

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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NOVEMBER 1951

BALANCING THE BUDGET

It can be seen from the figures for the last three months that, as far as expenditure within the British Isles is concerned, average contributions and average expenses are almost equal. (See note.)

But this year we have two new items on the budget: £300 to the International Fund which will probably be partly used for the Shrine of the Báb; and a £500 contribution to the Africa Fund, in accordance with the Guardian's instructions that we should be responsible for 'a substantial amount.'

At present the contributions are running short of our £3,800 budget by half the amount of the International Fund contribution and the amount of the Africa Fund contribution.

Any increase in contributions will go straight to send pioneers to Africa and pay our contribution to the World Centre.

If this increase can be achieved this year, we shall not only pay our way but have taken on two new responsibilities and have become an integral part of the embryonic World Order.

NOTES

(1) Income from June to September was £806. Expenditure, after allowing for payments during the quarter which should be averaged over the year, was £784. These figures exclude certain 'in and out' transactions.

(2) The Guardian's Convention gift of £1,000 enabled us to pay off the overdraft on the current account at the bank and reduce the deficit by a further £325.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

The Loan Deficit Scheme

We print below the statement recently circulated to all members of the Community about the scheme to transfer the National Fund debt from the bank to Bahá'ís. The scheme was prepared and the statement issued with the approval of the National Assembly by a special Committee appointed for the purpose.

The bank has already asked to know our plan for repayment of the loan and has raised the rate of interest, so that it is urgent that loans under this scheme should be received soon. For practical administrative reasons it is not possible to accept loans of less than £5, but individuals (for example a local community) could club together to take up a share.

The National Assembly will budget for repayment during the next five years beginning with its 1952/3 budget. One sixth of the original debt has already been paid off this year.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Our National Debt

The triumphant conclusion of the 'Six Year Plan,' despite many sacrifices, has left us a legacy of debt. This is an honourable debt, honourably incurred, but nevertheless a debt to be faced and liquidated.

The four main appeals for our vital funds continue to need much support, and doubtless all are, or should be, contributing to their limit and beyond. Yet by October this year this debt must be faced.

The pressing financial need is relief from the guaranteed overdraft owed to the bank. This loan is

guaranteed on the personal bond of several believers, none of whom can be released until the whole amount is repaid.

Accordingly, it has been decided to ask your support by lending what you can for a limited time. Loans of £50 and over to receive interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, smaller loans due to the intricacies of taxation, debenture issue and so on must be interest free. Thus both types of lender make a sacrifice.

For repayment, the N.S.A. has decided to budget a suitable portion of its income each year so that the loan is repaid in five years, starting with the smaller interest-free items.

Under our Articles of Association, only registered Bahá'ís can partake in this loan and any transfer of holdings to another believer can only be made with the consent of N.S.A.

The £1,500 called for, is not an unduly large amount to raise, and all will agree that the liability now borne by a few must be shared by the community over the greatest possible number.

The OVERDRAFT COMMITTEE, with consent from N.S.A. have appointed E. W. GREGORY, 51 HERRIES DRIVE, SHEFFIELD, 5, to act for them.

Mr. Gregory will be delighted to receive your comments, your questions and particularly your loan contributions. (Cheques payable to N.S.A. of Bahá'ís and crossed please.)

FROM THE GUARDIAN

LOUIS GREGORY

The Guardian cabled the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States as follows:

'Profoundly deplore grievous loss dearly beloved, noble-minded, golden-hearted Louis Gregory, pride, example Negro adherents Faith. Keenly feel loss one so loved, admired, trusted, 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Deserves rank first Hand Cause his race. Rising Bahá'í generation African continent will glory his memory, emulate his example. Advise hold memorial gathering Temple token recognition unique position, outstanding services.'

TO ARTHUR NORTON

Dear Bahá'í Brother,

Your letter of August 27th has been received, and the beloved Guardian is sending you herein his receipt for the contribution of the British Bahá'ís to the Shrine. He noted with interest and appreciation that the bank raised no objections to the transfer of this sum for such a purpose, and feels this indicates the slowly growing recognition of the Faith's nature and importance. Your own ever devoted services to the Cause are greatly appreciated by him, you may be sure.

