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Majestic Process gathering momentum

The Universal House of Justice
Bahá'í World Centre
Haifa, Israel
Ridván, 1965

The Bahá'ís of the World

Dearly-loved Friends,

The tide of victory which carried the Bahá'í World community to the celebrations of the Most Great Jubilee is still rising. A ceaseless shower of divine confirmation rains upon our efforts, its evidences apparent in the many noteworthy achievements of the few brief months since the launching of the Nine Year Plan. The most spectacular of these is the increase in the number of centres where Bahá'ís reside from fifteen thousand one hundred and sixty-eight at Ridván 1964 to twenty-one thousand and six at the present time, an increase of nearly six thousand in one year. No less remarkable is the progress of the teaching work in India where the number of believers now exceeds a hundred and forty thousand, an increase of more than thirty thousand since Ridván 1964. Pioneers are moving to those few remaining territories of the earth as yet unilluminated by the light of God's new Revelation; "the vast increase" in the size of the Cause, called for at the launching of the Plan, appears to be developing, while in country after country the institutions and endowments of the Faith are being steadily and firmly established.

INSTITUTION OF THE HANDS

During the past twelve months the goals assigned to the World Centre have been actively pursued. Basic decisions and actions to implement the goal of "Development of the Institution of the Hands of the Cause of God, with a view to extension into the future of its appointed functions of protection and propagation," have already been conveyed to the friends. Following their meeting in the Holy Land last October, the members of this august body, the Standard Bearers of this Nine Year Plan as well as of the beloved Guardian's Ten Year Crusade, already laden with honours and services, have arisen with renewed and matchless vigour to rouse the spirits of the friends to meet the supreme

teaching challenge, to lend their counsel and assistance to the administrative bodies, and to diffuse the divine fragrances and love of God through all the world. The increase in the numbers of Board Members and the new executive arrangements will, it is confidently anticipated, enable the beloved Hands to discharge their important duties with even greater effectiveness and give them more time to travel and teach.

PANAMA TEMPLE

A preliminary survey of the conditions affecting the construction of the first Mashriqu'l-Adhkár of Latin America, one of the two edifices to be erected during the Plan, has already been undertaken, and we now invite Bahá'í and non-Bahá'í architects to submit designs for the Panama Temple. The terms and conditions of the submission, and the specifications of the structure, may be obtained from the National Spiritual Assembly of Panama, whose choice of design will be subject to the ultimate approval of the Universal House of Justice. It is our hope that the construction of this sacred House of Worship, in a location accorded such special significance by both the Master and the Guardian, will be speedily accomplished, so that its beacon of spiritual light may radiate to all the Americas.

PROGRESS OF THE CAUSE

During the past twelve months the following new territories have been opened to the Faith: in the continent of Africa, Gabon, Ifni, Mali, Mauritania, Rodrigues Island and Upper Volta; in the continent of America Aruba Island, Cozumel Island, Guadeloupe, Las Mujeres Island, Prince of Wales Island and St. Vincent; in the continent of Asia, the Ryukyu Islands; in the continent of Australasia, the Line Islands; in the continent of Europe, the Isle of Wight, the East and West Frisian Islands. The following territories have been re-opened: in the continent of Africa, Mafia Island; in the continent of America, Antigua, French Guiana and Martinique; West Irian in the continent

of Asia; and Admiralty Islands in Australasia. National Haziratu'l-Quds have been acquired in nine places, the seats of National Spiritual Assemblies, and land has been acquired in two others on which to build this institution. Six National Spiritual Assemblies have become incorporated and the Faith has been recognized in Cambodia, a country destined to have its own National Spiritual Assembly during the Nine Year Plan. National Endowments have been acquired in eight countries; six Teaching Institutes have been established, and land has been acquired for six others; a Bahá'í Publishing Trust for the provision of literature in the French language has been established in Brussels; Bahá'í Holy Days have been recognized in three territories; Bahá'í literature has been published in the following eleven new languages: Ibibio-Efik in the continent of Africa, Aguateca, Athabascan, Carina and Motilon-Yuwpa in the continent of America. Kenyah, Melanau and Temiar in the continent of Asia, and Ghari, Marshallese and Motua in Australasia. The progress of the Cause in Borneo makes possible the achievement of a goal supplementary to the Plan, namely the establishment at Ridván 1966 of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Brunei.

TWO CONDITIONS IN BAHÁ'Í WORLD CAPACITY TO ACCOMPLISH

The passage of the first year of the Plan discloses two conditions in the Bahá'í World community. The first, within the Faith itself, is its capacity to accomplish all and any definitive goals assigned to it, goals such as the purchasing of Haziratu'l-Quds, Temple Sites, Endowments, or the incorporation of Spiritual Assemblies; such objective and highly important goals as these, by which the Cause is established physically, legally and socially in the world, are now taken in its stride by the Administrative Order. It should be noted, moreover, that the accomplishment of many goals of this type, involves inter-Assembly co-operation, an international activity vital to the development of world order.

LARGE-SCALE CONVERSION

The second condition apparent after the passage of the first year of the Plan, involves the relationship of the Cause to humanity. Almost universally there is a sense of an impending breakthrough in large-scale conversion. Reports of the Hands of the Cause and of Board Members constantly mention it; many National Spiritual Assemblies believe that they have reached the shores of this ocean. And, indeed, entry into the Cause by troops has been a fact in some areas for a number of years. But greater things are ahead. The teaching of the Faith must enkindle a world-encircling fire in whose light the Cause and the world — protagonists of the greatest drama in human history — are clearly illumined. Destiny is carrying us to this climax; we must gird ourselves for heroism.

