

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

27 Rutland Gate, London, S.W.7

Published by the National Spiritual Assembly
of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles

No. 158

April, 1964

CONTRIBUTING TO THE FUNDS A SPIRITUAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Message from the Universal House of Justice)

In the following letter the Universal House of Justice, in preparation for the Nine-Year Plan, calls our attention not only to the need for each Bahá'í community to be self supporting, but also to the importance of contributing to the International and Continental Funds. It is from the International Fund that help can be given to those areas of rapid expansion of the Faith, which are mostly in countries where there is much poverty and the friends are unable to finance the great work they are doing.

The House of Justice reminds us once again that it is not the amount given which matters but the measure of self-sacrifice needed to make the contribution. The provision of resources for the work of the Faith is a very important aspect of the building of the New World, in which we all can play our part.

To the Bahá'ís of East and West. 18th December, 1963.

Dear Friends,

With the rapid approach of the launching of the Nine-Year Plan, the Universal House of Justice feels that it is timely to lay clearly before the Bahá'ís of all countries, the needs of the Fund at all its levels: local, national, continental and international.

The continual expansion of the Faith and the diversification of the activities of Bahá'í communities make it more and more necessary for every believer to ponder carefully his responsibilities and contribute as much and as regularly as he or she can. Contributing to the Fund is a service that every believer can render, be he poor or wealthy; for this is a spiritual responsibility in which the amount given is not important. It is the degree of the sacrifice of the giver, the love with which he makes his gift, and the unity of all the friends in this service which bring spiritual confirmations. As the beloved Guardian wrote in August 1957: "All, no matter how modest their resources, must participate. Upon the degree of self-sacrifice involved in these individual contributions will directly depend the efficacy and the spiritual influence which these nascent administrative institutions, called into being through the power of Bahá'u'lláh, and by virtue of the Design conceived by the Centre of His Covenant, will exert."

Not only the individual's responsibility to contribute is important at this time, but, also the uses to which the fund is put and the areas in which it is expended.

Much of the present rapid expansion of the Faith is taking place in areas of great poverty where the believers, however much they sacrifice, cannot produce sufficient funds to sustain the work. It is these very areas which are the most fruitful in teaching, and a sum of money spent here will produce ten times—even a hundred times—the results obtainable in other parts of the world. Yet in the past months the Universal House of Justice has had to refuse a number of appeals for assistance from such areas because there was not enough money in the International Fund.

Continued on page 8

RELEASE OF MOROCCAN BAHA'IS : NO PUBLICITY

(Message from the Universal House of Justice)

18th December, 1963

To all National Spiritual Assemblies

Dear Friends,

Following twenty months of close confinement, and one year after hearing sentences of death and imprisonment imposed on them, our brave and steadfast brother believers in Morocco were set free on Friday, December 13th, 1963. The long-sought objective has been obtained.

As we prayed for their release during the Feast of Qawl, now let the entire Bahá'í world join in prayers of thanksgiving for this joyful outcome and that the Blessed Beauty enabled these devoted friends to remain firm in their faith through this trying ordeal.

In view of the situation which continues to be delicate in Morocco, you are urged not to seek publicity in this matter. If you are contacted by the Press, make no statement beyond expressing thankfulness for the just decision.

Each National Assembly is requested, wherever possible, to express gratification to King Hassan II of Morocco for this just decision of the Supreme Court. This should be done in writing through the Moroccan Embassy, or Consulate, serving your area.

We also request that wherever you consider it advisable you write letters of appreciation to individuals and organizations within your jurisdiction who offered assistance in connection with this case.

With warm and loving Bahá'í greetings,

(Signed and Sealed)

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

FIRMNESS IN THE COVENANT STANDS SUPREME

(Message from the Hands of the Cause in Europe).

December, 1963

To the Bahá'is of the Continent of Europe.

Dearly-loved Friends,

Our eyes witnessed glory unveiled to our gaze by Bahá'u'lláh, the Glory of God, in the Riqdán of the Hundredth Year of His declaration. We saw the thirty centuries old vision of Daniel fulfilled. We were dazzled. We were enthralled.

Truly we saw the power of the Blessed Perfection vibrant in the world. We saw the establishment of His Universal House of Justice. We saw the doors of guidance open. We saw the reward of those who obeyed their Lord. We saw the Oneness of the human race a fact visible to all eyes.