With warm greetings,

R. RABBANI

TO PHILIP HAINSWORTH

The following are extracts of a letter from the Guardian through his secretary dated August 30th, 1951:

'He was very sorry to hear your dear mother is ill. She has truly shown an exemplary Bahá'í spirit in every way, and it is easy to see a lot of your own characteristics of faith and courage come from this fine woman. You have every reason to be proud of her! He trusts and is praying she may recover and later join you. But whatever happens, her reward at the hands of the true Beloved is certainly assured. He wishes more of the Bahá'ís would arise to such heights of devotion and sacrifice . . . Please give his love to the devoted Bananis and tell them the services they are rendering are imperishable and deeply appreciated by him . . . The progress being made in Africa is truly miraculous, as if a special benediction from on High is being extended to this work . . . He feels sure that the work in Uganda will now go forward rapidly. The news from Dar is wonderful too . . .'

Prayers for the King

The National Assembly wrote the King telling him that local communities had been asked to pray for his recovery and received the following reply, dated September 27th:

'The Private Secretary is commanded by the King to thank the Bahá'ís of the British Isles for their kind message.'

Lizzie Hainsworth

'With the joyful tidings of light I hail thee: rejoice!'

On the night of September 19th, Lizzie Fowler Hainsworth, aged 73, passed peacefully to the Abha Kingdom after eight weeks in a Bradford hospital. A Bahá'í since 1946, she found her greatest joy, according to her own testimony, in service to the Cause. Early in 1948, in her seventieth year, she volunteered to pioneer to Edinburgh but was sent by the N.T.C. to Nottingham and the following year to Oxford. After the Six Year Plan she returned to strengthen the Bradford Community. Hers was the first pioneer offer for Africa at Convention, 1950, and in October of the same year our Guardian wrote to her son, Philip, 'She seems the true heroic pattern!' During all this period of service to the Cause she loved she fought valiantly against severe and trying illness with assurance from our beloved Guardian of his love and fervent prayers. Only a few days before her death a cable from him made her radiantly happy, 'appreciate self-sacrifice, praying your recovery.'

To all who knew and loved her her name will synonymise loving sympathy and understanding; warm hospitality, generosity and a sparkling sense of humour; deep courage and endurance. Immortal qualities which characterised a saintly soul.

* * * *

The Hainsworth family and the Bradford Assembly wish to express their thanks to all those who sent letters of condolence at the passing of Mrs. Hainsworth. Philip wishes to convey his special gratitude to those who have written or cabled to him in Africa messages of enquiry and condolence.

BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

Advertisement

DIVINE WISDOM

This book consists of several hundred brief passages from Bahá'í Scripture suitable for meditation. They were chosen to appeal both to Bahá'ís and enquirers, particularly those of a contemplative turn of mind. People who habitually ponder a truth night or morning will welcome *Divine Wisdom*. It may be used to introduce Bahá'í Scripture when bigger books or longer extracts might tax an awakening spirit overmuch. Attractively bound in buff cloth with red lettering, *Divine Wisdom* makes an apt gift either to a personal friend or for more formal presentation.

Cloth bound, 64 pages. Price 2/6d.

'BE AS I AM'

'Let us too bear in mind the example which our beloved Master has clearly set before us. Wise and tactful in His approach, wakeful and attentive in His early intercourse, broad and liberal in all His public utterances, cautious and gradual in the unfolding of the essential verities of the Cause, passionate in His appeal yet sober in argument, confident in tone, unswerving in conviction, dignified in His manners—such were the distinguishing features of our Beloved's noble presentation of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh.' *Bahá'í Administration*, p. 60 or p. 70 according to edition.

'Let every believer, desirous to witness the swift and healthy progress of the Cause of God, realise the twofold nature of his task. Let him first turn his eyes inwardly and search his own heart and satisfy himself that in his relations with his fellow-believers, irrespective of colour and class, he is proving himself increasingly loyal to the spirit of his beloved Faith. Assured and content that he is exerting his utmost in a conscious effort to approach nearer every day the lofty station to which his gracious Master summons him, let him turn to his second task, and, with befitting confidence and vigour, assail the devastating power of those forces which in his own heart he has already succeeded in subduing. Fully alive to the unfailing efficacy of the power of Bahá'u'lláh, and armed with the essential weapons of wise restraint and inflexible resolve, let him wage a constant fight against the inherited tendencies, the corruptive instincts, the fluctuating fashions, the false pretences of the society in which he lives and moves . . .

'Not by merely imitating the excesses and laxity of the extravagant age they live in; not by the idle neglect of the sacred responsibilities it is their privilege

to shoulder; not by the silent compromise of the principles dearly cherished by 'Abdu'l-Bahá; not by their fear of unpopularity or their dread of censure can they hope to rouse society from its spiritual lethargy, and serve as a model to a civilisation the foundations of which the corrosion of prejudice has well-nigh undermined. By the sublimity of their principles, the warmth of their love, the spotless purity of their character, and the depth of their devoutness and piety, let them demonstrate to their fellow-countrymen the ennobling reality of a power that shall weld a disrupted world.' *Bahá'í Administration*, pp. 120-122, or 131-132.

