

THE PAN AMERICAN YOUTH GATHERING

Amanecer, Colombia

April 6-12, 2009

Que una grande sorpresa!!!

(1) Primero, just imagine six of our Subud youth organizing and coordinating a congress of 150 people; including finances, housing, meals, outings, entertainment and all. And, with all this, working in harmony with great support for each other.

(2) Segundo, the attendance of ninety youth from all over Colombia and one from Chile and one from the United States. Three openings, latihan, testing, playing, working, dancing (yea, "La Chiva") and lots of learning.

(3) Tercero, support from the elder members. Thanks to all those who gave support, especially the Amanecer Foundation and the national helpers and committee of Colombia. There were many more that will be included in the Youth Team's report. Two precious moments were when Carlota Barney from Amanecer and a few years the other side of 50, dove across a table in a vigorous game of tag, and the sight of Pavel Mudarra, the KC from Venezuela, dancing on "La Chiva", the fiesta on a packed, moving, musical bus.



Youth organizers, Valentina de los Rios, Daniel Cuellar, Maryam Roldan, Nabilah Yepes, Leidy Aristizabal and Samuel Marks.

(4) Quarto, the results. I know that the results will mostly be seen in the years to come but, I am confident, results we will see. These young people not only have a special commitment to Subud but, more so, to the latihan and working in harmony. One example was the agreement by the six youth organizers to fast together on Mondays and Thursdays after they tested their roles for the gathering this past February.

Other highlights included the attendance of two youth from Chocó', the first from that region to attend a national gathering; the attendance of Muchtar Martins, looking quite well with great energy; many beautiful workshops; two international helpers present, Dorotea de Arenas and Mattheus Kaslan.

There was also an Easter Mass at the Grand Salon of Amanecer presided by a Subud priest that many described as totally incredible, with thundering during the playing of "Ave Maria." And much more.

It was so full. There is much that I have missed, probably some of which was due to my making a fool of myself, either crawling through the mud in Ginkana (viva Los Tigres) or dancing, dancing, dancing. I did a little work as well and had a wonderful three-hour meeting with the youth. Que bueno!

Well, with them lie our hopes. My hope is that you have a chance to meet them at the world congress in New Zealand next year. Many of them have that dream. Not only these youth, but those Subud youth from all over the world.

Gracias a Dios

Hamilton Manley- Subud Youth Activities International Co-Coordinator

in front of La Chiva

