

WSA CHAIR AUSTRALASIA VISIT December 31 to January 14, 2012

DAY ONE - DECEMBER 31 2011

Arrived Sunday to an overcast Sydney after a 44 hour journey via China Airlines' from Vancouver via Taipei, where I had an unending 22 hr never-to-be-repeated stopover in the (essentially) food free airport. Arrived to await pick up by Gavin - beekeeper and eco-enthusiast for the short drive to Subud Australia conference at St. Andrews College (site of 1989 World Congress). Took a one hour nap before going to dinner in the great college refectory surrounded by banners, paintings and cups celebrating past glories and alumni. All around, my Subud Australia brothers and sisters hugely enjoying seeing each other again. The first Latihan assembled 40-50 men in the Victorian college chapel; then the countdown to New Year 2012 all together in the great hall / refectory.



*Australia National Congress and Gathering in the courtyard
(Can you spot (2) Hadrians; a Luke, Harris and Lucinda?)*

DAY TWO - NEW YEARS DAY 2012

After a decent catch up sleep and breakfast in the refectory, we walked across the playing fields to the men's Latihan. The day began with various workshops on ecological bioremediation and a wonderful update on the YTS social humanitarian community development project work in Kalimantan. Then lunch (meals seemed to arrive continuously even though we hardly had time to get working!) Meanwhile the weather warmed to its normal 30+C and we looked for shade. The feeling everywhere was of real contentment and a deep regard for each other. Friendships rekindled, a great, laid-back Aussie spirit of goodwill. At the same time there was a sense of reawakening from a more uncertain time with some difficulties in the Melbourne group that had somehow put many members off their usual easy-going stance, (and before that in Canberra with the national centre challenges..). Subud Australia feeling that it is time to begin again. Build up teams/team-spirit. On developing the wings, new projects, overcoming blockages or toxic situations in Melbourne. Time to move on to a renewed sense of purpose, in fact.

Numerous participants in difficult situations approached me directly to position their concerns around Melbourne. All I could do as WSA chair was to listen and refer them to the Subud Australia-backed process of reconciliation and mediation. Numerous teams from the national committee, helpers and wing leadership in youth, Susila Dharma and, of course, the Zone Rep, Hadrian Fraval, discussed means of collaboration with the international organization. Nevertheless the feeling grew that it was time to seek God's guidance for opening the way ahead for Subud Australia. That night I sat with Asmaniah, the national chair, after dinner in the almost empty refectory. I asked "Do you feel that we are ready now for changing gear in this congress?" "Yes (she said), we need to move ahead." (Luke) "Let's start with testing tomorrow around opening the way, about courage, trusting God, how do we face Almighty God? Then we can have a perspective on the international arena, on what the WSC is and what the WSA is doing for members?" Most of all Asmaniah and I felt strongly the need to shift gears.

DAY THREE

After our usual huge breakfast we made our way to Latihan having shared the test questions with both men and women. After Latihan – "How is it when I face Almighty God absolutely with my whole being - following what He would have me do?" "How do I trust God?" "How would God have me trust him?" "How is my inner and outer courage?" "How would God have it be?" "What is Australia's capacity to take on large projects as Bapak envisioned large enterprises?"

And then lunch and preparation for the first full Plenary in the chapel. Asmaniah asked me to lead off, and we began to talk of how the way ahead for us is opening up. How the reawakening appears to be taking place in many places now in Subud as we rediscover Bapak's advice and guidance with fresh eyes. How we are returning to our core values of enterprising; re-reading Bapak's advice on working and worshiping in harmony. Putting our Latihan more directly into practice.

How Ibu had asked us "to begin again" in 2010, "to put the past hurts behind us and begin anew". How Subud Australia has had difficult challenges that have made it feel less confident as a strong nation in Subud. We reviewed the WSC and WSA structure and

activities so that we all understood how hard the WSA and WSC works for all members via the work of the IHs, the WSA executive, MSF, SDIA SES, SIHA and the youth, many of which segments are restructuring/revitalizing themselves.

The assembled group is moved by the sense that so many members in different countries share this sense of returning to our core values. Putting aside our uncertainties, anxieties, fears as far as possible. Now facing God and more consciously feeling our capacities. We realized how important it is to have a meal together, then the Latihan, then testing, then the meeting to share the increased awareness. The same process had been so effective in meetings with the groups in Santiago, Mina Clavero and Bogota on my prior trip to South America.