This splendrous century year has now nearly run its course. Soon, very soon, a further chapter of the Divine Plan delineated by the Centre of the Covenant will be given to the Bahá'í World. It has already been heralded by the joyous and breath-taking announcement of the formation of nineteen new National Spiritual Assemblies at the coming Riqdán.

We should have asked ourselves last May at our Conventions, when we heard the message of the Universal House of Justice—and now it is of paramount importance to ask ourselves this vital question—whether here in Europe we are ready to move with our fellow-believers throughout the world into this further stage of the Divine Plan? Are we? What is the state of our local Assemblies? What is the cohesive strength of our Communities? What is our strength as individuals? Will we, can we, stand unbowed before the storms and stresses which, as borne out by the experience of our spiritual forbears as well as ourselves, must, as we have been warned repeatedly by both 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi, unleash fierce, venomous opposition in all the peoples of the world. And desperate attacks will still come from those who would subvert the Cause of God and wax proud in violating its impregnable Covenant.

We must fortify our spiritual lives against these onslaughts and dire perils. We must gain day by day a deeper understanding and a wider vision of the Covenant which Bahá'u'lláh established with those who bear His name, and with the whole of mankind. We must see, not with dull resignation but with radiant certitude, that this Covenant is what 'Abdu'l-Bahá said it was—the axis of the Oneness of Mankind; that he who betrays it betrays not only the world community of the present day, but all generations unborn. It is this Covenant which has warded off corruption, and it is only the uncorrupted Word of God which can be the buttress of the redemption and the well-being of the entire human race.

'Abdu'l-Bahá once wrote that should a man become the very embodiment of the Holy Spirit, and yet falter in the slightest in the path of the Covenant, no attainment shall

avail him, and he shall be lost and obliterated. In the same Tablet, addressed to Jamál-i-Burújirdi, a man who stood very high in the esteem of his fellow-believers but then violated the Covenant and sank to the lowest abyss, was abandoned by all, shunned and shamed; in the Tablet to this man, 'Abdu'l-Bahá stated in the plainest terms that the Covenant is the standard against which everything is to be judged; devotion, sincerity, service, purity, all in all; and that the Covenant is the magnet that draws bounties and confirmation.

Firmness in the Covenant, loyalty to the Covenant stands supreme over all things.

Enemies from without will misrepresent our purpose, malign us, besmirch the fair name of the Cause, and mount attacks upon us with increasing severity. They did not bend the will and break the spirit of more than twenty thousand glorious martyrs in the past, no matter how potent the enemies were in the world, no matter how cruel their inflictions. Neither shall they be able to do that now or in the future. Some did drop by the roadside, because their faith was as gossamer thread. We must so draw nigh unto Bahá'u'lláh, every passing moment of our lives, that gossamer threads shall by the magic of the strength that He bestows upon us, turn into cords that shall never, never part.

For no other reason than this are we Bahá'ís, that we believe Bahá'u'lláh to be what He claims to be. Any other criterion will fail. And when we—everyone of us—teach the Cause of God, as we should always be teaching, because this is our obligation, our privilege which no one can take away from us; when we teach this Cause we must apply one test and one test alone to the declared faith of those who wish to come into the World Community of Bahá'u'lláh, and that test is this: do they without any reservation whatsoever believe with their whole being that Bahá'u'lláh is the Manifestation of God for this age, the Bearer of the Eternal Truth, the Mover and the Cause of the civilisation of mankind? To be a true Bahá'í without this belief is inconceivable. Intellectual assent and emotional attachment shift and change. Acceptance of Bahá'u'lláh as the Manifestation of God, remains.

We must teach. Teaching by deeds bears testimony to the transforming power of the Word of God. But as the beloved Guardian has told us, if we wait until we feel that we have attained adequate knowledge before we set out to teach, that moment may never come. Teaching teaches the one who teaches.

The greatest of all teachers is the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar, referred to by 'Abdu'l-Bahá as the silent teacher. He wrote of the very great effect that the completion of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar in the West would have and it is certain

That the completion of the Mother Temple of Europe will produce a very great effect in Europe. Immense sacrifices are still needed from the friends to make possible the dedication of the Temple at Riqdán 1964 and we urge you all to bear this need in your hearts.

