

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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NEWS FROM THE WORLD CENTRE

A selection of news items from the Universal House of Justice and the Hands of the Cause Residing in the Holy Land

CONSTANT FLOW OF NEWS

SINCE the Ridván Message for the Conventions of the world was released a constant flow of news has been reaching the Holy Land reflecting the inflexible resolve of the friends to carry forward the Cause of God on all fronts and further adding to the list of accomplishments already announced to the Conventions.

* India reports that the latest count of believers has shown an increase of 40,000 during the year, not 30,000 as previously reported, thus bringing the present total to 150,000 believers.

* Three additional virgin territories have been opened to the Faith, St. Andres Island, Providencia Island in the American Continent, and Marmara Island in the Asian Continent, thus bringing the total virgin territories opened to the Faith since the inception of the Nine Year Plan to nineteen.

* The National Spiritual Assembly of Colombia is the first of the Bahá'í World to have accomplished its goals for the increase in the number of Local Assemblies and localities, and the opening of virgin territories.

* Two new National Incorporations, Korea and Tanzania, have been accomplished and two new National Endowments, Honduras and North East Africa, have been established.

* One new Temple Site has been acquired in Honduras.

* A two-million-square-metre property has been donated in Ethiopia for a Summer/Winter School for North East Africa.

In addition to the above, the Universal House of Justice is glad to announce that the first contributions to the International Deputization Fund have been received.

The various Conventions held throughout the Bahá'í World further reflect the news that many

Funds have been initiated for the acquisition of properties stipulated in the Plan, many believers have offered their services to pioneer in areas requiring pioneer support, whether on the home front or in the international field, and numerous pledges have been made to carry the work of the Cause from victory to victory.

MESSAGES FROM CONVENTIONS

The cables and messages from the various Conventions to the Universal House of Justice are so thrilling that we have decided to share those received thus far.

AFRICA

Indian Ocean

172 DELEGATES AND FRIENDS PRESENT CONVENTION BLESSED PRESENCE HAND CAUSE ROBERTS STOP DETERMINED ACHIEVE GOALS NINE YEAR PLAN WELL AHEAD SCHEDULE STOP GRATEFUL WONDERFUL MESSAGE SEND DEEPEST LOVE PRAYERS THANKFULNESS BLESSED BEAUTY FOR DIVINELY GUIDED UNIVERSAL HOUSE JUSTICE

Kenya

CONVENTION BLESSED PRESENCE HAND CAUSE OLINGA STOP 158 DELEGATES 40 VISITORS ATTENDING CONVENTION ASSURE WARMEST HEARTFELT GRATITUDE INSPIRING MESSAGE STOP EACH DELEGATE REAFFIRMS FAITH OBEDIENCE DEDICATION LAWS BAHÁ'U'LLAH THROUGH INSPIRED GUIDANCE HOUSE JUSTICE STOP SINCERELY ASSURE OUR LOVE DETERMINATION ACCOMPLISH GOALS NINE YEAR PLAN STOP BESEECHING PRAYER.

North East Africa

CONVENTION HELD ASMARA TWO BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVE MR. BANANI TWELVE DELEGATES GRATITUDE INSPIRING MESSAGE HOUSE JUSTICE DELIBERATIONS FOCUSED GOALS PLAN ENDOWMENT DONATED DEBZEIT PLEDGE DEDICATION ALL ENERGIES UNIVERSAL PARTICIPATION BESEECH PRAYERS LOYAL DEVOTION LOVE.

North West Africa

NORTH WEST CONVENTION INCLUDING PRESENT SEVENTEEN DELEGATES TWO AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS OUTGOING NSA HEARTSENT WISHES HANDS SUPPLICATE PRAYERS.

South Central Africa

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATES FRIENDS NATIONAL CONVENTION SOUTH CENTRAL AFRICA SEND LOVING GREETINGS GRATITUDE RIDVAN MESSAGE BESEECH PRAYERS FOR ACHIEVING GOALS AND FULFILLING OBLIGATIONS PLEDGE UTMOST SUPPORT EARLY ATTAINMENT.

South and West Africa (letter)

"Friends of South and West Africa assembled at National Convention, convey deepest appreciation for inspiring challenging and encouraging Message from Universal House of Justice. Spirit of consultation expressed in words of friend—'If I had the strength I would shake the world, and tell them of Bahá'u'lláh'."