FOUR CHALLENGING TASKS

1. PIONEERING

Four challenging and immediate tasks present themselves. The first is to raise and dispatch, during the coming year, no less than four hundred and sixty pioneers who will open the fifty-four remaining virgin territories of the Plan, re-settle the eighteen unoccupied ones, re-inforce areas where the numbers and cohesion of the Bahá'í communities are at present inadequate to launch effective teaching plans, and support and extend the work in the areas of mass teaching. Let every believer consider this challenge, be he, in the words of the beloved Guardian, "in active service or not, of either sex, young as well as old, rich or poor, whether veteran or newly enrolled . . ."

Continental Pioneer Committees

To assist the pioneer efforts of the friends and their transfer to their posts during the next twelve months we announce the formation of five Continental Pioneer Committees, namely:— Pioneer Committee for Africa appointed by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles; Pioneer Committee for the Americas appointed by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States; Pioneer Committee for Asia appointed by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Persia; Pioneer Committee for Australasia appointed by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Australia; Pioneer Committee for Europe appointed by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Germany.

These Committees will in no way infringe the responsibilities of other Pioneer Committees, or of National Spiritual Assemblies, who are in charge of the teaching work, and under whose jurisdiction they will

function. They are established to facilitate and assist the work of these national bodies by providing effective exchange of vital information, both continentally and intercontinentally, by assisting in the routing of pioneer offers and in the transfer of pioneers to their posts.

A careful estimate has been made of the pioneer needs of every area during the next twelve months and the result, including those for the seventy-two areas mentioned above, is a call for four hundred and sixty-one pioneers; eighty-six for Africa, ninety-six for the Americas, one hundred and ninety-one for Asia, twenty-nine for Australasia, and fifty-nine for Europe. Each National Spiritual Assembly has been consulted as to its pioneer needs and these have been made known to all National Spiritual Assemblies as well as to the five Continental Pioneer Committees, who will be kept currently informed of progress by the National Spiritual Assemblies. The friends, therefore, are urged to consult their National Spiritual Assemblies for information about pioneer needs and responsibilities both of their own communities and in general.

International Deputization Fund

For the first time in Bahá'í history, an International Deputization Fund has been established at the World Centre under the administration of the Universal House of Justice. From it supplementary support will be given to specific pioneering projects when other funds are not available. All friends and particularly those who are unable to respond to the pioneer call are invited to support this Fund, mindful of the injunction of Bahá'u'lláh, "*Centre your energies in the propagation of the Faith of God. Whoso is worthy of so high a calling, let him arise and promote it. Whoso is unable, it is his duty to appoint him who will, in his stead, proclaim this Revelation, Whose power hath caused the foundations of the mightiest structures to quare, every mountain to be crushed into dust, and every soul to be dumbfounded.*"

2. INTENSITY OF TEACHING

The second challenge facing us is to raise the intensity of teaching to a pitch never before attained, in order to realise that "vast increase" called for in the Plan. Universal participation and constant action will win this goal. Every believer has a part to play, and is capable of playing it, for every soul meets others, and, as promised by Bahá'u'lláh, "*Whosoever arises to aid Our Cause, God will render him victorious.*" The confusion of the world is not diminishing, rather does it increase with each passing day, and men and women are losing faith in human remedies. Realisation is at last dawning that

"there is no place to flee to" save God. Now is the golden opportunity; people are willing, in many places eager, to listen to the divine remedy.

3. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES

The third challenge is to acquire as rapidly as possible all the remaining National Hazíratu'l-Quds, Temple Sites, National Endowments and Teaching Institutes called for in the Plan. The speedy conclusion of these projects will save tremendous expense later and endow the Faith with increasingly valuable properties. These basic possessions are the embryos of mighty institutions of the future but it is this generation which, for its own protection and as its gift to posterity, must acquire them. We call upon the National Spiritual Assemblies charged with responsibility in this field to accord it high priority. A further, but equally important consideration, is, that the achievement of this goal in the early years of the Plan will liberate the energies and resources of the growing world community for a concentrated, resolute and relentless pursuit in its later stages of great victories whose foundations are now being laid.

4. PLANS FOR CELEBRATING CENTENARY

The fourth challenge is to prepare national and local plans for the befitting celebration of the centenary of Bahá'u'lláh's proclamation of His Message in September/October 1867, to the kings and rulers of the world, celebrations to be followed during the remainder of the Nine Year Plan by a sustained and well-planned programme of proclamation of that same Message to the generality of mankind.

