

# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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## THE WORLD PLAN OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

We live in days that are heavy with the threat of an impending cataclysm; the Guardian has spoken of it in many letters. "The gloom overhanging the entire planet," he says, "is deepening ominously day by day." He has warned the British Bahá'í Community of the darkness of the immediate future and the American friends of "the threat of still more violent convulsions assailing a travailing age." Great tribulation is to come upon the people of the world before they attain to promised glory.

The immediate future is very dark, but through the darkness shine gleams of light—proof that God has not left His people comfortless, that the waywardness of man has not dammed up His grace. The path to salvation is being prepared and the foundations laid for everlasting peace. In every clime followers of Bahá'u'lláh carry His Message of hope, deterred neither by the opposition of fanatics nor by the indifference of the proud or worldly. From Ceylon to Scandinavia, from Newfoundland to Italy, the Word is being spread and the Administrative Order established. A great drama is being played with the whole earth for a stage and the human race for actors. We Bahá'ís are leading figures in this drama.

To most men the action on the stage is but a meaningless running hither and thither without plot or direction, and even we, whose eyes have been opened by the breaths of the Holy Spirit, can understand its significance but dimly. Nevertheless contemplation of the scene acted by this generation may inspire us to play ever more nobly the role for which God has cast us.

The main feature of this scene is the spreading light of the Bahá'í World Community, contrasted with the darkening gloom overshadowing the world's affairs. In each of the five continents the people of Bahá labour without ostentation or glamour to build the structure of the New World Order. Each Community seeks, within the framework of its own Plan, to open fresh territories for the Cause of God, to broaden the base of its own foundation and to prepare for

the entry of multitudes into the fold of the Most Great Name. Some of these Plans, like our own, end with the Centenary of the Martyrdom of the Báb on July 9th, 1950; others like the American with the Centenary in 1953 of the imprisonment of Bahá'u'lláh in the Siyah-Chal. All are but the prelude to further Plans stretching down the years and culminating in the Golden Age when the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh will triumph. In that Age the Most Great Peace will be established and mankind gaze upon the City of Certitude.

The series of Plans given to the peoples of America have special importance, for these are segments of that great Divine Plan unfolded by the Master in His Tablets. Other national Plans are supplementary to these because they have no origin in revealed Tablets. Nevertheless, each one has a task in the wider, unspecified world Plan of Bahá'u'lláh through which mankind will be redeemed.

To attempt to forecast in detail the part of each national community would be unprofitable. It suffices to mention a few indications the Guardian has given. Canada shares with the United States the Tablets of the Divine Plan and participates in the American destiny. India has the opportunity to lead Asia into the Cause in association with the American believers. Australia has a mission in the Pacific. Iran, Iraq and Egypt have doubtless also received guidance from the Guardian about their future, although this has not been published in the English language.

In Europe a three-fold crusade has been launched in conformity with specifically laid out plans by the United States, Germany and Austria and the British Bahá'í Community. What the future may hold for the Continent that cradled Western civilisation is unknown to us; we know only that this Crusade is of such vital importance that "every moment is infinitely precious." The fate of Europe depends more on the small band of Bahá'ís who further it than on any statesman. Politicians shouting and dema-



gogues gesticulating are as ripples on the surface of a lake in whose depths the future is being shaped by the activities of the people of glory. "Every moment is infinitely precious" and every sacrifice made for the promotion of God's Cause of infinite value.

Our part in the Crusade is defined for the present by our Six Year Plan. Three new territories have been opened to the Faith and are being consolidated; nineteen new assemblies are being established. The British Bahá'í Community, if it bestir itself and fulfil its destiny, can take a worthy place among the forces of light. The contribution each one of us can make to the eventual happiness of humanity is beyond our comprehension; ours only to work and contribute in what way we are able to the prosecution of the task the Guardian has set us. Then will the door on whose threshold we stand be opened and the future potentialities of the British Bahá'í Community be realised. The Guardian has given us a glimpse of that future, from which to derive vigour and encouragement.

