



SARAWAK

BAHÁ'Í NEWSLETTER

www.sarawakbahai.org

BE 166 Mashiyat (Will)

Issue 8

27th September 2009

sarawakbahainewsletter@gmail.com

LETTER FROM THE SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF SARAWAK

Dearly loved friends,

It is a pleasure to be able to reach out to all of you through this newsletter. The year-end school holidays are fast approaching and we are sure that many activities had been planned by different agencies. The Assembly hereby announces two main events for the month of November and December.

The first one is the National Institutional Meeting which will be held at Premier Hotel in Sibu on the 27 & 28 November 2009. Registration starts at 12.00 noon on the 27th and ends at 1.00p.m the following day. This is a great opportunity for us to meet, consult and reflect on our goals and achievements. We hope that the friends will make every effort to come and support this event.

The second event is the three days Baha'i School Teachers' Conference which will be held at Penview Inn in Kuching, starting on the 18th of December at 2.00p.m and ending at 2.00p.m on the 20th. We deeply regret the change of dates several times as it also involves friends from out station.

We have about 106 school teachers in Sarawak and the Baha'i World Centre is aware of this vast potential inherent within us. The Assembly sincerely hopes that teachers will participate and support this conference, and make it "an experience like no other", likewise, inspiring all to arise to greater heights of service. Seize thy chance for it might come to thee no more!

Our beloved Universal House of Justice in their response to the National Convention, said, "We have no doubt that the dear friends throughout Sarawak will boldly and sacrificially arise to achieve the goals of launching Intensive Programmes of Growth in the remaining clusters. Rest assured of our supplications in the Holy Shrines that Baha'u'llah may reinforce their efforts to reach out to receptive souls and gather them together under His sheltering Grace." So friends, we ALL can participate and support the Faith

(Continued on page 2)

My good
pleasure is in
this, that thou
shouldst devote
thy time wholly
to teaching,
so that thou
mayest train the
souls,
illumine the
eyes, and
make the ears
hearing.

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of
Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 187)

بہت سارے

(Continued from page 1)

in many different ways. We hope to meet you all at these two events.

With loving greetings,

Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Sarawak

“The old and the young have each something specific to contribute to the progress and welfare of the Baha’i community.

The energy of youth should be tempered and guided by the wisdom of old age.”

(Compilations,
Lights of Guidance, p.
638)

Youthfully illuminating the streets

By AGC Kuching

On a happier note, it is with joy we report that Kuching cluster had just concluded a very successful expansion phase. There were 29 new declarants including 4 Chinese.

Marilyn and Cheng Wang had graciously consented to the use of their house as a base as it is near the receptive area of Kampung Stutong Baru. From the suggestion of our dear Auxilliary Board Member, Dr. Shehab, to harvest the youthful energies of the Kuching community, the youths from various universities and colleges were united under one roof for two weekends. Selected Ridvan messages and Anna’s presentation were studied, preparing them for direct teaching in the streets of Stutong.



All gathered at Mr. Dachin’s place, a Baha’i and a resident in the identified receptive area, for a round of prayer before splitting into five teaching teams led by the Board members and Area Growth Committee members. Four teams were assigned to different streets with two rows of houses each. All were anxious as it was the first time for some to present Anna’s presentation

(Continued on page 3)

and also to do street teaching. With blazing flames in the hearts of the youths, they set out courageously and diligently from house to house, one individual to another to spread the Word of Baha'u'llah.

Ya-Baha'u'llabha! Only one weekend and all were excited to share their experiences. Witnessing the fruits of success first-hand, the whole community was eager to fulfill their roles and supported the youths in this collective effort. Many adults partook in the joy by cooking for the youths, providing transportation and also bringing more to join in the teaching campaign.

On top of it, a musical fireside was held at Dr. Shehab and Tahereh's house on the second last day of the expansion phase where we welcomed two new declarants as a result of Anna's presentation and one other friend of the Faith who is currently attending regular devotional meetings and also due to start his

With blazing flames in the hearts of the youths, they set out courageously and diligently... to spread the Word of Baha'u'llah.

