

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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THE FOUR YEAR PLAN

Dear Friends,

We are pledged to a great undertaking. A beginning has already been made, and there are signs of an increasing and widespread interest in the message of Bahá'u'lláh. Our task is to answer this interest, and to arouse it where it does not already exist.

The first thing is to ensure that the National Fund is able to finance the work involved. Unless this is done, we may as well stop now. Only a steady, uninterrupted flow of contributions, will enable the National Spiritual Assembly to carry out the plan, both in its initial stages, and in its entirety. As day follows day, people's minds become more receptive to spiritual truth, and their hearts respond to the message of a New Life. We must take advantage of this time, and send our teachers wherever possible to lay the foundations of new communities.

Full Time Worker

A believer has generously contributed a sum for the opening of a fund which will enable the N.S.A. to employ a full time worker. This has been a long felt need. The N.S.A. has now engaged Mr. David Hofman as editor of "New World Order" and manager of the Bahá'í Publishing Trust. It should be emphasised that Mr. Hofman is not employed as a teacher, nor as secretary of the N.S.A., but in the capacities mentioned. He has filled both these positions for some time, in an honorary capacity.

The friends know of the work involved in "New World Order," but not so much, perhaps, of the Publishing Trust. All publications, even when not compiled by him, have to be prepared for press, or edited, proof read, arrangements made for type, general appearance, etc. Large work, such as the

new edition of Dr. Esslemont's book, or the publication of "The Chosen Highway" means a great deal of work during weeks or months, involving professional knowledge and ability. Arrangements with publishers over such books as "The Heart of the Gospel," or the new edition of "The Promise of All Ages" have to be made. The stock of books published in America has to be maintained, involving the application for an Import Licence for each shipment. And there are many other smaller things to attend to.

It is sincerely hoped that this new step, taken by the N.S.A., will greatly help the Four Year Plan. Mr. Hofman will be able to spend far more time in teaching, and will be at the full service of the N.S.A. After attending the Teaching week-end in Nottingham he will speak at the "Men of the Trees" Summer School in Dorset, go from there to Salisbury where there are some good contacts, then to Bristol for a little time, in the hope of arranging a study group.

The salary paid for this engagement is a modest one, but unless the Fund is supported it will not be possible to continue it, and Mr. Hofman will have to seek other employment.

We recall the Guardian's message printed in Bahá'í Journal No. 16, of January, 1939:—"They who have risen to the height of their present opportunities stand at the threshold of unprecedented achievements. They must labour continually, exercise the utmost vigilance, proclaim courageously and cling tenaciously to the principles of their Faith, spiritual as well as administrative, and resolve to endure every hardship, however severe, for the vindication, the consolidation and recognition of the Faith they profess and are now so admirably serving."

EVACUATION OF CHILDREN

The N.S.A. has spent some time on perfecting a plan for the evacuation of Bahá'í children to America. Bahá'í mothers have been circularised and details obtained of children whose parents wish to send them. A cable was sent to the American N.S.A. asking them to guarantee a number of Bahá'í children. A reply has been received saying that the N.S.A. is appealing to the friends for guarantees and hopes for many responses.

A number of Bahá'í children are precluded from going since they are under the age limit, five to sixteen. Our plan is to gather a party of children and place them in charge of a competent adult, who would hand them over to the American friends on arrival. The government Committee approves of this, and will allow an adult to accompany the Bahá'í party, provided it is sufficiently large.

In the meantime the plans for evacuation are held up.

It is possible that a few children, whose parents can afford the fare, will be sent under the American Government's quota scheme. In this case the National Spiritual Assembly in America will be asked to guarantee them for the duration of the war.

MR. J. LEE

In order to correct any wrong impressions about the conditions of Mr. Lee's business, the N.S.A., with his consent, makes the following statement:—About a year ago there was danger of Mr. Lee's business going into bankruptcy. The N.S.A. took an active part in making an arrangement whereby the business is now in the hands of an agent, who represents the creditors. Mr. Lee is retained to manage the business, at a fixed salary. Sums are paid into an account from which a distribution will be made, from time to time, to the creditors. When all creditors are paid, the business will be returned to Mr. Lee.

STATEMENT ON LOYALTY TO GOVERNMENT AND ATTITUDE TO MILITARY SERVICE

All the friends will have had, by now, the statement compiled and printed by the N.S.A., entitled "The Bahá'í Faith," dated June 28th, 1940. A copy of this statement has been deposited with the Police in London. A number has been sent to each community, and it is the wish of the N.S.A. that every believer should have a copy, know thoroughly its contents, and understand them. Copies should be retained in each Bahá'í Centre, and whenever official enquiries are made, a copy should be given to the authority making the enquiry.

RULINGS OF THE N.S.A.