Finally, we wish to bring to your attention the important services performed by the Members of the Auxiliary Boards for the Protection and Propagation of the Faith. These Board Members are the deputies, assistants and advisors of the Hands. Through the Continental Hands and the Hands residing in the Holy Land they are more directly in touch with the World Centre of the Faith than most other believers. Local Assemblies and individual believers should take full advantage of the help they can give.

Dear Friends, there is now very little time left before the inauguration of the new Crusade which is expected at Riqdán. We urge the friends to take advantage of the remaining months to ensure that when the time comes, they will leap to the achievement of the new Plan with the vigour and enthusiasm that brings victories.

We send you all every good wish for your success in serving the Faith and its Institutions and pray that you may be enabled to achieve all you desire for the propagation of the Faith.

With Bahá'í love,

HANDS OF THE CAUSE OF GOD IN EUROPE.

TEACHING CONFERENCE

(Held in the Shoe Trade Hall, St. James Street, Leicester, January 11th and 12th, 1964).

The Conference started with an inspiring Devotional arranged by the Leicester community. This was followed by the introductory talk by Hand of the Cause Mr. John Ferraby, who emphasised the importance of service in the path of God as a means of getting nearer to the will of Bahá'u'lláh. Mrs. Betty Reed, National Secretary, then spoke about the dual function of the Home Front: the goal for a not too far off future should be to establish an assembly in every county in the British Isles; also, Britain should be a reservoir of pioneers for the achievement of the goals of the Plan which will be set out soon by the Universal House of Justice. We should gain experience of administration by serving on assemblies and committees. There will be more opposition to the Faith in the course of the nine years that lie ahead of us. We should be prepared both individually and collectively to resist the opposition. As well as these goals at home the British community also has great responsibilities to fulfil abroad.

In the evening there was a talk by Charles MacDonald on Bahá'í literature. We were told that the writings of Bahá'u'lláh equal in volume *all* the Holy Writings of *all* the Prophets. We were urged to read, study, meditate and contemplate night and morning, to so deepen ourselves that we could quote word for word.

Malcolm Lee then spoke in more detail about some of the writings of Bahá'u'lláh and the Guardian. He specified *The Advent of Divine Justice* as being a book which addresses the Bahá'ís of this generation and which is very relevant to our present problems. He spoke on the use of the Writings: the formation and upkeep of L.S.A. libraries and the need for enthusiastic librarians. Rose Wade gave us a book display demonstration which was both simple and effective. Joe Jameson spoke about the importance of buying and studying Bahá'í books and giving the right books to our contacts.

Sunday's meeting started with a Devotional. Mrs. Joan Gregory then read the message from the Universal House of Justice and spoke about the importance of firmness in the Covenant. John Wade, Chairman of the N.T.C., spoke about the need for close co-operation between the community and the N.T.C. He also urged all Bahá'ís to keep flowing a continuous stream of visitors between

communities as this is of supreme importance. Dorothy Green, Secretary of the E.A.T.C., gave a full and comprehensive report on the whole situation of the Channel Islands, Orkneys, Shetlands and Faroes. Prayers were asked for Nicosia and Cyprus, as teaching is reported to be very difficult there. She expressed the hope that Bahá'ís would try to spend holidays in the Scottish Islands to help and encourage the isolated Bahá'ís who are permanently there.

After a brief consultation on the subject of teaching in the Islands, Elizabeth Chapman spoke about the Home Front. She stressed what the Guardian had told us so repeatedly: "... that the prizes so painstakingly won must be maintained." Carl Card then spoke about the importance of pioneering and the difficult role that Bahá'ís, especially young ones, have to play in this corrupt and materialistic society and how by living the Bahá'í life the young people would have a prodigious effect on their contemporaries.

Marion Hofman spoke movingly on pioneering and concluded by posing two questions for each individual to ask himself in his heart and ponder prayerfully, with so many gaps to fill before Riqdán:

"What is it I *really* want for my family?"

"Am I today where Bahá'u'lláh *needs* me?"

(We are indebted to Farhang Jahangpur, Lou and John Turner, and Dorothy Wiggington for this report).

CABLES AT TEACHING CONFERENCE

Cable sent from Teaching Conference to the Universal House of Justice, and their reply:

Sent 12/1/64.

