

ITALY: THE ZONE 3 MEETING & GROUPS

16th-30th April 2008

Report from International Helpers of Area 2

Jorge Guerin and Heloise Jackson

Jorge, Andrew and Heloise attended the Zone 3 meeting in Terrania. The venue, Regina Mundi, was a very pleasant hotel right on the sea front. It was not yet warm enough to bathe, but provided long walks to stretch our legs. The café across the road energised us with regular intakes of coffee.

The International Helpers met with all the KCs present; (Unfortunately Sofia Martins from Portugal could not be with us, Muchtar recovering from a recent operation, and Luzita Sillem from Belgium, with Faisal, would arrive the next day, Faisal being unwell and having suffered a fall before leaving). The men and women talked, in turn, about the Subud state of their own country and what could be done to improve it: Some did not realise they ought to travel, others did not travel – for personal reasons: illness, personal problems etc... We then separated and the women did a series of 3 tests:

- 1) What is the role of a KC? A National helper?
- 2) How does (x) work as a KC in her own country? Abroad in the zone? (same as above for National helper in her own country only?)
- 3) How could (X) work best at this time as a KC in her own country? Abroad in the zone? (And same for National helper, but only in her own country).

Later, after the general latihan, we all tested, what was the state of Subud in each country in the zone? What was the responsibility of each one of us for that state? And if we could truly assume our responsibility, how would the state of the country be?

The next day when Luzita and Faisal (who was still not well) arrived, the IHs and the KCs met again and the IHs asked Faisal, who was very frail and unable to travel to groups, how he would feel if he were to become an Honorary KC? He immediately accepted. The men then went to do a latihan with him that evening and the next day, whilst the women did the role tests with Luzita as had been done with the other KCs (see above). Faisal became ill during the night and what was thought to be a stroke turned out to be a stomach infection (he has now recovered). Meanwhile, Luzita broke her arm, looking after her husband!

Farah arrived, and the International Helpers present met with Lusiyah Bassi. It was a very calm and private meeting and we all felt extremely close to one another. (Lusiyah was accompanied by her friend Rohana von Hahn). The International Helpers felt something was now complete and with Lusiyah's blessings, they resumed with their own meeting to deal with the current issues.

Early morning, Farah and Andrew left for Spain, whilst Jorge and Heloise were driven back to Florence for the start of their group tour.

1) BOLOGNA: This small group, which includes members from Milan and Ferreira, meet at the house of the National Chair, Andrea (and Francesca). The group has a solid core of members who do latihan regularly (one lady member having only been

opened a few months). There is harmony between the members, but apart from a regular helper (one man, one woman) there is no committee.

Tests:

- a. Women: on health, love, sexuality, talked about regularity of the latihan.
- b. Men: attitude tests as regards work.

Recommendation: to do body/awareness testing with members more regularly.

2) CHUISI: There is no group as such, but members meet at the house of Irma and Clemens. The latihans are strong, but due to the owners experiencing personal problems, the members do not meet at regular intervals, some only doing latihan rarely. Unfortunately the KC does not travel at present nor communicate often with the lady KC, or with the members.

The regular lady helper, who has been ill due to personal problems, has not been able to be as fully active as a helper as she would have liked. Another couple, both helpers come but share their time with the group from Rome too.

We talked and tested:

- a. The ladies: about how to start the latihan, the period of quiet, the role of helpers in this, the latihan in our every day life and the frequency of the latihans.
- b. The men: how is it for the development of our own inner if we don't do latihan regularly and if we do? And also on the frequency of latihan: how is it for our life?

Recommendation: to have a regular latihan day and time, so that all members know and can come without prior arrangements. For the NH/KC to be more pro-active.

3) TERRACINA/LATINA: The original group of 11 members has all but disappeared. There were various reasons for this, we were told: One member, who considered himself to be the leader, left taking with him some group members to pursue another path. Some of the ladies did not like doing latihan with a helper who is often gravely ill and has a difficult temperament, often being at odds with other helpers. Whatever the real cause, we were met by Daniel and his wife Nena, at their house in Terracina. They are both helpers. They do the latihan once a week with another man, the only member left. The three of them do latihan at the same time as the members of La Spezia. Nena sometimes talks to the helper of La Spezia for support. We talk about letting go of old quarrels, making efforts not to hang on to past hurts by surrendering to God, regularity of the latihan and having a wide attitude towards our brothers and sisters.