Dear Friends,

As our corporate life develops, the Administrative Order becomes more and more important to us. It is clearly seen as the Divine plan by which all our activities are given focus, our efforts made effective, our power of growth re-inforced, our unity preserved, and our problems solved in the higher plane of spirit. From time to time clarification is needed on certain points, and herein lies one of the duties of the N.S.A. Accordingly, under this column, various decisions and rulings will be published, which all the friends should study and remember. In this way we shall develop our own characteristic community, within the framework of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh.

The following rulings were made at the N.S.A.'s meeting of June 25th.

1. All matters of difference between members of a Spiritual Assembly, should be brought before that Assembly for discussion.
2. Members of Spiritual Assemblies are obliged to attend meetings when called by the secretary or other authorised person.

SUMMER SCHOOL

It is with great regret that Summer School has been cancelled but the restrictions on holidays made it impossible not to do so. The N.S.A. asks you to bear ever in mind, the needs of the Four Year Plan, and to direct the energy which would have gone to Summer School, into the Teaching work. As a practical start to this redirection of energy, it is suggested that friends who have been saving up for Summer School, might contribute their Summer School money to the National Fund; those believers who do not have to save up could contribute the amount they would have spent on going to Summer School. If this is done it will conserve our energy, and release it for the Teaching work, thus deriving great benefit from an apparent calamity.

The N.S.A. has arranged for a week-end of Teaching in Nottingham, where several non-Bahá'ís were intending to come to Summer School. Members of the National Teaching Committee will be there, and will be able to see whether this method of Teaching should be adopted elsewhere.

NOTTINGHAM

Mrs. Lacey in Ilkeston, and Miss Richardson in Nottingham, have made the arrangements for a Teaching week-end on July 27th and 28th. The first meeting is in Ilkeston on Saturday evening, July 27th, in the hall of the Methodist Church. On Sunday there will be two meetings in Nottingham in a place to be arranged.

The meeting in Ilkeston will be of a social kind, when it is hoped that many of Mr. and Mrs. Lacey's friends will come. Friends from London are going and believers who can are urged to go too. In Nottingham the meetings will be public and will be advertised in the local press.

It is hoped that several friends will be able to go, so as to make a truly Bahá'í week-end. It is best to stay in Nottingham, where reasonable lodgings may be found; there is a good bus service to Ilkeston, about six miles away. Miss Esther Richardson, "Epworth," Fernleigh Avenue, Mapperley, Nottingham, will be glad to help you find accommodation, and give you all information.

BAHA'I PUBLISHING TRUST

The Publishing Trust announces the following additions to stock and alteration in prices:—

Additions

Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh.

Six Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh in which He announces the social and spiritual principles of the new age ... 7/6

Three Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh.

The Tablet of the Branch (appointing 'Abdu'l-Bahá as the Interpreter of the Teachings); Kitáb-i-Ahd (Bahá'u'lláh's Testament); Lawh-i-Aqdas (Tablet to the Christians; do not confuse with Kitáb-i-Aqdas, the Most Holy Book) ... 1/6

Bahá'í Peace Programme.

'Abdu'l-Bahá's Tablets to the Committee for a Durable Peace, The Hague, and to Dr. Auguste Forel ... 2/6

Reality of Man.

'Abdu'l-Bahá explains the relationship of mind, body and soul ... 1/-

Alterations in Price

	formerly	now
Goal of a New World Order, in Esperanto ...	3d.	6d.
Bahá'í Administration ...	6/-	7/6
Security for a Failing World ...	3/6	4/-
Dawnbreakers ...	30/-	£22.0

These advances in price are necessary because of the depreciation in sterling. Spiritual Assemblies which already have some of these books will not be charged the new prices on their present stock. This gives the friends an opportunity to buy a few of these books at the old prices.

Bargains

For one month, until August 31st.

Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh. Shoghi Effendi ... 6d.

Unfoldment of World Civilisation.

Shoghi Effendi ... 6d.

To reduce stock:—

Hidden Words, bound in blue cloth ... 6d.

Bargains will only be sold for cash, either directly or through your librarian.

DELEGATES TO THE ANNUAL CONVENTION 1940

Please refer to Journal No. 23, page 9, "Emergency Measures."