Bahá'u'lláh's Historic Proclamation

A review of the historic proclamation by Bahá'u'lláh, as described by Shoghi Effendi in "God Passes By," reveals that its "opening notes" were "sounded during the latter part of Bahá'u'lláh's banishment to Adrianople," and that, six years later, it "closed during the early years of His incarceration in the prison-fortress of 'Akká.'" These "opening notes" were the mighty and awe-inspiring words addressed by Him to the kings and rulers collectively in the Suriy-i-Mulúk, "the most momentous Tablet revealed by Bahá'u'lláh." It was penned some time during the months of September and October, 1867, and was followed by "Tablets unnumbered . . . in which the implications of His newly-asserted claims were fully expounded." "Kings and emperors, severally and collectively; the chief magistrates of the Republics of the American continent; ministers and ambassadors; the Sovereign Pontiff himself; the Vicar of the Prophet of Islám; the royal Trustee of the Kingdom of

the Hidden Imán; the monarchs of Christendom, its patriarchs, arch-bishops, bishops, priests and monks; the recognised leaders of both the Sunni and Shi'ih sacerdotal orders; the high priests of the Zoroastrian religion; the philosophers, the ecclesiastical leaders, the wise men and the inhabitants of Constantinople—that proud seat of both the Sultanate and the Caliphate; the entire company of the professed adherents of the Zoroastrian, the Jewish, the Christian and Muslim Faiths; the people of the Bayán; the wise men of the world, its men of letters, its poets, its mystics, its tradesmen, the elected representatives of its peoples; His own countrymen"; all were "brought directly within the purview of the exhortations, the warnings, the appeals, the declarations and the prophecies which constitute the theme of His momentous summons to the leaders of mankind..." "Urgent and stupendous as was this proclamation, it proved to be but a prelude to a still mightier revelation of the creative power of its Author, and to what may well rank as the most signal act of His ministry—the promulgation of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas." In this, the Most Holy Book, revealed in 1873, Bahá'u'lláh not only once more announces to the kings of the earth collectively that "*He (Who is the King of Kings hath appeared)*" but addresses reigning sovereigns distinctively by name and proclaims to the "*rulers of America and the Presidents of the Republics therein*" that "*the Promised One hath appeared.*" Such was the proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh to mankind. As He Himself testified, "*Never since the beginning of the world hath the Message been so openly proclaimed.*"

Visit to Adrianople

The celebration of this fate-laden centenary period will open with a visit, in September 1967, on the Feast of Mashíyyat, by a few appointed representatives of the Bahá'í World to the site of the house in Adrianople, where the historic Suriy-i-Mulúk was revealed.

Inter-Continental Conferences

Immediately following this joyful and pious act, six Inter-Continental Conferences will be simultaneously held during the month of October in Panama City, Wilmette, Sydney, Kampala, Frankfurt, and New Delhi. The host and convener of each Conference will be the National Spiritual Assembly in whose area it takes place. The following Hands of the Cause of God will represent the Universal House of Justice at these Conferences: Panama City—Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánúm, who will, on that occasion, lay the foundation stone of the Temple; Wilmette—Leroy Ioas; Sydney—Ugo Giachery; Kampala—'Alí Akbar

Furútan; Frankfurt—Paul Haney; New Delhi—Abu'l-Qásim Faizi.

Second International Convention

All National Spiritual Assemblies are called upon to arrange befitting observances, on a national and local scale, of the opening of the centenary period during September/October, 1967, and between the above Conferences and Ridván, 1968, at which time the second International Convention for the election of the Universal House of Justice will be held at the World Centre.

The successful carrying out of all these plans will constitute a befitting commemoration, commensurate with the resources of the Bahá'í World community, of the sacred event they recall.

Five-year Proclamation

These six Conferences, like the epoch-making event whose centenary they commemorate, will sound the "opening notes" of a period of proclamation of the Cause of God extending through the remaining years of the Nine Year Plan to the centenary, in 1973, of the Revelation of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, an activity which calls for the ardent and imaginative study of all National and Local Spiritual Assemblies throughout the world.

Oceanic Conferences

The international scene will witness the holding of Oceanic Conferences forecast by Shoghi Effendi. The first one will be held during August, 1968 on an island in the Mediterranean Sea to commemorate Bahá'u'lláh's voyage upon that sea, a hundred years before, from Gallipoli in Turkey to the Most Great Prison in 'Akká. In the subsequent years of the Nine Year Plan, others will be held in the Atlantic Ocean, in the Caribbean Sea, the Pacific Ocean, and the Indian Ocean.

National Proclamation Committees

In calling upon all National Spiritual Assemblies to consider now the appointment of National Proclamation Committees charged with laying feasible and effective plans for the proclamation of the Faith throughout the entire centenary period, we can do no better than call attention to the following passage from a letter written by our beloved Guardian in connection with the celebrations of the centenary of the birth of the Bahá'í Era:

"An unprecedented, a carefully conceived, efficiently co-ordinated nation-wide campaign, aiming at the proclamation of the Message of Bahá'u'lláh, through speeches, articles in the Press, and radio broadcasts, should be promptly initiated and vigorously prosecuted. The universality of the Faith, its aims and purposes, episodes in its dramatic history, testi-

monials to its transforming power, and the character and distinguishing features of its World Order should be emphasised and explained to the general public, and particularly to eminent friends and leaders sympathetic to its cause, who should be approached and invited to participate in the celebrations. Lectures, conferences, banquets, special publications should, to whatever extent is practicable and according to the resources at the disposal of the believers, proclaim the character of this joyous Festival."

The majestic process launched by our beloved Guardian in 1953, when he called the widely-scattered, obscure Bahá'í World Community to embark upon that first, glorious, world-encompassing crusade, is gathering momentum, and posterity may well gaze with awe upon the development, by so small a fraction of the human race and in a world entangled in opposition, enmity and disruption, of the very pattern and sinews of world order. This divinely-propelled and long-promised development must continue its historic course until its final consummation in the glories and splendours of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, the Kingdom of God on earth.

