

# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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## IDEAS ON AUSTERITY

Following the recommendation of the Convention delegates that Bahá'ís ensure that personal savings made by austerity do find their way into the Fund, the National Assembly appointed Jean Campbell and Jean Pitcher as a Committee to examine the whole question of personal austerity. Their report is printed below:

1. It is a privilege and joy to all of us to put forth our greatest effort.
2. The early Bábís were called upon to give up *all* their possessions, even life itself.
3. It is not enough to make the Treasurer responsible for local appeals: each individual member must be responsible. It is fatal to the success of the appeal if members hold to the idea that they themselves cannot afford to subscribe to the funds and that it is up to others who are better off to do so. For it is true that no matter how much money one has, one has always increased ideas of what to do with it and for every increase in income there are always more ideas for the spending of it. Thus one never reaches the point of feeling one has plenty of money to spare.
4. Bahá'ís should not try to measure by present-day economic standard the value of what is given now to the funds. Not one of us, save perhaps the Guardian, who urges ever more and more austerity, can know of the far-reaching effects of our self-sacrifice. Who knows what is to develop from our present efforts nor what might ultimately fail to materialise because of our lack of effort now.
5. From Rúhíyyih Khanúm's *Some Thoughts on Giving*.

'There are always going to be a number of categories of Bahá'í givers: the sensible, conscientious, business-like souls who give regularly . . . Those who should give and want to give, but never quite pin themselves down; . . . those who feel their contribution is too small to be worthy of giving.'

'The Cause needs financial help. We have no excuse for not giving; however small the amount, the duty and privilege of giving lies squarely on every Bahá'í's shoulders.'

6. Two main rules to be observed:

- A. Individuals to make their own 'covenant' for austerity saving.
- B. Savings to be set aside the moment they are made.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR SAVING

1. Birmingham community carry with them always a small sealed (stitched) leatherette envelope, with a slit in it for coins, that can be carried easily in handbag or pocket ready for use.
2. Oxford community use small photographic paper boxes.
3. Pay into the fund a few pence for each *Bahá'í Journal* or pamphlet received.
4. Consider the amount spent on newspapers and weeklies and cut out the unnecessary ones, giving the money to the fund.
5. Walk a bus stop—pay in the difference.
6. Do without that extra cup of coffee or ice cream and pay in.
7. 'Take' an extra ticket for cinema or theatre for Bahá'u'lláh. In a crisis, anyhow, theatres and cinemas are not considered necessary.
8. Collect 3d. or 6d. pieces.
9. Sell redundant jewellery and trinkets, etc.
10. Limit expenditure at 19 Day Feasts, or go on water diet, and give.
11. Deliver letters by hand instead of posting when possible.
12. Deputy Treasurer or Treasurer on spot at Feasts to receive gift monies.

It is important that everyone should give, no matter how little, so that our effort may be united.

'It is not so much wealth we must think of when considering the question of giving but unity.'—*Rúhíyyih Khanúm*.

### Bye-Election

A Bye-election to the National Assembly was made necessary by Philip Hainsworth's departure for Africa. Fifty-three delegates voted with the following result:

Ursula Newman	10	Kathleen Hornell	3
Alma Gregory	9	John Shortland	3
Hugh McKinley	7	Louis Ross-Enfield	2
Arthur Norton	7	Mehdi Samandari	2
Iraj Ayman, Henry Backwell, Richard St. Barbe Baker, John Mitchell, Eruch Munsiff, Betty Reed, 1 each.			



## **'TEACH YE THE CAUSE OF GOD' . . .**

It has been some time since we have shared with you some news of a great deal of teaching work that is being done by individuals and Assemblies up and down the country, and as a fitting supplement to our article of the month before last, 'The Most Meritorious of All Deeds,' we should like to mention, very briefly, some of the teaching highlights of the past two months.

Just before Convention, and at extremely short notice, Prof. Zeine made flying visits to Belfast and to Nottingham where he spoke informally with close contacts, and fired and stimulated the believers with his own unflagging enthusiasm and real Bahá'í love. He has since visited Bournemouth and Norwich for week-ends, spoken with marked success in Brighton and in London (where he is a resident source of strength), as well as informally to a University group at Oxford. During the course of June he visited Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Our thanks are due to Professor Zeine for the energetic way he has undertaken those teaching trips, which have been made without cost to the Fund.

At the beginning of May Mr. and Mrs. Amin Banani visited Torquay, Birmingham, Manchester and Oxford.

Mrs. L. Hutchinson-Smith, whom some of us met when she was last here in 1948, did a teaching trip in mid-June through the towns of Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Dublin and Liverpool.