## FROM THE GUARDIAN

From the National Assembly, 20th December:

Report Marion David Hofman pioneering Oxford Bob Cheek Norwich . . . Loving devotion.

From the Guardian, 22nd December:

Assure Hofmans Bob Cheek loving ardent prayers success meritorious efforts . . . deepest loving appreciation Assembly's noble exertions.

From the Guardian, January 2nd:

Appeal British Bahá'í Community focus attention critical stage pioneer activity so essential steady unfoldment Plan attainment Goals. Plead particularly numerically larger Communities arise play decisive role vital urgent task substantial increase number active pioneers dedicated meritorious labour aimed safeguarding multiplication prizes won so laboriously over so short periods despite formidable obstacles by members so valiant resolute high spirited Community. Urge approaching Conference deliberate vital issue rouse pioneer spirit indispensable success Plan. Invoking Almighty's blessings anxiously awaiting befitting response.

From the Teaching Conference, 10th January:

Teaching Conference deeply moved your cable taking action appeal London Manchester hold immediate conferences attended members N.T.C. pioneers from goal towns friends other communities rouse pioneer spirit rescue Plan play honourable decisive part final victory. Mehrangiz

The panorama of the spread of the Faith is exciting and of great promise; but we know that mankind has still to experience intense suffering. Not yet have men turned their faces towards the truths made manifest in the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh. Not yet have they abandoned the false gods of Nationalism, Racism and Communism. Not yet are they ready to lay the foundations of a new world order. Severe trials have still to be met and conquered, and these too are part of the Plan of God. They serve a purpose and have an outcome. Though they seem big and we seem small, let us not be afraid, for God is with us. His rod and His staff shall strengthen us to spread His Message across the world. Through us perhaps the fury of the storm may be lessened or the duration of the tempest shortened; certainly through us and through those who follow us the promise of the New Day will be fulfilled. We are part of a Divine Plan for humanity, protagonists of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh. This is the role to which we have been called; let us resolve, each one of us, to be worthy of our calling.

Munsiff offers pioneer three others trying. Conference highly aware critical position stands assured determined grateful under shade Covenant. Deepest love precious Guardian.

From the Guardian, 12th January:

Delighted immediate action initial response pioneers. Ardently praying Teaching Conference may lend powerful decisive impetus paramount vital urgent pioneer undertaking constituting supreme challenge confronting steadily consolidating irresistibly advancing British Bahá'í Community.

From the National Assembly, 17th January:

Local Conference London Manchester arranged. Financial situation critical. Assembly taking desperate measures appeal immediate adequate funds pioneering teaching Townshend project. Sending Marion Hofman tour whole Community own expense. Ask blessings. Devoted love.

From the Guardian, 19th January:

Appeal all members Community resolutely arise attain greater heights heroism through demonstration further measure self-sacrifice in support pioneer fund. Urge newly enrolled believers particularly as sign gratitude inestimable benefits newly conferred Bahá'í membership and evidence solidarity rapidly expanding Community extend financial assistance fullest measure possible pioneer activities on which hinge fortunes Plan. Supplicating Divine outpourings much needed meritorious endeavours.



## GREAT OPPORTUNITIES

This year's Convention, to be held in Manchester on April 23rd-25th, presents great opportunities. It comes in the middle of the Six Year Plan's Final Phase, whose opening marked "the closing of a stage of tremendous historic significance . . . in the spiritual history of the British Isles." At this Convention we stand in mid-stream; a year of the only too brief period available for the completion of the Final Phase has passed; next year the ultimate goals of the Plan must be achieved. Now is the time to take stock of the progress so far made, the methods used, our triumphs and failures, now is the time to lay our plans for the coming year in which victory must be made certain.

Convention is the one occasion in the year when direct consultation takes place between the National Assembly and the elected delegates of the local Bahá'í Communities. It is an Institution which forms an essential part of the Bahá'í Administrative Order; from a vital and effective Convention the work of the Cause in the British Isles throughout the year can derive inestimable benefit. It is indeed doubtful whether we, in these islands, have yet been enabled to witness the inspiring effect which a truly successful Convention can have.

