

# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

*Published by*

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE BRITISH ISLES  
BM/BAHAI, LONDON, W.C.1

No. 113

Bahá'í Year 110

MARCH—APRIL, 1954

## THE COVENANT

There is a power in this Cause—a mysterious power—far, far, far away from the ken of men and angels; that invisible power is the cause of all these outward activities. It moves the hearts. It rends the mountains. It administers the complicated affairs of the Cause. It inspires the friends. It dashes into a thousand pieces all the forces of opposition. It creates new spiritual worlds. This is the mystery of the Kingdom of Abhá!

So firm and mighty is this Covenant that from the beginning of time until the present day no religious Dispensation hath produced its like.

Now in the world of being the Hand of divine power hath firmly laid the foundations of this all-highest bounty and this wondrous gift. Whatsoever is latent in the innermost of this holy cycle shall gradually appear and be made manifest, for now is but the beginning of its growth and the day-spring of the revelation of its signs. Ere the close of this century and of this age, it shall be made clear and evident how wondrous was that springtide and how heavenly was that gift!

The spirit of this age is the Covenant and the Testament of God. It is like the pulsating artery in the body of the world.

The Covenant of God is like a vast and fathomless ocean. A billow shall rise and surge therefrom and shall cast ashore all accumulated foam. To-day, every wise, vigilant and foresighted person is awakened, and to him are unveiled the mysteries of the future, that nothing save the power of the Covenant is able to stir and move the hearts of humanity.

What more shall I say? What else can my pen recount? So loud is the call that reverberates from the Abhá Kingdom that mortal ears are well-nigh deafened with its vibrations. The whole creation, methinks, is

being disrupted and is bursting asunder through the shattering influence of the Divine summons issued from the throne of glory. More than this I cannot write.

‘ABDU’L-BAHA

## HOW THE BRITISH CAMEROONS WERE OPENED

A little while ago we told of the journey made by car across Africa from east to west to place pioneers from Uganda in several different goal territories. The following extract from the final report of this journey, written by Violette Nakhjavani, tells how the last goal of the journey was achieved and one of our British goals was opened.

‘On the 10th of October we had crossed the border of the French Cameroons and had raised the cry of Yá-Bahá'u'l-Abhá for the first time in that virgin territory. This is a beautiful country, all green, with good roads running through cocoa, coffee and banana plantations. Natural springs, rivers and falls abound. Yaounde, the capital of the French Cameroons, was reached the following day. It is a small town but beautiful and clean.

‘According to our plan, we expected to cross the border of the British Cameroons on the 11th by driving day and night. We actually succeeded in this, only to find in the British Customs that the road ahead was closed. We were forced to return to French territory and to take a much longer road, crossing the border further north. It was on this road that we waited two days in a garage for the repair of the car. Our greatest desire was to reach British Cameroons before the end of the Holy Year, and God helped us, for in the early morning of October 15th we left the garage, crossed the British border for the second time, raced on to Mamfe and from there, in the middle of the country, Enoch sent his cable to the beloved Guardian announcing his safe arrival. On that historic night, in the government rest-house at Mamfe, the three of us celebrated this great occasion with prayers of thanksgiving.’

Enoch Olinga, the pioneer, after a couple of months of difficulty, obtained a residence permit and a job and is happily established there. Moreover, the fruits of the sacrifices made and the difficulties overcome in achieving this goal are beginning to become evident—already there are thirteen new believers in the British Cameroons.



## EUROPEAN NEWS

### SHETLANDS

Brigitte Hasselblatt writes: 'How I love this island with its warm-hearted people. Every mind seems receptive and every heart happy. But I think as the hills—their real beauty and majesty is revealed through the sun—so with the people, their real selves have to be revealed to themselves (through constant effort on the part of the Bahá'ís!) through the Divine Teachings.'

### MALTA

From Olga Mills we hear that she 'has met an old lady who knew Prof. Browne and his family in Oxford, and seemed alert. Also a young Maltese woman who would like to know more about the Teachings.'

### FAROEES

'I have, as you know, given the message to a great many—they know of the Teaching and they accept and see the right thing and its necessity for the world to come in its proper shape... I have a contact who is as close as can be to the Faith... he talks to people about the Faith, and they are listening to him, too. The other day he talked to a man who got so interested that he said, "I must meet Mr. Bahá'í".' So writes Eskil Ljungberg.

### ORKNEYS

Charles Dunning has had a visit from a Bahá'í, Sgt. Ben Levy, of the American Forces in Germany, who has spent his leave on a travelling visit to our communities. He was a most welcome visitor and his stay with Charles was a great help to our pioneer and to the committee.

