantly, but the mind takes time to think about it." – Bapak).

The spiritual dimension is incomparably too vast for the slow and small capacity of the logical mind to absorb instantly. Peter Ouspensky was a spiritual seeker and an unusual mathematician who discovered that the logical mind is 30,000 times slower than the feelings. So the rational mind searches slowly by comparisons, analysis and synthesis. In order to circumvent this slow serial mental process in ordinary knowledge, there is a method of 'compressing' knowledge that is used in complex fields such as hi-tech aerospace engineering. Even then, this 'compression' method works only with a 'technical preparation':-

I had presented several pages of research to determine the volume of forest trees by electronic means, when my annoyed President said "I want this in two sentences or less!" From then on, any future engineering staff knew I could explain or write a page of precise information in one or two sentences, or a several page report by one clear illustration. They liked that because it was "Simple and easy to remember." Of course they were already experts, with a long "technical preparation."

One perplexed and hesitant NASA budget chief suddenly approved a \$4 million contract when I remarked simply- "You are getting 17 tons of precision rolling steel." Well then, 17 tons of precision moving steel all told, no matter the hi-tech and robotic multi-system complexity, can be boiled down to a more simple \$120/lb. (in 1986). So the budget chief liked that because it was "Simple and easy to estimate." Back in school, an Electrical Lab chief explained in a few words of shorthand, what a classroom professor failed to convince with pages of theoretical explanations.

Such are the examples of 'preparation' in a material world that enables experts to be simple and clear in what they say and do; but this is true when all participants share a similar 'advanced knowledge', meaning again, the same 'preparation.' Likewise, a spiritual preparation is a process of 'purification' by the power of God that clears a space in our inner self, to receive an understanding of what we learn in this world. So both the material and spiritual worlds require a preparation and readiness. 'The readiness is all' – everywhere!

Explaining like Bapak

I was tested in one experience for my ability to give explanations like Bapak does. I found myself standing on a podium where Bapak was sitting up front and to my right in a classroom of people. He appeared as in life, but now very stern and serious. Every incorrect word or phrase I spoke was felt as a painful convulsion in my brain, causing me to stutter as my mind grappled desperately to continue. I glanced at Bapak and heard *continued >*

his thoughts “Yah, now you are thinking what to say!” It was proof I did not qualify as Bapak's assistant!

At least I knew first hand that if I say or hear something wrong “it feels like stones being thrown at my head.” I realized my capacity to explain about Subud was only 'along the lines' that Bapak had explained; whereas Bapak could receive complete explanations when necessary, remarking that he "often learned a lot by listening to himself talk." It means Bapak had completed his preparation from A to Z. His jiwa or soul was wide enough to contain all the spiritual knowledge in Creation, hoping some of it would be revealed to us in his talks. This experience was also my proof that Bapak was unable to say something wrong coming from the real world of Spirit.

Subud is offered to anyone

Helper duties today are more difficult and require more patience, not only with their own preparation, but also with an unprepared new membership in general. I worked with people who have a vast worldly knowledge and ability, even spiritual knowledge, but they are mostly ordinary people who are still 'not prepared' – meaning 'not different.' How many 'different' kind of such people can there be with more inner capacity and awareness? Do present day times reflect the past when it was said that “many are called, but few are chosen?” Nowadays, millions of people still ‘cannot hear or see’ the many publications on Subud websites around the world. Subud has nothing to show off to attract ‘unprepared people’ because rampant material forces prevent them from developing the necessary spiritual awareness.

Since the 1950s, the unleashed material mind has made life so difficult that Subud is offered to help anyone, ready or not, even if this takes a lifetime of preparation or more. It seems the time has come for Almighty God to challenge the forces of a material world that now like to champion human reason against the world of Spirit. Yet God still requires our permission – by sincerely surrendering our free will in the Subud latihan, as first received by Bapak.

What can Subud people still in ‘preparation’ do, for an equally ‘unprepared public’ to take notice of Subud? They can develop their talents to do creative, extra-ordinary enterprises that have a 'result' in this world. People become agnostics and unbelievers through conceit with their own material success. Yet when they see their neighbour's greater success, they can still be inspired to become the greatest believers of all. Perhaps this may also help to convince those who lose patience and become doubtful about their own spiritual progress and the future of Subud.

In conclusion, I had a budding feeling almost 40 years ago. That Subud can be far more difficult than a worldly achievement by a sustained self-effort. In fact: “Subud can be a long and steady struggle to allow our inner content to be slowly corrected by the Highest Authority.” (Ref: The Latihan Gate).