DAY FOUR

With a stronger feeling of new possibilities opening up for Subud Australia, we started the day with a spontaneous meeting with Roland, the SYAI Rep, and Emmanuel the YES Quest Rep. Suddenly the agenda for the day was apparent. It was to be about youth needs. After Latihan we met in the courtyard café. The YES Quest Centre development has already raised \$8K from Subud Australia, with \$15K possible from a Subud member and ongoing GHFP matching funds. We only need matching funds from the various parts of the organization and external foundations in order to raise the total to \$40K to go ahead and build a new YES Quest Centre. Our discussion included plan reviews from Mursalin New.

There is the enthusiasm to finally build a YES Quest Centre as an integral part of Rungan Sari, and the EcoVillage preparatory to a possible 2018 Rungan Sari-based World Congress. But before then to evaluate a launch pad for a second YES Quest Centre in Amanacer or even in Mexico at Usaha Mulia Abadi. Perhaps even in Mina Clavero in Argentina.. The conversations on youth needs were closer to the centre of congress, as well as the feeling of the need for older members to realign their agenda.

From this we then took off for a wonderful visit to 72 Erskine Street Art Gallery. An escape from the 'kampong' congress site for two hours as we honored the Subud members exhibiting at the Subud gallery in downtown Sydney. That evening in the courtyard Anthony Tibbs and Ailca Bryson Hayes dressed as gypsy fortune-tellers for a fee 'viewed' people's future via homemade tarot cards!.. Your WSA chair's 'cards' included reference to Bapak, jiwa, surrender, wings, nafsu, chairmanship and new life relationships - reassuring!

DAY FIVE

At last our Day Off! Except that after midday there were wall to wall meetings! We began with a wonderful visit, at my request, to Darling Harbour, site of so many Subud enterprise dreams. 27 years since my last visit when I worked briefly on Project Sunrise. My getaway driver Latif dropped us off knowing the convention centre layout from his exhibition design experience for Rofin, that took us directly into the Darling Harbour district. Quite unrecognizable from 1985 when the area was an industrial wasteland.



*Steven and Aliça Bryson-Hayes; Min Su and wife in 72 Erskine Street, Sydney Cultural Center
Steven Bryson-Hayes; Luke, Hadrian Fraval/Zone 1-2 Rep; Min Su and Peter Jenkins/YES Quest at
Darling Harbour, Sydney*

At the centre was the Pyrmont Bridge Hotel and memories of the small Subud community, the hub of Project Sunrise was a step back in time, as it has hardly changed, though it's cleaned up. The shock lay in the massive upstairs bars and patios that make the pub one of the top sports bar locations in the city. Imagine my shock when I rounded a corner and saw what looked like Rachman Connelly sitting in Ramdan Simpson's old ISC office on the top floor! He was the owner and recalled buying the then bankrupt pub from the owners following Project Sunrise in 1999. Of course he would not tell me how little they had paid to bring it out of bankruptcy!

Then off to see the Sydney Opera house - oh so briefly, in all its glory, the soaring auditorium inaccessible with The Nutcracker ballet in final rehearsal. Back at St. Andrew's college, the final evening together and a plenary session (in what felt like Prof. Dumbledor's crowded study at Hogwarts) focused on key issues for Subud Australia. This included new team-building; the revival of the wings; the balancing of helper-committee support; the need for more international support for WSA etc. (donations were increased by 40% after a 7 minute discussion!). The strengthening of the youth side. This was my kind of plenary!

DAY SIX

Up early and off to the airport to catch the flight to Auckland from Sydney. I was met in Auckland by Veronica, sister to Renata Peek, and then off to Veronica's home with husband to see a homely cottage with two hamsters and two cats regularly visited by 5-10 Pashtun neighborhood kids with soft eyes and warm smiles full of love for their neighbourhood Subud-mum. Then off to atihan, which felt somewhat quiet/sleepy - so that I was momentarily off-balance, 'why is this so sleepy God?' Well the Latihan picked up as it went on... Then after tea and cake, a stronger atihan now and testing. We focused on testing the "How us it when I face the one Almighty God absolutely, with my whole being and follow his guidance", also the 'how do we trust God?' and 'how is our courage' as well as 'the capacity for larger enterprise' and 'inner/outer healing Latihan' questions we had

done in Sydney. We then met to share perspectives on the awakening going on in Subud Auckland and New Zealand. NZ felt not yet ready for larger enterprise but is receiving much healing/awakening now! The group felt as though it needed to face these issues even as it has a wonderful old church as a Subud house. There are challenges for the group to grasp now. After the open circle discussion on activity in Subud internationally, I was whisked off home to bed.

