



# SARAWAK

## BAHÁ'Í NEWSLETTER

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### Message from the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Sarawak

To the Bahá'ís of Sarawak

Dearly loved Friends,

In this month of July, let us call to remembrance the Martyrdom of the Bab, the Prophet-Herald of our beloved Faith on that fateful day of 9 July, 161 years ago, in the barrack-square of the city of Tabriz.

We are certain that all of you are familiar with the miraculous event associated with that Martyrdom. No need for us to dwell into how a brave and faithful youth, Anis, was chosen by the Bab to share with Him the crown of Martyrdom or to elaborate on the details of how the Bab and that same youth, both suspended from ropes hanged from an iron nail that was driven into a wall, were unharmed by the bullets fired by a regiment of seven hundred and fifty men, and, that another regiment had to be brought in to complete the execution.

Suffice for us to be reminded by the beloved Guardian that the Martyrdom thus “ended a life which posterity will recognize as standing at the confluence of two universal religious cycles, the prophetic Adamic Cycle stretching back as far as the first dawning of the world’s recorded religious history and the Bahá’í Cycle, the cycle of fulfillment, destined to propel itself across the unborn reaches of time for a period of no less than five thousand centuries”, and that it “can, moreover, be regarded in no other light except as the most dramatic, the most tragic event transpiring within the entire range of the first Bahá’í century”.

It would take more than half a century before the remains of the Báb and His youthful companion were permanently and ceremoniously laid to rest in 1909 by Abdul-Baha in that specially erected mausoleum on the slopes of Mt. Carmel, at the very spot chosen by Baha’u’llah. It would take another 44 years before the Shrine of the Bab, as what it is today, was finally completed by the Guardian. Interestingly, in a letter dated 21 April 2011 to all national spiritual assemblies, the beloved Universal House of Justice said that the “Queen of Carmel”, concealed from the gaze of the public while undergoing restoration work, has been unveiled as of the date of the letter and is resplendent again, “crowned in glowing gold” on the Mountain of the Lord.

We wish to bring to mind that it was a very moving moment when the sacred remains of the Bab and His companion, in a wooden casket, was laid within a marble sarcophagus by Abdul-Baha with His own hands.

Below is how our beloved Guardian described the scene:

“When all was finished, and the earthly remains of the Martyr-Prophet of Shiraz were, at long last, safely deposited for their everlasting rest in the bosom of God’s holy mountains, Abdul-Baha, Who had cast aside His turban, removed His shoes and thrown off His cloak, bent low over the still open sarcophagus, His silver hair waving about His head and His face transfigured and luminous, rested His forehead on the wooden casket, and, sobbing aloud, wept with such a weeping that all those who were present wept with Him. That night He could not sleep, so overwhelmed was He with emotion.”

We are certain that the friends would commemorate this momentous event of the Martyrdom of the Bab with the reverence that it deserves. In this Feast of Kalimat, which means “Words”, we will leave the friends to ponder on its significance with the following two passages from the Writings of Baha’u’llah:

“Ye are the letters of the words, and the words of the Book.”

“The essence of faith is fewness of words and abundance of deeds. As for one whose words exceed his deeds, know truly that his death is better than his life.”

The Spiritual Assembly would like to request the friends who have migrated to the towns to work to kindly inform the Local Spiritual Assembly of the town where you are residing so that the friends can be contacted for activities. The same goes to youth who are studying in the cities.

Lastly, we also would like to know of any social economic project that the community had undertaken as the Department of the Social Economic in the Bahá’í World Centre would like to know of the project undertaken. Until now, the Spiritual Assembly only receive report from Sungai Lingkau in Simunjan. They have a communal farm to help them raise fund. A brief report with pictures of the project will be very much appreciated.

With loving greetings,

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### ***Humble soul, great deed.....***

Friends, on many instances, hasty judgement of others is often made with the little we know about them and from what we see. After reading this story, I hope we all learn not to repeat the mistake as only God knows the faith of a person.

This story is from Kampong Sampun Kelili in Asajaya. Mr. Bojee anak Alon was a farmer who lived with his mother, earning his livelihood by padi farming and planting subsistent crops, such as, vegetables, oranges and corn. He came from a vibrant community and was always seen at gatherings and supportive of plans made by the institution.

Unfortunately, he passed away suddenly, just weeks after the passing of his beloved mother. It was only when the family members were cleaning up the house that they discovered a tin container. Inside it was a translated copy of a booklet on the compilation of the Huqúqu’lláh in Iban which he must have studied. An exercise book containing the dates and amount of money which probably could have been entered after the sale of his agricultural produce for a period of time and it totaled up to quite a substantial sum. He did not leave any word about what he wanted to do with the money but his family members knew that he must have saved it for his Huqúqu’lláh payment. Mr. Bojee passed away in April 2011.

Friends, this is how a humble soul who understood the teachings and exercised its laws to fulfill his obligation and abide sincerely to live as a Bahá’í.

## Obituary

The Bahá'í community in Sarawak would like to express our heartfelt condolence to Mr. James Buntre and his family of Kampong Sampun Kelili, Asajaya on the loss of his wife, Mdm Lapet ak Laping, 57 years of age, who passed away in June 2011. Mdm Lapet was always supportive of all the activities and was particularly known for her hospitality in offering her home for people to stay.

