



SARAWAK BAHÁ'Í NEWSLETTER

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

To the Baha'is of Sarawak

Dearly loved Friends,

In this Baha'i month of Kamal (Perfection), we would like to share with you all on the activities carried by the friends in Kampung Belimbing Besi, and hope that it will serve as an inspiration to all of us in our programme of growth.

Kampung Belimbing Besi, in the Sebuyau-Sebangan Cluster, first launched their intensive programme of growth on 26 January 2008 and they are now in their 11th cycle of growth. Sebuyau-Sebangan cluster comprises of 17 villages or kampung, namely, Belimbing Besi, Lunying, Bulan, Kelait, Kesindu, Ketimbang, Nibong, Bajung, Entangor, Ensika, Lubok Meranti, Pantu Pelai, Skitong, Stika, Tungkah Dayak, and two villages in Maludam on the opposite side of the Batang Lupar, i.e. Sungai Pedada and Sungai Meranti.

Kampung Belimbing Besi plays the role of a host community where major events are held. A successful training programme was held in December 2010 for the secondary school leavers in the village. The community takes ownership of the event without second thought and the whole community supported the event in different ways; the women took turn to cook meals for the participants, each family contributed rice and vegetables, and each family opened their homes to accommodate the participants.

Men and women serve on equal footing. Kampung Belimbing Besi has produced a pool of human resource to serve the neighbouring villages and the young adults from this community are now actively serving the faith wherever they reside. This community is the nucleus for community building.

Prominent visitors had visited this community, among whom were Mr. Hushmand Fatheazam, a member of the Universal House of Justice, Mr. Hassan Saberi, a member from the Office of Social Economic Development at the World Centre, Counsellors Lee Lee Ludher and Ircham Sujadmiko. The community has also purchased a piece of land to serve as the Baha'i cemetery for their cluster.

When it comes to teaching, the friends there would offer their motorcycles, cars and vans for transporting the teaching teams to the neighbouring villages. There are 30 regular contributors to the Fund. Presently Sebuyau cluster has 10 study circles involving 60 participants, 43 homes having devotional meetings, 3 children's classes and one junior youth group with 20 participants.

What is outstanding from this community is the fact that the Local Spiritual Assembly has undertaken the role of leading and taking care of the welfare of the community of Baha'is and non-Baha'is alike. They are able to put into practice the teachings of Baha'u'llah in their daily lives, such as, abstinence from alcohol, which is still a problem in some communities, and abstaining from work on all the nine Baha'i holy days.

Friends, it would be such a joy to the Spiritual Assembly to see all the Baha'i communities in Sarawak emulating the achievement of Kampung Belimbing Besi.

With loving greetings,
Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Sarawak

The passing of Dr. Peter Khan

We would like to share with the friends an email dated 15 July 2011 from the beloved Universal House of Justice informing us of the sad news of the passing its former member, Dr. Peter Khan. We call upon all the friends in Sarawak to hold befitting memorial gatherings in honour of this valiant soul.

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

15 July 2011

To all National Spiritual Assemblies

We grieve at the sudden passing of our dearly loved former colleague Peter J. Khan, whose many years of service in the Holy Land, concluded so recently, are still fresh in our memories. By any measure, his was a remarkable life, one of earnest striving, of unbending resolve, of unflinching dedication to principle, and of constancy of effort. Discovering the Faith in his early youth, he had an unbroken record of outstanding service that included membership of the National Spiritual Assembly of Australia, of the Auxiliary Board for Propagation in North America, of the Continental Board of Counsellors in Australasia, and of the International Teaching Centre and that culminated in his election to the Universal House of Justice on which body he served for twenty-three years. His considerable intellectual gifts manifested themselves in every aspect of his service to the Cause of God: in his stalwart defence of the Covenant, in the exemplary manner in which he discharged his manifold administrative duties, in his acquainting generations of youth with the transforming vision of Shoghi Effendi, in his championing the advancement of women, in his diligent attention to the stewardship of the Faith's material resources, and in his presentations of the verities of the Cause with uncommon eloquence and endearing humour to unnumbered audiences--lifting hearts, stimulating minds, galvanizing spirits. The Faith of God has lost a distinguished servant.



Our condolences are extended to his beloved wife Janet, his collaborator and devoted companion. We shall offer ardent prayers at the sacred Threshold that his illumined soul may be joyously received in the Abhá Kingdom and immersed in the ocean of divine grace. We call upon the friends to hold befitting memorial gatherings in his honour throughout the Bahá'í community, including in all the Houses of Worship.

The Universal House of Justice

ANNOUNCEMENT

Office of Sarawak Bahá'í Institute moved to Sibú Town

We are happy to inform the community that the office of Sarawak Bahá'í Institute had relocated to Sibú Bahá'í Centre at Brooke Drive 15, Sibú. The new premise is felt to be more strategic in term of geographical location and would enable the National Coordinators to have easier access to more communities in the central and the northern region. The new office is contactable at telephone number 084-314704, Ms. Geriti Katik at 0148636123 and Ms. Josephine Lingga at 0198470291. The email address is still sarawakbahai@yahoo.com. Hardcopy correspondence to the office may be addressed to the P.O. Box 1082, 96008 Sibú.

