

# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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## "NO SACRIFICE IS TOO GREAT"

We have just received the following letter from our beloved Guardian, dated December 18th:

"He was very pleased to hear you have had eight new Bahá'ís since Convention, and hopes that this is only a foretaste of the conversion of souls in far greater numbers in the years lying ahead of us.

"The Six Year Plan is of the utmost importance, and he urges your Assembly to continually keep reminding the friends of the necessity for sustaining their efforts through arising personally to serve, and through giving generously that others may serve in their place.

In this connection he hopes you will use the services of Marion Holley, now Mrs. David Hofman, to the full. She is a gifted speaker and writer, and has had invaluable experience in America as a member of the National Teaching Committee during the Seven-Year Plan. Both she and Mr. Hofman are wholly dedicated to the service of the Cause, and eager to do all in their power to help accomplish the goals of your Six-Year Plan.

"He was happy to hear that the Summer School was held successfully. Now that the war is over, and conditions gradually returning to normal, he hopes that the British believers will exert their utmost in serving the Cause and spreading its Message. Although from time to time they will receive the help of outside Bahá'ís the major responsibility is theirs, and the lion's share of the work will naturally fall to them as both their privilege and their duty.

"He assures you one and all that his ardent prayers sustain you in your labours for the Faith, and he feels sure that with sufficient effort on the part of all, and the Power of God which inevitably sustains self-sacrificing service in His Path, the goals can be gloriously achieved.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. RABBANI.

"Dearly-beloved co-workers,

"I am anxiously waiting for the news of the progress of the Six-Year Plan, upon which the future orientation of the collective activities of the English believers depends, and with which the immediate destinies of their Faith are interwoven. No sacrifice is too great to ensure its success. The utmost effort, vigilance, perseverance and self-sacrifice are required to carry it to a successful conclusion. If the friends, individually and collectively, play their part and exert their utmost, the abundant blessings of Bahá'u'lláh will be fully vouchsafed, and the triumph of the Plan will mark a glorious chapter in the history of the Faith. **I appeal to the community to dedicate itself to this sacred and urgent task, the greatest collective enterprise ever undertaken by the followers of Bahá'u'lláh in the British Isles.**

Your true and grateful brother,  
SHOGHI."

This letter was carefully and earnestly considered at the recent meeting of the N.S.A. The resolution taken by the N.S.A. and the steps to strengthen the National Teaching Committee and to define its functions have already been communicated to the friends in the circular subsequently sent out by the N.S.A., which also contained the Guardian's own message as quoted above. We therefore print the full letter here without further comment.

### Convention, 1946.

Convention will be held this year on April 27th and 28th. Further details will be issued later.



## Health and the Six-Year Plan.

Someone said one day: "Half the Bahá'ís always seem to be ill and unable to attend meetings." How did they get that impression?

Perhaps we do not realise the importance of keeping in health. We look on ill-health as a personal problem, a test and a trial to be borne with patience.

The Bahá'í Founders seem to have looked on the preservation of health as a duty, that bodily health would follow on the well-being of our minds and thoughts. Our bodies are the lamps of which the Holy Spirit is the Light and must be kept in efficient condition for purpose of radiating it.

'Abdu'l-Bahá's first question to a visitor was almost always: "Are you well, are you happy?" One of the early American believers describing her first meeting with Him said that she went straight from the station, after a long and exhausting night journey to the house in which He was staying, weary, with aching head and limbs. He took her hand and said: "Are you well?" Without thought she found herself replying "Yes, Master," and with the words was conscious that pain and weariness fell from her like a burden dropped, and she stood refreshed and invigorated.

Bahá'u'lláh in giving forth the short healing prayer, seems to imply that it should be said frequently by the believers. If we all began the day by repeating it nine times, the health of the believers might become a by-word. It would be like the trimming and filling our lamp to reflect the light within.

The words "Thy name is my healing, O my God, and remembrance of Thee is my remedy," make us prepared for, and conscious of the descending spirit which will possess us, and has the power to expel all the evil that is contrary to the will of God.

"Nearness to Thee is my hope, and love for Thee is my companion" drives out fear which is one of the chief causes of ill-health. "Fear," someone has said, "is the greatest sin of all." It is lack of faith and trust in the power of God.

"Thy mercy to me is my healing and my succour in both this world and the world to come," brings to us the universal consciousness that "in Him we live and move and have our being."

Let us not miss this powerful sustaining tonic, do not let us accept the ills of the flesh, and bear them, but conquer them. It has been said that the Master was at different times attacked by numerous dire diseases but he surmounted them all; and a physician who was in Haifa at the time of His Passing spoke of His sacred body as being like that of a young man.