Tests:

- a. The ladies do some body testing, followed by tests on the heart (How is our latihan when our heart is full of anger, sadness? how is it when it is full of joy? And how is it when it is peaceful and full of God's power?
Then, How does Nena work as a helper? How could she work as a helper? How does she work as a member of the dewan of helpers? and how could she work?
- b. The men do awareness tests, where is the ego? How we work in our daily life with our ego? Through our true "I"? frequency of latihan, effect on our life? About forgiveness, then shared the results of the tests.

Recommendation: That an effort be made to have a more peaceful attitude, one of reconciliation towards other helpers and members.

4) ROME: Again, the group is not as important as it used to be. Some new members (3 members of one family) and very keen others, would like to help Subud grow once more. There is no committee and an irregular helpers' presence: (one lady helper goes abroad regularly every year, for a few months, another is away at present because of her mother's illness, another one only come once a week during term times). For the men, one does not do regular latihan; another comes as above, once a week during term times). The Rome group feels side lined, since the focus of Subud Italy seems to be directed towards Florence as the Subud house is situated there.

We talk about latihan with direction, what is the latihan, the role of the committee and helpers which seems to be blurred, each doing both roles.

Tests

- a. Women: tests on the above and how to receive the latihan, how do the quiet, what is its purpose, what is the role of a helper in this, what is the state of the group, the responsibility of each member/helper?
- b. Men: awareness tests, where is the ego? How we work in our daily life with our ego? Through our true "I"? frequency of latihan, effect on our life?

Recommendation: to have a committee with at least a chairperson and a treasurer, as well as regular helpers' attendance. To encourage meetings in rotation between Florence, Rome and other groups.

5) FLORENCE: We meet with a few members only, and do latihan with a few tests (for the women) on love, then personal tests on helpers' role.

The next day it is Francesca and Andrea's wedding and flowers and food arrive. We meet for a short latihan the next morning before the guests arrive.

Note: The Florence group was very dependant on Saroni Bassi, who died recently and is very much missed. The group will have to try to rebuild themselves in due course, but it will take time.

Recommendation: to have a committee as there is no chair/representative.

6) a - LA SPEZIA/RECCO: These two groups are slightly less than 1 hour apart, and have very few members; 1 couple has done the latihan for over 10 years, but the other couple for less than a few months. They meet regularly in a clinic where one of the couple works. There is some mixing. We talk about how to be quiet, without meditating, how to receive the latihan.

Tests:

- a. With the only lady helper about her role, attitude to her role, to be given understanding and how to proceed.
- b. Men: about how is for your inner if you have a job in Subud and so on and humility. We share the result of the tests.

Recommendation: for the lady helper to continue to be a support to the other helpers of smaller other groups.

6) b - RECCO: very young and tiny group dependant on La Spezia "group" for support. Only 2 ladies (the owner of a B & B with stunning views of the sea, where

we had a wonderful day, and an older lady of over 70). Both have been opened for less than 1 and 2 years. They are very sincere, and we talk about the latihan and its effects in our lives.

The helpers from Sa Spezia and a man helper from Rome had travelled and met with us in Recco for one full day where we did latihan and tests on awareness, mainly.

Recommendation: to continue to have regular latihan twice a week and to keep in contact with the helpers of La Spezia group.

Throughout our travels, Jorge and Heloise were always received with opened arms wherever we went, all members showing us consideration. It was so good to share latihan and feelings of what made them positive about their groups and how they thought their role could be to try to improve what did not work so well.

We found true sincerity and a genuine desire to move on from most Subud members, and a wish to let go of old habits. The weather which started as lukewarm became more sunny as our tour progressed. We sampled delicious food, good company, true friendship and deep latihan. We were very privileged to attend Andrea and Francesca's lovely wedding which took place in the Subud house in Florence.

With our grateful thanks to every single member we met in Subud Italy for being so caring and loving towards us. May God bless you and guide you all.

With our love,

Jorge and Heloise
May 2008