

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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First Fruit of Victory:

Dublin Haziratu'l-Quds

THROUGH the generosity of Mr. Eshagh Anvar, the goal of acquiring a Haziratu'l-Quds in Dublin has been achieved. Mr. Anvar and his family were pioneers to Dublin during the Ten Year Crusade, and he has given to the National Assembly the house which he purchased at that time, 4 Cambridge Villas, Rathmines, Dublin. The Universal House of Justice has recognised this house as fulfilling the requirements of a Haziratu'l-Quds for Dublin, and the National Assembly joyously announces this first victory of the British share of the Nine Year Plan.



COMPLEMENTARY in its functions to those of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar — an edifice exclusively reserved for Bahá'í worship — this institution, whether local or national, will, as its component parts, such as the Secretariat, the Treasury, the Archives, the Library, the Publishing Office, the Assembly Hall, the Council Chamber, the Pilgrims' Hostel, are brought together and made jointly to operate in one spot, be increasingly regarded as the focus of all Bahá'í administrative activity, and symbolize, in a befitting manner, the ideal of service animating the Bahá'í community in its relation alike to the Faith and to mankind in general. ("God Passes By"—page 339-40)—Shoghi Effendi.

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A Meditation

WHEN we realise, as so often we must, how fallible and human we all are, it is the greatest comfort to read through the letters of St. Paul to the early Christians. They too were fallible and human and weak, and misunderstood one another so often, and yet they, through God's grace, changed the world.

"If any difference arise among you, behold Me standing before your face, and overlook the faults of one another for My name's sake, and as a token of your love for My manifest and resplendent Cause."—Lisbeth Greeves (written on the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh.

Story of a TEMPLE

"O PEOPLE! Construct houses in the most beautiful fashion possible in the name of the Lord of Religions. Adorn them with that which becometh them but not with pictures or figures. Then commemorate therein your Lord, the Merciful in spirit and devotion. Then will the hearts be enlightened by His Word and the eyes be consoled."—Bahá'u'lláh.

"There are material things, which cause a great spiritual effect. The Mashriqu'l-Adhkár — the Dawning Place of the Praise of God—is a material thing which will have great effect upon the spiritual life of the peoples. It is an expression of the elevation of the Word of God. The founding of the Temple will be a step towards the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth."—Abdu'l-Bahá.

"The termination of the divinely ordained Temple is destined to be the Ark to ride triumphantly on the tidalwave of world-encircling calamities and offering sole refuge to storm-tossed sufferers of sinful, steadily sinking civilisations."—Shoghi Effendi.

October 8, 1952—Proclamation of the Guardian, Shoghi Effendi: "... Construction of a Mashriqu'l Adhkár on the European continent ..."

April 19, 1953—Message of the Guardian, Shoghi Effendi: "... Purchase of a property in the area of Frankfurt/Main, and construction of a Mashriqu'l Adhkár ..."

Dates connected with preliminaries to construction of the Temple.

October, 1953—The Building Department of the City of Frankfurt/Main rejects the application of the Bahá'í Community to purchase a city-owned piece of land at Forsthausallee, corner of Niederrader Landstrasse. It is recommended to look for sites outside the city territory.

July 10, 1954—Purchase contracts concerning three properties in the district of Eschborn, covering 1.7 ha, are signed by the National Spiritual Assembly.

August 8, 1954—Protest meeting of the Protestant Church at Eschborn with trombone choirs and attended by several ministers of the Catholic and Protestant churches of the entire country; distribution of pamphlets, posting of warnings, presentation of resolutions to the Government: all purporting that the construction of a Bahá'í-Temple in a community believing in Christ would mean a challenge to Christianity.

August 11, 1954—Refusal by the control authorities to approve the purchase contracts.

October 11, 1954—First trial at the Local Court of Frankfurt/Main, concerning the complaint submitted by the National Spiritual Assembly. No sentence is passed.

July 16, 1955—Preliminary choice of the Temple design out of 19 designs handed in by 16 architects.

November 9, 1955—Second trial at the Local Court of Frankfurt/Main. The purchase contracts for Eschborn are not approved.

January 25, 1956—First design for the Bahá'í Temple, submitted by the architect, Teuto Rocholl.

July 7, 1956—Trial at the District Court, Frankfurt/Main, concerning the complaint submitted again by National Spiritual Assembly with the sentence: the approval of the purchase contracts of Eschborn is denied definitely; a further complaint at the Federal Court will not be accepted.

July 22, 1956—Decision by the National Spiritual Assembly in favour of the Temple design of Teuto Rocholl, architect in Frankfurt/Main.

March 1, 1957—Purchase contract concerning 2.10 ha grassland in the neighbourhood of Frankfurt/Main, in the community of Diedenbergen, signed.

March 23, 1957—Negotiations at the Local Court of Hochheim; the purchase contracts of Diedenbergen are approved by the Rural Court.

August 11, 1957—The purchase contracts of Diedenbergen are not approved of by the County Council.

October 29, 1957—Purchase contract concerning 2.06 ha in the precincts of Langenhain, near Frankfurt/Main, signed.

January 5, 1958—Preliminary building application submitted by architect Teuto Rocholl, to the County Councillor of Frankfurt/Main-Höchst, concerning the construction of the Temple in the community of Langenhain.

January 14, 1958—The purchase contract, after a local inspection, is approved by the Local Court of Frankfurt/Main, Department of Rural Affairs.

July 30, 1956—Written appeals by the Intercontinental Conference Frankfurt/Main, to the Minister President of Greater Hesse, to the Hessian Minister of Interior, and to the President of the District Government, requesting to assist in removing the difficulties regarding the construction of the Bahá'í Temple.

December 16, 1958—Preliminary building application concerning the construction of the Temple in the outskirts of the community of Langenhain is rejected by the

authorities for building supervision on the grounds of "landscape planning and legal aspects with a view to construction."

December 23, 1958—Complaint on the part of the community of Langenhain and the National Spiritual Assembly against aforementioned rejection.

January 13, 1959—A motivation of the complaint is handed in subsequently.

March 25, 1959—The President of the District Government, Wiesbaden, accepts the complaint, and returns the affair to the County Council Maintaunus for further decision.

April 6, 1959—The County Councillor of the County Maintaunus grants settlement and price authorisation.

April 7, 1959—The County Council caucels its negative decision.

December 18, 1959—The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís in Germany is listed in the register of real estate as owner of the Langenhain Temple site.

June 7, 1960—The President of the District Government notifies the authorities of building supervision of his approval of the permit for Temple construction.

July 15, 1960—The authorities of building supervision make the grant of the permit for Temple construction, besides certain special provisions, subject to numerous conditions to be fulfilled previously.

July 22, 1960—The National Assembly enters a protest in accordance with legal form and set term.

September 30, 1960—Issue of a part permit for Temple construction in the area of Langenhain.

Middle of October, 1960—Contract signed for ground-, concrete-, and ferro-concrete work with Lenz-Bau AG, Frankfurt/Main together with Schokbeton G.m.b.H., Düsseldorf, and N.V. Tramos, Kampen/Netherlands.

November 20, 1960—Laying of cornerstone of the Bahá'í Temple in Langenhain.

The Laying of the Cornerstone

On Sunday, 20 November, 1960, the cornerstone was laid for the first Bahá'í Temple on the European Continent. Several hundred believers were assembled for this ceremony on a hill near Langenhain not far from Frankfurt/Main. When the believers streamed together under the tent which was erected over the cornerstone because of the cold and wet November weather, they presented a view which might be symbolic for the significance of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár being erected on that spot.

The short ceremony in its simple sincerity might also be characteristic of the fact that here a community—convinced of its Faith and under secure guidance—was in action, a community, which was not

discouraged by the constant attacks from outside nor triumphant when success was achieved.

The vice-chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany, Mr. Ruprecht G. Krüger, opened the ceremony and warmly welcomed especially the representative of the World Centre of the Faith, Mrs. Amelia Collins.