(1) *'Self-Correction' – by John Bennett, in discussions with Bapak & Ibu Sumari at Coombe Springs 11 Oct 59 series 111 #8. (We intend to run this complete article in our April issue, Ed.)*

(2) *“Subud is a long caravan where Bapak is the first one at the head of the caravan. So we have to watch this caravan very closely.”(Mas Adji, 2001 Bali World Congress).* ●

THE ART OF LIFE ... Living the Second Half

Lusijah, USA, writes...

For some years, the YES Quest team have been approached by older people, saying “It's not just young people who need to sort out their lives. We need life direction too!”

In response, two of YES Quest's experienced facilitators, Marlana Bassier and Lilliana Gibbs are offering a retreat specifically designed for mature adults (40 years and beyond), The Art of Life...Living the Second Half. It will take place at La Ferme Loubetas (Le Source) in the South of France, May 4 – 11, 2013.

“We invite you on an adventure of the soul. Join us in the beautiful French Pyrenees, staying in a 200yr old farmhouse with a group of wonderful new friends. Spend your days exploring your life; making sense of what has been, connecting with your deep desires, exploring your potential and expressing your creativity.” *Marlana and Lilliana*

The Art of Life is a Quest experience for the 40s +. We recognise that as we move into the second half of our lives, it's a different landscape, where we are invited to live more consciously. We can make new sense of the past as we contemplate the future and fresh possibilities, perhaps even a reinvention. At this life stage, space appears for something new and extraordinary. *continued >*

“And then comes the knowing that in me there is space for a second, large, and timeless life” *RM Rilke*

In the first half, life can be taken over by the needs of partners, children, financial realities and the drive to follow through on career decisions we made in our twenties.

When we hit our forties and fifties, new questions and expectations start to form.

- What could I be, without those boundaries and limitations?
- Can I now finally be my true self, and what would that look like?
- Are there new ways I can apply my experience and learning?
- Can I have all that I want without having to compromise?
- If I took the time to listen to my soul’s calling, would my life be different to what I am doing now?

The Art of Life retreat offers the time and space to reclaim our nature, to imagine what is possible, to address the stories that have held us back and to find the confidence to commit fully to expressing ourselves in all areas of our life.

With many years’ experiences coaching, counselling and designing workshops, Marlena and Lilliana bring a wealth of processes and techniques that engage both hemispheres of the brain. These include: journalling, visual arts, storytelling, visualizations, movement, constellation and dialogue. The combination makes for a dynamic, inspiring and exploratory week.

The ‘Art of Life’ gives us the gift of time, space and support to remember who we truly are.

The retreat will take place at La Ferme Loubetas (La Source) situated among the ancient pastures, of the central French Pyrenees. There will be time to connect with nature, eat delicious home cooked meals and to make lasting connections and friendships.

For more information please contact marlena@yesquest.org or call Lilliana (UK) 01273 478 952.

“The YES Quest experience began a very important life re-set. The facilitators provided a richness of creative approaches for self-discovery that finally got by the strong fortress of beliefs – to what really mattered. I am so grateful to the team for their wonderful combination of caring, fun, and creativity and for this extraordinary program. I am so much happier today, living a life that makes so much more sense. I would recommend this program to anyone without reservation.”

Time to listen to the soul’s calling



A Youth Gathering at La Source. Now a YES Quest for adults will be held there.

Supporting the YES Quest

Subud Australia is leading the way in providing funds to support four young Australians and four young people from the Asia Pacific zone, to attend the Creative Quest this year.

The Creative Quest will be held in Kalimantan from August 15 – 25. The focus will be for young people to develop creative projects that will then be realised at the Subud World Congress in Mexico in 2014.

It is an exciting initiative that will see young people stepping up to take an active and dynamic role in Subud and Congress. The fee for one young person to attend the Creative Quest is US \$500.

There is a short press release attached (and pasted below) for the next issue of your newsletter. 'The Creative Quest' brochure is also attached.

We would appreciate if you could let us know if you have received this email and whether *continued >*

you will be able to place it in your next issue.

We may also be interested in advertising. So if you could please send us a price list and any other information that will assist in us making a decision re advertising.

If you need any further information or have any questions, please email marlena@yesquest.org

Marlena (*Facilitator*)

SUBUD NATIONAL COUNCILS ARE STEPPING UP TO SUPPORT YOUTH TO ATTEND YES QUEST

Subud Australia is leading the way in providing funds to support four young Australians and four young people from the Asia Pacific zone, to attend the Creative Quest this year.