"Inspired your guidance aware greater responsibilities 220 Friends Teaching Conference mature spirit determined consolidate increase numbers anticipation eagerly awaited Nine Year Plan. Deepest devoted love * British Bahá'í Community."

Received 16/1/64.

"Delighted message Teaching Conference evidencing determination British Bahá'ís reinforce base preparation far reaching expansion home overseas course coming Plan assure prayers confirmation efforts * Universal House of Justice."



View from Mount Carmel showing the Shrine of the Bab and the International Archives Building.

NEWS FROM THE WORLD CENTRE

A SELECTION OF NEWS ITEMS FROM
THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE
AND HANDS OF THE CAUSE, RESIDING
IN THE HOLY LAND.

Masá'il 14, 120.

No. 1.

December 25, 1963.

MOROCCO : ALL PRISONERS FREED

The wonderful news has flashed around the world bringing joy and a sense of awe to every Bahá'í heart. Some of the human story of this heroic episode of the Formative Age is now shared with you.

For nearly five months from the time they were cast into prison—three under sentence of death and five of life imprisonment—these men had virtually no Bahá'í contact except amongst themselves. Every pressure was brought on them to renounce the Faith and return to Islám. Freedom, acclamation of non-Bahá'í relations, safety for their families—only sign a paper! It is to their undying credit that they held firm during those first five terrifying months when they had no guidance from outside. Imagine how their hearts leapt when one day a young man appeared and said "Alláh-u-Abhá"; he was the Bahá'í lawyer with authority to represent them.

The mother of one went to the prison to persuade him to give up this Bahá'í religion. She returned home and said: "I did not see my son. I saw an angel, and I want to follow in his footsteps and to give my life for that religion too."

One wrote to his young son: "One day you will know why I am in prison. It is for the happiness of mankind and I hope you will be proud of that."

When they understood what wide publicity had come to the Faith because of their suffering they "jumped with joy."

Some day this whole story will make glorious reading.

Each of the "prisoners," now restored to freedom and the comfort of his family, has received a letter of love and gratitude from the Universal House of Justice.

WORLD CENTRE

We are just now receiving the third group of pilgrims from both the East and the West, and are delighted to say that the new arrangements for housing all the pilgrims in one Pilgrim House are working out very well indeed. The power of the blessed Shrines seems to grow ever greater, as our beloved Guardian told us would be the case, and the pilgrims feel this and reflect it in the spiritual inspiration and joy which they derive from the pilgrimage.

The task of preparing sixty-nine National Teaching Plans as the substance of the mighty Nine-Year Plan to be launched next Riqvân is constantly before the World Centre. These plans will be integrated into one overall global plan so that each National Community, and the Cause of God throughout the world, will surge forward in the further unfoldment of the Divine Plan.

ALASKA

The National Spiritual Assembly has undertaken an interesting venture in public relations. Letters were written to all Alaskan Legislators congratulating them on the passing of a Bill which resulted in the appointment of a Human Rights Commission. The Governor and members of the commission received such letters. With each one, the National Spiritual Assembly enclosed the pamphlet "Man One Race." The answers thus far received have been heartening.

FAITH PENETRATES AMAZON REGION

Recent reports indicate that several hundred Indians in the jungle areas of Brazil, Colombia, and Peru have been enrolled under the banner of Bahá'u'lláh, including about 250 Amazon Indians in the remote corner of Brazil near Colombia. One of the Auxiliary Board Members states that the whole Amazon area appears to contain a vast

hidden treasure of receptive souls for Bahá'u'lláh's Kingdom. In many areas Christianity has not yet penetrated or is only now reaching these virgin areas of such great promise.

CANADA

Another step forward in official recognition of the Faith is the recent action of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, in Ottawa, defining the status of Bahá'í pioneers as "representatives" of the Bahá'í "organization" in foreign lands, and consequently exempting them from automatic loss of citizenship after prolonged absence from their home country.

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA

We have just received word from the National Spiritual Assembly that since Convention the number of centres throughout that region has increased by 300, and during these seven months they have accepted 7,000 new believers into the Bahá'í fold. Advanced training courses have been organized in English, Swahili, Luganda, Ateso and Acholi, for those believers who have already received the National Assembly's elementary training course.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ECUADOR REPORTS DRAMATIC EXPANSION OF FAITH

November 12th

"Two weeks ago we had eleven Groups in Ecuador, and now we have thirty-two. In the new Groups—134 new believers—all Indians of the Imbabura and Pinchincha provinces . . ."