This Ridván we must all—delegates, National Assembly members and visitors alike—seek to transmit and receive such inspiration as to reinforce the motive power of our spiritual activities. At the same time we must seek to raise the standard of administrative efficiency so as to approach "that standard of excellence which should characterise the co-operative efforts of the Bahá'í Communities in every land."

We shall have new opportunities to make Convention a success this year. 38 Delegates instead of the former 19 will be called together to elect the members of the National Spiritual Assembly for the coming year and to consult about the affairs of the Cause. All nine of the local assemblies established by the Initial Phase of the Plan will be represented. Moreover the deliberations of the delegates will occupy three days instead of the two which have hitherto been sufficient. This convention, if it rises to the heights it is possible for a Bahá'í Convention to reach, may guide us to the victory which the Guardian has told us is within sight.

While a successful Convention must depend primarily upon the delegates, the summit of inspiration cannot be reached without the whole-hearted support of the entire Community. There are many ways in which those not elected to participate directly can share in making Convention a source of spiritual and administrative triumph. Every member of a local community

can add strength to the Convention by approaching the election of delegates "with that purity of spirit that can alone obtain our Beloved's most cherished desire." Everyone can study carefully the annual reports of the National Assembly and its Committees, with a view to participating actively in the consultation meeting each loyal Assembly should call to enable its Community to make its opinions and feelings known to its delegates. Any member of the British Bahá'í Community may submit, in advance of Convention, items for the Agenda, either by asking one of the local delegates to propose to the Convention that the item be discussed, or by suggesting it to the Secretary of the National Assembly for transmission to the Convention Secretary when elected. At the Convention itself, the presence of Bahá'í visitors who are not delegates is of the greatest benefit; although they cannot directly participate in the consultation, any delegate may at his own discretion put forward a proposal or viewpoint suggested by a visitor. The spiritual strength of a Convention is greatly increased and the whole Community is knit more firmly by the attendance of a large number of visitors. The three days of Convention provide one of the most important occasions of the year for the promotion of closer association among the members of the national community. Even those who are unable to attend in person can greatly assist the deliberations by prayer.

Such active participation by the whole community must inevitably encourage the delegates to perform their duties zealously and proficiently. Whether by making the extra effort needed to overcome difficulties which might otherwise prevent personal attendance, or by studying more closely the reports which form the basis of a good deal of the consultation, or by approaching the election of the members of the National Spiritual Assembly with even greater selflessness and detachment, or by taking greater initiative in raising subjects for discussion, or by participating more fully in the consultation—in any of these ways and in others besides the delegates may be helped by feeling the Convention to be the focus of attention of the whole British Bahá'í Community.

This Convention has great possibilities, both for the work of the Final Phase of the Plan and for the activities which will succeed its completion. We stand "on the threshold of a door which when opened will disclose a vista of vast dimensions, of majestic beauty, of infinite promise." During the Final Phase we are in an interim state; one stage in the development of the Faith has been completed, the next has



not yet got under way. The coming Convention can set our feet firmly on the path to victory and help to establish a sure basis on which future achievements can be built. Let us one and all resolve that it shall indeed do this—by setting a still higher standard of administrative efficiency and by giving the Faith in these Islands a spiritual impetus such as will sustain the life of the whole Community throughout the ensuing year.

### **The Story of the Cause in—— BOURNEMOUTH**

Bournemouth has had a chequered but interesting history. It has had the supreme honour of receiving an especial Tablet from the Master. In 1921, the Guardian visited Dr. Esslemont there and Louis Bourgeois has also visited the town.

In 1923 the first Assembly was formed. Dr. Esslemont read extracts from his diary telling the friends of his teaching efforts in Bournemouth during the first World War and reminding the Assembly of the first Nineteen Day Feast, held in 1920, for which the Master's Tablet was written. In April 1923, a letter was received from the Guardian expressing his joy at the forming of the Assembly.

Bournemouth had its first public meeting also in 1923, held at the Theosophical Hall, followed by many others. Mary Hanford Ford of America gave several public addresses in 1929, 1930, 1931 and 1932, at Bournemouth Town Hall and St. Peter's Small Hall, and in the homes of the friends. In 1933 another letter was received from the Guardian expressing his appreciation of the loyalty of the friends.