DAY SEVEN

Then off to Auckland for the 30-40 minute ferry ride to stunning Waihike Island picking up Helena Horthy on the way, as well as Simon, dockside. We were met off the ferry by our host Raymond (Lamaan) van Sommers still hale and hearty with that twinkle in his eye. Then for a tour and lunch with Raymond, architect of Wisma Subud buildings like the guest house and now retired in New Zealand. The tour took in the almost Hobbiton-like landscape of the island's beautifully manicured rolling hills and giant hedges. A wealthy patron's paradise now. Stopping at a wonderful Tuscan-style gallery near Church Bay. We wondered at the light-filled studio, the courtyard, the dynamism of Claude and Gabriella who now occupied part of hundreds of acres once owned by Earling Week when Bapak visited in 1966. We stopped for lunch at a seafood restaurant for squid and tuna salads. Heading back to Auckland we wandered the harbour front before I was dropped off at Melinda's house for fish dinner and long talks on the awakening and need for growing. Melinda is a wonderfully vibrant, newly revitalized older woman with great faith. Melinda recently lost her husband, Harris, who had so filled her life with his larger than life presence. Melinda tackled my laundry, washing away a week on the road..!

DAY EIGHT

A slow start as I got ready for the ride to the airport with Martin Mitchell's wife and the flight to Nelson via Wellington. She is a wonderfully pragmatic person married to Rachman and Rohana Mitchell's eldest son. I was picked up the irrepressible Judy Gibb and Veronica, the Subud NZ team, and met Maxwell and Asmaniah Fraval in from Sydney. We set off for the Marahau campsite, but not before a stop off at Toad Hall for ice cream and organic fruit and veggies. The camp proved basic but friendly, with some non-Subud and mostly Subud mixed cabins and tent sites.

As the (30+) Christchurch members arrived you could feel their elevated stress-levels, their swirling energies after so much constant stress experiencing not only the 3-4 Richter 4-5+ earthquakes, but the seeming never-ending 11,000 aftershocks since early 2010... The rest of the Kiwis and the international visitors listened in some awe to these reminiscences.. Clearly the Christchurch members badly needed just to be in a calmer, quiet retreat for the camp-week.. Just to regain their equilibrium again... I began to regret not having visited Christchurch before the camp.. But it was not to be.

I ended up sharing a small cabin with Matthew and Rosario Moir of Auckland. A restless first night punctuated by an early morning walkabout by the light of an almost full moon surrounded by a huge halo of cloud.



*Raymond van Sommers and Luke, Waihike Island, New Zealand; Earling Week's house on hill above.
Simon, Luke, Raymond, Veronica, Helena on Waihike Island, Auckland, New Zealand*

DAY NINE

I arose stiff after a restless night with sharp back pain; I felt that the acute lower back pain was not just about the cabin mattress I had slept on! but reflected the situation in NZ, i.e. that the country has been dislocated by the earthquake 'along its spine' in so many senses. I felt that my experiencing this was part of being in New Zealand to experience this dislocation and the healing that we subsequently experienced in the Latihan.

I hobbled over to find Judy in her cottage to talk urgently about my strong feeling that we have a Latihan and testing on awareness and capacity this day rather than next since I was leaving that evening. We finally arrived at a solution with Veronica's input; a beach day until 16:00 hrs then a Latihan and testing for those who showed up, given that the members there really were needing to be laid back and casual. With 30+ adult/children Christchurch members in attendance (almost half the camp attendees...) the Lothian felt filled with deep inner and outer healing. The testing on facing God, trusting God and courage was particularly poignant and profound. Former IH Latif Ishmael came up to me after we tested 'New Zealand's capacity to do a large project' (slow, heavy lifting then a great Grace.), and the inner and outer healing, and said he felt overwhelmed by the profound healing arising from that Latihan. "It was the cherry on the cake Luke!"