Philip Hainsworth spoke at a meeting in LIVERPOOL where the latest film of the Shrine of the Báb was shown. Everyone was deeply impressed by its beauty and much interest was aroused by Philip's commentary.

Two declarations have been reported from STOCKPORT, where the friends have started a fortnightly series of public meetings.

MANCHESTER were able to get a good write-up for the Faith in the *Salford City Reporter*. It mentioned the formation of the International Bahá'í Council and gave advance publicity to the exhibition which Manchester are planning for September.

Margaret Shanks of Liverpool has obtained a post in SHEFFIELD and will be moving there in September.

BOURNEMOUTH reports an excellent 'Africa Night': Arthur Cole being their visiting speaker, after two students from Nigeria had spoken about life and conditions in their homeland. This community is active in the field of personal teaching, and is holding regular fireside meetings.

LONDON has appointed a strong and vigorous teaching Committee, which is trying to organise a network of firesides all over the city. At the moment two meetings a week are being held in addition to bi-monthly public meetings. The advertising policy pursued here is beginning to meet with some response. A new declaration has recently been accepted.

NOTTINGHAM is now reinforced by the residence there of Joan Benfield, until recently an isolated believer in Hertford. Joan has transferred to a job there, and is thus firmly established from the outset. In the autumn the ranks will be further swelled by the

arrival of Violette Samandari from London to continue her nursing training.

BRISTOL is happy to report the settlement of Hassan and Isobel Sabri, who have moved from Cardiff in order to maintain this assembly and to assist with the teaching work before their departure for Africa. At the present time Ursula Newman is living close by, at her home in Badminton, where she had been called from Belfast to nurse her mother.

'The movement itself from place to place,' says Bahá'u'lláh, 'when undertaken for the sake of God, hath always exerted, and can now exert, its influence in the world.'

CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE

## **FROM THE GUARDIAN**

### **'Act speedily, resolutely'**

The Guardian cabled on June 22nd, 1951:

'Newly launched, highly momentous African campaign, chief auxiliary manifold agencies operating furtherance 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Plan American, European continents, irresistibly unfolding, gathering momentum, through added participation Indian Bahá'í Community, assignment specific supplementary functions Persian Egyptian National Assemblies, contemplated translation Bahá'í literature additional African languages, multiplication territories Northern, Eastern, Western fringes vast awakening Continent. Brief span two years destined witness first fruits historic continent-wide crusade will ere long terminate. Valorous British Bahá'í Community, central pivot machinery now set in motion, chief agency prosecution mighty, Divinely propelled enterprise, must, aware urgency task, act speedily, resolutely, dispatch without delay volunteers, settle pioneers, disseminate literature, initiate teaching activities, establish fruitful contacts, ensure steady enrolment fresh recruits amongst tribes, races far-flung virgin territories. Transmitting additional contribution thousand pounds ensure vigorous prosecution colossal sacred task enabling well tried followers Faith Bahá'u'lláh British Isles write worthily first page history memorable undertaking constituting opening phase their glorious spiritual mission overseas.'

### **Progress on the Shrine**

The following cable from the Guardian to the American National Assembly was dated May 29th, 1951:

'Announce friends East West operations commenced last Nawruz excavation (for) eight shafts, designed for piers supporting Dome Báb's Sepulchre, terminated. Consignment thirty-three tons steel, fifty tons cement safely delivered Holy Land. Seven thousand three hundred pound contract for structural work capable sustaining thousand ton weight superstructure signed. First instalment out of eight hundred tons stones for octagon Dome Shrine recently arrived. Greatly heartened response self-sacrificing believers both hemispheres enabling energetic prosecution this critical hour so holy enterprise. May sustained support all communities hasten its glorious consummation.'



## THE AFRICA PROJECT

### PIONEERS

The pioneers in Africa will in the near future be greatly strengthened by the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Moussa Banani, Mr. and Mrs. Ali Nakhjawani and their little daughter and Phillip Hainsworth, who left England by air on Monday, June 18th, for Dar es Salaam. They were stopping for one day in Geneva, two days in Rome and three days in Cairo en route. Fourteen of the London Community went to the Kensington Air Station to see them off and photographs were taken of the party before leaving. Mr. and Mrs. Banani and Mr. and Mrs. Nakhjawani may ultimately move to another territory to settle.

Jalal Nakhjawani's wife and two children arrived from Persia with his brother-in-law, Farhang Naimi, in Dar es Salaam on June 14th. They already have permits for permanent settlement.

Thomas Hansford has been appointed to a post with the Tanganyika Engineering Company Ltd. and left by air on June 25th.

Hassan Sabri has accepted an appointment with a motor firm in Dar es Salaam and left England with his wife Isobel on July 6th.