The Local Assembly disintegrated in 1934, owing to the passing of some of the friends and removal of others to new districts. In 1939, Miss Pinchon was sent from London and a few months later Mrs. Cranmer and Mrs. Flowers became residents. Bournemouth had then a nucleus of 6 believers, but only 3 of them were able to meet. Weekly firesides were given, new believers discovered, public talks given at the Theosophical Hall and a series of fortnightly public lectures at the Bournemouth Psychology Centre, with the result that by 1944 the Assembly was re-formed.

In 1946, owing to the increasing ill-health of some of the friends, removals, non-attendance and other problems, it became increasingly difficult to get the necessary quorum for Assembly decisions. At Summer School the Secretary reported this state of affairs to the National Teaching Committee and Robert Cheek became resident for ten months as a result. He was elected secretary in place of Mrs. Cranmer who had to undergo a major operation. At the end of 1946, the National Assembly decided that the

existing state of affairs, *i.e.*, inability of friends to attend Assembly meetings, mainly owing to ill-health did not justify Assembly status and Bournemouth became a group once more. Weekly firesides were continued, new friends discovered and in March, 1947, Madame Charlot pioneered from Cheltenham for a month's residence in order to help re-establish the Assembly, followed by Philip Hainsworth on a ten-days teaching project. In April, 1947 the Local Assembly was again re-formed.

Bournemouth has contributed one pioneer to the Six Year Plan, Robert Cheek, who moved on to Bristol. Small numbers have prevented any further pioneer contribution, but teaching visits have been made by Miss Pinchon to Torquay and Bristol, and Mrs. Cranmer to Bristol and Cardiff.

A number of teachers have been received in Bournemouth including several from the United States and Persia. Such visitors are always warmly welcomed by the Bournemouth Bahá'í Community.

Unfortunately the weekly teaching meeting in a local cafe, which was held regularly for some time, has had to be abandoned, owing to the fact that only three of the friends can attend evening meetings during the winter. It is hoped that with better weather in the spring teaching will regain its vitality and that during the coming year more progress will be made.

### **Bahá'í Youth Bulletin.**

The National Youth Committee is this year making every effort to produce a Bulletin which will not only be the source of news and inspiration to the friends but will also serve as a valuable teaching aid, through articles based on the spiritual and social teachings of the Cause and through the inclusion of excerpts from the Writings carefully chosen for their teaching value.

In view of the rising costs of production and the necessity of placing the Bulletin on a sound financial footing, the National Youth Committee has found it necessary to increase the price of the Bulletin as indicated below:

Inland: 4/- per year, post free.

Abroad: 4/6d. per year, post free.

Full length photographs of the Master, size  $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 7\frac{1}{2}''$  are also obtainable from the Committee at 1/- per copy.

Send your Bulletin subscriptions and photograph orders to Mr. Ronald Sellars, 7, Fountain Street, Godley, Hyde, Cheshire.

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O SON OF MAN!

Be thou content with Me, and seek no other helper. For none but Me can ever suffice thee.



# THE SUPREME CHALLENGE

To the November meeting of the N.S.A., the N.T.C. had to report that the flow of pioneers, so necessary to the successful continuation of the Plan, had come to a stop. By December, the situation was critical, and we could not see how it would be possible to achieve the goals unless pioneers were settled quickly in the towns where the need was great. The conception of strong "nuclear" pioneers settled in all the goals of the Final Phase early in the year, to carry on steady teaching work with a minimum of outside help, could not be implemented, and this policy was in full operation only in Norwich, and partly so in two of the goal towns of next year.

Clear statements of the needs, both by means of circulars, and verbally on Final Phase Day, seemed to produce but small positive result. Although the N.T.C. could not see how it would be possible to achieve the goals without pioneers, none were forthcoming.

