

Identifying and Framing the Operations of Process

by Luis South

(www.educounselor.com)

(323)370-9140

God is most great. Thank you for coming to the Los Angeles Bahai Center. This is a religious center, connected to a world-wide network of Bahai centers. This is a religion that comes from a history of resilience. We reject violence and are noted throughout the world for our compassionate humanitarian efforts to relieve human suffering born of poverty and the many pressures caused by war or dysfunctional leadership. So, visitors, welcome. These doors are open for all humankind to continue coming back. Should you along the way, like me, decide to join this beautiful creative environment, expect your life to take on more positive changes. My grandmother told me years ago, "You'll know when you have a connection with God because he'll continually answer your prayers beyond what you ask for so that your bounty moves you to share the joy."

And Lena, my mother followed up with an ominous warning saying, "Pray hard, but don't ask for much. Yes Luis, more treasures from God means more work." Indeed, this Los Angeles Bahai Center is a way station where I have experienced God's grace in abundance.

Again, I say to you, Allahuabha, God is most great.

On my count of 3, everybody whisper lovingly the word "PROGRESSIVE". Now, on the count of 3, sing the word "IMPROVMENT". And we conclude on the count of 3 by shouting the word "OUTCOMES" with your best smile.

I was just checking the level of spirituality present and you have passed the test beyond measure.

Life in general is about PROGRESSIVE IMPROVEMENTS proven by measuring OUTCOMES. The Yard Academy Process is about visualizing and then working on constant improvement in the realm of family, community, and inner self (the place where we find God). Distinct and separate concepts, but I lump them together as a single realm, one whole life. These concepts: family, community, and self occupy all of a young person's thinking and movement.

American society is full of measurements. What's the weight of an average hamburger? What's the length of the average piece of wood to frame a front door entrance to your home? Is there any difference when we construct the front door of a church with a very small congregation? What if the congregation averages 1000 people each week? Mathematical measurement helps to control how well we live in a general way, what's known as lifestyle. Through math we get to understand how best to apply our knowledge in order to functionally live better. I begin my presentation today in this manner because there are many measurements applicable to making decisions about what I do in the realm of education, the key factor controlling how people live known as lifestyle. To be clear, the Yard Academy Process is best described as a comprehensive community/home based education and counseling program we measure. The dynamics of the Yard Academy Process cannot be totally revealed in one meeting, but you can certainly become familiar with how the program developed and the general understanding of how things work.

Historically, it all began when I was about 10 years old. My mother, a phenomenon I refer to as “The Lena Factor”, nurtured me to understand community service was simply part of life. She was a creative soul---originally a teacher in Panama’s Normal School at the age of 21. She became a mother of two children just before my father left to work on an American ship as a merchant marine during World War II. He returned from the war and Mom then had me in 1953. By 1958 she decided to divorce my father and then moved to New York where she progressively became a unionized seamstress, then a unionized full time operator with the telephone company, then a unionized full-time clerical worker with Con Edison electrical company---as she stayed on part time at night with the telephone gig---as she then let the operator job go to work 8 hours three days a week with the United States Post Office as a unionized Mail Sorter, and finally she became a unionized educator within New York Unified School District, the place where she ended her formal education with a Masters Degree in School Psychology from the Brooklyn Campus of Long Island University. To this day I---and most people who knew her close up---still often take on a look of awe when we tell about our experiences with Lena. She was truly a phenomenon beyond belief. She was fluent in both Spanish and English and very comfortable in basic French and finally in her later life, Japanese. This is what I come from. A work of art. Everything about me is consistent with my parental upbringing. Bruce Sr., my father, a highly skilled self-employed auto body repairman, was known as a lover and warrior who eventually became a man of God. Lena knew God from she was young and he blessed her many times over.

All creations come from God, and as the Bahai religion correctly teaches: God is known throughout the world by different names, but there is only one God. In obedience to God’s divine plan there must be a continual effort to work with others who are different.

Because of God’s grace the Yard Academy concept came to me in a sequence of events that took place in the community where I’ve been living since 1983. In a nutshell, my community work started with my mother when I was a child. It lead to a natural set of reactions where I have always worked for community in my life away from Mom, then as an adult. Based upon my actual experience, life in a community is most joyful only if there are people who take the initiative of working at something to create a better world. I naturally gravitate to genuinely positive creative people. So it is easy to understand how I came to religious oases like the Bahai Center. I was in search of people who could assist me with art work, murals we could work on to beautify a place called Interfaith Alley. The alley was already well in progress with artists coming from the Christian, Buddhist, and Moslem communities. The Bahai community artist named Martine was last among the artists. It would be wrong to say she’s better than the rest, but she, having the opportunity to see the earlier murals, created a drawing a little more intricate than the rest. A new standard has been set. So the reality of PROGRESSIVE IMPROVEMENTS leading to better OUTCOMES was born out again, as it has been many times before. From a lifestyle point of view, things such as the environment, personal attitudes, buy-in from community members who--- used to never care....things just got better and better.

That’s the overall view of how the Yard Academy concept came into being. Now for a few specific details outlining the culture of the program, how we work it so well. Let’s look at, and begin to discuss the bi-lingual sheet of paper you received titled **YARD ACADEMY THEORY**.

Teoría de las Yards Académicas

by Luis South

(www.educounselor.com)

(323)370-9140

El objetivo principal del proceso de la Academia Patio es la auto-mejora en el contexto de:

- * Familia
- * Comunidad
- * Escuela (nuestro lugar de trabajo)
- * Devoción a la religión o humanidad

Un proceso de educación de calidad es la mejor solución para impactar y gratificar positivamente la mentalidad.

Orientación familiar o en grupo son componentes esenciales para la calidad del proceso educativo.

Familiares y otras personas interesadas deben estar dispuestos a ser informados sobre el enfoque de nuestro programa, y deben estar dispuestos a asistir a los viajes de fin de semana con sus hijos.

Jóvenes participantes controlan su propio proceso de desarrollo a través de :

- *La oración y la meditación
- *Discusiones concentrándose en habilidades de razonamiento/continuidad de ideas del pasado
- *Técnica de estudios y lectura para la comprensión
- *Ejercicio físico

Nuestras reuniones más exitosas consisten en:

- * Meditación / Oración Silenciosa
- * Discusión
- *Ideas
- *Continuidad al menos de una actividad física que requiere ser analizado periódicamente .

Yard Academy Theory

by Luis South

(www.educounselor.com)

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The main purpose of the Yard Academy Process is self-improvement in the contexts of:

*Family

*Community

*School (their workplace)

*Devotion to Religion or Humanity

A quality educ. process is the best solution to positively impact instant gratification mentality

Group as well as family counseling are essential components to a quality education process

Family and significant others must be willing to be informed about FOCUS of our program and must become willing to attend suggested special weekend trips with their children

Participating youth control their own self-development process through:

* Prayer & meditation

* Discussion focused on reasoning skills/continuity of past ideas

* Study and reading techniques for comprehension

* Physical exercise

Our most successful meetings consist of:

*Meditation/Silent Prayer

*Discussion

*Ideas

*At least one measureable physical activity preferably requiring continuity and ongoing analysis