Ruhi book 1 soon. Musical fireside was first introduced to the Kuching community last year when several youths visited Sabah to assist in their teaching campaign. This is a new way of sharing the Message to the friends through songs and music, the spiritual food for the soul. It is then accompanied by the verbal presentation of Anna's presentation to the friends on a one-on-one basis.

At the end of this expansion phase, Kuching cluster is blessed with one additional children's class, two confirmed study circles with potential for an additional two study circles.



Children...our future, Education...their future

By Lee Yih Ven

We are pleased to share with you that one children's class has started in Stutong, Kuching on the second day of 16th IPG. Encouraged by the responses received from the neighbourhood, Kuching's Area Growth Committee decided to take

the opportunity to start a children's class at Mr Dachin's house. Ms. Pamela, Ms. Dorothy and Ms. Patricia have volunteered as children's class teacher. The class was attended by 6 children and all of them had a wonderful time. One child happened to pass by the house and was so enchanted by the atmosphere that he decided to join the class, on his own accord. With 9 children attending the class by the end of expansion phase, we are one step closer to achieving the goals we had previously set for the IPG.



One child happened to pass by the house and was so enchanted by the atmosphere that he decided to join the class...

BAHA' I FUND –

a younger perspective

Kamran was only thirteen years old when he showed signs of being a good businessman. Whereas other boys of his age would spend their money on toys, chocolates and ice-cream, Kamran, diligently saved every penny he had. Nor would he keep his money in the house, knowing that he could earn interest on it if he put it in a bank. When Kamran was fifteen, his parents turned over to him the money they had put in a bank in his name on each of his birthdays. The accumulated sum was a sizable amount. That day Kamran made a startling announcement, he said “I have decided to take my money out of the bank and give it to the Baha’i Fund. If I leave the money in the bank, the interest I get on it is just more money, but if I give it to the fund, it will be put to proper use. It will serve Baha’u’llah and benefit all of us. This is a bank which gives better interest than all others”

BAHA'I
Teachers' Conference

"Among the greatest of all services that can possibly be rendered by man to Almighty God is the education and training of children..."

- Abdul Baha -

SEE old friends and meet new ones
an occasion **YOU** won't want to miss
be **THERE** for an unforgettable experience

Date: 18th - 20th December 2009
Registration begins at 2.00pm on 18th

Contact Ms Mantan or Ms Christina for more details...
Tel: 082-252009 Email: nsasarawak@gmail.com

How to be thankful

...When a human soul accepts Baha'u'llah as the Manifestation of God for this age and enters into the divine Covenant, that soul should progressively bring his or her whole life into harmony with the divine purpose - he becomes a co-worker in the Cause of God and receives the bounty of being permitted to devote his material possessions, no matter how meagre, to the work of the Faith.

Giving to the Fund, therefore, is a spiritual privilege, not open to those who have not accepted Baha'u'llah, of which

no believer should deny himself. It is both a responsibility and a source of bounty...

Therefore we should be grateful for the bounty God hath bestowed upon us. 'Abdu'l-Bahá saith: "The best way to thank God is to love one another. Mere verbal thanksgiving is without effect. But real thankfulness is a cordial giving of thanks from the heart... To express his gratitude for the favours of God man must show forth praiseworthy actions. In response to these bestowals he must render good deeds, be

self-sacrificing, loving the servants of God, forfeiting even life for them, showing kindness to all the creatures. He must be severed from this world, attracted to the Kingdom of Abhá, the face radiant, the tongue eloquent, the ear attentive, striving day and night to attain the good pleasure of God. Whatsoever he wishes to do must be in harmony with the good pleasure of God. He must observe and see what is the will of God and act accordingly. There can be no doubt that such commendable deeds are thankfulness for the favours of God."