After a couple of osteopathic therapeutic exercises with Maxwell who came to my rescue, we then caught up with 2010 congress past and lessons learned with Michael Chapman and Hammond Peek. Then a group potluck farewell supper preceded by blessings and Christchurch remembered with kind and tearful words, and huge thanks for the almost \$100K given to Subud NZ/Christchurch members around the world from Subud Christchurch chair Maynard MacDonald. The supper-under-the-dripping trees included fresh mussels from the beach that afternoon near where we had a chilly swim.. Then more goodbyes with Matthew and Rosario and Michael, and finally a farewell chat with the national helpers who wanted to exchange ideas on courage/trust in their work before Michael and his wife took me back to Nelson to stay overnight before flying to Tokyo via Auckland next day.

The drive through a fabulous orange sunset included multiple rainbows set against the South Island alpine spine to the north all along the way. Goodbye blessings indeed. A late night chat on Subud and early days with my hosts before a short sleep.

DAY TEN

Up at 16:45 for full shower and breakfast, then the flight to Auckland on a beautiful sunny day punctuated by an (as yet more) enormous rainbow at the airport. In fact everywhere I looked there seemed to be a rainbow of some sort, above the planes, blessings everywhere.

Arriving in Auckland with only an hour until the Tokyo flight meant that I had to hustle between terminals. Thank God for Air NZ with its excellent service and light hearted safety videos. The flight was running an hour late for the almost eleven hour flight.

On arrival at Narita, Dr. Masayuki (Chinese herbalist doctor) waved from the welcome crowd and we dove off to jump on and off a series of suburban trains taking us to Tasambuchi Centre near the Subud house and my hotel. Then Saodah Hayashi, the Subud Japan KC, arrived and we went to a Kobe beef fondue restaurant nearby - delicious! Then a relatively early night.

DAY ELEVEN

Tried to lie in but still four hours ahead on NZ time! I had breakfast and caught up on emails until lunchtime when I had to take the train to the nearby Sunagawa Subud house and meet with Rozak Tatebe for afternoon tea and chat. Rozak was in fine form even though now 83! We regaled each other with our experiences of ISC chair for Rozak, and WSA chair for myself. Concluding that for so long we had misunderstood Bapak's emphasis on putting the Latihan into practice in our work. We haven't constantly checked ourselves to feel and see our Latihan at work, so that we have lacked evidence and courage and perhaps have become more cautious and risk averse as economic times have grown more challenging.

At five o'clock a Skype call with Pak Haryono was delayed as he had not been feeling well, so I went to look for sushi and tempura. It was much more difficult than I had thought, as most restaurants specialize in meat or sushi or mixed dishes - but not everything in a bento box, as in many restaurants outside Japan!

After Latihan with the group I asked the seven men and five women to do the awareness and capacity testing. "How is it when we face almighty God absolutely with our whole being and follow his guidance" "How do I trust God/would he have me trust Him?" "How is my inner/outer courage and how God would have it be?" "How is Subud Japan's capacity to take on a large project, as Bapak envisaged large enterprise?" "May we receive a Latihan to heal both inner and outer hurts and difficulties." After this we all met to share what is going on in Japan, NZ and the Subud world, over coffee and cakes.



Luke and main Tokyo group, Sunagawa, and Shinkansen (bullet train), 260 kph

DAY TWELVE

I met Tomita, a Subud member, in Tokyo for breakfast as he was in town from Kobe on business in Tokyo. Then Arisa Ooi and a companion came to the hotel and took me for lunch near the train station where I had to take the Shinkansen bullet train to Osaka to Latihan with the men's group there. The bullet train is so smooth and quick it took three hours for the 450kms to Osaka and the train was quite crowded with a cross-section of Japan – from polished businesspeople in first-class to old ladies and students with shopping!



Luke and Tokyo (Kyobashi) men's group (no women)

Arisa is a highly organized CC for Subud Japan as well as French language specialist teaching in the Francophone consulate school in Tokyo. She definitely has talents beyond this as an expert organizer. We talked of WSA and WSC activities since so few really understand their work. More marketing work needed! But Arisa is the type of project-oriented person who the international organization so desperately needs to build its strength and support key projects since the core teams are so stretched.

