



SARAWAK

BAHÁ'Í NEWSLETTER

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sarawakbahainewsletter@gmail.com

Message from the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Sarawak

Dearly beloved friends, Allah'u'abha!

The National Spiritual Assembly would like to extend our love and greetings to all the friends and it is of great pleasure for us to read reports of your endeavours and success in the various fields of service. We are looking forward to hear more news and reports from all of you.

Recently, the NSA had the opportunity to meet with Counsellor George Soraya who updated us on the progress of the Faith worldwide. There are 1071 clusters which have launched the Intensive Programme of Growth. The goal given by the beloved Universal House of Justice is to have 1500 clusters launch its own Intensive Programme of Growth by Ridvan 2010, by end of the Five Year Plan. Sarawak had pledged to contribute 18 clusters with Intensive Programme of Growth. 13 clusters have successfully launched their IPG and the remaining 5 clusters have yet to launch subsequently. Gedong cluster will be the next to launch on the 25th of July, followed by Asajaya on 28th of November and Betong Cluster on 12th of December. We earnestly hope that Tatau and Kanowit will be able to launch their IPG before Ridvan next year. We would also like to see clusters which have launched their IPG, continue to strengthen and sustain their core activities .

To assist those remaining clusters, we need the invaluable services of the pioneers. Not all of us can offer to pioneer but we all have the opportunity to deputise someone who can do it. We need about 30 pioneers to be mobilized and thus require RM25,000 to finance the pioneering work for a year. Friends who wish to deputize pioneers can contact Ms Christina Rampai or Ms Mantan Abet at 082-252009 or bank in your contribution to Maybank Account: 011113403047.

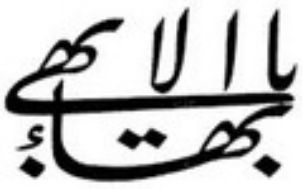
Lastly, the NSA would like to remind the friends about the pledges made during the Regional Conference in December last year. Friends

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"We must be like
the fountain or
spring that is
continually
emptying itself of
all that it has and is
continually being
refilled from an
invisible source.

To be continually
giving out for the
good of our fellows
undeterred by fear
of poverty and
reliant on the
unfailing bounty of
the Source of all
wealth and all good
- this is the secret of
right living."

(Shoghi Effendi,
Directives from the
Guardian, p. 32)



“responding to
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diverse settings,

uniting with
others in prayers,
awakening their
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and shaping a
pattern of life
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character”

(Extracts from Ridvan
Message, 2008)

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are encouraged to fulfil their pledges and if you need someone to accompany you in your field of service, please feel free to approach the Local Spiritual Assemblies, the Area growth Committee or the Regional Bahai Council in your jurisdiction. We are glad that you have been inspired to arise and serve. This is an opportunity that should not be missed as your efforts are continually blessed with divine confirmations that shall fill you with profound spiritual joy.

With loving greetings,

National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Sarawak.

Being a Baha'i

By Sarawak Newsletter Team

Sarawak community was blessed with a visit by Counselor George Soraya on the 3rd and 4th of July 2009. Upon his arrival, he met with the members of the National Spiritual Assembly, Auxiliary Board, Sarawak Baha'i Institute Board, Regional Baha'i Council of the Southern Region, as well as the Sarawak Baha'i Newsletter team.

During the Newsletter team's meeting with Counselor George, he asked the team some "simple" questions; Who are the Baha'is? What do Baha'is do? These are common questions posed by our non-Baha'i friends, and yet our answers differ significantly from individual to individual. I was caught unaware and was left puzzled and in a confused state; straying from the conversation and thinking about the little things I have done in the past and present to justify myself as the Baha'i I had always claimed to be. Feeling lost like a lamb in the forest, Counselor George continued with more mind boggling questions like "What are our underlying motives when we invite others to our activities?"

I was brought back to focus when he explained to us about the true purpose of inviting friends for devotional meetings, children classes, junior youth gatherings and study circles. According the Ridvan Message 2008, it is clearly indicates that our purpose in having devotional meetings for example are fundamental in nature. We as Baha'is are "responding to the inmost longing of the heart to commune with its maker", we "carry out acts of collective worship in diverse settings, uniting with others in prayers, awakening their spiritual susceptibilities, and shaping a pattern of life distinguished for its devotional character". Therefore our motives should be simple and pure – that is to satisfy the needs of the people of the world for spirituality and unite them through prayer and devotion.

