

ZONE 9 MEETING ~ APRIL 2008 ~ SANTIAGO CHILE

Emmanuel and Sarah

Sarah and I (Emmanuel) met on Monday April 7, to prepare for the Zone 9 Meeting. It was early morning (Appx. 7:30 AM) and, tired from a total travel time of almost 20 hours, I went off with Sarah to a high point in Santiago where there is a public swimming pool and some religious shrines, as well as a very large sized statue of the Madonna, where we enjoyed some very nice, quiet, relaxing moments..

Later we went off to Valparaiso (a city on the Pacific Coast) with Romina (Local Helper), Nabilah (KC-Chile) and Honorata (KC-Peru). We all had great seafood meals, at a seaside restaurant on a bright shiny day. We had lunch, did some light walking on the sand, and, on the way back, had some talk about the Kedjiwaan.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were Kedjiwaan preparation days for the KCs and any local helpers or members who wished to participate. There were two latihan a day, plus testing, more as we got closer to Friday, the first day of the Zone 9 meeting. Testing questions included: 1) What is our attitude toward Zone 9? What should it be? 2) What is the content of the meeting? 3) What is our attitude toward the absence of several key people? 4) What is the nature of the heart, mind and body? What is their job during the latihan? What was the nature of Muhammad's mind? Jesus' heart? 5) What is the nature of the heart God wants for each of us? 6) What is our attitude toward the problem in Argentina? What should it be?

On Thursday, Elisa and Oliverio and his wife, plus the formers National Helpers, Augustin, Ana and Fadaro a musician arrived from Argentina. And Sofia, a committee councilor rep. arrived from Peru. There was group latihan and the men did the following questions: 1) What is the goal of the latihan for me personally? 2) What is the goal of the latihan for Subud Chile? 3) What is the goal of the latihan for Zone 9? Other questions emerged from me and others, including Alberto and Benedicto: 4) When I meet with success what is my reaction? What should be my reaction? (By God's will) And the opposite questions – 5) When I meet with failure what is my reaction? What should be my reaction, by God's will? 6) Where have I come from? 7) Where am I going? 8) Who am I? 9) Where am I? I also added questions that emerged during the testing and latihan: 10) How can each of us support the Zone 9 meeting? – I also received what was truly needed for the meeting was Love and Wisdom. So, we tested the questions, what is the Love and what is the Wisdom God wants for each of us at this time.

Further questions on the mens' side were: 11) What can each of us do to allow more of God's power to express itself through us? I received during this and previous tests that the situation in Argentina was a central reality for the meeting and that it was a deep wound both for Argentina and Zone 9 and that each of us was responsible and this meant each of us really had to dig deeper into ourselves. We talked but not a great deal. There was some talk raised about making a statement to Argentina, but it did not materialize as anything concrete. Later, we men did a short latihan for the health of Zone 9.

There were generally two latihan a day, with testing interspersed. There was a great feast on Friday night (celebrating the 49 years of Subud Chile) with lots of great food and toys handed out to the children, which got everybody involved. This was a truly magical evening, when everybody was playing, light and happy. This same sense of harmony emerged on Saturday evening when there was a talent show, with great music, poetry and some very funny skits.

On Saturday, after latihan and testing, there were three workshops, which ran simultaneously, with Sarah and I able to each be present in two of the three workshops. These were: 1) Wings workshop chaired by Susilowati, 2) Enterprise workshop chaired by Laksar and 3) a committee workshop chaired by Elisa.

Later on Sunday, Susilowati, Laksar and Sebastian (Zone 9 Website Master) gave very good and organized reports of what happened at the workshops. Susilowati mentioned that the Wings really needed the support of the Kedjiwaan and that we really needed to align ourselves with the Youth. There were great discussions and presentations. I was at the wings workshop when the youth wing was discussed. Four youth participated and it was a very useful discussion. It was agreed that without the youth, Subud has no future. The youth talked about what they most needed, which among other things was being able to hear the true experiences of the older generation in a way that would touch them. There was a lot of sharing and some future direction for testing. In the organization workshop, the Zone 9 website was discussed and the method / design for selecting the next Zone 9 site were discussed. These were the two workshops Emmanuel visited.