Words of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, read in German and English, referred to the basic teachings of the Bahá'í Faith.

A PLACE PERFECTLY SUITED

The architect, Mr. Teuto Rocholl, addressed the assembled friends and guests as first speaker:

"Ladies and gentlemen,

Perhaps you have had a similar feeling all the way up here as I had: you considered the landscape very pleasant, however, you scarcely expected to find here a place which seems so perfectly suited for this Temple building. Only after having mounted the last metres of the ascent and suddenly being confronted with this unique panorama—which is at other times even more beautiful than to-day—can it be seen that in the surroundings of Frankfurt there can hardly be traced a better and more adequate spot. It is a wonderful feeling to be able to say so to-day, at the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone, especially in view of the many sites which had been taken into consideration during the long time of preparation.

As a round symmetrical building the Temple is not bound to a certain location. Therefore it was possible to conceive the design before this site could be found. On the other hand, the condition, that the Temple opens to nine directions, necessitated a piece of land like the one here, which is free on all sides and on which the nine entrance paths can organically and easily be arranged. With the given situation it was the natural result that the approach leads from the West to the building and the audience looks to the East.

As we know of many sacred buildings from old times, there has always been the desire to find a high ground for a construction site. And this has certainly not only formal or external reasons, but also a deep symbolic sense. Already the way up, the climb, can be a preparation for worship. And this naturally the more so here, in this pleasant remoteness. Now is not the moment to describe the building in every detail. I only want to mention one feature which perhaps distinguishes this edifice from all others: the nine entrances, which shall lead from all sides into the Temple, involve a considerable "decomposition" of the outer wall. Already by this feature a clear

relation is achieved between the outside world and the inside hall. The architectural conception was how to extend this idea of the "permeation" from inside to outside to the whole building, to all walls up to the cupola. However, the concentrating force which a central cupola building has at any rate shall remain fully effective. This will be achieved in making the bearing elements visible, i.e., the 27 elliptical pillars in clear shape from the ground to the top of the cupola. Thus, on the one hand, stands the permeation from inside to outside and on the other hand the concentrating power of the sacred central hall. My intention and desire were to lead these two poles to a synthesis, so that a hall of worship is created which—besides its austerity and solemnity—possesses a bright, joyful and light flooded effect, which itself embraces and does not fence in.

We are now at the beginning of this extraordinary and complicated enterprise and there are two things which I feel and which I want to say in conclusion: The first one is, above all, my gratitude to Him, Who has had and Who has given the idea for this great task; also, I want to thank them who are making the execution of this project possible. And the second is my supplication that all those who will work for this building, may be under the protection of God."

IN THE NAME OF OUR MOST BELOVED

The talk of Mrs. Amelia Collins followed:

"Beloved Friends,

We are gathered here on a singularly joyous and historic occasion—the laying of the cornerstone of the Mother Temple of Europe. For seven years, work on this important goal of the World Crusade has been delayed. Indeed there have been times when the outlook was so dark we wondered whether it would be possible to fulfil it within the allotted time. Now, however, we see that the mysterious forces latent in the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh have once more been demonstrated, and yet another great victory won in His name.

Our beloved Guardian in his infinite wisdom chose the very heart of Europe as the site for this Temple. It will be the fifth Mashriqu'l-Adhkár to be erected by the Bahá'ís of the world, and from it will stream forth special grace and blessings upon this continent, the cradle of western civilisation, so war-torn, so in need at this time of the spiritualising forces latent in the teachings of the Manifestation of God for this day.

I hope all the European friends, and particularly those in Germany, who have been honoured by having this first Bahá'í House of Worship

erected on the soil of their native land, will support this institution through both their prayers and their contributions, that it may speedily rise, a visible embodiment of our believers and shower its blessings upon all who enter its doors for worship.

Both 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi repeatedly pointed out that these Bahá'í institutions are the great silent teachers of the Faith; they not only enhance its prestige in the eyes of the people of the world, but from them stream spiritual power and blessings upon believer and non-believer alike.

This Mother Temple of Europe is not only unique, but is distinguished by the fact that the beloved Guardian himself specified that it should receive the infinitely precious gift of some of the sacred dust from the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh. In 1958, at the time of the Intercontinental Conference in Frankfurt, one of those five great Conferences called by him, and marking the mid-way point of his great Global Crusade, I delivered this dust to the German National Assembly for safekeeping, little dreaming it would ever be my joy and privilege to place this gift in the foundation of this glorious Temple.

I now do so in the name of our most beloved Shoghi Effendi. May his ardent hopes be fulfilled, and this House of Worship, so dear to his heart, be speedily completed, a testimonial of the love of not only the European believers for their Guardian, but of the Bahá'ís of the entire world."

A SPIRITUAL CENTRE OF LIGHT

Then the chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany, Dr. Eugen Schmidt, spoke, of whose speech an extract is given:

"Honoured guests, dear friends:

It will be obvious to every thinking individual person, that this building cannot be called a challenge to Christianity, as it is asserted sometimes. Jehovah revealed to the great Hebrew prophet Isaiah: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples!' The time of this prophecy has come, i.e., of its fulfilment. The Bahá'í World Community has taken the initiative to build such Houses of Worship on every continent of our planet for all peoples. Thus for Europe, on this spot here, such a house of prayer with open doors shall be erected. Bahá'ís throughout the world, poor and rich, are contributing to finance this project. These funds are entrusted to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Germany for the execution of this historical sacred building. And when we now, dear friends, in this memorable hour, prepare ourselves to lay the cornerstone for the fifth House of Worship of the Bahá'í

World Community, then we do this in deep gratitude, and at the same time conscious of our divine order to erect a spiritual centre of light as a contribution to the pacification of the world which so urgently needs the foundation of loving unity and co-operation of all responsible followers of the great Religions. The guidance, healing and readjustment of humanity, suffering from mistrust and fear, can only be effected by the eternal and progressively revealed Words of God."

ACT IN THE FRAGRANCE OF UNITY

Mr. Heuss, mayor of Langenhain, addressed the assembled guests with the following words:

"Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a special pleasure for me as mayor of Langenhain to welcome you all most warmly. Let us mutually forget on the present day of the laying of the cornerstone for the House of Worship all difficulties which—justified or unjustified—have existed. Let us, as it is written in your invitation, act in the fragrance of unity and co-operate that mutual understanding will become a reality in the whole world. If there is understanding in the smallest community then from the bottom a peaceful living together will be created and then world peace will be safeguarded. Thus I wish this building good progress and a completion as anticipated by the owner and the building management."

GREETINGS FROM ALL OVER EUROPE

Mr. John A. Long, as a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of the British Isles, extended greetings from all believers in Europe:

"I not only bring greetings from the British Bahá'í community but also I bring greetings from all over Europe to the German friends. We cannot be assembled in this hour, on a November day, without remembering an occasion three years ago when we were also assembled in the open air on the cemetery of London for the funeral of our beloved Guardian. It would have meant to him endless joy if he could have lived to witness this ceremony. We are grateful to the German friends that they have succeeded to overcome all obstacles and to lay this cornerstone. We will certainly endeavour everywhere in Europe to assist Germany in this great task and to give her whatever help possible. Thank you!"

These addresses were followed by the laying of the cornerstone: Mrs. Collins, accompanied by Dr. Ugo Giachery and Dr. Schmidt, descended to the hollow covered with carpets in which the open cornerstone was lying. The stone, a

granite block, has the same shape as cornerstones of Temples in antiquity. It contains a carefully polished hole which is closed by a silver plate. There Mrs. Collins placed the document, which was signed by the Hands of the Cause being present and the representatives of the National Spiritual Assemblies. It reads as follows:

Mother Temple of Europe

In the presence of seven Hands of the Cause of God, European Auxiliary Board members and representatives of the European National Spiritual Assemblies, the cornerstone for the first House of Worship was laid to-day by our beloved revered Mrs. Amelia Collins, as representative of the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land, at this place in the area of Langenhain/Taunus. Joyful and with deep feelings of gratitude to Bahá'u'lláh the Bahá'í World Community remembers in love and reverence the Guardian Shoghi Effendi Rabbani, who approved of this place at the eve of his ascension.