Junior youth activities in Miri

by Wong Huey Luu

On the 12th July 2009, the junior youth group of Taman Tunku successfully performed their first community service project at the Chin's residence. We arrived there two hours after lunch, and began with a round of prayers. With our tools patiently waiting for us at a corner, we set out to work as assigned by Mr Chin. Some were busy washing dirt spots off the car, while others can be found weeding the garden with their bare hands. In fact to some of



the youths, it was their first experience at gardening. After an exhausting but enjoyable day, Mrs Chin rewarded us with refreshments for our effort. Proud of our united accomplishment, we finally went back in the evening wondering if the next time would ever come...

The Iban junior youth and youth group organized an outing at Taman Awam on the 18th of July. Around

20 people, young and old, parents and children, all gathered to attend the activities. We all brought and shared our food, with the variety of a food fair. With a spiritual mood, we started with a prayer, followed by some chanting by the youths. Soon after that, we continued with our planned activities by playing some cooperative games as well as treasure hunting. All of us enjoyed ourselves socializing and bonding with each other. I felt fulfilled, thanking God for the pleasant day, the fine weather, and for giving me time to participate in this unforgettable outing.

On the 19th July 2009, another group of junior youths from Taman Tunku organized another outing at Taman Awam. There were 13 of us this time around, inclusive of the animators, junior youths and their parents. We brought along refreshments for the picnic and shared all of it generously among us. After that, we started with a round of prayer before moving on to the games prepared by Khai Ung, the animator of the junior youth group. It was a joy to see their active participations in the games and the treasure hunt conducted. Everyone was filled with joy and happiness after the eventful day. We sincerely hope that there will be more of a similar outings held in the future.

Simunjan Youth Camp

By Witson Joseph

Simunjan Youth Committee together with AGC of Simunjan jointly organized a Youth Camp at Kampung Temiang from 8th to the 11th of June 2009 inclusive. There were a total of 27 participants including 4 community of interest (COI) and 6 facilitators. The girls stayed at En. Chom's house, while the boys stayed at En. Hipong and Pn. Sinak's residence. The four days camp included various educational and enjoyable activities such as study circles, jungle trekking and games.

The participants were divided to several groups to study and reflect on various books, with 5 participants on Breezes of Confirmation, 8 on Glimmerings of Hope, 6 on Ruhi Book 1, 3 on Ruhi Book 2 and 2 on Ruhi Book 6. The two junior youth study circles were completed but the Ruhi Book study circles were unable to complete during the camp due to unforeseen



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circumstances. The respective study circles are scheduled to be continued in the following days.

On the last night of the camp in Temiang Baha'i Centre, a closing ceremony was held where the participants performed and danced with the local community. The night was filled with much joy and laughter with the atmosphere uplifted by the performance presented by the participants. The Simunjan Youth Committee would like to express their utmost gratitude to everyone who gave us support and assistance throughout the camp. Special thanks to the Regional Baha'i Council of Simunjan, Area Growth Committee of Simunjan, Local Spiritual Assembly of Kampung Temiang, Mumong, Sg. Lingkau and Sekendu, the hosts, the cooks, and everyone who helped to support the event. We sincerely pray that more similar activities will be held in the future. Allah'u'abha!



From the Treasury Department

NSA had a goal of 1000 regular contributors during the 5 Year Plan. Number of individual contribution to the National Fund had increased from 573 (31/12/2008) to 611 (30/06/2009).

Northern region recorded a significant increase. However, southern and central region recorded a decrease in the number of individual participation.

Out of 611 individuals, 106 are regular contributors and more than 50% of the regular contributors are from Southern Region.

The Bahá'í School Teachers Conference has been postponed indefinitely until further notice.

Countdown to Launching of Intensive Program of Growth

- **Asajaya (28th November 2009)**
- **Betong (12th December 2009)**

O ye friends of God, rest assured that in place of this contribution, your commerce, your agriculture and industries shall be blessed many times..."

"Whosoever comes with one good act, God will give him tenfold. There is no doubt that the living Lord shall assist and confirm the generous soul."

(Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 249 & 250)