### HEBRIDES

Mrs. Marion Mihaeloff is planning a similar visit to see Geraldine Craney, who is happily settled, with a job she likes, good accommodation and many friends amongst whom are several interested in the Faith.

### CHANNEL ISLANDS

Miss Baxter has now returned from this 'holiday island' while the tourist season is on. Mr. Asgharzadeh remains alone; he will be visited shortly by Mr. St. Barbe Baker.

### CYPRUS

A report on the general conditions in this island was sent by Hugh McKinley, summarised here: 'Through the influence of the Cause of God, the name and nature of the island—which really has the name of "Devil's Island", given by the Turks—will be changed and purified.' So he introduces his report.

Several conditions make teaching both unusual and of necessity both indirect and slow. Cyprus is a British colony, i.e. governed by outsiders, against whom there is some local feeling and verbal agitation. There is the Greek Orthodox Church, heading the movement of Enosis, or the self-determination of the Cypriots and return to Greece. There are the Turks, a small and poor minority with very little say in affairs. Turkish life is mostly in small villages and Islam has no force.

The British are very British, and for most occidentals social life is mainly in clubs and cabarets, as they are

there mainly for short terms and are out to enjoy themselves and have a good time. The only possible common meeting ground is the church. The Greeks fear they may take away their money and the Turks fear they may be in league with the Greeks against them and against Islám. They, however, welcome the British administration as security for their rights that would vanish were Enosis a fact.

Greeks and Turks live a very exclusive family life and it is not easy to make any contact with them. Hugh's job gets him in touch with a variety of business people; he has been given Bahá'í Holy Days off.

He writes that generally they do not speak directly of the Faith, but strive to live it in their dealings with everyone; they are members of the British Council Club and are registered as Bahá'ís. When they think of any project they view it on a permanent basis—'We're here for ever', and do not wish to be too hasty or precipitate at the beginning.

The group has lately been visited by the Hakim family on their way to the Holy Land, and 'they brought that love and living of the Teachings which is the attractive force for the non-Bahá'ís and the example to us all'.

## FROM THE GUARDIAN

### 'Appeal entire body participants Crusade'

The Guardian sent the following cable on February 8th, 1954, for all believers:

'Nine months elapsed since launching spiritual world-encompassing Crusade witnessed entry Knights Bahá'u'lláh well nigh four score ten territories throughout planet, representing virtually three-fourths total number areas—exclusive Soviet zone influence—destined be opened course entire decade, swelling roll sovereign states, dependencies enlisted banner His Faith (to) two hundred thirteen.

All independent states, principalities European Continent—excluding Soviet Republic, satellites—opened. All territories North, Central, South America, excluding Labrador, opened. All territories Asiatic Continent outside Russian orbit opened except Tibet, Bhutan. All islands Mediterranean, all islands North Sea opened except Spitzbergen. All African sovereign states, colonies, protectorates, trust territories, exception Togolands, Spanish Guinea, Bechuanaland, Swaziland, Gambia, French Cameroons opened. All islands North, South Atlantic except St. Helena, St. Thomas, Anticosti, Falklands opened. All Indian Ocean islands exception Socotra, Cocos, Comoro, Mentawai, Nicobar, Chagos, Kuria Muria opened. All islands North, South Pacific—exclusive Soviet controlled territories—opened except Galapagos, Gilbert Ellis, Admiralty, Loyalty, Marshall, Mariana, Brunei, Portuguese Timor.

Concourse on High hail (with) delight phenomenal rapidity victories Bahá'í pioneering virgin areas globe. Encouraged address urgent plea all National Assemblies concerned, as well as each, every prospective pioneer assigned aforementioned territories, expedite every means disposal arrival respective posts ere expiry swiftly passing three-month period separating them conclusion opening year auspiciously unfolding decade. Appeal furthermore entire body participants Crusade



put forth all strength secure entry additional volunteers same territories, multiplying thereby chances their inclusion pale Faith ere celebration fast approaching Ridván.

Supplicating (with) redoubled ardour further measure Bahá'u'lláh's sustaining grace surpassing conspicuous blessings already vouchsafed His wholly dedicated, widely scattered, forward marching warriors since launching Ten-Year Plan.'

### Settlement of Virgin Areas

The following cable from the Guardian was received by the American National Assembly on March 21st:

'Occasion Naw Rúz, marking opening second decade Bahá'í century, inform National Assemblies Bahá'í world following pioneers, scattered twenty-one virgin areas, inscribed Roll Honour since fourth periodic announcement.