Faced with these problems, the N.S.A. turned to the Guardian, putting the facts to him, and the cable of 2nd January was his reply. The whole community was appealed to in this cable, but particularly the "numerically larger communities," and the Teaching Conference in Leeds on 8th/9th January was urged to "deliberate vital issue rouse pioneer spirit indispensable success Plan. . ."

This, then, was the background to this most important Conference. No longer was it a matter between the N.T.C. and the friends; or even between the N.S.A. and the believers—it was a direct call to the British Community from the Guardian himself. What the Teaching Committee had now to do was to implement the decisions of the Conference as rapidly and as faithfully as possible.

54 believers, representing thirteen L.S.A.'s and six Goal Towns, were welcomed by Marcel Mihaeloff on behalf of our hosts, the Leeds L.S.A. after the Conference Chairman (Marion Hofman) read the Guardian's cable and telegrams of good wishes from seven absent friends and Mrs. Loulie Mathews and Miss Crum who were, unfortunately, unable to attend. A most warm welcome was extended by the Conference to Rafi Mottahedeh, our only overseas visitor.

The opening session on "*Teaching in the Final Phase*" was commenced by a brief period of prayers and readings to the theme "This Divinely Propelled Enterprise." This was immediately followed by the first consultation on "The Spiritual Prerequisites of Teaching." Opened by a short talk by Mrs. Slade, the discussion was very ably stimulated by Dick Backwell, and some 19 believers made valuable contributions.

After tea, 63 attendants of the Conference settled down to discuss the proposed National Teaching Programme, presented by the N.T.C. Secretary. This nation-wide teaching plan was very warmly welcomed.

"*The Army of Life*" was the theme of the evening meeting, and was presented by the N.S.A. under the chairmanship of Hasan Balyuzi. The whole session, preceded and terminated by brief Devotional periods, was in fact of such a nature that the very room seemed to vibrate with the power of the Cause.

Sunday morning was the pivotal time. Fine, inspiring and extremely useful as had been the three Saturday periods, it was upon the 70 attendants at the session on "*Pioneering in the Final Phase*" that the deliberations called for by the Guardian fell. On this group of believers, and three or four contacts, was the obligation to "arouse the pioneer spirit" to such a degree that it would surge from the Conference and awaken that same spirit in the two largest communities, to whom the Guardian had pleaded: "... arise play decisive role vital urgent task substantial increase number active pioneers . . ."

From the very first minute of this session, a high level of feeling was maintained, and for this the Conference was largely indebted to Ursula Newman, who opened with a talk: "The Spirit of Pioneering," and Isobel Locke, on "Pioneer Activities." Many ideas were expressed with regard to the needs of the Plan, but two important facts emerged:—

1. That long residential teaching projects, regular teaching visits, and other such measures, were being favourably received.

2. That the pioneers who had gone to build the Goal Towns in the two previous years were not only alive to the need for more pioneers but were themselves eager to be released to meet the challenge.

Good as both these were, the Conference realised that they were not what the Guardian had asked for. *Pioneers*, not teachers only, were needed, and it was to be the honour of London and Manchester to provide them. The Conference Chairman had to again remind the friends of the seriousness of the situation, for it was apparently not fully realised that *the Six Year Plan was at a standstill*.

Once this was appreciated, the Conference turned with one accord to support the suggestion put forward by one of Manchester's own pioneers, Claire Gung. Building on this, the following plan was made:—



1. That this Conference would go to London and Manchester, and that a telegram would be sent from the Conference to the two L.S.A.s, asking them to call a miniature conference as early as possible.

2. The agenda for these conferences would be the Sunday morning programme on "Pioneering in the Final Phase."

3. That the N.T.C. would send representatives to each conference, and pioneers would be called from the Goal Towns of this year to attend, make personal appeals, and take an active part in the conferences.

4. That the whole National Community would be notified of the venue of each conference, and all believers asked to attend, with a special appeal to the attendants of the Leeds Conference, in order to carry with them the spirit of the occasion.

5. The two Local Assemblies would be asked to send personal letters to all the members of their communities.

The thrill and delight of all present inspired the sub-committee appointed to draft the cable to the Guardian to write: "Teaching Conference deeply moved your cable, taking action . . . rouse pioneer spirit rescue Plan play honourable decisive part final victory . . ."

