

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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“In these days, the most important of all things is the guidance of the nations and peoples of the world. Teaching the Cause is of utmost importance for it is the head corner-stone of the foundation itself. This wronged servant has spent his days and nights in promoting the Cause and urging the peoples to service. He rested not a moment, till the fame of the Cause of God was noised abroad in the world and the celestial strains from the Abhá Kingdom roused the East and the West. The beloved of God must also follow the same example. This is the secret of faithfulness, this is the requirement of servitude to the Threshold of Bahá.”

Dear Friends; these instructions of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, which He left us in His Will and Testament, seem to carry added weight in these days of universal crisis. The breakdown of the old order is near at hand. What is left to replace it, or what power can gather up the scattered units of humanity and establish the single family of mankind? Only the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh. We who recognise this, are given the inestimable privilege of performing a service, the

value of which only future ages can judge. The responsibility is as grave as the opportunity is great. At Summer School last year, it was realised that the spread of Christianity, before Constantine, was due to the teaching efforts of the believers. We are called upon to emulate their deeds, confident that the destinies of the Faith of God will be guided by the same sure Hand as it has been in past ages. But we must 'arise' to this service if we are to receive the help of God; having done this we may be utterly certain that it will be given. “God will assist all those who arise to serve Him.”

This means making efforts, not only in our personal lives, but in concentrating on ways and means to bring the teachings to other people, so that they may be brought to the Faith. Every believer is urged to set aside at least one evening a week for inviting people to their homes to hear about the great message of Bahá'u'lláh. The National Spiritual Assembly will co-operate in every way possible, such as sending literature and occasionally a teacher.

CONVENTION: APRIL 22nd, 23rd, 24th

TEACHING

The following is the report of teaching work:

London.

A Teaching Conference was held on February 18th, and many suggestions were made for the consideration of the Spiritual Assembly. It is felt that the teaching work should follow a definite plan, in order to assist enquirers to progress in their investigation of the Faith. Lady Blomfield spoke to the Society for the Study of Religions on February 14th. A Youth Symposium is being held on the afternoon of the 27th.

Manchester.

The Spiritual Assembly continues to hold public meetings and reports good attendance. It has been decided to have meetings of a more social character and to introduce the Faith in a more informal way than by lectures, although these will not be discontinued. A Youth Symposium is being held on February 27th, to which young people from various movements and organisations have been invited.

Brighton.

The N.S.A. has voted a sum of £10 to be used by the London Spiritual Assembly for sending a teacher to Brighton for a number of week-ends, to continue the work done by Mrs. Romer.

Bradford.

Miss Joan Wilkinson has interested some friends in the Faith and the N.S.A. is sending a speaker, at her request.

Devon.

Discussion meetings are being held in Dartington Hall and Torquay. Mr. Hofman was sent down for a few days and spoke twice. Mr. Tobey recently addressed the morning congregation of the Unitarian church in Torquay.

NATIONAL FUND

The N.S.A. has made the following budget of expenditure up till April 22nd.

Teaching	£15
Convention	£10
Expenses	£ 5
	—
	£30
	—

The money for teaching includes the expense for Brighton mentioned above and allows for the expenses of a teacher to Bradford. It has been decided that the members of the N.S.A. resident in London, and those resident in Manchester, may, in special cases, send a teacher at the expense of the N.S.A.

The Convention allowance is for travelling expenses of delegates, and other incidentals connected with the Convention.

The expenses of the N.S.A. include such things as the printing of the Journal, stationery, postage.

This amount is the minimum with which the N.S.A. can carry on its work until the end of the current Bahá'í year, and we are confident that, the needs of the Fund having been clearly stated, the full amount will be contributed.

The N.S.A. wishes to make it clear that while there is no definite ruling about the method of contributing to the fund, the approved way is for believers

who live where there is a Spiritual Assembly to contribute to the local fund, and for isolated believers to send direct to the national treasurer.

CONVENTION

The following plans have been made for Convention.

- Date: April 22nd, 23rd and 24th.
- 22nd. Reports of National Assembly. 7.30 p.m.
- 23rd. Election 2.30, Dinner 7.30, arrangements to be made by the London Spiritual Assembly.
- 24th. Consultation with new National Assembly, 11 a.m. onwards.

The friends are reminded of the decision to establish three annual rallying points for all the believers. One of these is the Convention. Although only delegates may vote, every believer may take part in discussion and it is hoped that this occasion will be as fruitful as was the Teaching Conference in Manchester.

