



SARAWAK BAHÁ'Í NEWSLETTER

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Kapit launched 2nd cycle

17 July, 2010:-The second cycle of intensive program of growth in Kapit Town saw five teams involved in teaching and home visits.

A whole day program included a study session on



the Ridvan Message and a training on how to do a preview on the children's class and junior youth activities during home visits and devotional meetings. The goals of the new cycle were presented. Each teaching team was trained and equipped with Holy Writings for inspiration. The highlight of the

launching was a cake-cutting ceremony with songs performed by the children. A prayer was said for the success of the two-week expansion phase.

A Coordinators' Conference

On weekend of 16-18 July 2010, nine cluster coordinators (institute, junior youth and children's class) attended a conference held at the Kuching Centre. Out of these, 3 were from Lundu, 2 from Serian, 2 from Simunjan, and 2 from Kuching. Also in attendance were the national coordinators and some members of the Institute Board and Auxiliary Board Member Dr. Shehab Phung. Two main documents, the 2010 Ridvan Message and "Accompanying the Tutors" prepared by the International Teaching Centre were used.

The conference focused on workshops whereby the participants learn to make an assessment on the resources available in their respective cluster, and identify potential tutors and how to accompany them to initiate core activities.

A similar conference would be organized for the northern and central region in the near future.

" ... Under all conditions the Message must be delivered, but with wisdom. If it be not possible openly, it must be done quietly. The friends should be engaged in educating the souls and should become instruments in aiding the world of humanity to acquire spiritual joy and fragrance. For example: if every one of the friends (believers) were to establish relations of friendship and right dealings with one of the negligent souls, associate and live with him with perfect kindness, and meanwhile through good conduct and moral behaviour lead him to divine instruction, to heavenly advice and teachings, surely he would gradually arouse that negligent person and would change his ignorance into knowledge.

Tablets of 'Abdu 'I-Bahá

Studying the Ridvan Message

The awareness on the importance of the Ridvan Message is slowly penetrating the community. On the weekend of 24-25 July, the Regional Council for Southern region organized a study of the Ridvan Message at Kampung Belimbing Besi, Sebuyau. More than 60 believers participated, including several friends from neighbouring Simunjan and Asajaya cluster. The study session was led by Auxiliary Board Member Mr. Bunsie Tunton.

The task of increasing the number of tutors and improving the quality of tutoring institute courses were discussed in addition to improving junior youth and children's classes. The participants were reminded that teaching the Cause is still the utmost important duty of each individual believer.

Some of the participants expressed their happiness at being able to attend the study session and hoped to be able to contribute to the progress of their own respective cluster.

In Kuching cluster, the Local Spiritual Assembly of Padawan and Samarahan combined their effort in organizing similar study session for their local communities at Padawan Bahá'í on 7-8 August 2010. 18 people attended. Kuching City South held its study session at Dr. S. Phung's residence.

Meeting the friends in Perth



Recently, the Fozdars visited Perth, Australia. Upon their return to Kuching, Dr. John shared his story: "My son Kamal invited me to visit him in Perth so that he can have a reunion of many Malaysians who are residing in Perth, but who are not involved in Baha'i activities. There is a group photograph of the Perth gathering which was held on July 31.

Some of you may be able to recognise Molly Seow in the last row. Another face who should be known to some of you is Catherine Chih who is sitting on my left. She is the daughter of the late Mr. C.K.Chih,

who was a member of the first LSA of Kuching in 1953 and now resides in Perth. The other photograph is of a fireside held in Bunbury, which is about 3 hours from Perth. There was a nice gathering of believers and contacts and we all enjoyed the evening of spiritual and material food. These two visits were extremely enjoyable and the friends who came together were much uplifted."

Life Blood of the Cause

Dearly loved Friends,

At the beginning of the current Five Year Plan, the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Sarawak announced the goal to achieve 1,000 individual regular contributors to the National Baha'i Fund. We are pleased to note that the number of individual contributors is on the increase over the last three years to about 800 individuals but the regular contributors stand at about 90 individuals only which is far short of our goal of 1,000. And because of the low number of regular contributors, on many occasions our monthly collection is far below our monthly expenses.

The beloved Universal House of Justice said: "The backbone of the Fund must be the regular contributions of every believer, even though such contributions may be small because of the poverty of the donors, large numbers of small sums combine into a mighty river that can carry along the work of the Cause. Moreover the unity of the friends in sacrifice draws upon them the confirmations of the Blessed Beauty."

By contributing regularly to the National Fund, we are in a way answering the call of the Universal House of Justice in its Ridvan Message 2010, calling for 32 learning sites, each serving some twenty clusters with full-time coordinators to be in operation by the end of the current plan. If our National Fund is low, we are not in a capacity to employ full-time coordinators for all IPG clusters.

Shoghi Effendi said: "Giving to Bahá'í Fund is a test of the measure and character of one's faith and devotion to the Cause." So by giving to the Bahá'í Fund it becomes an excellent application for personal development. It helps to bring out the best in one's character because it puts us in touch with those spiritual qualities associated with faith and devotion such as love, discipline, detachment, purification etc.

It is such a significant assurance by Abdu'l-Baha—that contributions to the Fund will cause our agriculture, industry and commerce to be blessed by manifold increase. Have no doubt that it is true.

With loving greetings,
From Treasurer's desk

He, verily, will aid everyone that aideth Him, and will remember everyone that remembereth Him. To this beareth witness this Tablet that hath shed the splendour of the loving kindness of your Lord, the All-glorious, the All-compelling.

Bahá'u'lláh

...contributing to the Bahá'í Fund constitutes an act of spiritual discipline which is an intrinsic element of the devotional life of an individual. No believer should be unaware of the privilege of contributing to the advancement of the Cause of God, irrespective of his material circumstances. The practice of giving to the Fund strengthens the connection between the believer and the Cause...Divine confirmations redound upon those who offer a portion of their material resources in a spirit of sacrifice, motivated by their love of the Faith and their desire to assist in its progress.

**The Universal House of Justice, 17
September 1992**

Essential to this posture of giving is the appreciation of the fact God's mercy and His bounties are the ultimate source of wealth. He provides the means of existence and progress for us all, and then, out of His bounty, He bestows upon us the privilege of contributing to His Cause—the only effective instrument that can bring about the well-being of humanity. Giving to the funds of Faith, therefore, is not only a matter of generosity but also a spiritual bounty and a grave responsibility.

**The Universal House of Justice,
5 October 1992**