

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

Published by

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles

46 Bloomsbury Street

London, W.C.1

No. 14

JULY, 1938

“Urge incoming National Assembly perseverance subordinate all activities teaching objective.”

Beloved Friends: this message from the Guardian to the Convention has shown us the path we must follow in the ensuing year. The National Assembly has outlined its plan, as published in the last number of the Journal, and now calls for the full support of every believer. Individuals alone cannot shoulder this task; the National Assembly alone cannot undertake it. The Bahá'í community as a whole must now arise and demonstrate its faith. We are grateful to the American friends for this passage in Bahá'í News. “The nature of faith is to strive—strive endlessly and without discouragement—at the simultaneous spiritual and objective task. Where there is no striving there is no faith. No man can await the moment when he becomes perfect enough to serve the Cause of God. The intention of service is the only perfection human beings can ever attain. Has not the Master assured us over and over that knowledge comes as the result of loving the Teachings, that eloquence comes as the result of loving to convey the Truth, that courage comes as the result of upholding the Faith in an unbelieving world? No

one is denied the superhuman results of faith, whether by poverty, lack of education or lack of social influence, but any one who is deprived has deprived himself.”

We have pledged ourselves to the Guardian to function as a teaching organism for one year and we are now on trial before him. There can be no thought of wavering or turning back. In a recent letter he has testified to our ability to fulfil this pledge. “Although the range of Bahá'í activities throughout Great Britain during the past year has been considerably restricted as a result of the departure of many travelling and visiting Bahá'í teachers, yet the fact that the friends were, in spite of this and other hardships, able to maintain the course of their activities constitutes a clear evidence that the English Bahá'í Community is at last able to stand on its own feet, and has sufficient resources, both moral and material, to enable it to carry on, without any external help, the heavy task that has been committed to its charge.”

“The Guardian wishes you to assure your fellow members on the N.S.A., and through them the friends throughout Great Britain, of his fervent prayers that

throughout the course of this new year they may evince such a unity, zeal and renewed consecration to their task as to further demonstrate the strength of their position as a self-supporting and ever-growing national Bahá'í Community."

The work has been started successfully. It can only be maintained by the full and active support of every one of us. The N.S.A. urges you all to read carefully each number of the Journal; in it will be reported the progress of the plan, the financial and other requirements at each stage of the year and all matters relating to the achievement of our task.

THE NATIONAL FUND

Our Master Himself has told us that results depend upon means. We are looking for results, but we cannot expect them and shall not achieve them unless we provide the means.

Contribution to the Fund is the active and practical way in which every believer can shoulder his part of the task. The Teaching Plan, if it is to be carried out, requires a regular income of £21 per month. This was reported in the last number of *Bahá'í Journal*, but so far contributions have not approached this figure. This is not more than the friends are able to give. Last year the total subscriptions, including those to the Publishing Fund, were approximately £16 per month. Subscriptions this year have fallen below this figure.

Dear Friends: the Fund is the blood stream of the Faith and must be continuous. Can we not make this our first consideration? As a practical idea the N.S.A. offers the following suggestion.

Let us each consider our income. Suppose it is a pound a week. Can we not, for the sake of the Faith, accept a lower standard? Resolve to give something to the Fund, each week, whatever our capacity. If we give sixpence, then our income is reduced to nineteen and six. Let us start in this way, by placing the Faith first and adjusting our lives to its requirements.

Upon receipt of the last Journal a believer sent a contribution with the following message:—"... with a small income it is very difficult to feel that one can spare much; but we must give of our poverty and not of our wealth, and not count the cost, for surely He will help those who try to help His Cause on earth..."

We can all help.

TEACHING PROGRESS

Bradford.

The believers in Bradford have organised themselves into a group with the following officers:

Secretary: Miss Joan Wilkinson
20 Southey Place.

Treasurer: Mrs. Norton
41 Cranbourne Road.

On May 22nd Mr. Balyuzi and Miss Wellby visited Bradford and spoke to a large number of interested people at Miss Wilkinson's home. They report a very good meeting with keen interest. This is the second meeting held in Bradford this year and the N.S.A. feels there are great possibilities here. The Teaching plan is to send a teacher every two weeks during the winter, but this can only be done with the financial support of the friends. The believers in Bradford have risen to the occasion and are

doing their part. They must not fail for lack of support.

A ramble and picnic is being arranged with the Manchester Bahá'ís.

Torquay.

Mrs. Stevens had advised the N.S.A. that one day visits would not be of such value as a prolonged stay of a teacher. Arrangements were made and Miss Florence Pinchon went there for a week, staying with Mrs. Stevens. Several meetings and fireside discussions were held and many of those interested defended the Teachings against opposition. Mrs. Langdon Davies and Mr. Hansford from Dartington, and Mrs. McKinley from Ashburton attended some of the meetings. Miss Pinchon reports keen interest and feels that with persistent effort the Faith should be soon established there. Mrs. Stevens will continue her meetings and Lady Blomfield and Mrs. Slade have both promised to go down later on.