Frankfurt on Main, on the
20th of November, 1960—

17 Qudrat 117.

As gift and legacy of Shoghi Effendi, Mrs. Collins placed the Sacred Dust enshrined in a silver box into the hole of the cornerstone. Then she covered it with the silver plate on which under the Greatest Holy Name the following words are engraved:

Haus der Andacht

Mother Temple of Europe

Mashriqu'l Adhkár

Laying of the cornerstone

20 November, 1960, Bahá'í Era,

17 Qudrat 117.

On top of the silver plate the cover of the stone was placed. Mrs. Collins then did the three symbolic strokes with a hammer saying with each stroke

"Peace — Unity — Love."

With the prayer for world peace in German and English the ceremony was closed. The close relation of the Bahá'í World Community was stressed by the large number of believers assembled from many countries and amongst them, besides Mrs. Amelia Collins, the Hands of the Cause of God Hasan Balyuzi, Abul Qasim Faizi, Ugo Giachery, Hermann Grossmann, Zikrullah Khadem and Adelbert Mühlischlegel.

From all parts of the world came messages of congratulation.

(To be continued)

ENGLISH TEACHING COMMITTEE REPORT

THE York community, in collaboration with the Northern Youth Committee, arranged a Youth Weekend School in the Clifton Youth Hostel on the 17/18th October. What an occasion! 73 people attended this School for talks, study, meeting friends both old and new, and honest to goodness fun, and most of them are still talking about it.

The high standard of speakers and talks was impressive, the weather so mild and warm that several talks were given outside on the lawns, and the atmosphere was so wonderfully happy that the York L.S.A. were presented with a petition ". . . this house demands another School as quickly as possible . . ." That energetic community were only too willing to oblige and a piece of advance information is that a Five Day Winter School is planned at the Clifton Hostel in York for December 26/27/28/29/30. Booking forms will be out soon.

News of "extension" teaching projects has reached us. Eccles is directing attention to Stretford, Brighton to Worthing, Cheadle to Stockport, Canterbury to Folkestone. These are all goals outside and in addition to the goals of the Nine Year plan and these hardworking L.S.A.'s are all working "under their own steam" (as one of them put it) to establish new centres for the Faith, which themselves, in their turn, will become additional sources of strength.

When Hand of the Cause Collis Featherstone paid a "flying visit" to London and managed to fit into his programme a few minutes talk with this Committee, he left behind a memory of a warm smile, a firm handshake and the parting words "we should plan to keep every single believer busy." It will be our pleasure!

York Winter School—Tariff, 18s per day (including breakfast, lunch and supper). Please write as soon as possible to: Mrs. Muriel Evans, 6 Whitby Avenue, Stockton Lane, York.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ACTIVITY BEGINS

Alaska

The Bahá'í booth at the Alaska State Fair received high praise from Governor Egan. Because of its favourable location the Bahá'í exhibit must have been seen by most of the estimated 25,000 persons who visited the Fair.

Burma

In three villages about twenty miles from Rangoon over 300 souls have declared their faith in Bahá'u'lláh and more are expected to join the Faith. This is the first instance of Buddhists joining in groups and the N.S.A. of Burma, who have appealed for teaching material, take it as a signal for more success.

Canada

The Yukon, held in July, was felt to be one of the best ever held in the Yukon especially because of the presence of Hand of the Cause Dr. Giachery and his wife. About 110 Bahá'ís attended the conference.

The "Canadian Bahá'í News" reports a public meeting held in Fort William on August 31st when the speaker, Dr. Ward, spoke on the subject "Black plus white equals peace." Dr. Ward also had radio and TV interviews.

Congo

The Sept.-Oct. edition of the French "Journal Bahá'í" reports that the number of Bahá'ís in Kivu has reached 28,000 souls.

Ecuador

Mass conversion continues intensively throughout the region.

Germany

About 150 newspapers in Germany reported the dedication of the Mother Temple of Europe. One Frankfurt newspaper printed two articles on the temple and gave some of the Bahá'í teachings.

At week-ends during the summer large numbers of people, sometimes more than 2,000 per day, visited the temple and also during the week groups are coming to see the building and hear about the Cause. The "Silent Teacher" is already bringing the knowledge of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh to the peoples of Europe.

Haiti

Following an intensive teaching campaign the number of L.S.A.'s has greatly increased. Almost all the new declarations have come from the negro race.

India

Two new teaching institutes have been acquired at Mysore and Deolali fulfilling an important goal of the Nine Year Plan.

Mass conversion continues and the Faith has now entered 500 villages in the Gwalior region.

New Zealand

The Bahá'í Newsletter of New Zealand reports that Mr. Richard St. Barbe Baker, the famous forester, has returned home to New Zealand. He is reviewing his book "Man In Search of God" and is writing another which may be entitled "The Uniting States of Sahara." He was interviewed on radio and TV in Auckland.

Philippines

During the Bahá'í year 120 more than 600 new believers have enrolled. The addition of 12 new tribes brought the total number of tribes represented in the Cause to 22.

One of the goals adopted by the N.S.A. is to have 30 all-Bahá'í villages by Ridvan 1965.

Portugal

In the town of Almada, where all the Bahá'ís devoted their summer holidays to teaching the Cause, there have been 16 new declarations including a protestant clergyman from Lisbon.

Switzerland

A quarterly teaching bulletin in French "La Pensée Bahá'ie" is published in Switzerland. It contains outstanding articles on the Bahá'í Faith such as the reprint of Dr. William S. Hatcher's talk given at the Ecumenical Study Centre of the World Council of Churches, at Bossey Castle near Geneva, in October 1963, on the subject "Christ and Bahá'u'lláh."

For information write to:—

La Pensée Bahá'ie,
Madame Claudet,
49 Blvd de Grancy,
Lausanne,
Switzerland.

U.S.A.

The first Southern California Summer School held during 5-11 July was attended by 225 persons. Present at the school were Hands of the Cause Dr. Ugo Giachery and William Sears. At one of the evening sessions William Sears narrated slides taken by Hand of the Cause Faizi of the home of the Báb in Shiráz.

THE new Forth Road Bridge made the journey to Perth much easier for many this year and once again this week-end school proved a great success. Although always enjoyable there was an atmosphere of hard discussion and the programme was arranged to show us our responsibilities in the Nine Year Plan. This it did in an inspiring way and, backed by consultations with all Assemblies and Bahá'ís from the two goal towns, it has started a much more active period in Scotland.

Although we are still praying for a pioneer to open the Inner Hebrides, there have been three firesides on Skye. With another Bahá'í employed for two months travelling around all the islands of Orkney and a week-end school in Shetland planned for April 18/19th (All make a note of it please) we hope for more news from the islands soon.

Teaching has now started in North Berwick and Hamilton, under the wing of Edinburgh and Motherwell Assemblies. Inverness are strengthened by two new pioneers and Glasgow and Aberdeen are both coming out of difficult times with regular meetings and enthusiastic teaching. But these last three towns all have less than nine Bahá'ís there.

The Civic Offices at Hamilton offer good prospects of summer employment for students — can anyone take advantage of this? North Berwick is an excellent seaside resort—can any others spend a holiday here?

The next week-end school is in Glasgow, January 15/16th.

Details and offers all to S.T.C. secretary: Eric Hellicar, 126 Mayfield Road, Edinburgh, 9.

