



SARAWAK

BAHÁ'Í NEWSLETTER

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Friends in Samoa

4 October 2009

To the friends inquiring about the well-being of the Bahá'ís in Samoa

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your emails and phone calls regarding the earthquake and tsunami that have afflicted Samoa. Your loving concern, prayers and offers of assistance are very much appreciated by us all. The reports we have received so far indicate that one family of Bahá'ís has suffered tremendous loss of lives in their extended family and village of Lalomanu in Samoa, and some in American Samoa, like them, have lost their homes and property. Throughout the country people are naturally numbed, shocked and grief stricken as they have never witnessed a disaster such as this or suffered such extreme loss. However, with characteristic courage, strength and faith, they are now working together to recover and rebuild their lives.

We have had very many messages from the Bahá'í friends from around the world, wishing to contribute funds to assist. The National Spiritual Assembly has therefore made available a bank account for international contributions, to assist us to contribute to relief activities in the name of the Faith. The account details are as follows: Account name:- National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Samoa, ANZ Bank, Beach Rd Apia; Account number:- 1525212 The SWIFT code is ANZBWSWW.

On Saturday the friends in the Upolu cluster gathered as planned for their cluster reflection meeting in preparation for the beginning of their 7th cycle of growth. They are conscious of the special opportunities at this time for bringing the healing message of Baha'u'llah to suffering humanity around us. We take comfort from the Guardian's explanations of events such as these; *"In the spiritual development of man a stage of purgation is indispensable, for it is while passing through it that the over*

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Arm with the
power of Thy
name nothing
can ever hurt
me, and with
Thy love in
my heart all
the world's
afflictions can
in no wise
alarm me.

(Baha'u'llah
Prayers and Meditation
pg 208)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Whensoever a company of people shall gather in a meeting place, shall engage in glorifying God, and shall speak with one another in the mysteries of God, beyond any doubt the breathings of the Holy Spirit will blow gently over them, and each shall receive a share thereof.

(‘Abdul-Baha, Compilations from Universal House of Justice on “Bahá’í Meetings”)

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-rated material needs are made to appear in their proper light. Unless society learns to attribute more importance to spiritual matters, it would never be fit to enter the golden era foretold by Bahá'u'lláh. The present calamities are part of this process of purgation, through them alone will man learn his lesson. They are to teach the nations, that they have to view things internationally; they are to make the individual attribute more importance to his moral, than his material welfare. Your continued assistance and prayers for our beloved country will be very much appreciated.

With warmest Bahá'ís Love

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Samoa

Karen Te'o

News from Betong Cluster

On the 11th and 12th August 2009, Auxillary Board members (ABM) Mr. Kalong, Mr. Bunsie and Dr. Shehab visited Betong Cluster together with representatives of the Sarawak Insitute Board, Regional Baha'i Council for South, the National Co-ordinator and National Children Class Coordinator as well as a couple of youths from Kuching.

On the 11th night, they met with the entire community and ABM Dr. Shehab shared a power point presentation on what the Auxiliary Board Members learnt in their last resource persons conference held in KL. It was a presentation on “Coherence”. The next morning, members of all the institutions met to further discuss the progress of the Faith in Betong cluster and how to accelerate the institute process.



Then, we invited the whole community to, again, join in the planning and as a result, 11 families have agreed to regularly open their houses for devotional gatherings, with each making an effort to invite friends of the Faith to join these devotional gatherings. Another wonderful outcome of this meeting was the volunteering of seven friends who completed Ruhi

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book 7 to become tutors.

On the 19th and 20th, a refresher course for the 22 graduates of book 6 & 7 was held at Kampung Enteban. A week later, Board members Mr. Bunsie and Dr. Shehab returned to Kampung Enteban with a number of youth with their aim to invite as many friends to enroll in Ruhi Book. We are glad to report that they were successful.

CHILDREN CLASS AT SERIAN

By Lucy Anak Nabaw (National Children class coordinator)

On the night of 25th of September, I met up with all the children class teachers of which many were the elderly. Together, we discussed the problems which they faced in Kampung Mujat. We also planned to visit two neighbouring kampongs the next day.

The next day, after a devotional at Kampung Mujat Bahá'í Centre, we prepared ourselves for the next activity which was a visit to Kampung Bugu Mawang and Kampung Ipuh Diang. Six of us went to visit the two kampongs. Upon our arrival, we met with the graduates of Ruhi Book 3 and we identified three potential children class teachers at Kampung Bugu Mawang. These three youths are studying in boarding schools but will return home every weekend. Together, they will conduct separate Children Classes according to children of different age groups. We also successfully gathered about 15 children who are interested in attending the classes.

After the visit, we headed to Kampung Ipuh Diang. There, we also managed to gather 16 children but unfortunately, we could not identify anyone to conduct the classes in their kampong. We left around 5:45pm that evening.

Around 8pm that night, together with the children class teachers in Kampung Mujat, we discussed and listed people who were willing to go to Kampung Ipuh Diang to conduct the children classes. Fortunately, four people volunteered to be the children class teachers.

We ended the day's programme at 10pm with a closing prayer.