November 25th

"The number of Groups has grown to fifty-six, nineteen of which have more than nine members, one having forty-eight. The number of believers has more than doubled during the month."

MASS CONVERSION IN HAITI

Many new believers have entered the Faith in recent months in Haiti. These new recruits have immediately entered the field of service and are doing exemplary and heroic work as native pioneers and teachers. Mass conversion has been well under way since March amongst the country people and continues to gain momentum. There are about one thousand new Bahá'ís and thirteen Local Assemblies in these areas, all since last March. The people are Negro with some mixture of French.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

As has already been announced, the friends of Hawaii are due to have their own National Spiritual Assembly next Riqván, where our beloved Faith is established, not only on the big island of Hawaii, but on four other islands as well. The number of friends is approaching 400, and three Ḥaziratu'l-Quds have been acquired. How gratified must be the spirit of our immortal Martha Root as she sees, from the Abhá Kingdom, such victories won on the island that was destined to witness the last exploits of her heroic life !

INDIA

The teaching work continues without interruption. The National Spiritual Assembly has adopted a One-Year Plan of extension and consolidation. On November 12th celebrations were held by the friends to mark the enrolment of more than 100,000 believers. The number of centres in India has reached 4,729. In addition to the Teaching Institute in Indore, three more buildings for similar institutes are being acquired by the friends, whilst the number of local Bahá'í Schools has reached twenty-one.

NEW ZEALAND

The first legally recognized Bahá'í wedding between two Bahá'ís took place in the Ḥaziratu'l-Quds of Auckland in August. The bride is also the first Maori to marry in the Faith. The subsequent reception held in Albany, the Maori settlement where the family and friends of the bride reside, forged new links with the Maoris of that area.

SWITZERLAND

Three Bahá'ís have presented the Faith—its history, its relationship to Christianity, and its structure—to the Centre for Ecumenical Studies of the World Council of Churches. The talks were very well received, and a group has been set up to study the Faith in detail.

BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY OFFICIALLY REGISTERED IN FINLAND

The National Spiritual Assembly writes :

"The Ministry of Education has on September 18th, 1963, made its decision for entering the Bahá'í Community of Finland in the registry of religious communities and given the order to print this in the code of laws (statute book) of Finland. This printing was done on September 30th, 1963 in the code of laws No. 452.

Yá-Bahá'u'l-Abhá ! "

FOR MEDITATION

. . . be thou so steadfast in My love that thy heart shall not waver, even if the swords of the enemies rain blows upon thee and all the heavens and the earth arise against thee.

Be thou as a flame of fire to My enemies and a river of life eternal to My loved ones and be not of those who doubt.

And if thou art overtaken by affliction in My path, or degradation for My sake, be not thou troubled thereby.

Rely upon God, thy God and the Lord of thy fathers.

Bahá'u'lláh.

SUMMER SCHOOLS 1963

(1) DALSTON HALL CARLISLE JULY 13th—27th.

Those who attended said "It was the best Summer School ever!" The historic Hall amidst beautiful grounds and countryside was an excellent setting for a School the quality of which enriched us and proved a graduation from "Kindergarten" to "High School" stage.

The spirit of the School was greatly enhanced by the presence of two Hands of the Cause of God, Dr. Mühlischlegel for the first weekend, who brought to us the loving greetings of the friends at the Continental Summer Schools he had recently attended and John Ferraby who was at the School until the middle of the second week and took part in the talks and discussions.

The morning sessions of the first week were devoted to an excellent presentation by several speakers of the history of the Faith. All gave of their best and encouraged lively discussion and questions. Evening sessions were used to present the "Creative Words of Bahá'u'lláh" and the inspiration of the words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

The morning sessions during the second week dealt with aspects of individual awareness and response in a world society. Evening sessions developed the theme of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh.

One could not single out any of the speakers for special mention. All presented their subject with enthusiasm and knowledge. Lively discussion followed each session and all benefitted in the sharing of the knowledge and experience of the friends from Switzerland, New Zealand and Africa.

High-lights in the programmes of both weeks were sessions organised and carried out by the youth. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to play their part in encouraging the understanding of the application of the Faith to their problems of life in this modern world was amply demonstrated not only during the sessions but throughout the whole school.