Scottish Teaching Committee
Report

Comparative data of the Bahá'í Temple in Wilmette, Illinois

Area of Temple property	...	6.97 acres
Height from floor of basement to	...	
pinnacle of the dome ribs	...	191 feet
Depth of caissons	...	120 feet
Diameter of basement floor	...	204 feet
Inside diameter of dome	...	72 feet
Outside diameter of dome	...	90 feet
Material used for ornamentation	...	Mixture of white cement and portions of ground crystalline quartz.
Number of sections of ornamentation comprising the dome and ribs	...	387 pieces

NEWS of the Communities

CANTERBURY
One day Seminar,
Sunday, 11th October, 1964

A SUNNY, autumn day provided a suitable background to a very successful one-day school held in the Friends' meeting house in Canterbury. The school began with prayers and a short welcome by Kianoush Kouchekezadeh.

First Kianoush talked on the Administrative Order, outlining its structure and relating it indissolubly to the Covenant. After lunch, Edith Johnson, dealing with her subject, "The British Bahá'í Community in the Nine-Year Plan," linked past, present and future in the course of relating the development of the British community to the progress of the Faith in general.

Following tea and a visit to the sights of Canterbury, Hugh McKinley ended the day's proceedings with an introductory public talk entitled "The Kingdom of God," aimed mainly at the non-Bahá'ís present but of interest to Bahá'ís as well.

Perhaps an idea worth noting was the way in which meals were served actually in the meeting room itself, so that the friends stayed together instead of scattering throughout Canterbury to various restaurants. The "breaks" therefore, were not gaps but informal parts of the whole school, filled with animated conversation and an overall happy, united atmosphere.

About forty people attended, of eight nationalities, including visiting Bahá'ís from London, Watford, Romford and Folkestone, and seven students of the Faith from Canterbury itself.

The tremendous spirit that prevailed only serves to emphasize the importance, stated by Bahá'u'lláh, of mutual activity in the Bahá'í community.

"He that seeketh to commune with God, let him betake himself to the companionship of His loved ones."

ECCLES

THE Bahá'í community in Eccles, is actively doing extension teaching in the neighbouring suburb of Stretford, which it has voluntarily adopted as its own special goal area. Their initiative was not marred by mistaken tactics as so often happens.

The area, besides being easily accessible to both Eccles and Manchester communities, already contains one believer, so doing away with the initial difficulty of getting to know the district.

Having decided against using a private house to which, it was felt, strangers would not readily come, the problem of a public room arose.

After the usual proportion of unsuitable premises, they obtained a room at the civic centre at the modest charge of 7/6, with very good facilities for advertising, both permanently and temporarily, outside the actual premises which, incidentally, were ideally situated in the heart of the town, alongside a busy main road. Individual generosity has solved the expense problem until next April much to the relief of the Assembly treasurer!

A notable resolution of the Eccles community was that, all speakers etc. needed were to be found from among their own talented members. Stress was also laid on variety of approach to the weekly meetings. After placing an order for regular advertising in a local weekly paper, further probing revealed that a weekly write-up would be accepted by the paper for printing as local news. A cunning strategy!

Due to the indecisiveness of council officialdom the first meeting was only held on 21st October but the friends struck lucky first time; 2 people turned up, complete strangers, and the lively discussion which followed was most fruitful.

Enthusiasm, prayers, but most of all action, have produced the inevitable result of success. Perseverance by the friends from Eccles and prayers from us all can sustain this initial effort until it flowers into yet another divinely ordained administrative unit of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh.

NORWICH

MR. BOB CHEEK represented the Bahá'í Faith on a panel composed of Bahá'í, Humanist, Communist and Evangelical preacher. On October 6th, Bob and the others addressed thirty to forty students and staff of the Student Christian Movement in Keswick Teacher Training College on the theme "What is Truth?" During discussions which followed it was obvious that the Bahá'í Faith was the main interest since most of the questions and comments were directed to Bob.

After the formal close some students and a member of staff were sufficiently interested to go on talking and also received some literature. A few days later a Bahá'í book was presented to the S.C.M. making a total of three they now have.

On Sunday, 25th October, a very fine Cedar of Lebanon was planted by the Bahá'ís in the centre of Chapelfield Gardens, Norwich. The park superintendent, Mr. Anderson, was present, also the chairman of the Council Parks and Gardens Committee, Alderman F. C. Brown.

UNITED NATIONS DAY, 1964

FOLLOWING what has now become something of a tradition in Northern Ireland and mindful of the directive of the Universal House of Justice to strengthen ties with the United Nations, the Northern Ireland Bahá'í community again sponsored a meeting in celebration of United Nations Day. Mr. Terence Lawson, General Secretary to the Council for Education in World Citizenship (a U.N. organisation) was invited to speak at that meeting on the subject "International Understanding—can it be taught?"

Newspaper advertising and invitation cards, both making it clear that the meeting was arranged by the Bahá'ís of Northern Ireland, plus an announcement of the meeting as local news on the radio that morning, comprised the build up to Mr. Lawson's arrival in Belfast by plane that afternoon. He was met at the airport by B.B.C. representatives and taken directly for a TV interview on an evening news programme networked to the whole province. In the course of the interview he stated that he had been invited to Belfast by the Bahá'ís who had arranged the meeting that night.

The next day, Sunday, three special United Nations Day services were held, open to people of any denomination or religion. The Bahá'ís attended all three, Catholic, Jewish and Unitarian. At the Catholic service, held in the morning, representatives of any other denomination or religion, except the Bahá'ís, were conspicuous by their absence. So delighted were the Catholics to see the Bahá'ís attending that they asked them round for tea after the service. The Bahá'ís, all youth, dutifully did so and found themselves being asked, quite out of the blue, about the Faith by no less a personage than Monseigneur Mulally! The whole episode passed off very happily and smoothly and was obviously well worth the effort. After the Unitarian Service that evening Dr. McLachlan also spoke of his delight in seeing so many of the Bahá'ís present. There was a general feeling among the Bahá'ís that the ice of religious prejudice had been broken and that for the first time we were accepted as a faith to be respected and which held world-encompassing, universal news and, more than that, put them into practice.

It is worth adding that three days previously the Bahá'ís had also assisted in various ways at the annual U.N.A. reception for overseas students.

PIONEER COMMITTEE REPORT

Pioneers: Response and Needs

THE Pioneer Committee meets each Thursday evening at the Haziratu'l-Quds and so far we have been blessed with consultations each time. We believe that this fixed time for meeting helps the friends to come spontaneously when the spirit moves them. Even if the friends feel they have great problems which might prevent them from offering their services for pioneering, we would plead with them to write to us and arrange for consultation, as so often the pathway can be cleared if only discussion and consultation takes place with the Committee. A steady flow of pioneers is essential to the success of the Nine Year Plan.

The following ten pioneers have moved to their pioneer posts. (Another twenty-five are at present consulting on where best they can serve the Cause).

Mrs. Blakey	...	York
Mr. & Mrs. John Wilding	...	Bath
Mr. T. Garroway	...	Bath
Mr. & Mrs. K. Goode	...	Stafford
Mrs. Mohtadi	...	Sutton
		Coldfield
Miss M. Maher	...	Poole
Mrs. Yazdani	...	Poole
Dr. Fay Yazdani	...	Ipswich

Of the twenty-five friends now in consultation, the undermentioned are sufficiently advanced in their arrangements to enable us to give their names and towns.

Mr. & Mrs. John Long	Oakham
	(Rutland)
Mr. & Mrs. J. Bennett	Inverness
Mrs. Prue George	Guernsey
Mr. Len Lewis	Hong Kong
Mr. G. Rouhani	Portsmouth

Among the remainder, such places as Faroes, Malta, Dublin, Aberdeen, Isle of Wight, Bedford, Lincoln and the Pacific area are under consideration, so that you can see the Pioneer Committee has a most exciting job to do. It is, above all, a great privilege to be able to help our wonderful pioneers in their desire to serve Bahá'u'lláh. We just cannot find words to express to you the love and devotion shown by the friends.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Pioneers are NOW required to open NEW TOWNS and to support Local Spiritual Assemblies whose numbers are dangerously depleted.

Here is your list to choose from:
 Torquay ... needs a family 2
 Dublin ... needs a family 2
 Aberdeen now a group, six below numbers.
 Northampton now eight, one member pioneering.

