

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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A SPLENDID BEGINNING HAS BEEN MADE

"Dear and valued co-workers: I am delighted with the work which is being so energetically conducted, and so faithfully extended and consolidated by the English believers, and particularly by their national elected representatives whose magnificent efforts, courage and perseverance deserve the highest praise. A splendid beginning has been made. A firm foundation has been established. Perseverance is now required to bring these devoted, painstaking and concerted efforts to full and speedy fruition. The path you are treading is beset with formidable obstacles, but the invincible power of the Faith will, if you remain faithful and steadfast, enable you to surmount them. My prayers will continue to be offered on your behalf. May Bahá'u'lláh fulfil every hope you cherish in the service of this Faith. Your true and grateful brother, Shoghi."

Dear Friends: March 21st is the beginning of the new Bahá'í year, the year 96 of the Bahá'í era. Let us take fresh courage from our beloved Guardian's message and with new resolve, arise as one soul, to continue the work he has approved. Ways and means can be discussed at Convention. At this time,

let us rather be occupied with gathering reserves of spiritual strength, with deepening our faith and with preparing ourselves to embark on another year of steady and unrelenting effort. From March 2nd to March 21st is the period of the Fast, nineteen days set aside by Bahá'u'lláh for purification and intense spiritual effort. Not all of us are able to keep the Fast, but we can all unite in making these days a special time for prayer and meditation.

"O God, my God. Shield Thy trusted servants from the evils of self and passion; protect them with the watchful eye of Thy loving-kindness from all rancour, hate and envy; shelter them in the impregnable stronghold of Thy care, and keep them safe from the darts of the doubters. Make them to manifest Thy glorious signs; illumine their faces with the effulgent rays from the day-spring of Thy divine unity; gladden their hearts with the verses revealed from Thy holy kingdom; strengthen their loins by Thine all-pervading power that descends from Thy realm of glory. Thou art the all-bountiful, the protector, the almighty, the gracious." Prayer revealed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

CONVENTION

The Annual Convention has been arranged for April 28th to April 30th inclusive, at the Bahá'í Centre, London. The programme is as follows : —

Friday at 8 p.m. — Presentation of reports.

Saturday at 2 p.m. — Election of National Spiritual Assembly.

Saturday at 4.30 p.m.—The friends are invited by Lady Blomfield to a Rizwan Feast at her house.

Saturday at 7.0 p.m.—Return to Centre for discussion.

Sunday at 11 a.m.—Consultation with National Spiritual Assembly.

On Friday the Convention will open with the election of Convention officers, nominated from the floor, and after the reports have been read, they will be discussed as time permits. Further discussion on reports may take place at the evening session on Saturday.

Delegates.

Delegates have been allotted in the following proportion : —

Bradford	...	...	2
London	...	...	10
Manchester	...	...	5
Torquay	...	...	2
			—
			19
			—

Spiritual Assemblies have been asked to accredit their delegates as soon as possible. They will be sent a time table and ballot paper before the Convention, and are asked to be seated in good time at all sessions. Only the delegates may vote and have the right and duty to take part in the discussions, but other be-

lievers may be called into consultation at the discretion of the chairman.

Important.

The voting lists are being prepared now. Will any friends who would be unable to serve on the National Spiritual Assembly if elected to do so, please advise the secretary immediately, otherwise all names will stand.

We would remind the friends that Convention is the first annual rallying point of the year and it is hoped that there will be a big attendance.

PUBLISHING TRUST

Dr. Esslemont's Book.

Negotiations are in process with the publishers for a new edition of *Bahá'u'lláh and The New Era* at half a crown. They will not be available for a few weeks but in the meantime there are a few copies of the original clothbound edition.

Prayer Book.

The National Spiritual Assembly is compiling a prayer book, which it hopes to be able to sell for one shilling. Until this is ready a few copies of the small compilation made in America are on order, and can be had for sixpence within a few days. This is the small blue book published in 1937. In the meantime, until the new prayer book is ready, we shall print in *Bahá'í Journal*, one or two prayers.

Calendar.

Small Bahá'í calendars are now available at one penny each. They contain the dates of all the Nineteen Day Feasts

from Nauruz 1939 to Nauruz 1940 as well as the names of the Bahá'í months and the dates of all Bahá'í festivals and anniversaries.

ARCHIVES

The response to our request for early numbers of '*Bahá'í Journal*' has been very gratifying. What are now needed are a few copies of the Teaching Bulletins, which were issued from February 1936 until July 1936. There were five altogether, mimeographed and pinned in the top left hand corner. If any of the friends will send copies of these to the National Secretary for the Archives they will be rendering a service to the Faith.

We also wish to collect one or two complete sets of the quarterly News-Letter which was issued before 1936. It was printed. Copies of these will be gratefully received.

The Archives now contain a robe worn by Bahá'u'lláh, and several original Tablets of the Master's. Other objects are in the possession of the National Spiritual Assembly, but have not yet been properly packed for deposit.