There is such a great work to be done in this day, we need all our powers of health to carry

out our share of it. Let us summon our strength and in the power of the spirit actively pursue health.

## NEWS.

Mr. Hasan Sabry, of Cairo, who used to be secretary of the Egyptian Youth Committee, is in England and will be studying at Loughborough College for the next few years. Mr. S. Nikanpour, of Iran, also is studying at Birmingham University.

Several successful meetings have been held lately in Blackpool at the home of Mrs. Curwen. Various different visitors have spoken and Mrs. Curwen reports that the attendance is becoming so good she cannot get any more into her room and will have to look for somewhere bigger.

Betty York, of Northampton, has moved to Derby.

A letter arrived in London addressed to "The Spiritual Society, London." The Post Office delivered it straight to No. 1 Victoria Street. Unfortunately it was not for us after all.

Una Townsend, daughter of Canon G. Townsend, who is serving in the A.T.S., has returned from service in Italy and, being stationed near London, is able to join in the life of the community.

Mr. R. St. Barbe Baker and Miss Doreen Long were married at the London Centre on January 23rd.

As we now subscribe for six copies of the Australian quarterly, "Herald of the South," copies are sent to each local assembly for their lending library and the magazine can also be borrowed from the National Lending Library.

The Indian N.S.A. are very kindly sending us copies of the books they produce. This means that, in addition to other books now in our reference library, the collection of translations of Dr. Esslemont's book, used for exhibition, has now risen to 38 different languages.

Mr. and Mrs. David Hofman thank all the friends warmly for the wedding present given them. They are using the money to forward the Six-Year Plan by buying books for lending, tea-cups, etc., for use at their fireside meetings.

We were very pleased to receive a visit recently from Sgt. John Eichenauer of Phoenix, Arizona, now serving with the U.S. Army in Germany. It was interesting and stimulating to hear of his experiences both as a pioneer in Latin America and as one of the first to contact the German believers after the end of the war in Europe. Johnny stayed in London for some days and also visited Northampton, Nottingham and Manchester.

## New Believer.

We welcome with pleasure Ernest Lacey of Ilkeston (Youth).



## The World Community of Bahá'u'lláh.

The Guardian has entrusted the Indian Bahá'ís with the task of helping to re-establish the activities of the Faith in Burma. They are to relieve distress amongst the friends there, rebuild the administrative buildings which were all destroyed, and generally set them on their feet again. The Indian N.S.A. has opened a fund for this purpose, to which the British N.S.A. has sent £10.

Bahá'í students at the National Teachers' College in Persia have recently been forbidden to continue their studies, by an order of the Board of Education. A strong protest has been lodged with the Board of Education by the Persian N.S.A.

We received a report from the friends in Anchorage, Alaska. There are ten Bahá'ís there, with two more outside the city limits, and a few more in two other towns of Alaska. They have also made contacts in a number of other Alaskan towns and villages, working by correspondence as travel is very difficult; visits have to be made by aeroplane or dog team! In Anchorage, they hold a big meeting once a fortnight, besides fire-sides and study classes. They also give a radio broadcast every Tuesday, immediately after an international news broadcast, and get a good deal of press publicity too.

We hear that Bruce Davison, serving in Germany with the U.S. Army, was able to organise a public meeting in Frankfurt which was attended by 250. Also that the local spiritual assemblies in Stuttgart and Hamburg have been re-formed.

The Indian friends inaugurated on January 9th, a 4½ Year Teaching Plan, to terminate, as our Plan does, on July 9th, 1950 (the Centenary of the Martyrdom of the Báb). The goal is the establishment of at least 63 centres. Detailed aims are the re-establishment of all dissolved assemblies, the turning of all groups into assemblies, the establishment of an assembly in the capitals of all the eleven provinces of India and the establishment of an assembly in the most important towns of British India and Burma and the major Indian States. They have divided India into eight zones, naming certain towns in each where work is to be concentrated. They also hope to establish five centres in Burma, but details of these remain unsettled until normal communication with that country is restored.

We hear that some of the German believers suffered persecution during the War. A number were tried before the special courts and sentenced to fines and terms of imprisonment, and all their books and literature confiscated. Dr. Grossman lost the greater part of his valuable Bahá'í library and archives, most of which had to be destroyed, but a part was allowed to be given to the University of Heidelberg, which treated it with care and attention. Thus Heidelberg has become the first university in Germany to possess a collection of material on the Faith. The believers all showed great courage and clearly confessed the Faith before the various courts where they appeared. One trial was held in public and the public prosecutor here d'd for the Bahá'ís what they had for years been prevented from doing themselves, when he gave a statement of the history and principles of the Faith and the claims of Bahá'u'lláh. Although it was the declared intention to extinguish the Faith in Germany, by the bounty of God the friends were protected from any sentences which might endanger their lives and only suffered fines and imprisonment.