'The friends should in their words and conduct emphasise and give absolute prominence to the constructive dynamic principles of Bahá'u'lláh, rather than attach undue importance to His negative Teachings.' *Bahá'í Administration*, p. 18.

'As the Master so fully and consistently did throughout His lifetime, we must all make a supreme effort to pour out a genuine spirit of kindness and hopeful love to peoples of various creeds and classes, and must abstain from all provocative language that may impede the effect of what true and continued kindness can produce.

'Does not 'Abdu'l-Bahá wish us, as He looks down upon us with loving expectation from His glorious Station, to obliterate as much as possible all traces of censure, of conflicting discussions, of cooling remarks, of petty unnecessary observations that impede the onward march of the Cause, that damp the zeal of the firm believer and detract from the sublimity of the Bahá'í Cause in the eyes of the enquirer?' *Bahá'í Administration*, p. 19.

The Local Spiritual Assembly

'The bedrock on which the Administrative Order is founded is God's immutable Purpose for mankind in this Day.'—SHOGHI EFFENDI.

'Verily, God loveth those who are working in His path in groups, for they are a solid foundation.'—ABDU'L-BAHA.

'These Spiritual Assemblies are aided by the Spirit of God, their defender is 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Over them He spreadeth His Wings. What bounty is there greater than this? . . . These Spiritual Assemblies are shining lamps and heavenly gardens from which the fragrances of holiness are diffused over all regions and the lights of knowledge are shed abroad over all created things. From them the Spirit of life streameth in every direction. They, indeed, are the potential sources of the progress of men at all times and under all conditions.'—ABDU'L-BAHA.

'The various Assemblies, local and national, constitute to-day the bedrock upon which the Universal House is in the future to be firmly established and raised.'—SHOGHI EFFENDI.

'The institution of the Local Spiritual Assembly, or House of Justice as it will ultimately be termed, was specifically designated and formally established in the Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh. The Guardian speaks of it as

"sacred in nature" and calls its members "representatives and custodians of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh".

'The Lord hath ordained that in every city a House of Justice be established wherein shall gather counsellors to the number of Bahá (9). It behooveth them to be the trusted ones of the Merciful among men and to regard themselves as the guardians appointed of God for all that dwell on earth. It is incumbent upon them to take counsel together and to have regard for the interests of the servants of God, for His sake, even as they regard their own interests, and to choose that which is meet and seemly. Thus hath the Lord your God commanded you. Beware lest ye put away that which is clearly revealed in His Tablet. Fear God, O ye that perceive.'—BAHA'U'LLAH (Aqdas).

' . . . He, as well as 'Abdu'l-Bahá after Him, has . . . clearly and specifically laid down a set of Laws, established definite institutions, and provided for the essentials of a Divine Economy. These are destined to be a pattern for future society, a supreme instrument for the establishment of the Most Great Peace, and the one agency for the unification of the world and the proclamation of the reign of righteousness and justice upon the earth.'—SHOGHI EFFENDI.

(Contributed by the Consolidation Committee.)

LOCAL ASSEMBLY NEWS

LONDON. The community now numbers approximately ninety believers with a large proportion of Persians and youth. A very active Youth and Social Committee holds fortnightly socials at the Centre attended by numerous contacts, many of them from Africa. The Committee also has plans for youth firesides, study classes and study classes in Persian.

On October 6th Professor Zeine left London Airport for his return to Beirut and was seen off by a large number of friends.

BRIGHTON. A large community gathering is being planned for the Day of the Covenant in collaboration with the London friends. The London community has enthusiastically taken up a suggestion of the Southern T.C. that they give help to Brighton during the autumn until they are once more firmly established. The present number in Brighton is six.

NORWICH. A public meeting was held on November 3rd when Betty Reed spoke on 'World Unity through World Faith.' A visit to the London friends by the community is planned for December 2nd. The London community has welcomed the idea and has written nearby communities enquiring whether similar visits can be made from time to time.

OXFORD. An African Evening was held on October 20th at the British Council to introduce Mrs. Ethel Stephens, the first African pioneer from the United States, en route to Accra, Gold Coast. Mrs. Stephens visited the London community on the following day before leaving for Africa.

NORTHAMPTON. Mrs. Valerie Nicholls, en route to America from Lisbon, where she and her husband have spent four years as pioneers, visited the friends during September and addressed a public meeting. The Assembly hopes to continue teaching work in collaboration with the Nottingham Assembly.