The children were not forgotten. They so much enjoyed the morning classes that they asked that future schools should be similarly organised.

The excellence of the lectures and discussion groups was balanced by joyful and care-free social activity during afternoons and evenings. Excursions were arranged during the first week to Keswick in the Lake District and during the second to Gretna Green and Dumfries. Each day the friends explored the surrounding countryside and during the evenings laughter and fun prevailed.

Several visitors from nearby Dalston village and from Carlisle enjoyed an evening recital of music and song. The pianist was Sylvia Schulman from Rhodesia, now settled in this country, and she accompanied Lois Hainsworth who gave a selection of songs and arias. The recital concluded with Lois giving a most beautiful rendering of the prayer "From the Sweet Scented Streams" set to music by Dan Jordan.

It was good to have with us Hasan and Isobel Sabri, Philip and Lois Hainsworth from Africa; Hugh Blundell, Linda Hight and Kitty Carpenter from New Zealand; Joan Featherstone from Australia; Marjorie Giorgi, Irene Bennett and Mary Hardy from Switzerland.

The joy, happiness and inspiration of the Centenary Celebrations had spilled over into the year and pervaded the

two weeks of the School. N.S.A. Sessions presented by Adib-Taherzadeh, Betty Reed and John Long, and the session given by the Auxiliary Board Members Hugh Blundell, Ernest and Joan Gregory gave to us all a soul-stirring vision of the growth and development of the Cause in retrospect and prospect.

The time of the end is always a moment for regret—we were all loth to leave but part we must and we shall each retain a memory of a happy time spent together. We shall recall the happiness of the three declarations; or the ebullient and indefatigable Philip Hainsworth, Chairman of the School, rounding up his "flock" by the clanging of a cow-bell and with vociferous cajoling which ensured a remarkable punctuality in attendance at Sessions! Our thanks to all who organised the School, not least to the Warden of Dalston Hall, who without stint sought to do everything to make our stay a happy one. Finally we recall the words of the Vicar of Dalston who attended the farewell party and in accepting a gift of a book said "I hope that the Bahá'í spirit will infuse this area and that we shall have you with us again."

(We are indebted to Betty Shepherd, Gitta Chaplin, and Joe and Mary Jameson for this report).

(2) COLEG HARLECH, AUGUST 24th—31st.

(From a new believer).

It was barely five months since I had declared my faith in Bahá'u'lláh when I attended Summer School. I am an isolated believer. The number of occasions on which I had, before the School, ever been able to actually meet Bahá'ís, could be counted on one hand. With this background, the week I spent at Harlech, even though it was not possible for me to attend as many as half of the meetings, was for me a tremendous spiritual experience and one that I shall never forget.

"Love Me that I may love thee" was the theme of the School.

A wonderful spirit of happiness and friendliness emanated from the gathering present at the Coleg, a group of about 130 people of all ages and twelve nationalities and I was inspired by the love which shone forth from many faces.

The talks which were given in the mornings carried on one from another, beginning with a most fascinating study by Tom McArthur of how man's first awareness of God came into being, and developed, and we learnt of the significance of cave paintings, magic, dancing, and the possible development of the priesthood from the leadership of the dance, alchemy, spells, sunworship, etc. On the second day we had a talk from John Long about the Messengers of God and their Holy "Books." From there on to what is revealed by the Messengers and why we need a new revelation (two talks by John Wade), how the Faith works (Marion Hofman) and lastly Joan Gregory on what we as Bahá'ís can and must do to carry forward the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

Three evening sessions were devoted to a study of "Abdu'l-Bahá—the Teacher and His Writings," under the leadership of John and Rose Wade and through these everyone must have come to understand more of the greatness and supreme wisdom of the Master.

As the week passed I came to appreciate for the first time, something of the great wonder and privilege of living so close in time to Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá and I was moved by the several stories which I heard told about them. I came away more thoroughly understanding the great responsibility which rests upon us all.

I have brought home with me a rich wealth of spiritual experience which will carry me forward in the Cause of God in the days to come.

NORA MAUDE.

(b) *From a member of the Bahá'í Youth.*

Harlech Summer School this year had that spirit of unity and love present at the Congress. We were privileged to have Dr. Mühlischlegel with us for the first three days.