Please note that TORQUAY is

the springboard from which Cornwall will be conquered. A family or retired couple is needed to provide a home—essential as the basis of a strong, vigorous community.

Also a family or retired couple is essential in DUBLIN to strengthen the community for the task of forming a National Spiritual Assembly.

SCOTLAND

Skye (Inner Hebrides)—1 to open the Island to Faith. (Here trained nurses or midwives are most likely to obtain posts).

NORTHERN IRELAND

Lurgan—1 to open to the Faith.

EIRE

Sligo—1 further pioneer needed to support Olive Sutton.

WALES

Bangor—1 to open to the Faith.
 Aberystwyth—1 to open to the Faith.

Please note that there are jobs advertised for Clerks, Typists, Mechanics, Storekeepers, Hospital Housekeeper/Caterer, etc.

ENGLAND

Slough, Bucks.—1 to support Bahá'í youth.

Bedford—1 to open to the Faith.
 Lincoln—1 to support temporary Persian Pioneer.

Isle of Wight—1 to open to the Faith. Possibility for nurses or retired people, boarding housekeepers and hoteliers.

Isle of Man—1 to open to the Faith.

PACIFIC AREA

Fiji — Pioneer couples most urgently needed. The Universal House of Justice states that the early formation of N.S.A.s in the South Pacific may depend on consolidation work in Fiji.

Gilbert and Ellice Islands—Two friends—a married couple, are completing their studies here prior to pioneering to these Islands.

MALTA

The need here is for a fully trained Persian nurse. Employment for people from this country is extremely difficult. One Persian friend is currently trying to find employment in Malta, and one Englishman.

FAROEES

Pioneer needed but employment is extremely difficult for English speaking people. Nevertheless there would be no objection by the Faroese authorities to a person going on a visitor's visa for three months, seeking and securing employment, and applying for a residence permit to learn the language.

WEST CENTRAL AFRICA

Dahomey — Pioneers are needed for Dahomey, as this is an assistance goal of the British Community, to help with consolidation work. Our sister N.S.A. states that the need is very great and that the pioneer should be French speaking. There is a small Bahá'í community with two L.S.A.s which at some stage must be raised to TEN, culminating in the establishment of the N.S.A. of the Bahá'ís of Dahomey and Togo, with its seat in Cotonou.

Doctors, teachers and technicians generally, seem to be needed throughout W. Central Africa.

SOUTH CENTRAL AFRICA

The Universal House of Justice has approved an appeal for pioneers being made to us by the N.S.A. of South Central Africa for the following two specific projects:—

Salisbury, S. Rhodesia — Caretakers for the Bahá'í Centre in Salisbury. Our sister N.S.A. feels that this could be a retired couple, with some income, who could live at the Bahá'í Centre rent free.

Malawi—A pioneer is needed, for there is no pioneer in Malawi, the goal for which is the establishment of a National Spiritual Assembly, the purchase of a Temple site and a National Haziratu'l-Quds. People with professional qualifications such as doctors, nurses, skilled technicians and artisans are needed.

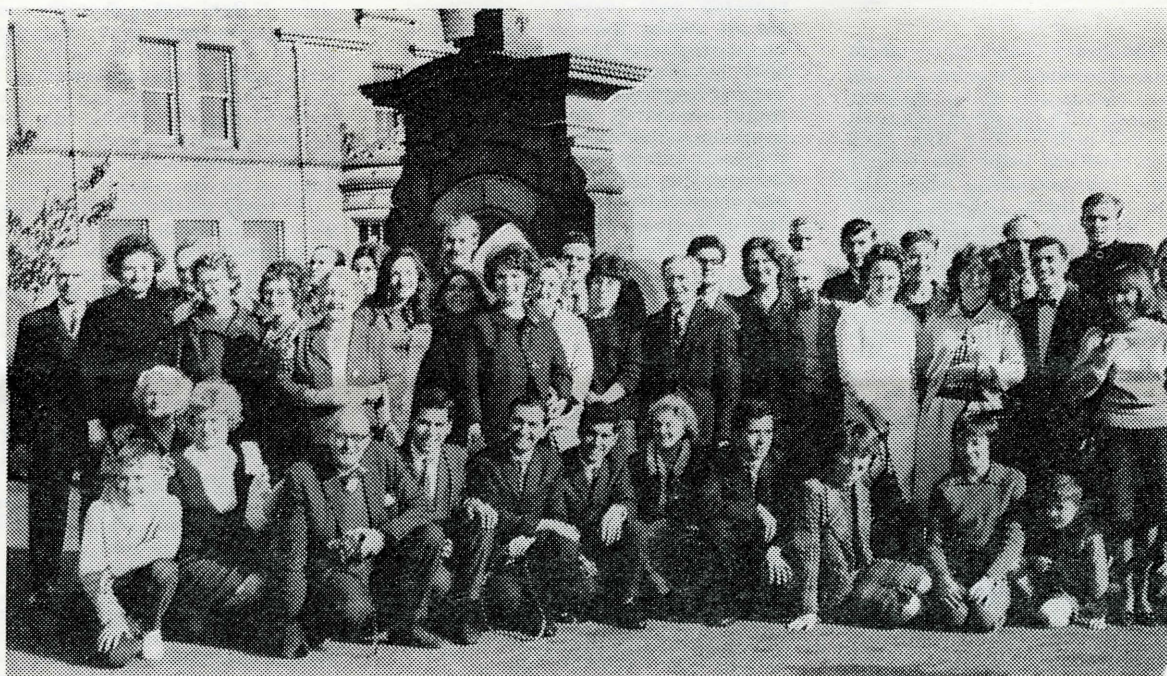
The opening year of the Nine Year Plan augurs well for our work but much remains to be achieved and time is short if we wish to hold to this year's plan set by the N.S.A. We cannot do better than quote from the Guardian's message to the Bahá'í World dated April, 1956:—

"Putting on the armour of His love, firmly buckling on the shield of His mighty Covenant, mounted on the steed of steadfastness, holding aloft the lance of the Word of the Lord of Hosts, and with unquestioning reliance on His promises as the best provision for their journey, let them set their faces towards those fields that still remain unexplored and direct their steps to those goals that are as yet unattained, assured that He Who has led them to achieve such triumphs and to store up such prizes in His Kingdom, will continue to assist them in enriching their spiritual birthright to a degree that no finite mind can imagine or human heart perceive."

In order that all our efforts may be co-ordinated, no one should proceed to any goal town without first writing to and/or consulting with the **Pioneer Committee of the N.S.A.**

Secretary: Mrs. R. M. Wade,
 14 Northumberland Road,
 New Barnet, Herts.
 Telephone: Barnet 4232.

A STIRRING WEEK-END



THE public meeting in the Kensington Hotel, Belfast, on Friday, 9th October, is still having its effect almost a month later. Marion Hofman spoke on 'Challenge to Chaos' at a time when street-rioting in the city was fresh in the minds of the Belfast public, so an already personally disturbed audience was further shaken from its complacency by an inspired and fiery address from Marion despite the fact that she was under severe strain the whole time due to a throat infection. Approximately thirty enquirers were present. A great deal of literature was either sold or given away, contrary to the usual trend at such meetings, a further indication of the effect the meeting had had on people.

Follow-up of the meeting was immediate since a week-end school was held during the following two days at that now familiar venue of the Bahá'ís, Belfast Castle. Good weather or bad, the setting and atmosphere always seem to be just right. Perhaps Marion Hofman pinpointed the reason when, opening her talk on Saturday evening, she looked out of the window, down the darkened hillside to the lights of the city ringing the shores of the lough and commented that perhaps the happiness she felt in being present at the school was in part due to that carpet of lights below, so similar to the view from Mount Carmel at night of the lights of Haifa stretching round the bay to 'Akká.