We also would like to express our condolence to the family of Mr. Jampang ak Gulu, 56 years of age, who was a very active Bahá'í serving in the Local Spiritual Assembly of Kampung Mayang Tea, Serian and the Area Teaching Committee.

Another devoted soul who passed away in June 2011 from Rumah Tambi, Sungai Libai, aged 57 years was Mr. Senin anak Unan. Mr. Senin had completed his sequence of Ruhi courses and had served actively as a travel teacher in his area. He also served in the Local Spiritual Assembly for a number of years.

In Kampung Sungai Pedada, Maludam, the chairman of the Local Spiritual Assembly, Mr. Chagat Anak Abang, passed away in June 2011. He was 62. Another believer, Mdm. Denise anak Lasa, 44 years of age, of Kampung Temiang, Simunjan also passed away in June. She served on the Local Spiritual Assembly in B.E. 167.

Mr. Ayut anak Sabang of Rumah Mat, Sungai Lamaus, Niah, passed away at the age of 69. He was among the earliest believers to accept the Faith in Niah area. Other early believers in Niah area that passed away recently include Mdm. Yu anak Anding and Mdm Burai anak Bayai. They were both in their eighties. In Kampung Sungai Buloh, Asajaya, an 81 year-old believer, Mr. Lawan anak Mani passed away on 29 June 2011.

Let us pray for the progress of these wonderful souls and that they all would receive bountiful blessing for the services rendered throughout their lifetime. May their souls rest in peace. Their services will always be remembered by all, especially those who had served alongside with them.



### LAPORAN MEMPELAJARI MESEJ 28 DIS 2010 PERINGKAT KLASTER LIMBANG

*Disediakan oleh Leeandra Alfred*

8-10 Jun 2011, Rh. Jubang, Tanah Merah, Medamit, Limbang Sarawak. Masa: 8 mlm (8 Jun) – 12 tengah (10 Jun) Penyertaan individu dalam program ini adalah seramai 11 orang dan 2 orang daripada wakil RBC, Ricky dan saya sendiri. Peserta terdiri daripada ahli Majlis Rohani Tempatan Rh. Jubang, Medamit dan Menuang, Komiti Pertumbuhan Kawasan (AGC) dan dua orang individu biasa. Hasil daripada pengkajian dan pembelajaran mesej tersebut ahli-ahli institusi merasa lega dan gembira setelah mendapat jawapan kepada persoalan-persoalan yang timbul dalam melaksanakan tugas dalam institusi, serta memperolehi maklumat berkenaan Rancangan 5 Tahun (2011-2016). Di akhir program, ahli institusi Limbang bersama-sama berbincang tentang pelan dan rancangan aktiviti bagi peringkat Klaster dan Kawasan.

#### **Pelan Aktiviti Pengembangan dan Pengukuhan**

10 Jun 2011 : Rh. Jubang, Tanah Merah Program mempelajari Pesan 28 Dis. 2011.

Menubuhkan Program Belia Muda (JY) di Medamit Mempelajari Pesan 28 Dis setiap kali diadakan Doa Bersama.

Menubuhkan Kelas Kanak-kanak di Kampung Menuang. Mempelajari Pesan 28 Disember setiap kali diadakan Doa Bersama.

Mengadakan Penyampaian Langsung (Direct Teaching). Sasaran pelaksanaan aktiviti diatas adalah sehingga hujung tahun 2011.

## **Bahá'í Teachers' Qualifications**

'Abdu'l-Bahá, in a speech on the Bahá'í Teachers' qualifications states emphatically the following:

A Bahá'í teacher should have sociability and affability. He should be the essence of sanctity and holiness. He should have conversance. He himself should have been affected by the divine teachings. He should have knowledge and should be informed. His heart should be a treasury of the jewels of the love of God. His soul should be vibrated by the fragrances of God. He should be the embodiment of human attributes and divine attributes. He should possess the faculty of self-explanation and illustrations. He should be eloquent and fluent. To every city he goes he should associate with eminent people and with the poor. He should neither be a rigid saint nor an irreligious liberal, until all those who associate with him will see that this person is a spiritual, religious, heavenly, perfect, knowledgeable and excellent learned man. He should associate with every sect and should keep abreast and harmonise them until he has an influence amongst them and become established and rooted within them. He should be like the breeze of the Holy Spirit wafting over their dead bodies. He should open his eyes and investigate about the souls and see what ideas they have and into which directions they are heading and unto that dogmas they are clinging - then he talks, that they will approach nearer and nearer and accept the Faith but the greatest thing among all these subjects is the Bahá'í teacher's own state and condition. He should always be like a shining candle. This Cause of God needs teachers. They should always move from land to land. And those teachers who are knowledgeable and ablaze should be in their traveling like the breezes of the Spring which give life to the trees, while Autumn winds bring destruction and extinction. For two hundred years, all thoughts should be confined to teaching the Faith. Yes, to look after the weak and to teach the children and to take care of the poor and to administer the internal affairs are all existing work, yet they should not be given such attention that teaching the Faith will be forgotten and the affairs of the teaching spheres be left aside. Nay, the work of teaching the Cause should be performed and training the Bahá'í teachers should be instituted and they should be dispatched far and wide to all parts of the world and to all peoples of humanity. Literature of Bahá'í proofs and sacred thoughts should be produced and published for the propagation of the Cause. Then after the world has come under the shadow of the Word of God, the accomplishment of other things follows.