### CONFERENCE

A Conference of pioneers going soon to Africa and members of the Africa Committee was held at the London Centre on June 2nd at which a number of recommendations were put before the Committee. Some of these have been adopted and others deferred for consideration at a later date. Resulting from the Conference it was agreed that Claire Gung should share fully in the activities of the Dar es Salaam Group without formal membership. It was also decided to ask the Group to arrange on the arrival of Hassan and Isobel Sabri the election of a Chairman, Secretary and such other officers as they may consider desirable. Other recommendations concerned teaching, literature, reporting, relations with the authorities, inter-group correspondence and publication of news.

### INTERNATIONAL

It is proposed to put the Indian National Assembly in touch with Jalal Nakhjawani, who may be able to help their pioneers obtain employment in Zanzibar, and arrange contacts with likely employers. Any material which the Committee possesses which may be useful to the Indian National Assembly in assisting them to send pioneers to Africa will be made available.

The Egyptian National Assembly is being informed of the visit of the five pioneers in order that they may arrange meetings with the Egyptian friends, which could be very stimulating. It is hoped too that the Egyptian National Assembly will be able to take advantage of Philip's visit to consult with him on the Africa project.

### AFRICA COMMITTEE

#### Shrine of the Báb

Mr. Norton reports that the Shrine of the Báb Fund had received up to June 14th £721 19s. 10d. of which £110 8s. 4d. came from Assemblies and £611 11s. 6d. from individuals.

## A TABLET OF 'ABDU'L-BAHA

(Editor's Note. This Tablet is published at the request of the Africa Committee. It should be a source of inspiration to all pioneers and prospective pioneers, at home as well as in Africa, whether their pioneering project is of the past, the present or the future.)

O ye homeless and wanderers in the Path of God! Prosperity, contentment, and freedom, however much desired and conducive to the gladness of the human heart, can in no wise compare with the trials of homelessness and adversity in the pathway of God: for such exile and banishment are blessed by the Divine Favour, and are surely followed by the Mercy of Providence. The joy of tranquillity in one's home, and the sweetness of freedom from all cares shall pass away, whilst the blessing of homelessness shall endure forever, and its far-reaching results shall be made manifest.

Abraham's migration from his native land caused the bountiful gifts of the All-Glorious to be made manifest, and the setting of Canaan's brightest star unfolded to the eyes the radiance of Joseph. The flight of Moses, the Prophet of Sinai, revealed the flame of the Lord's burning Fire, and the rise of Jesus breathed the breaths of the Holy Spirit into the world. The departure of Muhammad, the Beloved of God, from the city of his birth was the cause of the exaltation of God's Holy Word, and the banishment of the sacred Beauty led to the diffusion of the Light of His Divine revelation throughout all regions.

Take ye good heed, O people of insight.

## THE NATIONAL FUND

THANKSGIVING FUND (Loan Account)				£	s.	d.
At 20th March, 1951—deficit ...	...	...	...	1500	0	0
Transferred, March 21st—June 20th	...	...	...	266	9	6
Current deficit at June 20th ...	...	...	...	1233	10	6
INCOME (all sources)						
In hand at March 20th ...	...	...	...	10	15	8
Receipts, March 21st—June 20th ...	...	...	...	1711	14	2
EXPENDITURE						
Bank overdraft on current account,						
March 20th ...	...	...	...	325	18	11
Payments, March 21st—June 20th ...	...	...	...	1000	10	1
Transferred to Loan Account ...	...	...	...	266	9	6
CREDIT BALANCE						
As at June 20th, 1951 ...	...	...	...	129	11	4
DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE						
Pioneers ...	...	...	...	203	16	0
Consolidation and six Regionals ...	...	...	...	61	18	1
Africa ...	...	...	...	28	16	2
Other Committees (including Journal) ...	...	...	...	52	16	9
N.S.A.—all expenses ...	...	...	...	389	15	4
Convention ...	...	...	...	70	1	4
Audit ...	...	...	...	27	10	0
Typewriter ...	...	...	...	21	0	0
Sundries ...	...	...	...	15	14	9
Townshend Fund ...	...	...	...	129	1	8
				£1000 10 1		

NOTES.—(1) £36 6s. 3d. of this amount was met by earmarked donations or refunds. (2) Includes survey fees on bequest property, monomark address charge, Treasurer's petty cash, cheque books.