Tanzania

CONVENTION ENDED SUCCESSFULLY 49 DELEGATES PRESENT 54 VOTES CAST NSA ELECTED BESEECHING PRAYERS SHRINES IN HIS SERVICE.

Uganda and Central Africa

87 DELEGATES 8 BURUNDI HANDS BANANI OLINGA 63 VISITORS INCLUDING AZEMI-KHAH GATHERED CONVENTION TEACHING CONFERENCE SEND LOVING RIDVAN GREETINGS GRATITUDE INSPIRING MESSAGE TELEGRAM GRIEVED ABSENCE CONGOLESE RENEWED SPIRIT DEDICATION GENERATED MASHRIQULADHKAR NINTH RIDVAN BLESSED PORTRAIT CLOAK BAHÁ'U'LLAH EXPRESSED IN DETERMINATION FULFIL GOALS PLAN ACCELERATE TEACHING ASSURE LOYALTY OBEDIENCE.

West Central Africa

41 DELEGATES VICTORIA SEND LOVING GREETINGS ASK PRAYERS ATTAINMENT NINE YEAR PLAN GOALS.

AMERICA**Alaska**

NSA GRATEFUL PRESENCE HAND CAUSE KHADEM AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBER BROWN RECORD 104 ATTENDANCE CONVENTION SPIRIT GENERATED REACHED THRILLING HEIGHTS 13 PIONEER OFFERS TWO VIRGIN GOALS ASSURED.

Argentina

SPIRIT CONVENTION CONVERGE CARMEL PRAYING VICTORY FULFILMENT GOALS ASSIGNED WORLD PLAN DEVOTEDLY.

Brazil (letter)

"Your challenging Ridván Message, 'To the Bahá'ís of the World,' set a high note for the deliberations of the delegates... Five declarations were received during the Convention... Five new Local Spiritual Assemblies have been formed... the following pioneer offers were received: one young woman arose to travel throughout Brazil during the entire year... three ladies and two men offered to teach among the Indians of Lagoa Grande... one gentleman will move to Londrina... one youth offered to go anywhere in Brazil during the month of July... another youth—a Japanese—offered to teach within the Japanese colony near Curitiba during the month of June... During the entire Convention, a spirit of purpose, dedication and enthusiasm surrounded all deliberations..."

Bolivia

FIFTY DELEGATES VISITORS BOLIVIAN CONVENTION INSPIRING PRESENCE HAND

MUHAJER DETERMINED EXTENSION CONSOLIDATION BELOVED FAITH LOVING GREETINGS.

Canada

HEARTFLET APPRECIATION DIVINELY GUIDED MESSAGE DELEGATES FRIENDS DETERMINED ASSUME FULL SHARE GREATEST DRAMA HUMAN HISTORY UNDER LOVING GUIDANCE UNIVERSAL HOUSE JUSTICE TWENTY-FIVE PIONEERS RESPONDED YOUR CALL THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS CONTRIBUTED CONVENTION GRATEFUL INSPIRATION PRESENCE HAND CAUSE AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS DEEPEST DEVOTION LOVE.

Chile

DELEGATES BELIEVERS SEND WARMEST GREETINGS PROFOUND GRATITUDE ASSISTANCE CELEBRATION CONVENTION STOP PLEDGE REDEDICATION FULFILMENT GOALS TEACHING PLAN NEXT RIDVAN FERVENTLY REQUEST PRAYERS HOLY SHRINES.

Colombia

DEEPEST LOVING GRATITUDE INSPIRING MESSAGE IMPELS MAINTAIN MOMENTUM TEACHING CONSOLIDATION MASS CONVERSION CONVENTION PLEDGES UNIVERSAL PARTICIPATION GAINING 37 ASSEMBLIES YEAR 123.

Costa Rica

YOUR MAGNIFICENT AND INSPIRING MESSAGE GUIDED OUR FIFTH CONVENTION CONFIDENT YOUR LUMINOUS GUIDANCE GREATER VICTORIES OUR BELOVED FAITH.

Cuba

BELIEVERS ALL COMMUNITIES CUBA JOYFULLY GATHERED UNDER GUIDANCE BAHÁ'U'LLAH FIFTH NATIONAL CONVENTION BIGGEST ATTENDANCE EVER SEEN LOVING GREETINGS REAFFIRM DEVOTION FAITH.

