

REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL HELPERS AREA 2 2010-2014

Over the 4 1/2 years since Christchurch we visited 35 countries, some several times. Not only the newly emerging countries need attention but all countries, where testing indicates there is a need.

In countries which have long connections in Subud smaller groups often have a great impact on the strength of the country and the freedom of the latihan. We tested with them their significance to Subud in their country so they could realize this, for example in Israel, Britain, Nigeria, Italy.

One of the important aspects of our visits is to break up 'fossilizing tendencies' as they exist in every group: to do latihan and testing in a certain way (even lighting candles etc.). Just by doing it differently and test about true surrender, patience and submission we may show the way and come back to the only and really important things for our latihan.

Our focus has always been to strengthen younger helpers in their own confidence and for the helper dewan in the country to take responsibility and act from the outside only if a solution in the country cannot be found.

There is a loss of active members in some countries though usually there is a core group who has a great commitment to Subud – demonstrated in The Congo by members walking 17 km to latihan and 17km back again. Or in another country, where there was only one lady and one man doing latihan alone, for 10 years - just visiting the neighbouring country once in a while. These members are very active and have a deep understanding of the great gift we have been given.

Bapak always encouraged us to be active in enterprise and put the latihan into action in all aspects of Subud which can touch people in the world. There is a definite wish and move in this direction. We support this by testing, What did Bapak mean by enterprise? How is it for our life if we are enterprising? Portugal has its well run school which has been running for a long time, Moldova has an enterprising approach and in zones 3 and 4 there is a coming together of members to develop ideas of social enterprise and business.

In our zones 4,5 and 6 lack of financial resources certainly act as a challenge for members meeting together. The national congresses play a particular role in there, having big latihan and offering members the possibility to connect with each other. This has been financially supported in Nigeria and Congo.

Other important aspects of our work were the weekly latihan with the Council, skype meetings with the chair, MSF - often just supporting quietly, latihan and testings with all of the wings. Additionally also - the yearly zone meetings of zone 3 and 4.

During our visits we have tried, wherever we went, to stimulate the helpers to read Bapak's and Ibu's talks themselves so as to give a good example to the members - often testing with members how their progress is when reading Bapak's talks as opposed to just relying on their own receiving. Encouraging the helpers to be present at latihan evenings themselves. This avoids a possible loss of members. Do regular helpers' latihan and helper/committee latihan, to make things work smoothly.

When there were complaints about poor conditions of life and work we would remind the members that some effort is needed in the form of fasting and prihatin.

Also to remind Groups to have awareness of the sick and isolated members. Sometimes members die without the group knowing it.

Sometimes we feel that the country itself needs Latihan. We are aware that due to wars the atmosphere of a country feels heavy and burdened. Such Latihan feel like a fresh start or an inner prayer of forgiveness. Interesting also that this cannot be done intentionally but arises by itself. It made us understand why we have to go based on our tests which always take place together. Members from the country itself very often are not aware of this in the beginning but feel "in a safe space" if they manage to travel abroad, e.g. to a zone meeting. We have learned Bapak's wisdom in creating the 9 zones as well as the three areas of the world.

Finally, we would like to sincerely thank all the Members in all the Countries we have had the opportunity to visit, for their generous welcome. We always leave feeling a deep sense of connection to all the members we meet – a connection that is immediately established in the first Latihan after we arrive.

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Area 2 International Helpers

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LIST OF COUNTRIES VISITED:

Angola
Austria
Bosnia
Congo
Croatia
Czech Republic
Cyprus
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Great Britain
Greece
Holland
Hungary
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Latvia
Lebanon
Lithuania
Malawi
Moldova
Nigeria
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Russia
Serbia
Slovakia
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Turkey
Ukraine