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SYAI and the YES Quest team are working in partnership on this initiative as part of the plan to hand the Subud YES Quests over to SYAI by 2016. The partnership is hopeful that other national councils will follow suit and sponsor young people from their country and even their zone. It offers Subud members a direct way to invest in the growth of young people and ultimately in the growth of Subud.

“We would like to see this ‘scholarship’ program develop so that it becomes an annual event. Like the Rotary clubs sponsor young people to go overseas as exchange students each year, we would love Subud councils to sponsor young people to attend an annual YES Quest.” Roland Fraval, SYAI representative.

Subud Australia’s grant of \$4,000 was doubled from the original request of \$2000, in order to be able to support four young people from less wealthy countries within the Asia Pacific region. This generous grant will mean that 8 young people will have their registration fee covered. This includes accommodation, meals and program activities. The young people will still need to raise their own travel and personal spending costs.

The YES Quest has become like a rite of passage for many young people in Subud. For eleven years it has been assisting young people to: explore their purpose and path in life; to connect with other young people in Subud and to have an initiation into independence and self direction.

“If enough National Committees commit to providing regular annual support, it will ensure that the Quest will go on being there for young Subud members who want to discover how to put their true individuality and talents to work in the world.” Peter Jenkins, YES Quest Director.

Any National Councils or individuals who would like to provide sponsorship can contact Peter Jenkins at: peterjenkins4@gmail.com



Young people on YES Quest in Kalimantan.

Ibu's talk in Rungan Sari

Dear Harris, My name is Edwin Gussenhoven, I am a Subud helper from Subud Netherlands and I would like to suggest wholeheartedly, to publish The talk of Ibu Rahayu that she gave on December 8, 2012 in Rungan Sari, Kalimantan, for the Zone 1 & 2 meeting, in its complete form in one of the coming issues of Subud Voice.

I feel that in this time of declining membership in which a lot of helpers are questioning themselves how they can cope with it, it is of utmost importance that everyone reads this talk, as Ibu Rahayu mentions the very essentials of what Subud can mean for us, what it stands for, what its principles are etc. It is especially informing and beneficial for future Subud generations, who, without being conscious of what Bapak always intended (which is mentioned in this talk of Ibu's) could deviate from Bapak's intentions and thus weaken the inner strength of Subud,

Edwin Gussenhoven.

In reply, Harris writes...

Hi Edwin, Thank you for your message... unfortunately we are not allowed to publish complete talks because Subud Voice can be read by people who are not in Subud and these talks are "for Subud members only". I agree it is a very important talk.

The talk has been very widely distributed by email and is also available at www.subudlibrary.net

I have published your letter which underlines the importance of the talk and directs people to the subud library site above.

A letter from Ibu

Eleana Pawl (Seattle) wrote to Ibu Rahayu on November 5, 2012...

Dear Ibu Rahayu, I felt to say hello and tell you that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

These days are not easy in the world – including in Subud. There is so much confusion and unkindness. I appreciate your efforts and the love you continue to send to us in Subud, even though there is so much chaos.

Thank you for your patience and your courage. Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

In reply, Ibu Rahayu wrote...

Dear Eleana, Thank you for your email of 5 November 2012.

All of us in Subud are witnesses to the extent of the love God has for God's creatures. The situation you mention is because many Subud members working for Subud still involve their self-interest, or the interests of a particular group, or other interests, in that work. Whereas the fact is that Subud is a mission from Almighty God that was received via Bapak as a gift to those human beings who are willing to dedicate themselves to God by following the latihan. This is indeed something new for human kind.

Perhaps the world is going through purification – and so is Subud. For those who are aware of the situation, I hope they will be given the strength to have faith and to surrender, knowing that God is all-powerful and all-knowing. Amen.

• Please note that in a recent talk, Ibu Rahayu asked that Subud members no longer send her letters.

The passing of Asa Lake

Melinda Wallis writes...

Dear brothers and sisters, I regret to tell you that our dear sister Asa Lake passed on this morning Feb 8.

The Lakes spent a good day yesterday with some Subud friends.

This morning, Oswald said, Asa got up as usual, put on her glasses, turned on the TV... and passed on peacefully.

She was 85. The Lakes have been together since they were high school sweethearts. They are very longtime Subud members, and Asa was always full of her upbeat Subud stories, and laughing. Such a long Subud history Asa had. If you wish to send a card to Oswald, the address is 2435 Felt St #108 Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Latifah Taormina, Chair of SICA, writes...