Tokyuma, the Osaka chairman, found me in the Shinkansen concourse even though I had no idea what he looked like! We then took what seemed like 4-5

different trains across Osaka to get close to the rented Subud house. I grew more and more tired and hungry as we trudged through the small streets to the rented community centre/dance studio for a men's only meeting, since Osaka has no Subud house and no women members! I was confronted with a spartan men's sushi takeaway meal around a rather basic set of old desks beside the dance studio. There was a women's class just finishing and I was feeling cold from the journey, as Osaka was near freezing with snow in the air. I told myself to relax and follow whatever arose! As our takeout sushi progressed, my spirits rose when I looked around at the smiling eager faces of the Osaka group of men. Many are 70+ years old, with only one under 40! This is the story of Japan's demographic situation. After Latihan I had asked Saodah to prepare the questions asked in Tokyo, translated into Japanese. Then the intention was to increase our awareness and sense of our capacity and I asked in English so that I could accompany them, and the questions in Japanese followed. Once again as we shared afterwards these questions awakened a new sense of capacity for the men. We talked of Ibu's exhorting us to begin again in 2010, to put the past behind us and start enterprises anew to support the work and growth of Subud in this way. We talked about Subud Japan and its great strength in healing and looking after the elderly. So perhaps, if there were to be a national project, I suggested that a healing-oriented project and even a retirement community could make sense in Japan.

We then all again took up the multiple train rides (!) necessary to cross Japanese cities where they all run on time and are so clean and respected by young and old alike. People naturally form double rows waiting for trains to arrive. No jostling or queue-jumping here! I was taken to Kyoto, 30 minutes to the east, for my overnight at a trendy boutique hotel near the railway station. Still hungry after the earlier basic sushi takeaway, I found a small restaurant nearby for a ½ pint of Guinness, fish and chips and pizza with my young guide from Osaka, before turning in for the night.

DAY THIRTEEN

After breakfast I joined a half-day Kyoto tour party visiting palaces and other places. With 1600 temples and Buddhists shrines, Kyoto is the religious capital and cultural heartland of Japan, with an unbelievable 50 million visitors annually! We need not have worried about crowds as having snowed it was not conducive to loitering in the three freezing palaces, or their beautiful but icy gardens, we visited. First the Nijō Palace of the first Shogun, 17th century, with its inner keep surrounded by gardens and the palace itself; next the palace built for messengers visiting the Emperor, and, finally, the huge emperor's main palace with its spacious pavilions and ornamental rock gardens glinting with frost in the wintery air..

After lunch I collected my bags for my trip back to Tokyo. The Shinkansen streaked back to Tokyo (and once again Mt.Fuji-san was wreathed in cloud, so no good luck wishes yet.) There I was met by Edward, an ex-pat American IT contractor living in Japan, at the central station. We grabbed a quick coffee and sandwich before getting a taxi to the Subud Kyobashi space rented from a community centre. Arrived to find a very peaceful traditional Japanese screened room, where there were five of us. After Latihan we did the awareness/courage tests in both English and Japanese from Saodah's translation sheet! Then we discussed Subud Japan's aging situation and potential for an enterprise focused

on healing, education and aging, since many members work in healing and teaching.

Then we talked about how often we have misunderstood Bapak's linking Latihan, talents and work, so we need to put it into practice in our work constantly. We talked of Ibu's concern about our starting again with a fresh approach to enterprise and Subud communities. How Japan's smaller groups, some with only men members, can change, perhaps with some women from the main Sunagawa group attending one or two of the smaller suburban groups for balance.

The last night in the hotel required a change, as the room was so basic..and heavy..!

DAY FOURTEEN

I arose a little late after my hotel change and as I had a mid-afternoon flight to Vancouver via Taipei. I breakfasted late only to meet Arisa, who had come to apologize for the hotel mix-up and say goodbye on behalf of Subud Japan. The trip to Taipei was relatively short at four hours, then a six-hour layover there (still not many food choices), before the twelve hour final leg home to Vancouver.

I arrived home to a freezing, wintery Vancouver. Taking the airport rapid transit back to my midtown apartment, now deeply weary. I was opened to the emerging new capacity and courage in facing God across Australasia. For the next phase in our awakening. To becoming more fully conscious in our Subud lives. It was a great privilege to have travelled through such varied situations, and to have been welcomed and cared for so warmly. I felt so much love and respect, and so many blessings as one representing Bapak.

With thanks to Almighty God for his blessings, and much love to all -

Luke