

BAHA'I JOURNAL

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MESSAGE FROM THE GUARDIAN.

"Overjoyed thankful perseverance English believers attested recent communications assure them special prayers abiding appreciation".

This message, received by cable, has already been sent to the friends by means of the letter from the national treasurer, appealing for funds to support the teaching campaign. We are confident that the believers through their response, will add to the Guardian's happiness and provide full and sufficient means for the prosecution of our task this winter.

ANNUAL TEACHING CONFERENCE.

The third rallying point of the year, the Teaching Conference, is immediately before us. After the experience of Summer School we know that everyone will try to attend. There are questions of vital importance to the Faith, and to our future service, which need the full consultation of all the friends. The Conference has been arranged, as in previous years, for the end of December, and will be held at the Manchester Bahá'í Centre. The date is December 30th, 31st, January 1st. The programme as follows:-

December 30th. 3 p.m. Questions. Consultation between the believers and the N.S.A. on any matters of teaching or administration.

Evening N.S.A. meeting.

December 31st 10.30 a.m. The Bahá'í Fund - The Right of God. Speakers:- Mrs. Brown; Mr. Hofman.

2.30 p.m. Teaching Resources
Speakers:- Mrs. Langdon-Davies;
Mr. Wilkinson.

Evening Feast of Sharaf - Honour.

January 1st N.S.A. meeting

Special attention is drawn to the session for Questions on the afternoon of December 30th. It is felt that many believers

would like clear explanations of various points and it is hoped that questions will be prepared and presented at this session.

BAHÁ'ÍS AND WAR.

In spite of the many statements made through the Journal on this matter, there still appear to be some misunderstandings. It is felt that these will only be removed through a deeper understanding of the Faith itself, and to this end the N.S.A. would urge every believer to intensify his study of the Teachings. The time is not far distant when we shall be called upon to present the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh to the people en masse. Only a deep and thorough understanding of the Revelation, especially in its social and ethical significance, will enable us to do this properly.

Two specific points are as follows:- We do not object to military service, nor to the use of force. As loyal upholders of the principles of our Faith we apply for exemption from combatant military service, at the same time showing our willingness to undertake any form of national service, either at home or abroad, which is not directly combatant. An examination of the form to be filled in when making application, makes it clear that Bahá'ís should apply under the second category.

TEACHING.

The national secretary, on his way to Newcastle, stopped in Bradford and enjoyed the hospitality of the friends. Two public meetings were held, one in Bradford and the other in Leeds. Both were well attended by non-Bahá'ís and interesting questions were asked. The Spiritual Assembly has taken the lease of a Bahá'í Centre and hopes to be moved in soon.

A few contacts have been made in Newcastle and a fireside meeting is being held in a café in the centre of the town. If the friends make the necessary response to the treasurer's appeal, the work will be continued here throughout the winter. A Spiritual Assembly in the heart of Tyneside would be of immense importance to the consolidation and future growth of the Faith.

Mr. Balyuzi has recently visited Torquay where several new enquirers are coming to the meetings. He reports a remarkable understanding of the significance of the Faith among the believers, and a true sense of the obligation accepted.

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH & THE NEW ERA.

A new edition of this book will be available in January at half-a-crown. It has been revised and many new translations substituted for the old ones. In addition several slight adjustments have been made, such as correcting the error in describing the station of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and giving a fuller outline of the Administrative Order. The friends are urged to use this book for teaching.

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL.

In order to economise the N.S.A. has decided to revert to the practice of mimeographing the Journal. This in no way lessens its importance as the official communication of the N.S.A. to the friends.

MARTHA ROOT.

The whole Bahá'í world mourns the loss of Martha Root, who passed away in Honolulu on her way home to the United States in order to reinforce the campaign of the American friends in the southern continent. She spent her life in the service of Bahá'u'lláh, and a report from America says that the Guardian speaks of her as the greatest teacher the Bahá'í Faith has yet produced. May her spirit reinforce our efforts.