Ottillie Rhein, Mauritius; Olga Mills, Malta; Peter Lugayula, Ashanti; Virginia Breaks, Caroline (Islands); Dr. Fozdar, Andaman (Islands); Elly Becking, Dutch New Guinea; Andrew, Nina Matthisen, Bahamas; Carl, Loretta Scherer, Macao; Gulnar Aftabi, Bahiyyih Rowhani, Kaykhrosrow Dahmabadi, Diu (Island); Jean, Tove Deleuran, Charles Ioas, Balearic (Islands); Adib Baghdadi, Hussayn Halabi, Hadhramaut; Kenneth, Roberta Christian, Eyneddin, Tahereh Alai, Joan Powis, Southern Rhodesia; Hormoz Zende, Morocco International Zone; Howard, Jeanne Menking, Cape Verde Islands; Elizabeth Bevan, Rhodes; Matthew Bullock, Dutch West Indies; Lilian Wyss, Samoa; Dulcie Dive, Cook (Islands); Stanley Bolton, jun., Tonga (Islands); Greta Jankko, Marquesas (Islands); Jean Sevin, Tuamotu (Archipelago); Alvin, Gertrude Blum, Solomon (Islands); Bernard Gurhke, Kodiak (Islands); John Leonard, Falkland (Islands); Munir Vakil, Kuria-Muria (Islands); John, Audrey Roberts, Bechuanaland; Charles Dayton and wife, David Schreiber, Leeward (Islands); Faniborz Roozebehyan, Gambia; Rahmat, Iran Muhajer, Mentawai (Islands); Gertrude Ankersmit, Frisian (Islands); Shamsi Navidi, Monaco; Roy, Elena Fernie, Gilbert Ellice (Islands); Qudratullah Rowhani, Khodorahm Mojgani (Mahe).

Ninety-one virgin areas opened Faith since launching Crusade. Total number territories (within) its pale now raised two hundred nineteen. Remaining unopened territories, excluding Soviet Republics, satellites, twenty-five.

Appeal prospective pioneers, whilst opening year Ten-Year Crusade speeding its close, expedite entry unopened areas contributing thereby enhancement celebrations coming Ridván rendered memorable swift, magnificent victories achieved pioneering field, unsurpassed course eleven decades Bahá'í history.'

### Appointment of Hand of the Cause

The Guardian cabled the American National Assembly on March 19th: 'Announce all National Assemblies elevation Paul Haney rank Hand of the Cause'.

### Marion Jack

The Guardian cabled the American National Assembly on March 29th:

'Mourn loss immortal heroine, Marion Jack, greatly loved and deeply admired by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, shining example pioneers present, future generations East, West, surpassed constancy, dedication, self-abnegation, fearlessness by none except incomparable Martha Root. Her unremitting, highly meritorious activities course almost half century, both North America, Southeast Europe, attaining climax darkest, most dangerous phase second World War, shed imperishable lustre contemporary Bahá'í history. Triumphant soul now gathered distinguished band co-workers Abhá Kingdom, Martha Root, Lua Getsinger, May Maxwell, Hyde Dunn, Susan Moody, Keith Ransom-Kehler, Ella Bailey, Dorothy Baker, whose remains, lying such widely scattered areas globe as Honolulu, Cairo, Buenos Aires, Sydney, Teheran, Isfahan, Tripoli, depths Mediterranean attest magnificence pioneer services rendered North American Bahá'í Community (in the) Apostolic, Formative Ages Bahá'í Dispensation.

Advise arrange, association Canadian National Assembly, European Teaching Committee, befitting memorial gathering Mashriqu'l-Adhkár. Moved share with United States, Canadian National Assemblies expenses erection, soon as circumstances permit, worthy monument her grave, destined confer eternal benediction country already honoured its close proximity sacred city associated proclamation Faith Bahá'u'lláh. Share message all National Assemblies.'

### Meetings of Hands of the Cause

The Guardian cabled Ugo Giachery on April 5th, 1954, as follows:

'Hail emergence, unfoldment, opening years second epoch formative age Bahá'í Dispensation, august Institution foreshadowed Founder Faith, formally established Testament Centre His Covenant, closely associated provisions same Will Institution Guardianship, destined assume fulness time under aegis Guardian dual sacred responsibility protection, propagation Cause Bahá'u'lláh.

Desire pay warm tribute services rendered severally, collectively, appointed Hands World Centre Faith, territories beyond its confines.

Greatly value support (in) erection Báb's Sepulchre (Mt.) Carmel, reinforcing ties newly emerged State Israel, extension International Endowments Holy Land, initiation preliminary measures establishment Bahá'í World Administrative Centre, as well as participation four successive Intercontinental Teaching Conferences, extensive travels African territories, North, Central, South America, European, Asiatic, Australian Continents.