Three extremely instructive and thought-provoking talks formed the concrete basis of knowledge necessary to discussion after each one and the planned schedule was very hard to keep to, so lively and enthusiastic were the sessions. The school ended with an "Any Questions" panel where questions on the attitude or relationship of the Faith to various Christian attitudes, practices and problems were prevalent.

An average of 30 non-Bahá'ís were present on each day of the school which, besides the general atmosphere of unity and a genuine desire for knowledge, was also notable for its smooth-running efficiency, rare enough in Bahá'í gatherings. Since the school and

arising out of it, there have been two declarations, both youth.

Turning to more recent general news, Castlereagh, near Belfast, held its first wholly independent fireside since its adoption as a goal area. Slides of the Holy Land formed an introduction to discussion with five enquirers present. Ethel de Coster, pioneer to the goal town of Derry, was visited by Lisbeth Greeves and two firesides were held and literature distributed. This is an extremely promising and prompt beginning to Bahá'í activity in this important goal town, only a matter of a few weeks after the pioneer had moved there.

—Irish Teaching Committee Report

Data on the Temple

Area of the Temple property on starting work	...	7,267 acres
Height of site above sea level	... ..	1,210 feet
Height of structure	... ..	93 feet
Depth of foundation	... ..	13.7 feet
Inside diameter of basement floor	... ..	90 feet
Inside diameter of ambulatory	... ..	155.3 feet
Material used	... ..	prefab concrete parts
Number of sections comprising the dome and ribs	...	640 parts

KNOW YOUR BAHÁ'Í LITERATURE

The Hidden Words of Baha'u'llah

A reflection by the late
George Townshend

HERE the world's religions meet and are fused into one by the fire of a great love. "This is that which hath descended from the realm of glory uttered by the tongue of power and might and revealed unto the prophets of old. We have taken the inner essence thereof and clothed it with the garment of brevity."

In an age of compendiums there is no other compendium such as this. No other pen has attempted to make a summary which shall be so concise and so complete as to

contain in less than eight score brief Words of Counsel the vital substance of the world-religions.

Yet for all its terseness it bears none of the marks of a digest or an abstract. It has the sweep, the force, the freshness of an original work. It is rich with imagery, laden with thought, throbbing with emotion. Even at the remove of a translation one feels the strength and majesty of the style, and marvels at the character of a writing which combines so warm and tender a loving

kindness with such dignity and elevation.

The teaching of the book throughout is borne up as if on wings by the most intense and steadfast spirituality. With the first utterance the reader is caught away to the heavenly places, and the vision is not obscured when the precepts given deal with the details of workaday life, with the duty of following a craft or a profession and of earning a livelihood to spend on one's kindred for the love of God. The picture given of man and of human nature is noble and exalted. If he be in appearance a "pillar of dust," a "fleeting shadow" yet he is in his true being a "child of the divine and invisible essence," a "companion of God's Throne." The created worlds are designed for his training. The purpose of all religions is to make him worthy of the love of God and able to receive His bounties.

A LOVE SONG

The Hidden Words is a love-song. It has for its background the romance of all the ages—the Love of God and man, of the Creator and His creatures. Its theme is God's faithfulness and the unfaithfulness of man. It tells of the Great Beloved Who separates from Himself His creatures that, through the power of the Spirit breathed in them, they may of their own will find their way to that reunion with Him which is their paradise and their eternal home. It tells how they turned away to phantoms of their own devising, how He would not leave them to the ruin they invoked but ever with unwearied love sought them and called them back that they might enter yet the unshut gates of heaven. Only the final event of the love-story is lacking. God calls and when His utterance is complete He pauses that man may answer, and waits—listening.

Love is the cause of creation: it is the Beginning, the End and the Way. God, as yet a Hidden Treasure, knew His love for man, drew him out of the wastes of nothingness, printed on him His Own image and revealed to him His beauty. Apart from God man has nothing and is nothing; but in union with God he possesses all things. God ordained for his training every atom in the universe and the essence of all created things. He is the dominion of God and will not perish; the light of God which will never be put out; the glory of God which fades not; the robe of God which wears not out. Wrought out of the clay of love and of the essence of knowledge he is created rich and noble. He is, indeed, the lamp of God, and the Light of

WELSH TEACHING COMMITTEE REPORT

"NEWS FROM WALES"

BRECON

FOLLOWING a successful meeting here, arranged by the Cardiff Assembly, the WTC planned a follow-up meeting on 4th October. Again strong support was given from throughout South Wales and a coach trip was organised to make this easier. More than forty people attended the meeting, including two seekers from the town of Brecon, who had seen the advertisement in their local press.

BANGOR

This town, one of the goals of the Nine Year Plan, is receiving direct support from Dr. Miller in Anglesey and he arranged a public meeting at the end of October, when the speaker was Mrs. Lou Turner of Liverpool.

ABERYSTWYTH

A public meeting, sponsored by the Welsh Teaching Committee, and arranged by Mrs. Nora Maude of Borth, is planned for the 14th November. Once more a coach load from South Wales is planning vigorous support. This town is also a goal of the Nine Year Plan. Another public meeting is being planned for December, when it is hoped that Marion Hofman will speak.

SWANSEA

Regular Firesides are being held here with the support of Cardiff, Pontypridd and Caerphilly friends. Plans are going ahead for a one-day school late in November with a possible follow-up week-end school. It is interesting to note that

Aberystwyth, Bangor and Brecon are all towns where there are no resident Bahá'ís, and the work of teaching is being organised and supported from outside by the Welsh Teaching Committee and the efforts of nearby Bahá'ís.

CARDIFF

The Cardiff Assembly is actively engaged in holding a series of public meetings and firesides, and in supporting the work in communities both near and far.

We are sad to report that Jack Gould, a founder member of the Assembly and a Bahá'í of long standing, has passed on to the Abhá Kingdom. We will long remember with warm appreciation, the service that Jack rendered to the cause of Bahá'u'lláh. He had been a member of the Assembly for many years both after its foundation and after its incorporation.

PONTYPRIDD

Recent successes in Pontypridd have rewarded the great effort that has been put into the teaching work here. A recent one day school was well attended. We send loving thoughts to Chris Seldon, now in hospital recovering from a serious operation.

At one time the penalty for the Welsh crossing into England without authority was death. Now, it is the reward of service to Bahá'u'lláh, that the Welsh receive when they cross into Monmouth to help with the teaching. This same bounty is received by the English friends helping with extension teaching in North Wales. To them the Welsh Teaching Committee is most grateful.

Lights is in him. He is God's stronghold and God's love is in him. His heart is God's home; his spirit the place of God's revelation. Would he sanctify his soul, he could look back beyond the gates of birth and recall the eternal command and antenatal covenant of God. Would he but look within himself, he would see there God standing powerful, mighty and supreme.

THE PRISON OF SELF

Alas! in the proud illusion of his separateness, man has forgotten whence he came, and what he is, and whither he moves. He has turned away from his True Beloved and given his heart to a stranger and an enemy. Bound fast in the prison of self, dreading that death which might be to him the messenger of joy, he has rejected the immortal wine of wisdom for the poor dregs of an earthly cup and has given up eternal dominion that he might revel for an hour in the lordship of a passing world.

So blinded by arrogance and rebellion have mankind become that they live well content amid these sterile imaginings. They are no longer able to tell truth from error nor to recognise it when it stands before them in naked purity. Though they enter the presence of the All-Glorious; though the Manifestation of Him Whom they affect to seek is before them and the Face of the Mighty One in all its beauty looks into their face, yet are they blind and see not. Their eyes behold not their Beloved; their hands touch not the hem of His robe. Though every utterance of His contains a thousand and a thousand mysteries, none understands, none heeds. He made the human heart to be His dwelling place; but it is given to another. Among His own on earth He is homeless. Nay more, His own heap on Him persecutions. The Dove of Holiness is imprisoned in the claws of owls. The Everlasting Candle is beset by the blasts of earth. The world's darkness gathers about the Celestial Youth. The people of tyranny wrong Love's King of Kings. The angels weep at the spectacle; lamentations fill the heaven of heavens; but men glory in their shame and esteem their impiety a sign of their loyalty to God's cause.