SUMMER SCHOOL

The date of Summer School has been fixed for July 23rd to August 14th. The Committee is hoping to complete arrangements to hold it at Erlestoke Park, Devizes, Wiltshire, which is a beautiful mansion surrounded by lovely country and provides every opportunity for an enjoyable holiday. It is hoped that the cost to those who attend will be less than in previous years. A special fund has been opened by the N.S.A. for the purpose of assisting the friends to attend, and those who are able are asked to contribute to this as generously as they can.

The programme will be printed separately and distributed as soon as possible.

PUBLISHING TRUST

The Trust deed has now been engrossed and is being signed by the Trustees. Two new pamphlets will be published shortly, one a revised edition of Dr. Esslemont's "Bahá'u'lláh and His Message" and the other a life of Bahá'u'lláh by H. M. Balyuzi. The work on the prayer book is being continued.

COMMITTEES

The following Committees of the N.S.A. have been appointed:

Reviewing: Mrs. Langdon - Davies; Mr. Tobey; Mr. Balyuzi; Mr. Hofman.

Archives: Mrs. Slade, Chairman; Miss Challis; Mr. Craven.

The work of this committee is very important and consists of gathering, organising, and preserving all material associated with the Faith which may be considered of national importance. Original tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá should be preserved in the archives, as they will be of priceless value to posterity. The N.S.A. will provide photostatic copies of all Tablets received.

ESPERANTO CONGRESS

The International Esperanto Congress will be held in London this year. Miss Baxter has made arrangements for a special Bahá'í session, on Monday August 1st. The Summer School Committee will arrange transportation to and from this session, for all those attending Summer School.

NINETEEN DAY FEASTS

The N.S.A. feels the need to stress the spiritual function of the Nineteen Day Feast, and in particular its relation to the world as a whole. Although so essential a part of the organic life of the Bahá'í community, the occasion should be related to the world at large. The

sense of crisis should not be overlooked in the Feasts and the united spiritual energy of the believers should be directed towards the problems of the day. 'Abdu'l-Bahá said that this energy could affect a whole city, and we cannot overlook our obligation as world citizens.

LIST OF ISOLATED BELIEVERS

Brown, Miss	...	Rizwan, Broadstone, Dorset.
Busby, Mr. & Mrs.	...	12 Norwood Avenue, Bramhall, Cheshire.
Behraves, Mr.	...	University, Oxford.
Challis, Miss	...	Rizwan, Broadstone, Dorset.
Cooper, Mrs.	...	Feniscowles Old Hall, Pleasington, Blackburn.
Frazer, Mrs.	...	173 Charlestown Road, St. Austell, Cornwall.
Ginman, Mrs.	...	2 All Saints Terrace, Hewlett Road, Cheltenham.
Harrison, Mrs.	...	2 Blaquette Avenue, Droitwich Road, Worcester.
Hansford, Mr.	...	Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon.
Kenworthy, Mrs.	...	23 Arran Place, Dodsworth Avenue, York.
King, Mr. & Mrs.	...	31 Ophir Road, Bournemouth.
Lalazari, Mr.	...	10 Second Avenue, Selby Park, Birmingham.
Langdon-Davies, Mrs.	...	6 Huxham's Cross, Dartington, Totnes, Devon.
Leitch, Mrs.	...	Fairfield Lodge, Farnham, Surrey.
Marlowe, Mr.	...	C/o Miss Challis, Bournemouth.
Mohtadi, Mr.	...	University, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
McKinley, Mrs.	...	Roseland, Ashburton, Devon.
Marshall, Mr.	...	67 Nansen Road, Alum Rock, Birmingham.
Mukhless, Mr.	...	C/o N.S.A.
Norton, Mr. & Mrs.	...	41 Cranbourne Road, Bradford.
Naylor, Mrs.	...	Feniscowles Old Hall, Pleasington, Blackburn.
Pegg, Mr. & Mrs.	...	19 Harcourt Street, East Parade, Heworth, York.
Slade, Mrs.	...	Mallard's Court, Stokenchurch, Bucks.
Scaramucci, Mrs.	...	South Zeal, by Okehampton, Devon.
Stokley, Mrs. & Miss	...	Mundford, Brandon, Suffolk.
Stevens, Mrs.	...	Three Hills, Hampton Avenue, Babbacombe, Devon.
Tobey, Mr.	...	Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon.
Weeks, Mrs.	...	53 Hill View, Henleaze, Bristol.
Wilkinson, Mrs.	...	20 Southey Place, Bradford.

Several believers have received a communication from the Eloist Ministry of Brookline, New York. The N.S.A. has

read this letter, and advises the friends to pay no attention to it.