Before adjourning for lunch, it was agreed to modify the programme to allow for another session for consultation on the miniature conferences, before the friends dispersed to their respective homes.

Quiet but extremely valuable discussion and report characterised the first Sunday afternoon session: "*The Administrative Order in the nineteen Goal Towns.*" The little time available, both for the N.T.C. discussion on administration in the Bahá'í Group, and the A.D.C. discussion with report from the L.S.A.s already established under the Six Year Plan, brought home to all the attendants the vital need for good, sound grounding in the basic elements of Bahá'í Administration, and consistent support and consolidation after the L.S.A. is formed.

On returning to the morning's subject—and, in fact, the purpose of the whole Conference—the N.T.C. Secretary gave a brief resume of the Conference up to that time, with especial detail of the morning's decisions. It is of interest to note here that of the 76 Bahá'ís who had attended during the Conference, 38 (or 50 per cent.) had become Bahá'ís during the Plan, and 18 (or 23½ per cent.) since the last Teaching Conference. Only 40 per cent. of the believers attending were Bahá'ís in Britain before the Plan started.

The final details of the London and Manchester conferences were worked out; Ursula Newman, as Chairman of the pioneering session, summed

up on the note that "All practical points are really spiritual," and the Conference closed with a Devotional Programme which strengthened and confirmed the dedication which filled the very bones of all who participated. This was further confirmed by the Guardian, when he cabled: "Delighted immediate action . . ."

Within a few days, the London L.S.A. called their conference for 22nd January, followed by Manchester for the 25th.

For both of these, the N.T.C. meticulously carried out the wishes of the Leeds Conference, and they were both occasions of great feeling and awareness. There was no doubt that the pioneer spirit *was* aroused, and all who attended were convinced that the months of Sharaf and Sultán of this year were of historic import to the British Community.

The N.T.C. feel certain that although the actual response of pioneers has been meagre in the extreme, Teaching Conference is not over until we can cable our beloved guide and counsellor the "befitting response" which he is so "anxiously awaiting . . ."

What the measure of our sacrifice is, only the next few months will tell, but as this report goes to press, let us survey the immediate results for the pioneer field:—

*London.* One believer from India and three Persian students. Three other believers are eagerly trying to find a way to go, and ask for our prayers.

*Manchester.* No immediate response. One family is known to be trying, and our prayers are with them.

Yet, evidences of that mysterious power, "which alone can change a gnat into an eagle," are daily coming to light.

Four pioneers have arisen from the smaller communities, and fourteen offers of teaching service have been received since the Leeds Conference.

What is there to follow?

We cannot say, but we do know this: that a "steadily consolidating irresistibly advancing" community, with members "so valiant, resolute, high-spirited," will not now, in the hour of what might well be its greatest need, fail to meet this, its "supreme challenge."

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE.

### Additions to the Committee.

Between December 7th and February 1st, the following have been registered:

Florence Billam .....Blackpool  
Alapur Alai (from Iran) .....London  
Hushang Samimi (from Iran) ...London



### Record of "The Lord's Prayer."

A number of friends have asked whether it is possible to obtain records of "The Lord's Prayer" as sung in the Centenary Celebrations in the United States. Many friends will remember hearing the special recording from which selections have been played at Summer School and on other occasions. Enquiries have been made and we are happy to report that the record is available commercially. Details are as under:—

His Master's Voice—R.C.A. Victor—1736A.

The Lord's Prayer (Albert Hay Malotte).

John Charles Thomas (Baritone), with Piano  
(Carroll Hollister, accompanist).