London.

The London community is approaching its task with vigour and determination. A special meeting was held on June 30th to examine the condition of the community and to consider ways and means of promoting the work. It was felt that a great responsibility rested on each individual to strive to deepen their faith and attain that radiance of spirit which comes from constant prayer and devotion to the Faith. The Administration is now working and we have to see that the spirit within it does not flag.

Five fireside meetings have been held, four in private homes and one at the

Centre. This is undoubtedly the most effective way of teaching enquirers.

Mr. Hofman was sent to Brighton to speak to the Toc H branch there, and reports a good meeting, attended by about thirty men, not one of whom had heard of the Faith before.

Manchester.

In addition to the regular meetings at the Centre, two garden parties have been held for the believers. Miss Hunt and Mrs. Foxtón have both invited the friends to their homes for a meeting in the garden, a kindness which has been greatly appreciated by the community.

Miss Baxter has been in Manchester for a week and tells of happy and spiritual meetings, attended by believers and their friends. She paid a visit to Mrs. Cooper at Pleasington, who had arranged a meeting, which was attended mostly by inquirers.

A picnic ramble is being arranged with the Bradford group and their friends at Hebden Bridge, halfway between the two cities.

SUMMER SCHOOL

The friends have all received by now the programme of Summer School and it is hoped that everyone will make a great effort to attend, even if only for a part of the time. Summer School is an important part of the Teaching Programme, as the Guardian has himself told us, and should command our full support. In addition it is the only opportunity we have to live as a Bahá'í community, an experience which is unique and stimulating in this troubled world.

The Summer School Committee has arranged for a public meeting in the village hall of Orpington, on July 13th, which it is hoped will arouse interest in the School among the residents. Posters have been put up in Orpington and invitations sent out, and Miss Zara Warman has called at many houses to invite them to the meeting. The subject is 'The Bahá'í Call to a New World Order' and the speaker is David Hofman.

Remember that Summer School is one of the three annual rallying points for all the friends, and let us make it a real expression of our national Bahá'í life.

THE BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

BAHA'U'LLAH

by H. M. Balyuzi, 6d.

The N.S.A. recommends very strongly to all the friends the new booklet which has been published. It is an essay on the life of Bahá'u'lláh by H. M. Balyuzi. Mr. Balyuzi has in preparation two companion essays, one on The Báb and one on 'Abdu'l-Bahá. The Trust will publish them both in the same style as the present essay so that eventually all three may be bound into one volume. To the best of our belief this is the only life of Bahá'u'lláh there is at the moment, and we feel that every believer will want a copy to keep and will be able to use it effectively for Teaching. Its retail price is sixpence, but the Publishing Trust will allow a discount of 15% on all orders of twenty-four and over. For any number less than twenty-four apply to the London or Manchester Spiritual Assemblies.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF BAHÁ'Í ADMINISTRATION

"The administrative machinery of the Cause having now sufficiently evolved, its aim and object fairly well grasped and understood, and its method and working made more familiar to every believer, I feel the time is ripe when it should be fully and consciously utilized to further the purpose for which it has been created. It should, I strongly feel, be made to serve a two-fold purpose. On one hand, it should aim at a steady and gradual expansion of the Movement along lines that are at once broad, sound and universal; and on the other it should ensure the internal consolidation of the work already achieved. It should both provide the impulse whereby the dynamic forces latent in the Faith can unfold, crystallize, and shape the lives and conduct of men, and serve as a medium for the interchange of thought and the co-ordination of activities among the divers elements that constitute the Bahá'í community."

"Whether it be by an open and bold assertion of the fundamental verities of the Cause, or the adoption of a less direct and more cautious method of teaching; whether by the dissemination of our literature or the example of our conduct, our one aim and sole object should be to help in the eventual recognition by all mankind of the indispensability, the uniqueness and the supreme station of the Bahá'í Revelation. Whatever method he adopts, and however indirect the course he chooses to pursue, every true believer should regard such a recognition as the supreme goal of his

endeavour. Whilst consciously labouring towards the attainment of this end, he should, by supporting every branch of the administrative activities of his national and local assembly, seek and obtain the fullest information on the character and extent of the world-wide progress of the Cause, and strive to contribute his share towards the strengthening of the spirit of solidarity among the component parts of the Bahá'í world." (Shoghi Effendi). From Bahá'í Administration.

SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES

London.

Mr. Walter Wilkins ...	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr. H. M. Balyuzi	} <i>Joint</i>
Miss Dorothy Cansdale	
Mrs. K. V. Brown ...	<i>Secretaries</i>
Mr. Louis Rosenfield ...	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mr. Z. Asgarzadeh	<i>Asst. Treasurer</i>
Mrs. E. P. Cranmer	
Mr. D. Millar	
Miss M. Wellby	

Address: —46 Bloomsbury Street,
London, W.C.1.

Manchester.