Here is something Asa sent to me in 1999 about Subud. I used to use it on the old SICA site in a section we had about Subud. I treasure this:

continued >

From Asa Lake... 1959 was the year of our opening. The room was filled with hundreds of people screaming, crying and moaning after a "begin" was said by a little foreign woman I could barely see in the front of a huge room in Ahambra, California. We had driven all the way from Santa Monica after a 3 month probation in this mysterious group called SUBUD. After this experience we stood on the sidewalk outside the building and compared notes. What did you feel? None of us knew much about what had happened in the latihan, but we knew we felt wonderful! SO with that began our years in Subud.

We
knew
we felt
wonderful

Our little world was expandable to include all manner of interesting and odd brothers and sisters who suddenly became important to us. Oswald was almost immediately on the committee & I naturally came along. We never had marvelous "spiritual experiences" or "crisis" – but we always felt fresh and new and wonderful after latihan.



Asa and Oswald Lake

We read everything we could find and did our latihan and work in the world – and knew almost nothing until 1963. That was the year of the World Congress in New York. There we came to know Bapak and Ibu, Tuti, Ismana, Usman & Aminah, and that's where Bapak did "testing" in the group in front of everyone. The testing gave us a deeper experience of the latihan and meeting with the brothers and sisters from around the world gave us a happier feeling about "the brotherhood" then we could have from just knowing the group in California. That was the first time we drove Bapak and party in our car. Little did we know it was a preview of having Bapak come to our home! I think of these as rich, fulfilling years... our children grew, we grew... We started SNA (Subud North America), the precursor to Subud USA, and our lives and hearts expanded to hold more and more.

There were always a thousand levels of everything. Heaven and Hell were always combining and intertwining and the fruits of the latihan seemed to always be there to save us from falling into the Magnetism of any one of these levels to the detriment of embracing the present. God is Good! It was a grand beginning and a gift from heaven. Time hardly seems to have passed, yet here it is, 1999, and here we still are – Oswald and Asa, married 52 years this June, have 5 grandchildren, still doing the latihan...and doing nothing spectacular in our lives. I had expected at least WINGS by this time – or to have experienced the Cosmos personally! But, I was one destined to be ordinary... of late, I remember Bapak saying that's what we SHOULD be, and as the world gets more and more crazy with each passing day, I have learned to treasure my ordinary-ness as the "pearl of great price". I believe that it is important to do latihan for reasons far beyond ourselves and beyond our understanding. It's as if we form a bridge for the latihan energy to penetrate this level, and this is important for the Earth itself – and our duty to Almighty God in response to the constant blessings with which he fills our lives. When all other reasons fail, we keep on doing latihan because it is the only choice we have.

Elmira Ingersoll

Lola Stone writes...

Elmira Ingersoll, whom many will remember, left this world on Feb, 6, 2013 just two months before what would have been her 103rd birthday. She was opened in 1958 by the Weeks and was my close friend and Subud sister for almost sixty years. Because she was soon made a helper, several of us were opened shortly afterwards during Bapak's first New York visit. The Long island Group was then formed and active, however, since I left in 1969 for Honolulu, I have no further news of the group there.

Funerals of Subud members

Ian Travers-Smith and Ilaina Lennard write...

When it comes to having to arrange a funeral for a Subud member it could help to have a selection of readings to choose from that resonate and are in accordance with what we have gained from the Latihan.

Those Subud members who practice a particular religion are likely to follow the funeral service of that religion. Some others believe in the divine basis and principles of the main religions, but object to some of the dogma that man has added later.

A funeral service desired by many Subud members would perhaps include quotations from *continued* >

Bapak and others, including perhaps dogma free readings from different religions, so that when the time comes there is a variety of suggestions to draw upon.

You are invited to think about this, and if it seems to be a good idea, please contribute your suggestions, so that a selection of the best can be made available. There may be many who would welcome such a resource.

Please send your suggestions to: Ilaine Lennard, 8 Sissinghurst Grove, Cheltenham. Glos GL51 3FA. Email: ilaine.l@blueyonder.co.uk Thank you.

BCU Annual Report *Michael van der Matten writes...*

Dear Friends and Supporters of Bina Cita Utama, It is a great pleasure to send you this report.

It started its life as an Annual Report for 2011, but as it is our FIRST Annual Report, it grew into a Development Report spanning the period 2005 to 2012.

As it was written in the last few months of 2012, it contains the financial information till the end of 2011.

During March/April 2013 we will publish to our donors the financial information over 2012.