TEACHING

We are happy to report that the Teaching work is progressing. Arrangements are being made for the election of two new Spiritual Assemblies in April. There are ten declared believers in Torquay and twelve in Bradford, two of whom are under twenty-one.

We welcome to the service of the Faith, Mr. Hurst, Miss Margaret Walker, Mr. & Mrs. Stone, Mr. Philip Hainsworth and Mr. Ralph Naylor in Bradford and Leeds, and Mrs. Mat-

thews, Mrs. Myott, the Misses Budgell, Mrs. Flowers and Mr. Turvey in Torquay.

The friends in both these places are holding the Nineteen Day Feasts regularly, and are studying and holding teaching meetings. In Torquay they have taken a room for use as the Bahá'í Centre and recently a meeting was arranged at the Psychology Club. In Bradford there have been several talks and discussions with young men's associations as well as meetings and study classes.

In London an Exhibition was held recently at Notting Hill Gate in connection with the new paper, and several people were attracted and came in to talk and buy literature. Fireside meetings are being held in several districts. On March 26th, Mr. David Hofman will address the Theistic Church in Bond Street at their morning service, and will present the Faith.

BAHA'I PIONEERS

Mr. and Mrs. Lee and their two children have moved from Manchester to Brighton where they intend to set up in business. At the Teaching Conference in December the need for resident Bahá'ís in various places was discussed and at that time Mr. Lee said he was willing to move to some other district, and had thought of Brighton. This fitted in very well with the Teaching work, as there are several contacts there. This is the first time in England, that believers have moved to other parts with the specific intention of establishing the Faith there. May they prosper and soon achieve their desire.

BAHA'I DIRECTORY

BRADFORD GROUP—Miss Joan Wilkinson, 20 Southey Place, Bradford.

LONDON SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY—46 Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1.

MANCHESTER SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY—Bahá'í Centre, 39 High Street, Manchester, 4.

TORQUAY GROUP—Mrs. Stevens, Three Hills, Hampton Avenue, Babbacombe, Devon.

BOURNEMOUTH GROUP—Miss Grace Challis, 'Rizwan,' Broadstone, Dorset.

Isolated Believers.

Miss Emily Eastgate	...	26 Hampton Road, Birchfield, Birmingham, 6.
Mrs. Cooper	...	Feniscowles Old Hall, Pleasington, Blackburn.
Mrs. Ginman	...	2 All Saints Terrace, Hewlett Road, Cheltenham.
Mrs. Harrison	...	2 Blaquette Avenue, Droitwich Road, Worcester.
Miss Betty Haynes	...	7 Park Lawn Avenue, Epsom, Surrey.
Mrs. Stanley Howlett	...	Flat 8, over Hepworth's, High St., Stratford-on-Avon.
Mr. E. Ismailian	...	203 Pershon Road, Birmingham.
Mr. Lalazari	...	10 Second Avenue, Selby Park, Birmingham.
Mr. & Mrs. Lee	...	94 St. James Street, Brighton, 1.
Mrs. Leitch	...	Fairfield Lodge, Farnham, Surrey.
Miss MacWilliams	...	3 Bardwell Road, Oxford.
Mr. Marshall	...	67 Nansen Road, Alum Rock, Birmingham.
Mr. Mohtadi	...	University, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
Mrs. Naylor	...	Feniscowles Old Hall, Pleasington, Blackburn.
Mr. & Mrs. Pegg	...	87 Fifth Avenue, York.
Mrs. Scaramucci	...	South Zeal, by Okehampton, Devon.
Mrs. Slade	...	Mallards Court, Stokenchurch, Bucks.
Mr. & Mrs. Stokley	...	Mundford, Thetford, Norfolk.
Mrs. Rosalind Vance	...	Sowberry Court, Moulsoford-on-Thames, Berkshire.
Mrs. Weeks	...	66 The Crescent, Henleaze, Bristol.

Mrs. Kenworthy has moved to 57 Richmond Avenue, Headingley, Leeds, 6, and is a member of the Bradford Group. Miss Baxter has come back to London.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Enrolments have begun for Summer School, and it seems as though it will be even better than in previous years. Many people who are interested, but are not yet declared believers are coming.

The enrolment form is enclosed with this Journal; you have already received the advance brochure with a picture of High Leigh. Please enrol now. Remember that we have guaranteed fifty over the bank holiday week-end, August 4th--7th.

"NEW WORLD ORDER"

The new magazine is now in its third number and may be said to be launched. The response has been fair; subscriptions are steadily increasing and single sales bring an added return. There is still need for a much wider circulation. In connection with this, the Guardian has sent the following message : —

"He also wishes me to express his feelings of deep satisfaction at the efforts of your Assembly in connection with the publication of *"New World Order,"* which paper, he hopes, will prove of increasing value as a medium for the spread of the Cause throughout England."

Dear friends; we ask you all to help in the effort to make the paper a success. You can give valuable help in the following ways. First be a subscriber yourself. Next bring the paper to the attention of your friends either personally or by letter. We shall be glad to send you extra copies free for this purpose. Thirdly, ask your newsagent, and other paper shops, to take a few copies on trial; this is being done in London and there are already a few shops which are selling them.