Mr. J. C. Craven ...	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr. J. Lee ...	<i>Secretary</i>
Miss E. Gibbs ...	<i>Treasurer</i>
Miss Alice Williams ...	<i>Foreign Correspondent</i>
Miss Ada Williams ...	<i>Asst. Secretary and</i>
Mr. A. Sugar	<i>Librarian</i>
Mrs. L. Sugar	
Miss A. Lavender	
Mr. A. Joseph	

Address: — Commerce House, 39
High Street, Manchester, 4.

INCORPORATION

In accordance with the Guardian's request, the N.S.A. is preparing an application for incorporation. A solicitor has been instructed to act for us and a number of statements are being drawn up on his advice. When all the statements are complete, the application will be made.

The position of the Faith has been greatly strengthened by the generosity of one believer, who has donated £500. The N.S.A. has disposed of this in the following manner. £300 has been placed on deposit in the bank; £100 has been given to the Publishing Trust, and £100 is being retained to be used in bringing the Faith to the attention of large numbers of people.

It is strongly felt that this money should not be used for current expenses, but that the requirements of the National Fund should be met by regular contributions from all the believers. We can all feel encouraged, by this example, to do our utmost.

THE FAITH IN MEXICO

Mrs. Frances Stewart, secretary of the Inter-America Committee, sent a report of her experiences in Mexico to the American *Bahá'í News*. We reprint extracts from it believing that the friends will be inspired by this glowing evidence of the Spirit of Bahá'u'lláh at work in the world.

"When on July 15 last, our ship approached the harbour of Vera Cruz, and we saw the scars left by cannons that had bombarded the city in former years, our prayer was that we might be privileged to bring to the people of

Mexico the great Bahá'í Message of Unity and Love. This prayer was granted, for Bahá'u'lláh had prepared a group to receive this Message in a most wonderful manner."

"In Mexico City, while speaking to a Women's Club on the subject of "Peace in a New World Order," and quoting from the Writings quite freely. I noticed the deep interest of a lady not far from me. After the meeting she hurried to beg me to go with her that evening to the home of a friend where a group met weekly for study and discussion. I felt impelled to break a former engagement and gladly went with Miss Aurora Gutierrez to meet nine Mexican people who later became the first believers in Mexico. My friend explained that for several years this group of seekers had met regularly to discuss spiritual questions and to study the increasing turmoil in the world. After a beautiful prayer given by Mr. Pedro Espinosa, the group leader, in which he asked for spiritual vision and understanding, they asked me to repeat the message I had given at the club in the afternoon. I then asked if I might tell them of the Bahá'í Message."

"Way into the morning hours they listened and asked questions about the Cause and asked that I meet with them often and they would bring to the circle all of their group. After three such meetings with an ever larger group, the leader told me that they had for some time been convinced that somewhere in the world a New Manifestation had appeared to give the Truth for the New Era. So convinced had they been that they had sent their leader, Mr. Espinosa,

to the United States where he travelled from New York City to California in search of evidence of this New Manifestation. He did not find it but returned to Mexico convinced "that from a foreign country a Teacher would bring them the good news of a New Manifestation." They had continued their regular studies and when they heard the Bahá'í Message, they were convinced it was the Truth they had long sought. At this meeting Mr. Espinosa handed me a paper on which were written the names of the nine I had first met saying they wished to be received as believers of the Bahá'í Faith and would become the centre for spreading the Message throughout Mexico."

The first Spiritual Assembly in Latin America was elected in Mexico City on April 21st of this year.

THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK

On May 17th the Guardian wrote this message: —

"I greatly welcome the determination of the English believers to concentrate their energies on the teaching work, and I pray from all my heart for the success of their high endeavours in this all-important field of Bahá'í service. Individuals as well as local assemblies must arise and co-operate and persevere and refuse to allow any obstacle, however formidable, to dim their hopes or to deflect them from the course they have so spontaneously chosen to pursue. Kindly assure them of my constant prayers for their success."

“The glory of Thy might, O my God, beareth me witness ! Every time I attempt to remember Thee, I am overpowered by the sublimity of Thy station and the immensity of Thy might; and every time I hold my peace, lo, I am impelled by my love for Thee and by the potency of Thy will, to unloose my tongue and mention Thee. He who is poor and needy, O my God, is calling for His Lord, the All-Possessing; and he who is destitute of all strength remembereth his Master, the All-Powerful. If He deign to accept His servant’s supplication, He is, verily, of unsurpassed

bounteousness; and if He cast Him out, He is of those who judge equitably the best. He indeed is acceptable, O my God, who hath set his face towards Thee, and he is truly deprived who hath been careless of the remembrance of Thee in Thy days. Blessed is he that hath tasted of the sweetness of Thy remembrance and praise. Nothing, not even the arising of all the peoples of the whole world to assail him, can hinder such a man from directing his steps towards the paths of Thy pleasure and the ways of Thy Cause.” Bahá’u’lláh.
Prayers and Meditations.