

Area 3 International Helper Report for 2013 WSC Meeting, Poio, Spain

It was a wonderful year of getting to know groups and members better, and feeling the Latihan alive and well all over the world. In October-November, 2012, the North American IHs battled a hurricane to get to the Zone 9 gathering at a resort outside of Santiago, Chile. Mauricio is reporting more on this, but it was a lovely week with many members attending. The depth and sincerity of the Latihans and the members was very moving to witness. We worked with many members individually, and with the helpers as well. On the trip home, Grace and Elaina found themselves in the middle of an early snowstorm. We know better than to scoff at Mother Nature, but it was amazing to watch as everything worked out just fine.

2013 has seen us visiting Area 3 groups in spurts, rather than making large swings through regions of North, Central and South America. We began the year in Mexico, visiting groups in Mexico City, Puebla, and Tlaxcala. In each city, we were well taken care of, and transported to wherever we needed to go. We worked with members at length, testing about their personal needs as well as their roles in the upcoming World Congress. There seems to be a little bit of “disconnect” in the Mexico City and Tlaxcala groups, where some members feel they would like to participate more in World Congress planning, but are not sure how to do that. This Congress is a huge event for all of Subud Mexico, and we hope to be able to visit all the members in Mexico again before Congress. They need the full WSC’s support, not just that of the helpers who visit.

In Puebla in January, we spent nearly a week with the Congress Organizing Team, talking, testing, and sampling fares of potential caterers for the Congress. The Latihans were incredibly deep – a manifestation of the depth of worship and devotion to Subud among the members there. They are doing an excellent job preparing for this Congress. We got to see many of the hotels where Subud members will be housed, and got several updates on the renovations and repairs going on in the central district where the Congress will mainly take place.

Right after the Puebla meeting, Grace, Daniela, Reynaldo and Manuel visited several groups in Colombia: Cali, Bogota, Armenia, Amanecer and Medellin. These are groups with quite a large membership, who seem really devoted to the latihan. Members are hungry for experience, and would test all night if we had the stamina! If there is a general feature that stands it is that disharmony among helpers in some of the groups can be a block to real surrender and progress in all endeavors in our Subud life. When there is a gathering or other major event, there is a great feeling of love and readiness to move on, but how do we get these feelings to last long enough to make real changes? In the groups where there is a harmonious dewan, it is encouraging to see there there are several new members, and an active youth.

In April, Reynaldo and Daniela attended the MSF meeting at Amanecer, and report that there was a great feeling of love and cooperation among those who attended, as they deal with some difficult long-term issues.

Throughout the late winter and spring, Elaina made several trips to the Washington, D.C. satellite groups. As in Colombia, there is great love and empathy when members are gathered together for Latihan, testing, or just casual socializing. What disharmony may exist is not

between helpers and committee, but in the feelings over the ongoing project to build a Subud center for Washington, D.C.

In May, Grace, Hamilton, Reynaldo and Elaina spent several days visiting groups in eastern Canada, ending the trip with a full weekend with the Montreal group. It is a large group with members of all ages. There seems to be a lot of harmony, cooperation and coordination, and again, the Latihans were strong and deep.

After the WSC meeting in Poio, several of us will be returning to the United States to attend the US National Congress in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which will be followed by the annual Zone 7 meeting. We anticipate a great deal of the Zone 7 meeting to be taken up with World Congress preparation.