(Signed and Sealed)

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE
OF JUSTICE

BABA'I MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS —DIRECTIONS FROM THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

Every believer is urged to note carefully the following extract from a letter dated 15th March, 1965, received from the Universal House of Justice: "Whenever a Bahá'í gets married, he must have the Bahá'í ceremony whether it is the legal one or not. Where another ceremony is performed, the Bahá'í ceremony must be performed on the same day..." This means that every Bahá'í must have the Bahá'í marriage ceremony even if they are marrying a non-Bahá'í. It is no longer permissible to have only a civil wedding. This is a precious opportunity to share with those we love most the joy and radiance of our Faith, and it is another step towards a full and mature understanding of the Bahá'í way of life. It is also a serious matter in another way, for failure to have a Bahá'í marriage ceremony could lead to the withdrawal of a believer's voting rights.

OVERSEAS PROJECTS FUND

N.S.A. records with gratitude a special donation of £1000 for purchase of Hazirat-ul-Quds overseas.

NEWS of the Communities

CARDIFF

The Cardiff Assembly gave a party on 27th March in honour of Knight of Bahá'u'lláh, Charles Dunning, to celebrate his 80th birthday.

Greetings were received from many parts of the country and Bahá'is from Caerphilly, Pontypridd and Cardiff came in person to bring their good wishes.

Charles has been a Bahá'í for nearly 20 years and in that time has served the Faith with devotion and pioneered several times. In the Ten Year Crusade he arose to serve the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh by going to the Orkney Islands where he stayed for some five years.

In Cardiff, Charles is a loved and valued member of the community and local assembly.

At his party one of the Pontypridd friends presented him with a very large birthday card especially inscribed with this fitting quotation:

"How great the blessedness that awaiteth him that hath attained the honour of serving the Almighty." Bahá'u'lláh.

ECCLES

Mention in the last Journal of St. Barbe Baker and his new book brought news from Eccles of the work being done there and elsewhere in the North-west for his society, "Men of the Trees." Finding that the nearest branch of the society was in Nottingham and thus too far away to be of any use, some of the Eccles Bahá'is, galvanised into action by the enthusiasm of one of their number, Gitta Chaplin, and aided by some older "Men of the Trees" members, formed the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the society.

The society meetings are held in the Manchester Centre by the courtesy of the Manchester L.S.A. and all other not-so-formal meetings are held in the private homes of the members. Although nothing is said of the Faith during the actual meetings, the various Bahá'í pictures, posters, etc., naturally excite questions afterwards and in this way quite a lot of teaching does get done and an enormous number of contacts from a wide cross-section of people is made.

Gitta Chaplin, as press and public relations officer of the society, has found that the society is attracting a lot of publicity and a lot of good contact has been made both on local and national newspapers. Among the "nationals" for instance, are the Guardian and the Daily Telegraph. Gitta feels that this also serves the Faith against the time when these will be possible sympathetic channels for the proclamation of the Faith.

Official tree-planting ceremonies in Eccles and in Swinton are now firmly established and attended by a wide range of local civic dignitaries from the Mayor downwards, a tree nursery has been presented to the society and many powerful and not so powerful trusts, amenities, societies and various other groups and interests have affiliated themselves or offered help to the society.

The Bahá'is have become known as people who really care for their towns; one example of how highly thought of they are is that at the Naw Ruz social in Swinton the flower and greenery display in the public hall, provided by official sources and usually costing five guineas, was given free! Now Manchester L.S.A. has affiliated itself to the society and Madeline Hellaby in Barrow is working hard to get established there.

In these relatively small areas it is beginning to be recognised that Bahá'is are not so outlandish and queer as people thought and that the well-being of humanity is not just our aim in words alone but also in deeds, and by setting this example the Bahá'is are no longer outsiders but insiders. In doing this sort of work that brings them into the public eye, Bahá'is meet people who ask questions and the opportunities arise to teach the Faith. Let there be no mistake, however, the Faith is never dragged in at every possible moment and no one is ever made to feel that there is an ulterior motive to the work. Nevertheless this work is increasingly providing teaching opportunities and it is an excellent source of enquirers into the Faith and is thoroughly recommended to other communities by the Bahá'is who have tried it.

Erratum

Our apologies to Mrs. Doreen Hockley for giving her the wrong surname in the last issue and also for placing her in Oxford when in actual fact she is a close friend of the Battrick family and lives just inside the Oxfordshire county boundary.

LONDON

A very successful children's class of about 20 Bahá'í children, ranging in age from 3 to 13 years, continues to be held every Sunday morning in the Haziratu'l-Quds under the guidance of "Auntie Audrey" Cameron.

Recently, at the Naw Ruz celebrations, the children were responsible for the very moving devotional which opened the programme; prayers were read in English, French and Persian, then a poem written by a Norwegian Bahá'í child

was recited in unison, and to finish the children sang "All things bright and beautiful." After this they went to enjoy their own party in the basement while upstairs the Bahá'is and their guests were given a short talk on the significance of the festival. This was followed by a presentation of the dramatic script "The Lord of Hosts is His Name", written by Hand of the Cause Hasan Balyuzi. The story of the expectation of the advent of the promised Manifestation and then of the life of Bahá'u'lláh was very movingly presented by a team of six readers, under the direction of Earl Cameron and Bruce Wightman. Altogether it was a very happy and successful celebration of Naw Ruz.