## THE BAHÁ'Í WORLD

**IRAN.** Distressing news of renewed persecution of our devoted Persian brethren stirs our hearts and demands our prayers that the Government will see that justice is done and Bahá'ís protected. The National Committee for the Advancement of Bahá'í Women has initiated a Four Year Plan which will soon come to an end. Its main objective was to wipe out illiteracy and to promote primary education among Bahá'í women and ultimately open a wider outlook on life for Persian women. Notable progress is reported both in the reduction of illiteracy and in the improvement of the standard of knowledge among Bahá'í women. They derive great benefit from a magazine *Tarānih Umīd* published monthly by the National Committee in Tíhrán.

**BAHREIN.** The believers in this island where Persian pioneers laboured so valiantly set us a shining example of deep devotion and the meaning of sacrifice. On receipt of the Guardian's cable concerning the formation of the International Bahá'í Council, the Local Spiritual Assembly held a day of rejoicing, at the end of which, as a token of thanksgiving, they contributed Rs. 1600 for the Shrine of the Báb—which means they gave all they had, they are so poor. They now number thirty-six, including children. The children's training classes are on Sunday mornings and they have memorised verses and short prayers. Weekly classes are held in which all members of the Community take part. Each has to study one Tablet and later give a comprehensive lecture on it. They really love one another from the depths of their hearts. During the Past all brought food and they had it together with the Name of God on their lips and His love in their hearts.

**EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.** For the first time in Egyptian history, women are this year serving on Local Assemblies, with the approval of the Guardian. Four Local Assemblies have lady members. The Five Year Plan has been carried forward by the establishment of an Assembly in Mehalla-Kebira and of two centres in the Sudan.

**INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BURMA.** Pioneers have recently gone to Malaya and Indonesia. Dr. K. M. Fozdar has established a good medical practice in Singapore and is greatly helped by his wife Shirin who visits him occasionally. Mr. Payman has established himself in Djakarta and is earnestly giving the Message to the people of Java. Two villages, Rampur and Ekona, on the border of Bihar, have each elected a Spiritual Assembly through the tireless service of an aged and infirm believer, Badi-uz-Zaman, who came to these villages three years ago and fearlessly proclaimed the Message of Bahá'u'lláh. At first they believed him mad and often dragged him out of the village, and he often lived for days without food and water. Once about a hundred people beat him so severely that he became unconscious. He asks for the prayers of all for these newly-born Bahá'í Communities.

**PHILIPPINES.** Four new Bahá'í Centres have been established in remote places, besides the Bahá'í Centre in Solano. Bahá'í Groups are being organised in other places too. As a result of the Bahá'í Teachers' Institute, they have Philippino Bahá'í teachers available for teaching in any of the eight dialects. The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh last November was celebrated in their new Baha'í Hall, which was still unfinished owing to lack of funds.

### BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

#### Photographs

The Publishing Trust now has available three different photographs of the Master, each in two sizes.

Prices: 10 in. by 8 in. 4/6 8 in. by 6 in. 3/-

There will also be displayed at Summer School a special gold-toned photograph of the Master, 10 in. by 8 in., for which orders will be booked. Price: 7/6

Also on sale at Summer School will be some gold-toned photographs of the Shrine of the Báb, 10 in. by 8 in., which have been presented for sale for the Shrine Fund. Price: 7/6

Also some albums of photographs of the Master, also presented for sale for the Shrine Fund.

Probable price: 10/6

#### 'The Chosen Highway'

This book is now out of print. The Publishing Trust would like any copies in good saleable condition which Local Assemblies can spare from their stocks, and will credit Assemblies with the price of any copies returned.

#### Manchester Exhibition

The Manchester Assembly is organising at the Manchester Bahá'í Centre in September an exhibition of Religions of the Commonwealth in connection with the Festival of Britain. They have sought the co-operation of other religious bodies, and the exhibition is

being announced as part of the Manchester Festival of Britain programme. The Manchester Assembly would appreciate the loan of any suitable books, manuscripts, models, photographs, etc., relating to any of the world religions existing in the British Commonwealth. Friends who think they may have some suitable material are asked to write Louis Ross-Enfield, 50 Crumpsall Lane, Manchester 8.

#### Philip Hainsworth

On leaving for Africa Philip Hainsworth wishes to convey to his Bahá'í friends throughout the British Isles his warm greetings and 'Au revoir'.

#### Additions to the Community

Since the last list was published in *Bahá'í Journal* registration cards have been received from the following:

Manssor Katirai (from Iran), Edinburgh  
Jamshid Varjavandi (youth from Iran), Birmingham  
Shamsi Sedaghat (from Iran), Brighton  
Gisela Bourne, Nottingham  
Harold O'Toole, London  
Harry Jeanes, Bournemouth

#### Change of Address

Oxford Secretary. Miss J. Campbell, 2 Wellington Square, Oxford.