### UNION WITH GOD.

O thou who hast surrendered thy will to God !  
By self-surrender and perpetual union with God  
is meant that men should merge their will wholly  
in the Will of God, and regard their desires as  
utter nothingness beside His Purpose. What-  
soever the Creator commandeth His creatures  
to observe, the same must they diligently, and  
with the utmost joy and eagerness, arise and  
fulfil. They should in no wise allow their fancy  
to obscure their judgment, neither should they  
regard their own imaginings as the voice of the  
Eternal. In the Prayer of Fasting We have  
revealed : " Should Thy Will decree that out of  
Thy mouth these words proceed and be addressed  
unto them, ' Observe, for My Beauty's sake, the  
fast, O people, and set no limit to its duration,'  
I swear by the majesty of Thy glory, that every  
one of them will faithfully observe it, will abstain  
from whatsoever will violate Thy law, and will  
continue to do so until they yield up their souls  
unto Thee." In this consisteth the complete  
surrender of one's will to the Will of God. Medi-  
tate on this, that thou mayest drink in the waters  
of everlasting life which flow through the words  
of the Lord of all mankind, and mayest testify that  
the one true God hath ever been immeasurably  
exalted above His creatures. He, verily, is the  
Incomparable, the Ever Abiding, the Omniscient,  
the All-Wise.

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH.

## THE BAHÁ'Í WORLD

**BELGIUM.** Their six or more new believers  
are actively engaged in intensive teaching  
activity.

**BRAZIL.** The Third South American Bahá'í  
Congress was scheduled to meet at Sao Paulo  
in January. The delegates were to be elected  
at national conventions in proportion of one  
delegate for each 30 Bahá'ís or less, for the 25  
Spiritual Assemblies in ten South American  
Republics.

### FRANK HURST.

After a long illness, Frank Hurst has died in  
Leeds.

Some twenty years ago Frank was attracted  
by an article on the Bahá'í Revelation and an  
advertisement which were published in a Co-  
operative weekly. He came to 20, Southey  
Place, Bradford, where he met the late Mrs.  
Mary Hanford Ford. From that meeting he  
became an active worker for the Cause.

Frank had the faith, the zeal, and the perse-  
verance of the missionary. He bought by the  
hundred the " Folder," which at that time was  
about our only piece of introductory literature,  
and distributed them with discrimination. Him-  
self a " man of the people," he offered the Bahá'í  
Gospel to bishops and clergy of all denominations,  
to politicians, professors and students, city  
councillors, business men, co-operative officials  
and members, and to just ordinary, plain folk.  
He missed few opportunities and made many.

From the first Frank attended regularly the  
monthly meetings then held in Bradford. Later,  
when an Assembly was formed in that city he  
was elected a member ; he served in that office  
till the formation of the Leeds Assembly when he  
transferred his membership to his home town.

Severely handicapped by a troublesome  
physical disability, he was ever cheerful and  
active until he was incapacitated by his last  
illness. His example lives ; from his station  
in the Abhá Kingdom he now surely serves the  
Cause he loves.

### MRS. PRISCILLA SENNETT.

We regret to announce the passing in Plymouth  
of Mrs. Priscilla Sennett. Mrs. Sennett declared  
her Faith in Torquay some years ago, and soon  
after left for Canada to keep house for her son.  
Later she returned to live with her daughter in  
Plymouth. She was elderly and in delicate  
health, so could not attend Bahá'í meetings in  
other towns, but the Torquay Community were  
able to keep in touch with her by occasional  
visits.

**CANADA.** In the first six months of their plan,  
26 new believers have been enrolled, 13 localities  
have been settled and 32 others selected of the  
hundred scheduled. Committees have been set up  
for study and research into ways of making contact  
with Eskimos and Indians, and to consider the  
establishment of groups in Newfoundland and  
Greenland. The first three pioneers have been  
sent forth. Regional conferences were held in  
Franklin Island, Ontario, in August ; in Victoria,



British Columbia, in September ; and in Hamilton, Ontario, in October ; with 100, 65 and 50 attending respectively. A winter school was held at Beaulac, Quebec, at the turn of the year.

**DENMARK.** Three more have recently declared themselves and the Group now numbers thirteen.

**GERMANY.** The Five Year Plan recently adopted is outlined in the first issue of their Bahá'í News. Thilde Diestelhorst reported from Berlin, where she has returned from Geneva, that regular meetings are being held on Sunday afternoons and attracting at least fourteen, sometimes as many as twenty-five. "Each newcomer is a seeker after God, for only God is now their refuge."