Voices of a Pioneer

By Pemila Joseph

Being a pioneer has never been an easy task - with it comes responsibilities, and with responsibilities comes sacrifice. As a pioneer, we need to strive to improve ourselves to obtain goodly character and godly attributes, and lead a Bahá'í way of life.

During my service, there are many times when I felt like running to the edge of the world and cry out my frustration alone in sorrow. Knowing that God tests each individual according to their own capacities, I constantly prayed hard to God, supplicating Him for the strength to endure His trials and carry out my sacred duties. It was rather difficult for me to carry on with my task in the first place due to the differences of opinions. However, I realised that things would be much easier if we practice tolerance amongst us. I learnt to understand others by viewing from their perspective and not to be limited by my own mindset. Other than that, it is also important for use to not look at others' fault. I also learnt that we should be smart and act appropriately depending on circumstances, especially when our reality did not conform to our hopes and expectations. Most importantly, we have to constantly be patient, a rare jewel in this modern day society.

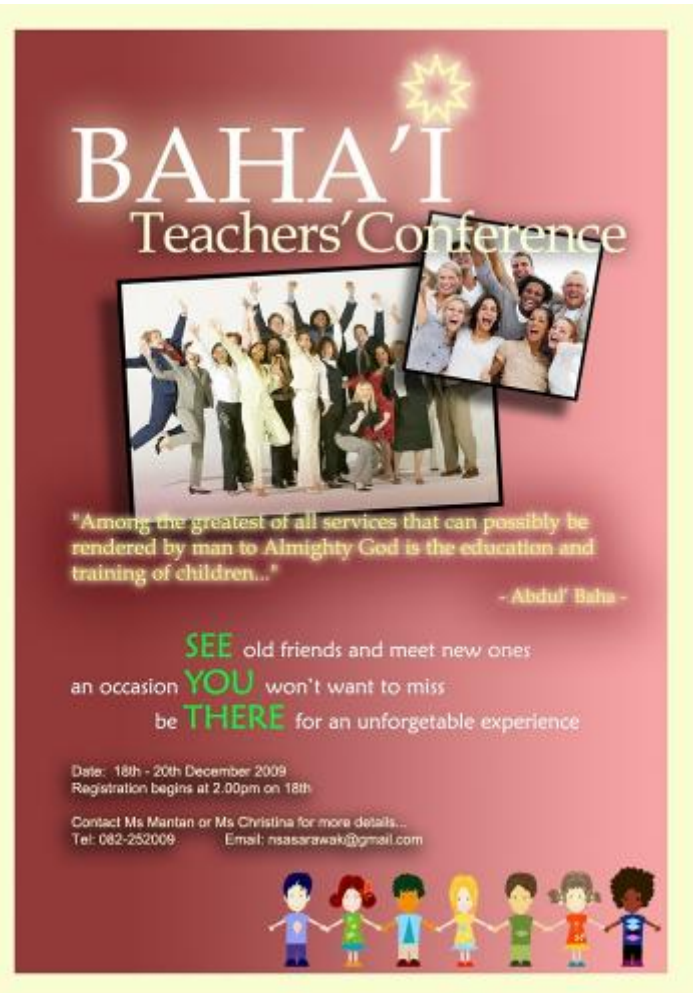
Despite all the challenges, I remind myself I have to focus on my task that is to teach the Cause of God, for lifetime opportunities like this may never come again.

SABAH UNITY CAMP

Sabah will be holding a **Unity Camp** from 18th-20th of December 2009. The location will be at the Balong River Eco Resort which is about 30 minutes journey from Tawau airport.

The Unity Camp is an event held annually to gather friends around Sabah for spiritual rejuvenation, catch-up with old friends as well as making new ones in a joyous celebration of unity. The camp is open to all members of the Bahá'í community and other friends, including those from Sarawak. This year's topics may cover laws of Marriage and Burial, Bahá'í Fund, Huququ'llah, Prayer and Fasting, Teaching and Core activities.

In addition, there will also be a Musical Fireside Teaching Campaign taking place in Tawau a week prior to the Unity Camp. The programme and registration for the Unity Camp and Musical Fireside are currently in progress.




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



Sabah Unity Camp 2009

**"Rising Up Undeterred
and Undismayed"**

Venue: Balong River Eco Resort, Tawau.
Date: 18th - 20th December 2009

The camp is open to members of the Baha'i community. The program's focus is on Coherence (the way the Bahá'í Community relates to the whole community) and the Transformative Power of the Core Activities.

Register Now!

To register, contact us:

Kang Ridvan (016 8319976), <ridvankang@gmail.com>
Nur'i Lim (017 3058678), <syabc9@gmail.com>

HELP SUPPORT OUR NEWSLETTER!

Once again, the Sarawak Bahá'í Newsletter is in dire need of news. With deepest regrets, our team was unable to release the previous month's newsletter due to the lack of local news, the vital lifeline of a healthy newsletter.

We need your continuous contribution to make this newsletter, a living newsletter which can inspire every reader, be it a Bahá'í or a non-Bahá'í. **Kindly share your inspiring and uplifting stories with us!**

Pictures and reports can be emailed to:
sarawakbahainewsletter@gmail.com

A copy of the newsletter is also available at:
<http://www.sarawakbahai.org/newsletter>