My immediate reaction on the first evening was, time and again "Who's that?" About two thirds of the Bahá'ís present had been less than two years in the Cause. This brought home to us the rate of growth of the Faith in Britain, emphasised by the number of Bahá'ís there. 130 Friends attended the school over the whole week. At the beginning of the Six-Year Plan the number of Bahá'ís in Britain totalled about 130.

The Summer School Committee deserved all the thanks we could give; the programme was well arranged and *carried out on time*, thanks to John Morley's efforts with percussion! It was generally felt, though, that with the predominance of young people (about 50%) a Youth Committee was needed. The more formal entertainments were all successful, such as the social evening on the last night, with such varied items as Indian and Persian dancing, a Yoga demonstration, national songs, cartoons and comedians; the dramatic act presented by the children who had been working hard all week and the "Words and Music" programme, by now a favourite at Summer School. There was, however, a noticeable lack of organisation from the standpoint of informal Youth activities. This undoubtedly led to more spontaneity, but this did not always manage to make the informal social activities a success. The planning of a barbecue, parties in the gym, walks on the beach and social evenings, fell very largely on a few people at extremely short notice. We all felt that a Youth Committee could organise and co-ordinate ideas to advantage.

At the same time it was suggested that we tend to segregate the British Community into sections: "Youth" and "Adults." This was corroborated by many people who felt that too much emphasis was placed on the youthfulness of the younger people.

Some German Friends commented on the friendly relations between the generations of Bahá'ís in Britain. They do not have this unity in Germany, but it was certainly an important factor of Summer School this year. We felt this unity was indispensable, and should be fostered, since the young benefit from the experience of the adults, and the adults from the energy and drive of the young.

The discussions were the focal point of interest this year. Their great success came as a surprise to some of us, as the discussions have been the weakest part of past summer schools. The discussions this year were organised on a new method, with four groups discussing different questions—in this way we covered more ground. We discussed modern and everyday problems, with the accent on the young people

of today. This included present-day morality, the attitude of parents towards children, and vice-versa, the effect of Bahá'í teachings on the world and how we could make them universally appreciated. Our theme in all the discussions turned out to be "What can we do?" Eventually we always arrived back at the conclusion that the best thing to do was to live the life first and to teach as much as possible. At first we found it hard for everyone to be entirely frank, but when we were, ideas and results tumbled over each other. Unfortunately we found that it took about twenty seven minutes out of our precious thirty to break down the barriers, and only in the last three minutes did we make any headway, which is one reason for the need for longer discussions!

More discussions was only one of our requests—we really wanted more of everything! At the end of the week we felt that Summer School fifty two weeks of the year would not be a bad idea. It was a wonderful week, and as we left we could only pray that the marvellous spirit there would continue to strengthen and unify the believers until next year.

MAY HOFMAN.

MESSAGES AT HARLECH

Letter from Harlech Summer School Committee to the Universal House of Justice, and their reply.

August 29th, 1963.

Beloved friends,

The members of the British Community gathered at the Harlech Summer School send their warmest Bahá'í greetings and assure you of their steadfast prayers in the coming months of the new epoch. Numbering 130, including many Bahá'ís of recent declaration and overseas visitors, the School has been blessed with the presence of Hand of the Cause Dr. Adelbert Mühlischlegel for the first part of the week. There has developed a special loving and creative spirit of Bahá'í unity manifested in greater general participation during sessions, a wider field of cultural and social activities and a unique sense of punctuality.

The National Spiritual Assembly directed originally that this Summer School be designed to appeal to the large numbers of young people in the British Isles, who constituted 50% of the attendance here.

We earnestly request your prayers at the Holy Shrines to assist our efforts in furthering the teaching work in this country.

With warmest Bahá'í love, In His Service,

HARLECH SUMMER SCHOOL CTE.

To the Harlech Summer School Cte.

Sept. 11th, 1963.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

We were delighted to learn of the success of your Summer School and to note the large attendance. You will be glad to know that we have also received similar encouraging reports from Summer Schools in such places as Luxemburg, Switzerland and the United States. You can well imagine how great is our joy in being able to read so many encouraging reports about the success of our Summer Schools.

You may be assured of our prayers for divine confirmation and assistance when we visit the Holy Shrines.