Newly constituted body, embarked its mission such auspicious circumstances, now entering second phase its evolution signalled (by) forging ties (with) National Spiritual Assemblies Bahá'í World purpose lending them assistance attaining objectives Ten-Year Plan.



Hour ripe fifteen Hands residing outside Holy Land proceed during Ridván appointment, each continent separately, from among resident Bahá'ís that Continent, Auxiliary Boards, whose members, acting deputies, assistants, advisers Hands, must increasingly lend assistance promotion interests Ten-Year Crusade.

Advise Hands Asiatic, American, European Continents convene Teheran, Wilmette, Frankfurt respectively, purposes consultation, nomination. Hands Cause African, Australian Continents must exercise functions Kampala, Sydney respectively.

Auxiliary Boards American, European, African Continents must consist nine members each; Asiatic, Australian Continents seven, two respectively.

Allocation areas each continent to members Auxiliary Boards, as well as subsidiary matters regarding development activities newly appointed bodies, manner collaboration National Spiritual Assemblies respective Continents, left discretion Hands.

All Boards must report, be responsible (to) Hands charged their appointment.

Hands each Continent their turn must keep close touch, report result nominations, progress activities Boards (to) National Assemblies (their) respective Continents as well as four Hands residing Holy Land destined act liaison (between) themselves (and) Guardian Faith.

Urge initiation five Continental Bahá'í Funds which, as they develop, will increasingly facilitate discharge functions assigned Boards. Transmitting five thousand pounds my initial contribution, be equally divided five Continents.

Appeal twelve National Assemblies, individuals, ensure steady augmentation Funds through annual assignment National Budgets, individual contributions. Advise transmit contributions Varqa, Holley, Giachery, Banani, Dunn acting Trustees Asiatic, American, European, African, Australian Funds respectively.

Fervently supplicating Holy Threshold unprecedented measure blessings (on) vital, indispensable organ embryonic, steadily unfolding Bahá'í Administrative Order, presaging emergence World Order Bahá'u'lláh which must pave way establishment World Bahá'í Commonwealth destined attain maturity course successive Dispensations Five Thousand Century Bahá'í Cycle.

Airmail copies all Hands and National Assemblies.'

## HOME FRONT NEWS

### ABERDEEN

Pioneer Fred Stahler reports progress. He is advertising weekly meetings and has also contacted personally the brother of Dr. Esslemont.

### BLACKBURN

The Northern Area Teaching Committee met here on February 21st and afterwards a public meeting was held.

### BRIGHTON

Reports activity and regular prayers that pioneers may arise to fill this year's goals.

### HULL

Iraj Mottahedin had the opportunity of giving a brief summary of the Faith and of reading from Bahá'í Scripture at a World Conference of Faith's service held at a church there.

### LEEDS

A routine notification of the purpose and times of use of the new Centre aroused some interest with the local police inspector and brought the Faith to the notice of all patrolling constables!

### LEICESTER

Had its first advertised public meeting on February 28th. The Nottingham friends joyfully report the first declaration in Leicester! A follow-up meeting has since been held and much interest was shown by those attending.

### LIVERPOOL

Are planning extension teaching in Chester and are advertising the Swedish study course there.

### LONDON

Held one of its most successful meetings recently, using the visual aids demonstrated at Teaching Conference. The friends are holding fireside meetings at Golders Green.

### MANCHESTER

Are holding a series of ten meetings under the title of 'God Passes By', covering a period of three months.

### NORWICH

The first meeting to be held at Norwich's new Centre was a Memorial for Dorothy Baker and it has now been officially opened at a public meeting.

### NOTTINGHAM

The friends were very happy to receive a visit from Sgt. Ben Levy of Germany, who gave a most informative talk on the Faith in Germany and Austria. Three Germans were present.

### PORTSMOUTH

A goal town of this year, has been visited by many Bahá'í speakers who have been invited to give lectures on the Faith at the Spiritualist Temple.

### READING

The London friends continue to give full support to Beryl de Gruchy, who is residing in this goal town. Three Bahá'í books have been placed in a public library and regular meetings are held.

### SHEFFIELD

This community was also visited by Sgt. Levy on his way north to the Orkneys, and the friends enjoyed his talk very much.

### SWANSEA

Mr. Sabour, now studying there, reports fireside meetings and that Bahá'í pamphlets are being displayed in shop windows. He also had an interesting meeting with a porter of Balliol College, Oxford, who remembered the Guardian well.

### TORQUAY

This community has been strengthened by the addition of Prudence George who is now residing there.