In His mercy and compassion, God leaves them not to self-destruction. Sternly, but lovingly, He upbraids them. He warns them. He summons them from the couch of heedlessness to the field of endeavour and heroic adventure. He demands of them a faith and courage that will dare the utmost in His service, a fortitude that will endure serenely every calamity, a devotion that will rejoice in tribulation and in death itself for the Beloved's sake.

COUNSEL UPON COUNSEL

He gives them counsel upon counsel. With definiteness and force He shows what God expects of His lovers. The toils and perils of the Homeward Way are many and grievous; but true love will overcome them all and be grateful for afflictions through which it can prove its strength. None can set out upon this journey unless his heart is single and his affections are centred without reserve on God. If he would see God's beauty he must be blind to all other beauty. If he would hear God's Word, he must stop his ear to all else. If he would love God he will turn away from himself; if he would seek God's pleasure he will forget his own. So complete will be his devotion that he will yield up all for the dear sake of God and welcome with longing the martyr's death.

Earth has a thousand ties to bind men from their God: envy, pride, indolence, ambition, covetousness, the habit of detraction, the ascription to others of what one would not like to have ascribed to oneself. Against such things as these He warns all who wish to reach the bourne of Love, bids them keep ever before them the rule of Justice ("the best beloved of all things in God's sight"), and every day to bring themselves to account ere the opportunities given here on earth are snatched from them for ever by the hand of death.

He reminds them of the treasures He has laid up for those who are faithful to the end. Upon the sacred tree of glory He has hung the fairest fruits and has prepared everlasting rest in the garden of eternal delight. Sweet is that holy ecstasy, glorious that domain. Imperishable sovereignty awaits them there, and in the joy of reunion they will mirror forth the beauty of God Himself and become the revelation of His immortal splendour.

A NEW GARDEN

Now in this age, He declares, yet greater rewards and ampler powers are vouchsafed to mankind than in times gone by. God's favour is complete, His proof manifest, His evidence established. He has opened in the heavenly heights a new garden, a new degree of nearness to God. Whoso attains thereto, for him the flowers of that garden will breathe the sweet mysteries of love, for him its fruits will yield the secrets of divine and consummate wisdom.

Yet even in this great day of revelation the fullness of God's ultimate being has not been uttered. So much has been said as the will of the Most High permits; and no more. What has been set forth is measured by man's capacity to understand it. God's true estate and the sweetness of His voice remains undivulged.

OUR ISLAND COMMITMENTS

THIS Committee has the joy of working in such prime goals as Faroes, Malta and Cyprus, whilst having the opportunity of fulfilling the desire of the Universal House of Justice, for international co-operation, by aiding various European National Spiritual Assemblies with island goals in the Mediterranean, such as the Balearic Islands, Sardinia, Corsica, Crete, Rhodes and the Cyclades. We would like the friends to remember in their prayers the heroic souls in these places, and pray for success in the field of international co-operation.

Many of the friends will know very little about Knight of Bahá'u'lláh, Eskil Ljungberg, our elderly but sprightly pioneer in the Faroes, who has stuck at his lonely post cheerfully, since 1953. The Committee is urgently endeavouring to bring reinforcements to this island and pioneer offers have been made.

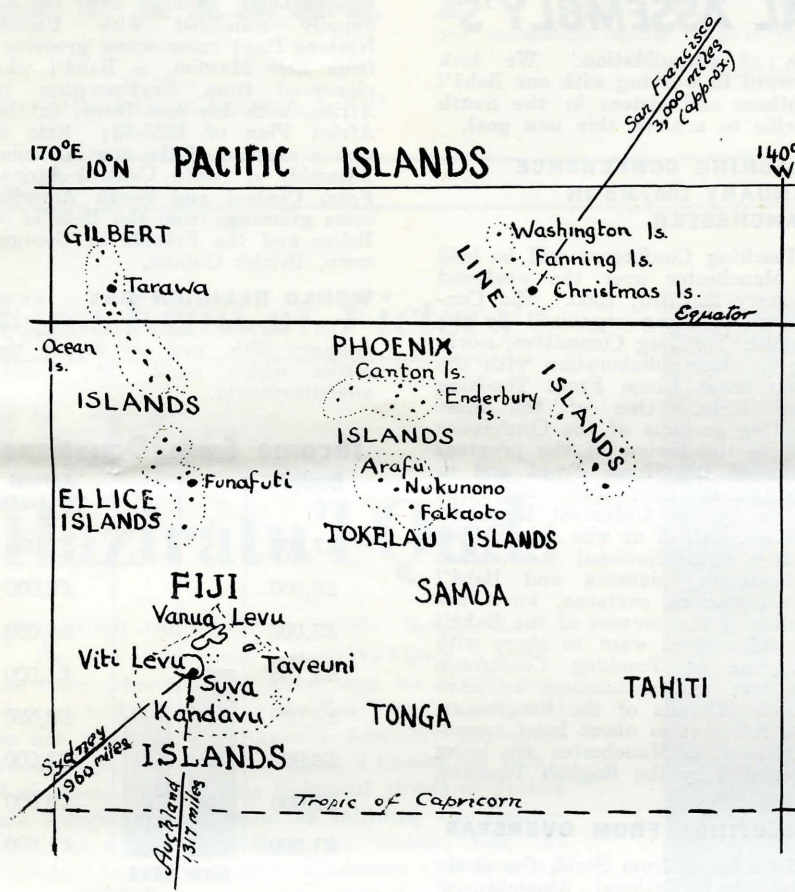
Eskil has unfortunately of late been confined to hospital, but has made an excellent recovery. Auxiliary Board Member, Ernest Gregory, recently visited Faroes and it was possible to bring forward his visit to help Eskil, over this period and this was particularly helpful as, on leaving hospital, Eskil had to move house.

In Malta, the rather lonely community of Knight of Bahá'u'lláh Olga Mills and Renée Aldridge was reinforced six months ago by Jean Campbell, who already has been of great assistance in that island. Olga, who is now an octogenarian, had been in hospital, has now recovered and lately had a holiday. Renée Aldridge, who pioneered to Malta only one month after declaring herself a Bahá'í, has had a tedious period in endeavouring to establish herself on this island, and in her work which is "soft furnishings," had the honour of doing special work at Government House in preparation for the Duke of Edinburgh's visit. Her order books are now full! Renée also recently was able to take a well deserved holiday, and the Committee is doing all it can to encourage the friends, in this Catholic dominated and politically strife ridden island, so recently granted independence.

In Cyprus, everyone will be conscious of how difficult it must be for Hasan 'Alí Shashmaz and his family, now alone in Nicosia, and in constant need of your prayers.

Anyone who feels they must take their holiday abroad, could do worse than contact this committee, as they might be able to help, just by their presence in these various islands, and who knows what seeds can be sown!

European Committee Report



OUR FIELD OF OPERATIONS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

FEW of us have any clear picture of the islands of the Pacific which the Universal House of Justice has laid at the door of us British Bahá'ís under the Nine Year Plan. A glance at the map reveals pinpoints surrounded by vast stretches of ocean, bounded to the south-west by Australia and New Zealand and, a few thousand miles to the north-east, by the United States of America. Not only, however, are the South Pacific Islands of Fiji, Gilbert and Ellice, Tokelau, Phoenix and the Line isolated from any land mass; they are, in many cases, hundreds of miles separating one island from another in the same group. This problem of isolation is particularly acute in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands colony, which includes the Phoenix and Northern Line Islands and which occupies an area of more than two million square miles of ocean, though the total land area is only some 369 square miles. And, to the east, Christmas Island in the Line Group is 2,000

miles from Ocean Island, to the west of the Gilbert Islands.