We would very much like to thank Suzanna Dayne and Mardiyah Miller for their excellent work and easy going cooperation with the BCU team – that was coordinated by Bachrun Bustillo who also made many of the photographs.

It was a pleasure to work with them all and we wish Suzanna and Mardiyah well in their new life in Los Angeles.

And Mansur Geiger adds...

When my work colleagues see something like BCU they really appreciate that Subud is something very different. As Bapak simply said to us, our only way to make a difference is to show by doing, ie the proof of our intent and work.

BCU is a massive asset for Subud and for all of us trying to do something in Kalimantan. It melts away many potentially difficult issues that we face.

Those with bad intent are cut at the knee when we show something like BCU.

Congratulations to everyone involved, and particularly those who worked on this outstanding document...

The report can be obtained from Michael van der Matten at michaeldma@btinternet.com

BCU needs teachers

BCU School in Central Kalimantan is looking for volunteer teachers for 2013. Two English/ESL teachers are needed starting at the beginning of April. In July there will also probably be the need for a high school English teacher and an Art teacher also. Previous teaching experience is desirable but not required. Applicants should have a tertiary level qualification and be available to teach for a minimum period of six months. More information is available on request. Please direct expressions of interest to Olivia Kerr (Volunteer Coordinator) oliviakerr@hotmail.com and to Karim MacDonalad (Principal) karstenmacdonald@hotmail.com

Kejiwaan weekends in Ireland

At the Kippure Estate in the Dublin Mountains • Two large latihan halls • Stunning beautiful location – bring your friends too to enjoy fresh mountain air and outdoor pursuits • Great accommodation and Excellent Food • Families welcome • Pets by special request • Self Catering an option

“Recognising our Needs”... **March 1st – 3rd 2013**

Arrive Friday afternoon for Friday night latihan and kejiwaan activities all day Saturday and Sunday morning. Irish Gathering on Saturday night. Cost €134pps plus an extra €20 to assist those who need help

“Dealing with Negativity”... **Help with Life’s Daily Stresses... A Comprehensive Kejiwaan W/E May 10th – 13th 2013** Cost €189. Plus €20 donation asked to help others in need.

Come join us in this stunning location for latihan kejiwaan, insights, fun and more. Subud Ireland is excited to offer this long weekend with international helpers, and Zonal KC's. We expect this to be the biggest gathering Ireland has had in years. A Zone 3 Event. Contact Suzanna: susan@irishschooloflandscapepainting.com

Telephone: 00 353 404 42884 • Mobile: 00 353 87 2561074

Ski Camp in Australia *Isti Jenkins, Australia's Youth Co-ordinator writes...*

Here is an update for the first SUBUD YOUTH SKI CAMP in Australia:

We now have a tentative booking at the MOUNTAIN VIEW RETREAT, 194 GREAT ALPINE ROAD, HARRIETVILLE, 3741 VIC on Friday the 27th and Saturday the 28th September this year... the other option is on Friday the 6th and Saturday 7th, so I will need your feedback to confirm those dates.

I have been speaking to both Hilary and Michael who run the Mountain View Retreat and confirmed that they are very flexible in how the accommodation is used. There are two sections of accommodation, Unit 1 and Unit 2; each hold 40/50 persons, and we will have exclusive use one or both depending on our numbers.

The accommodation is a Multi-share arrangement, each with an en suite....

We can design our arrangement and include parents, since there are also rooms for couples, or family members can share a room...up to us!

Everyone must provide their own sleeping bag and towel.

The cost is \$70 per person per night and will include Breakfast and Dinner.

The website is www.mountainviewretreat.com.au/deals.html

Or ... www.facebook.com/mountainviewholidayretreat Or... info@mountainviewretreat.com.au

If you wish to communicate with Hilary or Michael ring... 03 57592530. There are plenty of places to go and things to do for those not interested in Skiing!

Personally, I would like members to confirm a booking with a deposit of \$50 per person by Easter if possible please. ●

THEY WERE THERE – the Best of Subud Voice – HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR COPY YET?

They Were There is an anthology of fascinating articles from early issues of Subud Voice, as compiled by Ilaina Lennard. Paperback: 186 pages.