Mrs. Cranmer,	19a Darracott Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth.
Mrs. Langdon-Davies,	6 Huxham's Cross, Dartington, Totnes, Devon.
Mrs. Stevens,	Three Hills, Hampton Avenue, Babbacombe, Devon.
Mrs. Ward,	Kirkham, St. Albans Road, Babbacombe, Devon.
Mr. Frank Hurst,	21 Linden Grove, Leeds, 11.
Mr. Peter Wilkinson,	40 Merrion Street, Leeds.
Mr. Arthur Norton,	41 Cranbourne Road, Chellow Dene, Bradford, Yorks.
Mr. R. Coulson,	"Oakleigh," Boothroyden Road, Blackley, Manchester, 9.
Miss Ada Williams,	294 Barton Road, Stretford, Manchester.
Mr. Alfred Sugar,	39 Dover Street, Crumpsall, Manchester.
Mr. John Craven,	15 Riddings Road, Timperley, Cheshire.
Mr. H. M. Balyuzi,	21a 34b Elvaston Place, London, S.W.7.
Miss Dorothy Cansdale,	35 Thornton Avenue, S.W.2.
Mr. Louis Rosenfield,	91 Cromwell Road, Redhill, Surrey.
Mrs. K. V. Brown,	40 Pensford Avenue, Kew Gardens, Surrey.
Mr. David Hofman,	Bahá'í Centre, 46 Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1.
Miss Marguerite Wellby,	20, Primrose Gardens, Belsize Park, London, N.W.3.
Mr. Donald Millar,	32 Barrington Court, Muswell Hill, London, N.10.
Mr. Z. Asgarzadeh,	45 Alexandra Grove, London, N.12.

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

"Gird up the loins of thine endeavour, that haply thou mayest guide thy neighbour to the law of God, the Most Merciful. Such an act, verily, excelleth all other acts in the sight of God, the All-Possessing, the Most High."

Dear Friends,

As these striking words of Bahá'u'lláh suggest, it is the bounden duty, as well as privilege, of every believer to promote His Cause to the utmost of his ability. Spreading the Message is, however, inadequate without an intimate knowledge and deep-seated understanding of His all-embracing teachings. For this reason and with this end in view the National Teaching Committee has been appointed to help all believers to deepen their knowledge of Bahá'í principles, history, and especially administration. The Committee serves also as a connecting link between communities, relating their activities to the National Spiritual Assembly, co-ordinating their efforts and arranging for the supply of teachers whenever and wherever needed by scattered believers.

The work, dear friends, is urgent, the time available short, the labourers truly are few. At Convention the delegates proposed to the new National Spiritual Assembly that we undertake by the end of the first Bahá'í century (May 23rd, 1944) to have established 19 Spiritual Assemblies in the British Isles. Now, the success of this undertaking, seemingly so vast in proportion to our limited numbers and slender resources, depends essentially on a wide scattering of the seed in the early days, so that out of the large number of souls thus informed of the Faith, the receptive ones may themselves spread the Message while at the same time extending their own knowledge. And thus towards the end of this period the goal may be attained and the 19 Assemblies functioning.

Yes, we indeed realise that of ourselves we can do nothing, but willing instruments are effective tools in the hands of Bahá'u'lláh for the foundation of His world-wide community and the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. Let us then, be brave, courageous, and, as far as the Cause of God is concerned, the reverse of the "silent column" . . . let us talk and talk and talk! We have been assured of the continued and ardent prayers of our beloved Guardian for the extension of our teaching work here in England in face of whatever hardships and privations we may have to endure because of the war. May we arise and work without ceasing to extend and consolidate the Faith, and by self-sacrifice, devotion, and intensive reading, may we equip ourselves befittingly for the high task before us.

Yours devotedly in service to Bahá'u'lláh,

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE.

The formation of the National Teaching Committee is reported in Bahá'í Journal No. 23. Since then it has met several times, and reported to the National Spiritual Assembly. The Committee's suggestion that it should circularise the friends by means of a mimeographed letter was amended by the N.S.A., so that the Teaching Committee now has space in Bahá'í Journal. Under this section the Committee will make its reports, speak to the friends, and give Teaching material and suggestions.

The Committee has outlined certain subjects which it will discuss in this column. Among them are:—The Implications of the Four Year Plan and the obligation of the believers; Guardianship; A programme of questions and answers, containing questions frequently asked by enquirers, and giving the references in Bahá'í books where the answers may be found.

At present the Committee recommends the following books for use in the ways indicated:—

General Text Book

Bahá'u'lláh and The New Era. Dr. Esslemont.

For Study

Security for a Failing World. Stanwood Cobb.
Some Answered Questions.

The Guardian's Documents:—

The Goal of a New World Order.
The Unfoldment of World Civilization.
The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh.

For Teachers

In addition to the above:—
The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh.
Kitáb-i-Íqán, The Book of Certitude.
Bahá'í Procedure.

For Religious People

The Promise of All Ages.
Archdeacon Townshend.
The Heart of the Gospel.
Archdeacon Townshend.

General Reading and For Enquirers

Talks of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in London and Paris.
Promulgation of Universal Peace.

Devotional

Hidden Words.
Prayers and Meditations.
Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh.
Prayers.
Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

The Committee is anxious for questions and suggestions from all the friends. Address Miss Baxter, Bahá'í Centre, 46 Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1.