

2013 World Subud Council Meeting ZONE 8 REPORT

In relation to the Zone 8, it is an urgent matter to change priorities.

The Zone8 comprises a mix of Caribbean and Andean countries, defined by an exuberant nature, their own cultural elements shaped by “Spanishness”, a common language, people with a great passion who deal with political and human problems, but above all these things they express an spirituality tied to their native, African and European ancestors.

Around 1000 Subud members live in this Zone, most of them from Colombia, where there are 19 groups spread through the country. Additionally the Zone has members in Costa Rica, Ecuador and Venezuela, with national organizations legally established and with a history that started with the Bapak’s visits to Latin America. Moreover, we have recently contacted members in Panama in order to set up a Subud organization there that can be consolidated step by step. At the end and notwithstanding of Zone8 being submerged in many economic, political and human problems, it is a booming zone, where Subud is alive and has a great hope to grow and serve more members.

In that huge Zone8, there is a small place with a beautiful building, a hostel, a restaurant, a wonderful natural life, a piece of land and some families living around. The name of this small place is Amanecer, and it hosts Subud activities for approximately 15 days a year. Amanecer has been the center of many projects, it has some social activities and some business attempts, and it could be considered as a place of great potential in the Quindio Region and Colombia.

Even though this is a small place and it has a local influence, it get a huge attention from the international authorities of the WSA. The main concern of the authorities related to the Zone 8 are concentrated on this small space with few hectares and with no more than 5% of the members of the Zone living there, and holding few Subud activities during the year. While all the eyes of the Subud international institutions focus with zeal and concern on Amanecer, the rest of the Zone8 keep striving to be alive. For instance: Subud Ecuador strives to sell a house (a Subud house in Quevedo located 5 hours driving from Quito and currently not being used by Subud members anymore), where their few members are making huge efforts in getting a better space to do Latihan. Many of them remind the splendorous era that they had in the past, and they wish to bring the harmony back again after years on internal conflicts between families.

In Venezuela, just a year ago we obtained our legal status and the groups beyond Caracas work hard to survive. In each of those distant centers the members have developed their own version of Subud, where the international aspect almost does not exist and in relation to the presence of Bapak, only His name and some talks downloaded from Internet remain. Although Subud continues growing, the rhythm has slowed down comparing with an also glorious past. In Costa Rica the history is similar, and the 9 members, who meet weekly to do Latihan, endeavor to keep the seed alive and hope that one day God causes a miracle and Subud becomes what it was decades ago.

All this demands that we wonder what we are doing wrong, and from my point of view the order of priorities has been reversed. What are the needs of the members from Cucuta, Armenia (20 min by car from Amanecer) for instance, or the members from Caracas, Tumbaco, San José in Costa Rica, or the members from any other distant center who need

that encounter with the organization, attention, feel the brotherhood, translated talks, International Helper visits, consultancy for their projects and support for the difficult but glorious task of battling for Subud. When these things become the priorities and not the maintenance of a building or the shares of a hostel, then we will be on track.

While it is true that the Big Hall in Amanecer is a wonderful building which must be preserved and that there are lot of misunderstandings related to its administration, we must be clear that the way to solve all these problems is a long term process where many members, according to their respective roles, will have to fulfill their responsibilities in the best possible way, and where God will guide us to make Amanecer becomes what it has to be in his local context, with a national and international vision, and without the exaggerated wishes and the disproportionate attention that a group of people have put on it.

Amanecer is today a clear reality and not a possibility anymore. Its problems seem to be on their way to be solved supported by appropriate policies issued by the MSF and by the current national committee of Subud Colombia, who have understood that this center is basically a local space belonging to La Tebaida, to El Quindio and to Colombia, where our brothers and sisters from the Zone8, the Area3 and from all over the world can gather to admire and to enjoy it, but where the administrative and management decisions must be conducted from a local reality perspective and by the Colombians, with the strength and drive that they can provide by themselves, and who [and according to what Luqman Rivera-Subud Colombia national chair - has stated] should have to responsibility to ensure the survival of this center for the future and also harvest its fruits.

So, it is an urgent matter that the WSA redirects its priorities, at least those related to the Zone 8. The invitation is open for those who want to work on this direction. The fundamental thing is to follow the way that Bapak gave to us, to guarantee with the creation of economic opportunities, the establishment of institutions which can assist the neediest, be an example for the society, allow more interrelations, be aware of who we are. Therefore it is essential to change our orientation, because while we care the stones of our buildings more than the Subud members we will be condemned to disappear.

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