On 23rd March Eruch Munsiff addressed a meeting of the Preston branch of the Wembley Young Conservative and Unionist Organization on behalf of London L.S.A., and he had a very lively audience of about 35 young people.

PONTYPRIDD

On 20th February this year Sally Thomas of Tonyrefail, near Pontypridd, and Cyrus Rowshan of London were married in Pontypridd. Their marriage ceremony, conducted by Florence Newman, was the third Bahá'í wedding to take place in Wales. The happy couple had first met at last year's Dalston Hall Summer School.

Among the guests were about 36 non-Bahá'is. Each was provided with a programme of the prayers and readings. Everyone was so deeply interested in the beautiful words as they were read that, when a page had to be turned over, it was like the action of one person, not fifty.

After the marriage and reception were over and all the guests had left, there was not a single programme left behind; so 36 non-Bahá'is now have in their possession some lovely Bahá'í literature.

The local press also gave a third of a column publicity to the event of which 13 lines were solely on the Faith.

STAFFORD

There was a great influx of Bahá'is and friends to the town of Stafford, when the communities of Sutton Coldfield and Birmingham, together with contacts and isolated believers came, en masse, to the home of the pioneers there, Kenneth and Betty Goode, to spend a truly joyous Naw Ruz day.

About 30 friends (and two large visiting dogs and one cat) sat down together at lunch time to Betty's version of a Persian meal, and the stone of rice and 10 lbs. of beef soon disappeared! During the afternoon a Unity Feast took place, which was to have been followed by a ramble on Cannock Chase; but the fact that it was snowing hard rendered this impractical! Instead

there was music, entertainment by volunteers, and games, and 8 Knowle Road, rang out with laughter and song. Always ready to keep up with the times, there was a "Do-it-Yourself" tea, when all the ingredients were provided, and the friends then raided the kitchen, and helped themselves. The last to leave were close contacts from Sutton Coldfield who, obviously very reluctantly, dragged themselves away at 10 p.m.

It was unanimously decided that everyone must come again soon to "do" the ramble on Cannock Chase! A good, but hardly necessary excuse!

SWINTON

Swinton community reports news that would make any community green with envy; in recent months they have had had the good fortune to be visited by and have consultation with no less than five N.S.A. members, board member Ernest Gregory and Hand of the Cause John Ferraby. These visits have done much to direct their efforts and produce that inner harmony so essential to effective teaching. Swinton has also been heavily involved in the "Men of the Trees" organisation, initiated by the Eccles

community, and they have found it to be as fruitful a source of making the Faith known and respected as well as a good training ground for public relations work, especially with the civic authorities and the press, both local and national. One of the main points about the organisation seems to be its ability to attract a very wide cross-section of people and societies.

The next point of note is that the chairman of the L.S.A. has been appointed to represent the Townswomen's Guild for the "International Year" committee under the auspices of the Town Council.

The Naw Ruz social for the area was held in Swinton this year. About 120 people were present, including Bahá'ís from Oldham, Liverpool, Preston, Farnworth, Stockport, Cheadle, Manchester and Eccles—a real gathering of the clans, plus a large number of contacts—it was an outstanding event—lively and sparkling all the time.

A pioneer has settled in the area in time to make up the numbers of the L.S.A. for Ridván.

For the benefit of any visitors to Swinton, fireside evenings are held every Thursday evening at the home of the Hirsts, 207 Manchester Road.

DECLARATIONS

The National Assembly warmly welcomes to the Faith Miss Diane J. Watts of Leicester; Erica Lewis (Youth) of Cardiff; Mrs. Agnes Hirst, Judith A. Ingham (Youth), Shohreh T. Monadjem (Youth), Susanne L. Farrow (Youth) and Barry Leach (Youth) all of Burnley; Mr. Hector R. Frostick and Catherine H. Colley (Youth) of London; Dr. Margaret Magill of Dublin; Mr. Kenneth G. Entwistle of York; Mrs. Elizabeth Raine, Mrs. Irmgard Sheerin, Mrs. Silvia Daryl and Mrs. Mary Hogg, all of Edinburgh; Mr. Benjamin Fuge of Swansea; Mrs. Dorothea Eaton of Jersey; Mrs. Catherine B. C. Bailey and Mr. David Bailey (declared in mid-ocean on the 'Caltex Brisbane,' home town Sheffield); James Campbell (Youth) of Glasgow; Janet R. Mulligan (Youth) of Nelson; Yvonne L. Perkins (Youth) of Blackpool; Barbara Fletcher (Youth) of Pontland, Northumberland; Mrs. Gretta Galbraith of Belfast; Mr. James A. Boyles of Lower Braniel, N. Ireland; Mrs. E. Carpenter of Birmingham; Mrs. Doreen Hockley of Caversham, Berks.; Mr. Martin J. Hunt of Hove; Mr. Alfred Butler of Torquay. And the following Youth claiming voting rights—Miss Anne Woodhouse and Miss Diane Taylor of Brighton; Miss Helena Astani and Mr. Stephen Jenkinson of Oxford; Miss Gillian Phillips and Miss Latifeh Anvar of London; Miss Perviz Hakimian of Aberdeen.

VICTORY ON THE HOME FRONT

The National Assembly joyously announces that all fifty Local Spiritual Assemblies in the British Isles are maintained.