We will send copies to any newsagent, or to any friend to place with a newsagent. Spiritual Assemblies are receiving a number of copies every month and are selling them at their Centres.

The editors are in need of material and will welcome all manuscripts of articles, letters, poetry, or other matter. This provides an opportunity for Bahá'í

writers to develop and become familiar with the requirements of magazines and papers. No article will be altered without the consent of the author.

"TO THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH"

This poem is written by Frank Shepherd, a young man in Bradford, who is studying the Teachings. He has dedicated it to the Bahá'í Faith.

Once in ten times a hundred years,
A new revelation is born.
The prophet of God again appears
As the fast approaching dawn.

The new world is here, The old world gone,
Come set your feet aright.
And tread the path that leads us on,
From darkness into light.

Come welcome your brothers from overseas,
Regardless of Class, or Creed.
Make Prejudice fly, on time worn breeze,
And tend their spiritual need.

Practise the works of a true Bahá'í,
The oneness of all mankind.
Tune your life to the one on high,
Through an International mind.

Speak with a Universal Tongue,
The purpose "Peace For All."
Foster your faith, and be ever young,
To answer Bahá'u'lláh's call.

Search for the truth, and when it's found,
Investigate, form your conclusion.
Then let it in your heart abound,
Free from all illusion.

Let maid and man stand side by side,
Equal in their orations.
Struggling to form, though sorely tried,
A commonwealth of Nations.

And when you reach your closing day,
Your battles truly won.
May thy Maker smile and say,
My faithful one, WELL DONE.

CONVENTION—APRIL 28th, 29th, 30th

BAHA'I ADMINISTRATION

Relationship of the Local to the National Spiritual Assembly

The local Spiritual Assembly, which the Guardian assures us will evolve into the local House of Justice, is the administrator of all Bahá'í matters in its own area. The affairs of the Bahá'í community, teaching, finance, arbitration in disputes, arrangements for the holding of Feasts, elections and other communal matters, should all be looked after by the Spiritual Assembly. It should also be concerned with the welfare of the community, and of the individuals who compose it. The National Spiritual Assembly has the right to say what matters are of more than local importance.

The Spiritual Assembly is also the medium between the National Spiritual Assembly and the local community; through it all communications from the National Spiritual Assembly are given to the community and through it any member of the community, and the community itself may communicate with the National Spiritual Assembly.

But in addition to this the local Spiritual Assembly has its own relationship to the National Spiritual Assembly. As the representative body of the community it should keep in touch with the plans and policies of the National body, and do all in its power to foster these and to obtain for them the support of the individual believers. Shoghi Effendi has expressed the view that "under no circumstances should any local Assembly

be given the right to criticise and much less oppose, the policy duly adopted and approved by the N.S.A."

On the other hand the local Spiritual Assembly has every right, and should, make suggestions to the National Spiritual Assembly, for the extension of existing plans and the inauguration of new ones. It can render valuable service in this way, as it knows the local conditions, the circumstances of the local community, its material, cultural, and spiritual resources. The National Spiritual Assembly could not discharge its function of co-ordination unless the local Spiritual Assemblies represented to it, the needs and capacity of their communities.

Every Bahá'í community should develop, within the framework of the Administration, according to its own local characteristics. The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh repudiates uniformity as it does disunity. An international language is ordained, but children are to learn their native tongue as well. It is important not to suppress or stifle local culture by imposing a rigid form from the top. The Bahá'í administrative system rests on the basis of local communities, and upon this is erected the National and eventually the International bodies. 'Unity in essentials, diversity in non-essentials and in all things charity.'

PRAYERS

“Glory be to Thee, O God, for Thy manifestation of love to mankind ! O Thou who art our life and light, guide Thy servants in Thy way, and make us rich in Thee and free from all save Thee.

O God, teach us Thy oneness and give us a realisation of Thy unity, that we may see no one save Thee. Thou art the Merciful and the Giver of bounty !

O God, create in the hearts of Thy beloved the fire of Thy love, that it may consume the thought of everything save Thee.

Reveal to us, O God, Thine exalted eternity—that Thou hast ever been and

wilt ever be, and that there is no God save Thee.

Verily, in Thee will we find comfort and strength.”

Bahá'u'lláh.

“O God, rear this child in Thy love, and give it milk from the breast of Thy providence. Cultivate this fresh plant in the rose-garden of Thy love and nurture it with showers from the clouds of Thy bounty. Make it a child of the kingdom and lead it to the divine world.

Thou art powerful and kind ! Thou art the giver, the bestower, whose blessings precede all.”

'Abdu'l-Bahá.

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Oxford Road, Reading*

To the Registrar,
Baha'i Summer School,
46 Bloomsbury Street,
W.C.1.

Please enrol me for the Summer School from
to

I would like { meat
 (vegetarian) } diet X

I enclose herewith 10/-- deposit Ø

TERMS: 8/-- a head per day inclusive
Please state if you wish to share a room.

X Cross out the item not required
Ø This deposit will be deducted from the bill