Perhaps there are many Subud members nowadays – especially those who are new to Subud – who don't know very much about its early days in the West, so it is hoped that THEY WERE THERE will help to bring alive for them some of the things that happened at that time. Its chapters include:

- Bapak's horoscope – what a good astrologer saw
- Vivid descriptions of how Bapak died, and of events surrounding his death
- A talk about Subud's early days, given by Husein Rofé, the first Westerner to receive the Subud contact
- The chaos surrounding Bapak's first visit to the West
- Who was Bapak? and the third secret of Fatima
- Life with Bapak and Ibu
- The present state of the world
- How our thoughts affect us
- Destiny – and when we experience misfortune
- Varindra Vittachi's talks at Amanecer
- What it was like to be at the Amanecer World Congress

How to order: Please go to www.lulu.com and type They Were There – the Best of Subud Voice in the search box and follow the on-screen prompts to the shopping basket, setting preferred payment method, delivery and billing address(es) and postage rate. Books normally take 3 – 5 days to arrive depending on postage price paid.

If you are not computer literate and need help, phone Ilaina on (+44)(0)1242 707701

Profits from sales will help keep Subud Voice FREE and ongoing for another 25 years. ●



House for rent in France

A small farmhouse, part of a long'ere, in the Berry, the centre of France. The house is 13 km away from La Chatre, where George Sand lived with Chopin and 16 km away from St.Amand-Montrond.

The ground floor consists of a living room, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom and measures 55 sq.metres. The attic, an ideal place for yoga, meditation studio or latihan space measures 45 sq.metres.

The house lies in absolute silence, surrounded by very old oak trees and has two big outdoor terraces. The house is ideal for a single person, musician or artist without children.

The monthly rent is 300 euros a month including water costs .A longer term is preferable. The house lies near the villages of Maisonnais and Jaunoux and is 6 km away from the village of Le Chatelet which has a supermarket, shops and a very good music school, the AREMC.

For further information please contact Lila Mookergee: jacgijzen@hotmail.com or lilamookerjee@hotmail.com ●



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www.subudvoice.net

A Spanish facsimile edition usually appears a little later on the same web site.

SUBMISSIONS

Send articles, photos, cartoons etc. to Harris Smart, Editor Subud Voice, email: editor@subudvoice.net Tel: + 61 3 95118122

Submissions are invited which relate to Subud life or are from Subud members. We cannot guarantee when or if a submission will be published. Preference will be given to articles of about 2000 words or less accompanied by a photograph, well-written in English and dealing with the activities of Subud members, or expressing a Subud member's perspective on a subject.

Articles should be written in such a way that they are intelligible and interesting to both Subud members and the general public. Sometimes this may mean providing an explanatory introduction or notes for the non-Subud reader

There is no payment for submissions. Correspondence about articles will generally not be entered into.

Submissions to Subud Voice may be edited for a variety of reasons including the need to shorten them or improve expression. If you do not want your submission to be edited in any way, please mark it clearly NOT TO BE EDITED.

The opinions expressed in the various articles are the sole responsibility of their authors and cannot be seen as representing the opinion of either the editor or the World Subud Association.

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HOUSE IN CORNWALL

Pamela Lassalle writes...

I would like to advertise my house for a summer house-sit. We live on the Lizard Peninsular in Cornwall, we have 2 cats, 5 bedrooms, garden and 20min walk to beaches... will be away from 25th July - 11th August For more details: tel **01326 290227** or plass1901@gmail.com

**IBU
RAHAYU
VIDEOS
ONLINE**

NEW Videos of new talks by Ibu Rahayu are on the online Subud library!

Go to www.subudlibrary.net

(If you don't yet have a password, it's easy to get one. Instructions are there.)

On December 8, 2012, Ibu Rahayu talked at length to members in Kalimantan, Indonesia.

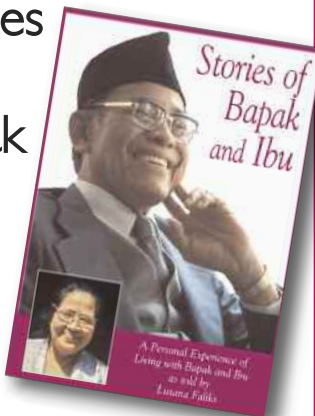
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Ibu Rahayu Questions, Answers & Advice

Ibu Rahayu Talk to Members

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Stories of Bapak and Ibu



As told by Lusana Faliks

A two-disc DVD set containing two and a half hours of reminiscences.

This film gives a unique insight into Bapak and Ibu's domestic life as experienced by Lusana Faliks in the USA and Indonesia. Lusana relates anecdotes, and pieces of advice she received, with clarity and humour.

PRICE including postage and packing: £12.00 (UK) / £13.00 (Europe) / £15.00 (Rest of World)

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