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We are asked to state, in response to enquiries, that Mr. R. St. Barbe Baker is not the person recently mentioned in the newspapers in connection with the Christian Reform Movement at Kingdom House.

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"Be ye guided by wisdom in all your doings, and cleave ye tenaciously unto it. Please God ye may all be strengthened to carry out that which is the Will of God, and may be graciously assisted to appreciate the rank conferred upon such of His loved ones as have arisen to serve Him and magnify His Name. Upon them be the glory of God, the glory of all that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth, and the glory of the inmates of the most exalted Paradise, the heaven of heavens."—(Gleanings).

### In Memoriam.

I testify, O my Lord, that Thou hast enjoined upon men to honour their guest, and he that hath ascended unto Thee hath verily reached Thee and attained Thy Presence. Deal with him then according to Thy grace and bounty.

Mrs. Muriel Ward of Torquay community,  
January 18th.

Mrs. C. Taylor, of Manchester community,  
January 19th.

Mrs. M. Craven, of Manchester community,  
January 21st.



## BAHA'I COMMUNITY LIFE.

A series of articles which will appear from time to time. The first is—

### The Bahá'í Centre.

In the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh—that future civilization which we are striving to build—the centre of every community is the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár. 'Abdu'l-Bahá says: "The Temple is the most great foundation of the world of humanity and it hath many branches. Although the Temple is the place of worship, with it is connected a hospital, pharmacy, pilgrim's house, school for orphans, and a university for the study of high sciences. Every Temple is connected with these five things."

Hazíratu'l-Quds (Bahá'í Headquarters) is "the focus of all Bahá'í administrative activity" to use the Guardian's words, and is an institution "complementary in its functions to those of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár." In "God Passes By" he writes: "From the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár, ordained as a house of worship by Bahá'u'lláh in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, the representatives of Bahá'í communities, both local and national, together with the members of their respective committees, will, as they gather daily within its walls at the hour of dawn, derive the necessary inspiration that will enable them to discharge, in the course of their day-to-day exertions in the Hazíratu'l-Quds—the scene of their administrative activities—their duties and responsibilities as befits the chosen stewards of His Faith."

Hazíratu'l-Quds already exist in Australia, Egypt, India, Irán, Iráq, Palestine and the United States, and the Temple at Wilmette is the heart of the future Mashriqu'l-Adhkár there. The Temple at Ishqábád will doubtless be restored to us one day, and will become another one.

The Bahá'í Centre to-day has to serve a great many purposes. The Spiritual Assembly and its committees generally meet there; the local library is housed there; it is the home of local archives and other possessions. Meetings and study classes, Nineteen Day Feasts, the holy days and festivals of the Faith are celebrated in it. Individual believers have often obtained the use of their Bahá'í Centre for study classes or for inviting a few friends to hear about the Cause.

If your own home is not available, or you would prefer to use the Centre, by all means ask the Spiritual Assembly's permission. This is an excellent way of introducing your friends to the Faith, and you could probably enlist the help of the catering committee. In case you feel unable to present the Cause yourself, you can

always ask another believer to be there to do it for you.

Make your Bahá'í Centre the real centre of your community life, so that the light of the Cause may shine from it.

## BAHA'I PUBLISHING TRUST.

"Some Special Bahá'í Prayers and Tablets," price 1/-, is now ready. It contains the following:—

- The Obligatory Prayers.
- Prayers for the Fast.
- A Meditation for the Intercalary Days.
- A Meditation for Naw-Rúz.
- Tablet of Visitation.
- Prayer for Visitation for 'Abdu'l-Bahá.
- Prayer for the Dead.
- A Prayer for the Departed.
- Marriage Tablet.
- A Marriage Prayer.
- Tablet of Ahmad.
- Tablet of the Holy Mariner.

This book is intended for declared Bahá'ís and is **not suitable** to give to enquirers.

"The Rising World Commonwealth." A selection from the Guardian's writings, showing the relation of the faith to present-day world affairs. Price 6d.

"This Momentous Hour." A four-page folder giving some Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi, bearing on the present world situation. 1/- a dozen.

These last two are suitable equally for those knowing something about the Faith already and those meeting it for the first time.

Our annual quota of books from America is now arriving. As usual, requests for these books will be filled in the order in which they are received after the issue of this Journal.

Books available are:—

Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh ... ..	10/-
Epistle to the Son of the Wolf ... ..	7/6
Prayers and Meditations ... ..	10/-
Some Answered Questions ... ..	7/6
God Passes By ... ..	12/6
Kitab-i-Iqan ... ..	12/6
Promulgation of Universal Peace ... ..	12/6