Some of the tests were: 1) What is the benefit to a group when the Wings are alive? 2) What is the benefit (or How is it) for a group when the committee and the kedjiwaan are coordinated? 3) What is the best format for the older generation to share our experience with the youth? 4) What are the practical things we can give the youth? 5) What must be the quality of our inner to be really active with the Wings?

In addition to these questions, the men on Sunday after latihan started with: Feel the correct state in which to be ready to receive something of value from Almighty God and we also tested: 6) Receive – how is our latihan when our surrender is correct, according to Almighty God. 7) What are the sins and errors for which I most need forgiveness at this time? Receive a latihan of forgiveness for these errors and sins. 8) Receive a latihan when we surrender our anxieties and fears to Almighty God. 9) What are the errors and sins for which we most need to be forgiven? Receive a latihan of forgiveness for these errors and sins. 10) Receive a latihan in which we are full of thanks and praise to Almighty God. 11) How is our trust in Almighty God at this time? 11A) How is it when have complete trust in Almighty God? 12) Each of us may have one or more people with whom we have difficult relations. What is and should be our attitude towards these people? 13) What is and should be our attitude in our communications with women? 14) What is the nature of brotherhood?

This was truly one of the nicest meetings I have been to thus far as an IH. There were many moments, lots of laughter, fun, good food, ping-pong, some very necessary personal testing and then the occasional odd strange tests, like -- What's the first question you will ask God after you die? (Most of us received – nothing...no question, just laughter and love.) There was a strong sense we were all equals, sharing this great gift together. And, lastly, to be so beautifully hosted at all times and to feel the connection, coordination, organization and love from and with people, was really quite nice and felt like 'real Subud.'

At the women side, the activities were very similar to the men with a slight difference, this because we had the opportunity to meet together with the men every day during kejiwaan work and share the test questions and the issues that we were interested in. So men and women could have similar work.

During the kejiwaan days we had the opportunity to meet with the local ladies helpers and we had a chat about helpers work and duty. We had some question in addition to the men

question that were; 1) What it means to be a Bapak's helper? 2) What is the feeling and attitude we should have with applicants? 3) What is the essence that Almighty God put on us? 4) and how we can express this in our helper duty? 5) How is it for the development of our group when we (helpers) are diligent in our own Latihan keeping the Latihan alive? 6) How is our duty as a helper when we are completely surrendered and with total trust in Almighty God's Grace?

Further questions related to the role, different activities and obligations that women had at the present society were 7) what is the essence of femininity in each of us? 8) How Almighty God allows us to express it? 9) What is the role that God allows us women to have at present society? in the family? And at work? 10) How should be our attitude towards men in order to have harmonious work? 11) What is the feeling and attitude that Almighty God allows us towards a member or members that had a deep suffering in their feelings?

We had the opportunity to attend two personal testing with members that brought some testing questions relating to the direction in the Latihan, How is our Latihan when our mind and heart are silence and empty witness of our worship to God? How we feel when we are guided in our daily life? How should our surrender and trust be in God? So we are not affected from comments or impression of people that can cause losing the harmony and balance in our selves.

It was a great feeling of harmony and mutual contribution to the test question among all the Kejiwaan Councilors that enrich the experience. We had the opportunity to do some development testing with the KC from Peru and later with the KC of Brazil regarding how their role was and how God allows them to be. How was and should be their relationship with helpers and committee and with the men helpers and members. After these testing and sharing there was a feeling of more understanding of what should change and improve.

After workshops we did in addition to the general testing some question related to the joy that we should have when we work at the zone, this because some persons felt that there was some sadness in the zone that can stop the development of it. We had a common feeling that the zone needs a constant happy communication among the KCs.

Finally I had the impression that we really did not have so many testing but the assent of the gathering was in the sincerity of the Latihan we share together without any worry in our heart and mind, and in the happiness we share in coffee breaks, dinners and talent shows. It was especially import to have some members from Argentina and to have the opportunity to show them our respect, love and caring.