With warmest Bahá'í love and greetings,

Sincerely,

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

Letter from Harlech Summer School Committee to the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land, and their reply.

August 29th, 1963.

Dearly Beloved Hands,

Loving Bahá'í Greetings from the friends gathered at Harlech Summer School to consider the theme "Love Me, that I may love thee," and the Master's teaching methods. The dedication of the one hundred and thirty friends has produced that same glorious spirit seen at the Centenary Celebrations.

We were blessed for much of the School with the presence of Hand of the Cause Dr. Adelbert Mühlischlegel, who linked us spiritually with the other European Summer Schools.

Amongst the outstanding features of the Summer School have been the preponderance of recently declared believers, the large numbers of younger people and the increased participation and punctuality highlighting all activities of the School.

On behalf of the British Community, we earnestly request your prayers at the Holy Shrines that the spirit generated at Congress may continue to enliven the teaching work in the British Isles.

With warmest Bahá'í love,

In His Service,

HARLECH SUMMER SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

To the Baha'is who attended the Harlech Summer School.

9th September, 1963

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Your letter of August 29th was much appreciated.

We were surprised and delighted to note that so many of the friends have gathered at the Summer School this year, and that so many new believers as well as young people were able to participate.

The repeated demonstrations of the vitality of the British Bahá'í Community is a source of pride to all the friends. We feel sure that they will continue to go on from victory to victory.

We will certainly pray for the progress of the teaching work when we visit the Shrines, and that the spiritual impetus released by the World Congress will continue to be felt throughout the British Isles for a long time to come.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

In the service of the beloved Guardian,

HANDS OF THE CAUSE IN THE HOLY LAND.

(Signed) Rúhiyyih.

Leroy Ioas.

A. Q. Faizi.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Will the friends please note that the address of the Bahá'í Journal Committee (Secretary: Mrs. E. M. Hellaby) is now 31 Croslands Park, Barrow-in-Furness, Lancs. (Tel: Barrow 2997).

CONTRIBUTING TO THE FUNDS

Continued from page 1

It should therefore be the aim of every local and national community to become not only self-supporting, but to expend its funds with such wisdom and economy as to be able to contribute substantially to the Bahá'í International Fund, thus enabling the House of Justice to aid the work in fruitful but impoverished areas, to assist new National Assemblies to start their work, to contribute to major international undertakings of the Nine-Year Plan such as Oceanic Conferences, and to carry forward the work of beautifying the land surrounding the Holy Shrines at the World Centre of the Faith.

Nor should the believers, individually or in their Assemblies, forget the vitally important Continental Funds which provide for the work of the Hands of the Cause of God and their Auxiliary Boards. This divine institution, so assiduously fostered by the Guardian, and which has already played a unique role in the history of the Faith, is destined to render increasingly important services in the years to come.

In the midst of a civilization torn by strifes and enfeebled by materialism, the people of Bahá are building a new world. We face at this time opportunities and responsibilities of vast magnitude and great urgency. Let each believer in his inmost heart resolve not to be seduced by the ephemeral allurements of the society around him, nor to be drawn into its feuds and short-lived enthusiasms, but instead to transfer all he can from the old world to that new one which is the vision of his longing and will be the fruit of his labours.

With loving greetings,

(Signed and Sealed)

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

COMMEMORATING THE MOST GREAT JUBILEE.

Many communities up and down the country have obtained valuable publicity for the Faith by planting trees or giving seats to mark the celebration of the Most Great Jubilee. We are grateful for the many reports we have received of these ceremonies and regret very much that there is not space to print more than a list of these communities.

Trees have been planted in Birmingham, Blackpool, Bristol, Cardiff, Chester, Exeter, Inverness, Manchester, Nottingham, Pontypridd, Romford, Sheffield, Southport and Winchester.

Seats have been given in Bangor, N.I., Swinton and Wokingham R.D.

Another method of commemorating the Jubilee has been by donating Bahá'í books to Public Libraries, usually with an inscription on the fly-leaf. This has also been done by isolated Bahá'is.

Books have been given to Public Libraries in Aberystwyth, Barrow-in-Furness, Eccles St. Helens and Sutton Coldfield.

We are sure that there must be many more Libraries to add to this list. Please will the friends let us know of any others so that the list may be completed in the next Bahá'í Journal.

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL COMMITTEE.