JOYOUS RIDVAN GREETINGS...

SUMMER SCHOOL (Dalston Hall)

3rd—17th JULY, 1965

Advance Bookings for residence should be made to:—

Mr. J. Coates,
Registrar,
Overfield Road,
Fawdon,
Newcastle Upon Tyne, 3.

It is regretted that camping facilities are not available this year at the Hall.

LYME PARK WEEK-END SCHOOL

To be held at Lyme Hall, Disley, Cheshire on September 11/12th, 1965. Details and booking forms will be sent out later. The theme of the School will be "Mount Carmel—the Vineyard of God."

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SCHOOL

This will be held from 31st July to 10th August, 1965, in Berlin. For information write to Frl. Uta Schmidt, Stuttgart-Parlerstrasse 50, Germany.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

INDIA

Three large villages have recently become completely Bahá'í and worked together to build a big house, donating it for a centre.

KOREA

The enthusiasm of the friends following the Summer School, opened 60 new villages to the Faith and a thrilling goal has been set to establish at least one L.S.A. in each of the 35 counties of the nine provinces of Korea.

LAOS

Exciting news of 1,000 Meo tribesmen recently embracing the Faith.

PHILIPPINES

The following are extracts from the progress report in the Philippine Bahá'í bulletin, "Tidal Wave."

Throughout the country nearly 300 new believers enrolled during January. New minority groups raise the number of tribes represented in the Faith to 25. Muntinlupa Prison now has over 400 believers. Many of these friends write beautiful letters expressing their desire to deepen their knowledge in order to teach their fellow inmates. There are now seven completely Bahá'í villages in the region; the target is 30. Bahá'í Centres total 11, five of which are rented and the other six were completely built by the Bahá'ís themselves in a spirit of devotion and sacrifice. Three and a half years ago only seven of the total of 56 provinces in the region were opened to the Faith; now there are 45.

NEWS FROM BRITISH GUIANA

Teaching on the East Coast: Robby Franklin took Monte Agard, Ivan Fraser and Val Griffiths to Nabaclis on 14th and Cane Grove on 21st March, small towns some 14 and 25 miles from Georgetown along the East Coast road. At Nabaclis a "fireside" was held at the home of an enquirer, leaflets were distributed in the area and contact made with the pastor of the Pilgrim Holiness Church who accepted a copy of "Renewal of Civilisation" and agreed to let them speak to his Sunday School or church group if he found the book acceptable.

At Cane Grove a public meeting was held on the open green and William Sears' tape recording, "Religion Returns", played on a portable tape recorder. Bahá'í leaflets were distributed to many and there too they have hopes of fruitful contact with a local minister, pastor of the Brethren Church.

East Bank, Demerara: Leslie Ramsaroop of Herstelling is to be host at a Feast to be held for the believers who, though living within 12 miles of Georgetown, actually reside in seven or eight different localities at close intervals along the

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NEWS FROM BRITISH GUIANA

Continued from Page 5)

road to the airport which parallels the River Demerara.

Other Teaching Work: Public meetings have been arranged for 18th and 25th April at La Grange on West Bank Demerara and Den Amstel on West Coast Demerara, two villages each about eight miles from Georgetown.

PACIFIC COMMITTEE REPORT

HONG KONG

HONG KONG itself is a large rocky island, but Hong Kong Colony also includes Kowloon on the mainland, Stonecutter's Island and the New Territories, the latter comprising "mainland territory" north of Kowloon and some 235 islands. These "New Territories" were leased from China on a 99-year lease ending in 1998.

Of the colony's 400 square miles roughly 80 per cent. is wasteland—grassy or rocky, precipitous hillside—about 14 per cent. is agricultural land and only 6 per cent is urbanised. Considering that the Colony's population is around 4 millions, and that 3½ millions live in an area of 25 square miles, one can imagine the tremendous density of population

(c.f. London, where about 8½ millions live in 722 square miles).

98 per cent. of the population is Chinese, and there has been a fantastic population growth from 600,000 in 1945 to the present 4 millions. Of course most of these millions have come as refugees from the Chinese mainland, but approximately half the urban population is now Hong Kong by birth.

The indigenous population of the New Territories includes a large number of boat-dwellers, and although these sampan dwellers consider themselves to be Chinese, there is no inter marriage between some of her students in the Faith, and the L.S.A. of Hong Kong has them and the Chinese land dwellers.

The great majority of the population adhere to the traditional Chinese beliefs, and there has been a notable revival of Buddhism and Taoism in recent years, mainly due to the immigration of Buddhists from China. There is also a sizeable Christian minority of about 400,000.

Hong Kong is world-famous for her exports, especially of garments and textiles, but also of all kinds of manufactured goods.

The entire population of Hong Kong has proved beyond the capacity of the educational system to living under tremendous pressure. People work long hours, often needing to have more than one job in order to support their families.

The population explosion in Hong

Kong has proved beyond the capacity of the educational system to cope, and we understand that one-half of the children have to go to non-recognized schools. The thirst for knowledge is tremendous; education is seen to be the door to an improved standard of living, and competition is high.

A Bahá'í teacher in a private school faces the formidable task of regularly marking 2,000 test papers! She and her pupils have virtually no spare time whatever. Despite this, she has been able to interest asked for the support of British Bahá'í to return to the Colony after some years' absence. He reported receiving a warm welcome from the Friends on his arrival, and presented them with a gift of Bahá'í books for their library from the Pacific Committee. He writes that one of the major difficulties, however, of teaching the Faith in Hong Kong is the almost complete lack of Bahá'í literature in Chinese.