**HUNGARY.** Mrs. Renee Szanto reported in October that the Budapest community with an elected Assembly now numbers 14, and holds regular meetings. They ask prayers for their help in their efforts to have the Faith recognised as an independent religion.

**ITALY.** Two more believers are reported from Rome making the number over there up to nineteen.

**JAPAN.** There were eleven believers assembled at the Shinagawa Girls' School in June last, and a temporary body of nine formed. Six believers had clung to the Faith all through the war.

**LUXEMBOURG.** Two outstanding conferences took place in Luxembourg towards the close of last year—the annual Congress of the World Federalists' Movement and the first Regional Translation and Publication Committee meeting of delegates from French-speaking countries.

**NORWAY.** A young English girl who heard about the Faith in Oslo declared herself in one of the German goal towns, as reported in the German Youth Bulletin.

**PALESTINE.** The foundation of the arcade of the shrine to the sepulchre of the Bab has been completed, and the 32 monolithic marble columns have reached their destination.

**PANAMA.** The Colon Assembly has presented all the necessary papers for incorporation and will be the second city in the Republic of Panama to be incorporated.

**PERSIA.** In the first 20 months of their 45 months plan achievements include 29 assemblies functioning in goal centres, four groups with assembly status, 16 new or reinstated assemblies in places other than goal centres, and 38 new groups and nuclei developed. (Pledges were on formation of 62 assemblies, 20 groups and 13 centres). These results have been obtained in spite of the greatest difficulty, desperation, sacrifice, persecution, vilification, violence and even fanatical attacking, culminating in loss of life, as happened in September last to Rahmayullah Yazdanpanah in Chalih-Zamin, a village in North Persia.

**POLAND.** The fortnightly meetings of the Bahá'í Study Group in Warsaw are continuing.

An article with full information on the Cause has been placed and the Kitáb-i-Iqán is being translated into Polish.

**RUSSIA.** In spite of very widespread damage to other buildings in the city, the Bahá'í Temple at Ishqabad has escaped almost unscathed from a very severe earthquake, which caused much havoc and devastation in early October throughout Turkestan, as well as in North Khurasan.

**SPAIN.** Mrs. Marion Little has settled in Madrid to help Virginia Orbison and the friends there.

**SWEDEN.** Regular classes are reported from Stockholm "with several in the preparatory class for membership."

**SWITZERLAND.** There are two new believers in Zurich where there appear to be six believers now. The number in Berne has reached twenty with the latest declaration, and in Geneva, there are 17 resident Persian Bahá'ís.

**TUNISIA.** Miss Irwin has been very active and reports the re-establishment of the Feast, a new declaration, numbers adequate for an assembly, a weekly study group and three public addresses in a Public Library.

**U.S.A.** The number of new believers recorded from month to month in the Bahá'í News last year totalled 557, of whom 29 were youth. For the first few months these will have included the figures for Canada. In the most prolific month, 128 were reported. The figures are about 10% higher than those of the previous year ; they do not include accessions to the Cause in Europe or other parts of America where the U.S.A. has active pioneers.

## THE AGE OF HARMONY.

O ye friends of God ! Today is the day of union and this age is the age of harmony in the world of existence. "Verily, God loveth those who are working in His path in groups, for they are a solid foundation." Consider ye that he says in "groups," united and bound together, supporting one another. "To work," mentioned in this holy verse, does not mean, in this greatest age, to perform it with swords, spears, shafts and arrows, but rather with sincere intentions, good designs, useful advices, divine moralities, beautiful actions, spiritual qualities, educating the public, guiding the souls of mankind, diffusing spiritual fragrances, explaining divine illustrations, showing convincing proofs and doing charitable deeds. When the holy souls, through the angelic power, will arise to show forth these celestial characteristics, establishing a band of harmony, each of these souls shall be regarded as one thousand persons and the waves of this greatest ocean shall be considered as the army of the hosts of the Supreme Concourse.

'ABDU'L-BAHÁ.