Most of the islands are low-lying coral atolls a few feet above sea-level. Naturally, the vegetation is, generally speaking, very poor, and this is often aggravated by drought. Fish and coconut form the staple diet in Gilbert and Ellice, the same diet being supplemented in Fiji by sugar-cane, rice and bananas. In both colonies copra, used in the manufacture of margarine, is a key export industry.

The people of these Pacific Islands are a mixture of native Melanesians, Micronesians and Polynesians, with large numbers of Indians (in Fiji), small European colonies and a few Chinese. These islands provide wonderful ground for sowing the seed of the Bahá'í Faith, and already local assemblies and groups exist, eleven L.S.A.'s being in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

Our immediate task is to open the Phoenix Islands and pioneers are trying to get there from nearby communities. Your prayers will help to ensure the success of these united efforts to achieve the goals in the South Pacific.

GEORGETOWN AND BELIZE

NEWs has been received recently from both British Guiana, where our primary goals lie, and from British Honduras, where we are to assist the NSA of Guatemala to establish a National Spiritual Assembly.

Georgetown (from their annual report for year 120). Two new believers, Mrs. Sheila Dolphin and Mrs. Avis Cummings, were welcomed into the Faith in May and August respectively, and in February Mrs. Rizwan Choudhury, a Persian Bahá'í, formerly resident in Birmingham, introduced herself, having arrived and settled in with her husband, the doctor in charge, at a hospital just across the river.

Teaching 'firesides' three times a week and children's classes every Sunday morning have been regularly sustained. An Intercalary Day children's party was held and study classes on "The Divine Art of Living" continued on every fifth Sunday. All Holy Days were celebrated with semi-public meetings which had been fairly well attended.

The community met every evening for prayers throughout the 80 day strike and a discussion was organised on "Freedom from Worry and Fear" from that section in the book "Divine Art of Living," eliciting gratitude from both seekers and believers.

Three free broadcasts were given over the local Radio station, on Naw-Ruz, the Martyrdom of the Báb and the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh.

Book purchases for the year exceeded £78 in value and donations to the National Fund, Frankfurt Temple Fund and International Fund were well maintained.

The community comprised ten active believers within the civic limits for most of the year and perhaps twice as many again on the periphery of the town.

Belize—With a Nine Year Plan goal of forming a NSA based on four LSAs and at least eight localities in British Honduras (Belize), and securing a Temple site, a national endowment and incorporation, the present strength in the area is one Local Spiritual Assembly with a community of twelve in Belize City and three isolated believers in two localities.

Pioneer, Mrs. Cora Oliver, has started study classes at Burrel Boom 16 miles from Belize, has interested many and led to one declaration. The other pioneer, Mrs. Shirley Warde, is working in Belize itself.

Belize is looking for a further pioneer from U.S.A., Canada or British Isles and has supplied a useful summary of living conditions and work prospects.

Central and South American Committee Report

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY'S NEWS LETTER

DECLARATIONS

We warmly welcome to the Faith Mrs. Pat Harrowell, Miss Geraldine Haldane (Youth) and Miss June Glover (Youth), all of Belfast; Mr. John Reeve of Brighton; Mr. Dudley Heaton (Youth) of Birmingham; Mr. Mohammad Yousuf and Mr. R. Michaels Williams, both of London; Miss Barazaneh Parssiani of Canterbury (Bahá'í Youth claiming voting rights); Mrs. Agnes Hirst, Mr. Frank Lund (Youth) and Mr. Barry Leach (Youth), all of Burnley.

FIRST BAHÁ'Í GROUP ON BOARD A BRITISH SHIP

We are happy to share the good news of the formation of a Bahá'í Group on the s.s. "Caltex Brisbane," now that Capt. Brian Giddings has been joined by Officer Tom Shaw. Teaching work is proceeding enthusiastically and we shall welcome the day when one administrative problem facing the National Assembly is the recognition of the first "floating" L.S.A.

PACIFIC GOALS: THE LINE ISLANDS

The Line Islands in the Pacific Ocean are an integral part of the Gilbert and Ellice Island Colony, and one of the things we have learned through close association with our sister N.S.A. of the South Pacific is that Christmas Island and Fanning Island—both in the Line group—were opened during the Ten Year Crusade by Bahá'ís from the Gilberts, who got jobs there gathering copra. The Universal House of Justice has changed our goal from that of opening the Line Islands to

one of consolidation. We look forward to working with our Bahá'í brothers and sisters in the South Pacific to achieve this new goal.

TEACHING CONFERENCE JANUARY 2nd/3rd IN MANCHESTER

Teaching Conference will be held in Manchester over the week-end January 2nd/3rd, 1965. The Conference is being organised by the English Teaching Committee, working in close collaboration with the other three Home Front Teaching Committees. One of the most exciting sessions of the Conference will be the review of the progress made on the Home Front and in the Overseas Territories entrusted to us by the Universal House of Justice. All of us who are working closely with National Assemblies, Committees, pioneers and Bahá'í administrators overseas, know the reality of the oneness of the Bahá'í World, and we want to share with everyone at Teaching Conference the love and enthusiasm we have found. Details of the Programme and information about hotel accommodation in Manchester are being circulated by the English Teaching Committee.

GREETINGS FROM OVERSEAS






In a letter from Seoul, the newly established National Assembly of Korea sends loving greetings and writes, "As we go forward together in loving service to that divinely-ordained body, we look to your distinguished community as the shining example of self-sacrificing service, loving devotion, and firmness in the Covenant of God we so deeply desire to emulate." From Luanshya, on the day of Zambia's

independence, October 24th (which happily coincided with United Nations Day) came warm greetings from Eric Manton, a Bahá'í who pioneered from Northampton to Africa, with his son Terry, in the Africa Plan of 1951-53; Eric is now a member of the new National Assembly of South Central Africa. From Central and South America come greetings from the Bahá'ís of Belize and the Friends in Georgetown, British Guiana.

WORLD RELIGION DAY

The correct date is Sunday, January 17th, and we regret the errors which crept into earlier announcements.

Income from Donations

Budget		Actual To Date
£7,000		£7,000
£6,000		£6,000
£5,000		£5,000
£4,175		£4,000
£4,000		£3,520
£3,000		£2,000
£2,000		£1,000
£1,000		£1,000
Gap £655		

Frankfurt Temple Fund

(5th November, 1964)

Amount sent as per last Newsletter	...	£750
Amount sent Sept./Oct. to Nov. incl.	...	79
Total for year	...	£829

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE No. 1 A/C.

21.9.1964 to 25.10.1964 (incl.)

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
Donations:—				N.S.A.			
L.S.A.'s and Groups	...	...	£187 1 3 (36)*	Travel	...	...	£57 3 0
Individuals	...	...	559 19 11 (59)*	Office	...	...	127 0 10
			£747 1 2	Tel. & Cables	...	...	18 9 2
				Post & Stat.	...	...	8 15 11
Less: Payments against				Congress Slides, etc.	...	...	16 0 0
Covenants	...	...	12 3 5	E.T.C.	...	...	58 4 4
			£734 17 9	Other Home Committees	...	...	47 15 4
Interest and Dividends	...	...	63 7 9	Pioneer Committee	...	...	155 17 2
Refunds to us:—				Other Committees	...	...	4 15 6
Loans	...	...	5 0 0	Monthly transfers:—			
Sundry	...	...	5 10 9	H.Q.—Rprs. & Dec.	...	...	70 0 0
Endowment Land	...	...	7 10 0	H.Q.—Running	...	...	240 0 0
				Donations	...	...	96 0 0

*Communities contributing—Bangor, Birmingham, Brighton, Brize Norton, Cambridge, Canterbury, Channel Isles, Dublin, Eccles, Edinburgh, Epsom, Exeter, Inverness, Larne R.D., Leicester, London, Malta, Manchester, Motherwell & Bellshill, Nelson, Newcastle, N. Berwick, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Pontypridd, Portsmouth, Romford, Salisbury, Searisbrick, Southport, Sutton Coldfield, Swansea, Winchester, Wokingham R.D.