The British Community's goal in Hong Kong is to assist the N.S.A. of N.E. Asia in consolidating Hong Kong. The millions of Chinese present at once a great challenge and a wonderful opportunity to the Bahá'ís: a challenge to overcome the dead-weight of commercialism and materialism in Hong Kong, and the opportunity to add a new spirituality to the resourcefulness and cheerfulness of the Chinese people.



A group of Bahá'ís and one non-Bahá'í in Hong Kong. Len Lewis, who recently returned there as a pioneer, is seated third from the left.

KNOW YOUR BAHÁ'Í LITERATURE

"Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah"

Compiled and translated by
Shoghi Effendi

THE complete works of Bahá'u'lláh, numbering above 150 considerable items, are unique for their variety, range, volume and profundity. The accurate translation of them all, including Tablets (or letters) perhaps yet to come to light, is a task which may not be completed for many decades.

To meet a growing need, particularly in the West, for an authentic rendering from the original Persian or Arabic of Bahá'u'lláh's chief teachings, the beloved Guardian set himself to translate some of the most important works and to make a compilation of the weightiest, and most significant passages.

These he brought together for publication in 1939 under the title "Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh." The 165 sections of the book, varying in length from a few lines to more than six pages, are taken from almost the full range of Bahá'u'lláh's works.

The most extensive selections are from the Book of Certitude (Kitáb-i-Iqán) from which he took 23 passages totaling about 50 pages, combining them into six sections. The largest number of sections, at least nine, he chose from the Most Holy Book (Kitáb-i-Aqdas). Probably more than one hundred works are represented with one or more passages. Some 21 different recipients are named in the text, some several times, ranging from Sultan of Turkey to Bahá'u'lláh's own 'postman' named Salmán.

A DISTINCT PATTERN

The arrangement of the book seems to follow a distinct pattern, though with much overlap of content, with a brief prelude and nine parts:—

Prelude	Nos.	
i	1-2	Of God
ii	3-24	Day of God and ending of the Cycle of the Prophets
iii	39-53	Bahá'u'lláh Himself and His Mission
iv	54-69	Leading scenes and incidents in his Ministry
v	70-97	The New Order and the high station of man revealed therein
vi	98-121	The Kings and religious leaders in their reaction and attitude to the Cause

vii	122-125	The particular relation of man to God in this age
viii	126-150	Spiritual requirements of a true teacher
ix	151-165	Life and character of the true believer on earth

ARRANGEMENT OF THE PASSAGES

It is clearly possible to discern connections between the parts forming this pattern. An attempt to trace a reason for the arrangement of the passages within each part can also be rewarding. The connections may in places be hard to make out, indeed the arrangement may be based at times on relative importance or the wish to associate passages together which treat of similar subjects. There is much overlap, though no duplication, and the dazzling wealth of the passages implies that any particular arrangement discerned cannot help but omit numerous aspects of great significance.

MEMORABLE PASSAGES

Many numinous passages stand out in the memory even after one reading. One such selection, of longer passages, might include: i. The opening prayer (I); ii. Tablet of Carmel (II); iii. Ridván Tablet, Colloquy with His Pen (14); iv. Tribute to Christ, the noblest ever penned (36); v. Afán Tablet (43); vi. World's equilibrium upset (70); vii. Meaning of Divine Unity (84); viii. Prerequisites of peace (117); ix. Elected representatives of the people (120); x. The way of the righteous (130); xiii. Intone the verses of God (136); xiv. Rose garden of unfading splendour (151).

Indeed in this book are to be found a great number of the distinctive Bahá'í sayings which we should commit to memory, allow to take root in our innermost being and use to inspire us with compelling creative wisdom in our teaching work. For this reason "Gleanings" is the book of all books for reading first and last, when we plan our daily service to God and when we bring ourselves to account each night.

Subjects for special study are numberless. They can be taken one by one and traced through the book in many varied contexts. Such subjects would include: 1. The names and attributes of God. 2. The unity of God and His Manifestations. 3. The commands of

God, the true spiritual directives of the age. 4. The will or purpose of God. 5. The soul of man. 6. The duties of man. 7. Human needs. 8. Practical guidance. 9 Ingredients of the divine remedy for a lamentably defective society. 10. Consequences of failure to respond.

CHOICEST, NOBLEST BOOK

In this choicest, noblest of all books we have a fully authentic repository of the greatest utterances of God's Word for this age. Behind the perfections, vigour, scope, profundity of the words themselves stands the Author in the Glory of His unity with God expressing the utmost measure of truth the Tongue of Power can speak to mankind for a least a thousand years (165). The tone of the utterance varies, ranging from that of ringing command and sovereign authority through moving poetry, mystic import, cool diagnosis, divine wisdom, clear philosophy, to tender appreciation and heart-rending poignancy. Priorities are emphasised, spuriousness demolished and the challenging, startling not disdained.

CONSTANT ENDEAVOUR

When God tells us about Himself, about His chosen Intermediaries, about His purposes in creating the heavens and the earth, about the potentialities of man and man's true reality, about the achievement of His great plan for mankind, what else is there to do but listen attentively and try to understand?