BIRMINGHAM. A programme of public meetings and study classes has been well-planned and close personal contact is made with all enquirers. Marian Hofman spoke at a meeting on October 23rd and shared the platform with the Secretary of the L.S.A., Birmingham, U.S.A.

BOURNEMOUTH. Beryl de Cruchy is to visit the community during November. Plans are made for the holding of a large public meeting in December. An intensive three-months' programme of firesides has been carried out, also devotional meetings and a study class. Briquette Hasselblatt has returned from a short holiday in Germany.

TORQUAY. Plan to launch a campaign distributing from door to door a pamphlet they have had printed locally. This is to be followed up by a personal visit to answer questions and, if interest is shown, to invite persons to meetings.

The Committee held its first meeting during August and meets on the fourth Sunday in each month. A newsletter is to be issued every six weeks. New teaching techniques are to be evolved for information to

communities. There are over seventy teachers in the region. A large number are active amongst the ten Assemblies, either by direct invitation from the Assembly concerned or through the Committee. It is hoped to procure a teacher-training course from Persia for adaptation to our needs.

SOUTHERN TEACHING COMMITTEE

DUBLIN. Those who visited Summer School returned with renewed vigour and enthusiasm for the execution of winter plans. Those who were not so fortunate shared the same wonderful spirit when visited by Hugh McKinley in the course of his tour immediately after Summer School.

Adib Taherzadeh gave an interesting talk at the Dublin International Club on 'Persia's Contribution to World Civilisation.' Much interest was aroused and several new contacts made.

Fifty people attended the Shelbourne Hotel for an opening public meeting addressed by D. Hofman; his subject was 'Peace through World Unity.'

BELFAST. Hugh McKinley and D. Hofman also visited Belfast and spoke at public meetings and met individuals. To follow up these welcome visits, fortnightly discussion meetings have been arranged with the co-operation of the Dublin friends.

The inspiring talks given by visiting speakers and the consequent interest shown in the Course have given us all so much encouragement and confidence in our own teaching efforts that they will be doubled until one day this 'Isle of Saints and Scholars' will be filled with Bahá'ís and contacts. If anyone is wondering where to go, come to Ireland. You'll get an Irish welcome and there's much to do.

IRISH TEACHING COMMITTEE

From the Africa Committee

It has been called to our attention that our report in the June Journal stating that Claire Gung had made a substantial return to the Fund of budget advanced for her journey could be misunderstood, particularly in view of the fact that in the same report it is stated that pioneer expenditures were £185 17s. 3d. In actual fact Claire paid all her own expenses, including passage, and the only financial contribution which we made was a loan of £50 which she has since returned. The items of pioneering expenditure referred to involved a great many other items and pioneers, many of whom have since left for Africa.

Marriages

Bournemouth, September 17th. Patricia George and Michael Pennington.

London, October 15th. Puran Mahboubi and Dr. Harold O'Toole.

Changes of Address

Oxford Secretary: Miss Jean Campbell, 18 Rawlinson Road, Oxford.

Brighton Secretary: Miss Vivian Isenthal, 5 Western Street, Brighton.

N.S.A. NEWS SHEET

issued by

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the British Isles

November 1951

No. 5

- FIRST PIONEER First pioneer this Baha'i administrative year is John Smith who left Norwich to settle in Blackburn.
- OLD PIONEERS Pat and Margaret Carey, after many hardships and difficulties are comfortably settled in Newcastle, where they are actively teaching.
- PRAY FOR THESE COMMUNITIES Belfast, Brighton, Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Nottingham. Pray at the Feasts and consult after prayer on how you or your Community can help these weakened communities.
- PERSIA The beloved Guardian cabled the Persian friends: "Long suffering, grievously afflicted, self-sacrificing, much loved Community tenderly remembered. Supplicating increasing fervour Divine protection, removal disabilities, early fulfilment unspeakably glorious destiny". The National Assembly asks the friends in Britain also to pray for the Persian friends.
- FUNDS
- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| <u>National Fund.</u> | Received since last meeting | £160/10/7 |
| | Paid since last meeting | 276/16/6 |
| <u>Shrine Fund.</u> | Received since Ridvan, 1950 | 880/14/0 |
| <u>International Fund</u> | Total received | 138/3/0 |
- GEORGE CLARKE This American pioneer in Europe visited the N.S.A. during its session. It was a privilege to meet this devoted friend who first heard of the Faith when he was 10 years old and has served it since becoming a Baha'i, in many fields.