"Surely in this book better than in any other we can strive to obtain a more adequate understanding of the significance of Bahá'u'lláh's stupendous Revelation" which the beloved Guardian insisted "must remain the first obligation and the object of the constant endeavour of each one of the Faith's loyal adherents" (Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh p. 8).

"Immerse yourselves in the ocean of My words, that ye may unravel its secrets, and discover all the pearls of wisdom that lie hid in its depths." (85)

CONVENTION—May 1st/2nd

Convention will be held in London, at the Kensington Library Theatre on Saturday, May 1st, and Sunday, May 2nd, beginning each day at 10 a.m. Non-Bahá'ís cannot attend Convention and should not be invited even into the foyer outside the Convention Theatre.

OVERSEAS SUMMER SCHOOLS

Information is now available about some of the Summer Schools to be held on the Continent and can be sent to any Bahá'í who sends a stamped addressed envelope to the National Secretary, 27 Rutland Gate, London, S.W. 7.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY'S NEWS LETTER

RIDVÁN MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

WE joyfully announce the publication in this issue of the Bahá'í Journal of the Ridván Message from the Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'ís of the world.

This Message will be read at Convention, studied there by the delegates and the National Spiritual Assembly and will inspire and enthuse consultation.

THE FESTIVAL OF RIDVÁN

Shoghi Effendi described the Ridván Festival as "the holiest and most significant of all Bahá'í Festivals." It begins on April 21st and extends for twelve days, the period which Bahá'u'lláh spent in 1863 in the Najibiyyih Garden just outside the City of Baghdad. It was during this time that Bahá'u'lláh declared His Mission to His companions, and it was His followers who afterwards called the Najibiyyih Garden the "Garden of Ridván," the Garden of Paradise. Bahá'u'lláh Himself acclaimed that historic occasion as the "Most Great Festival," the "King of Festivals," the "Festival of God." In the Kitáb-i-Aqdas He described it as the Day on which "all created things were immersed in the sea of purification."

We in the Formative Age have a special link with that first great Ridván Festival, for every year on April 21st, we form or perpetuate our local spiritual assemblies; and every year during the Ridván Festival National Conventions are held throughout the Bahá'í World, and at those Conventions the national spiritual assemblies are elected. Year by year as these elections are held we come to understand more of the spiritual significance of the Bahá'í Administrative Order. In another Tablet which Shoghi Effendi indicated referred to that first Ridván Festival, Bahá'u'lláh said, "This is the Day whereon the unseen world crieth out: Great is thy blessedness, O earth, for thou hast been made the footstool of thy God, and been chosen as the seat of His mighty throne." How wonderful this is, especially when we hold in our hearts the knowledge that, by working to lay the foundations of the Administrative Order, we are laying the foundations of the Kingdom of God on earth.

There are three Holy Days during the Ridván Festival, days on which all work should be suspended, the first day of Ridván, the ninth day of Ridván and the twelfth day of Ridván. All those gathered at Convention will celebrate the twelfth day of Ridván together, on Sunday, May 2nd, but local assemblies, groups and isolated believers will

wish to arrange befitting Ridván celebrations themselves. The National Assembly urges all believers to seek permission not to work on the other two Holy Days.

Frankfurt Temple Fund

END OF YEAR TOTALS

Community contributions ...	£741
N.S.A. donation ...	1025
Grand total for year ...	£1766

Income from Donations

Budget	Actual To Date
	£7,193
£7,000	£7,000
£6,000	£6,000
£6,180	£5,000
£5,000	£5,466
£4,000	£4,000
£3,000	£3,000
£2,000	£2,000
£1,000	£1,000

EXCESS £193

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE No. 1 A/C.

7th February, 1965 to 20th March, 1965 (incl.)

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
Donations:—				N.S.A.			
L.S.A.'s and Groups ...	£264	10	6 (36)*	Travel ...	£94	13	9
Individuals ...	1,544	18	7 (81)	Office ...	69	3	0
	£1,809	9	1	Tel. and Cables ...	141	7	3
Less Payments against Covenants	81	15	4	Postage and Stationery ...	28	1	4
	£1,727	13	9	Convention ...	8	0	11
Interest and Dividends ...	315	4	6	Journal ...	95	2	9
Refunds to us:—				Guardian's Letters ...	271	9	5
Loans ...	15	0	0	English T.C. ...	164	16	4
Incorporation Expenses ...				Other Home Committees ...	184	2	9
Sundry ...	15	0		Overseas Committees ...	63	6	0
Royalties ...	69	12	2	Pioneer Committee ...	286	2	3
Bahá'í News ...	9	19	3	Other Committees ...	10	0	0
Excess expenditure over income ...	947	5	7	Sundry ...	7	7	1
				Extraordinary Expenditure ...	66	2	3
				Transfer to No. 2 and 3 A/c's ...	160	15	2
				Monthly transfers:—			
				H.Q.—Rprs. and Dec. ...	100	0	0
				—Running ...	35	0	0
				Donations ...	48	0	0
				Special Donations ...	1,250	0	0
	£3,085	10	3		£3,085	10	3

* Communities contributing:—Andover, Belfast, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Brighton, Brighton children, Bristol, Brize Norton, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Eccles, Epsom, Exeter, Greenisland, Hove, Inverness, Jersey, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Malta, Manchester, Motherwell, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Portsmouth, Reading, Romford, Salisbury, Sheffield, Sutton Coldfield, Swansea, Watford.