Dominican Republic

JOYFUL GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS GREATLY APPRECIATE MESSAGE TRYING MEET GOALS REQUEST PRAYERS.

Ecuador

EXHILARATED MESSAGE HOUSE PRESENCE HAND MUHAJER TWO INDIANS ELECTED NSA GOALS ONE YEAR PLAN REACH 5000 BELIEVERS 60 LSAS BESECH PRAYERS DEVOTED LOVE.

El Salvador

MOVED BY MESSAGE ELECTED ASSEMBLY PROMISES MEET TEACHING GOALS WITHIN SIX MONTHS TWO PIONEERS TWENTY-TWO TRAVELLING TEACHERS VOLUNTEERED LOVINGLY.

Guatemala

GRATITUDE MESSAGE CONVENTION AFLAME RESULTING SPIRIT HANDGIACHERY BOARD MEMBER TORRES CONFERENCE TEGUCIGALPA THREE NEW ASSEMBLIES ONE BRITISH HONDURAS QUICHE RESTORED NATIVE TEACHERS ARISING HAZIRATULQUDS FUND INITIATED. DEVOTEDLY.

Haiti

GRATEFUL RIDVAN MESSAGE FIFTY-TWO LOCALITIES TWENTY-THREE ASSEMBLIES SEVEN GROUPS LOYALTY PLEDGE. LOVE.

Honduras

MESSAGE INSPIRED NEW DEDICATION INTENSIFICATION ALL TEACHING FULFIL GOALS NINE YEAR PLAN GREATLY APPRECIATE BOARD MEMBER.

Jamaica

MESSAGE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED 120 NEW BELIEVERS INCORPORATION ONE ASSEMBLY UNFAILING LOYALTY PLEDGED. LOVE.

Mexico

REJOICING STIMULATING NEWS PLANS CONTAINED CONVENTION MESSAGE GRATEFUL INSPIRING PRESENCE BELOVED HAND DR GIACHERY DEAR BOARD MEMBER CARMEN BURAFATO DELIGHTED FIRST MAYAN ELECTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY JORGE CORONADO RESOLVED ASSISTANCE BAHÁ'U'LLAH WIN IN ONE YEAR 10,000 NEW BELIEVERS 31 NEW ASSEMBLIES 71 NEW LOCALITIES ESTABLISHING PIONEERS COZUMEL TIBURON ISLANDS TERRITORY QUINTANA ROO VIGOROUS PROSECUTION TEACHING ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT NATION PROFOUND LOVE.

Nicaragua

SENDING YOU LOVING GREETINGS PRAYERS FUTURE WORK PREDICT GREAT VICTORIES EXTENSION CONSOLIDATION FAITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE YOUR GUIDANCE REQUEST YOUR PRAYERS SHRINES.

Panama

HEARTS UPLIFTED JOYOUS MESSAGE VICTORY VISIT

N.S.A. SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT TO CONVENTION

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF 50 LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

THE National Assembly is happy to be able to announce that the 48 existing Local Spiritual Assemblies were all held and the Aberdeen and Swinton Assemblies re-established this Ridván, bringing the total number of Local Spiritual Assemblies in the British Isles up to 50 again. The fight to hold all the Local Spiritual Assemblies was a hard one. Some have been maintained by short-term pioneer projects, which still presents us all with the challenge of establishing on a firmer foundation the weak spots which persist on the Home Front. The seriousness of the position can be seen when we recall that at Teaching Conference in January, 16 Local Assemblies were under numbers; between Teaching Conference and Ridván several more Local Assemblies needed pioneer help. Convention delegates will be consulting on the tremendous Message received this Ridván from the Universal House of Justice; detailed study of the responsibilities which the British Community has been called upon to shoulder will show the weight which must be carried by the Home Front if we are successfully to fulfil our part of the Nine Year Plan. The answer is a rapid increase in the number of Bahá'is throughout the British Isles, so that we can meet the additional needs for manpower and financial resources at home

CONSTANT FLOW OF NEWS (Continued from Page 3)

ASSURE REDEDICATED EFFORT ACHIEVE IMMEDIATE AUSTRALASIAN GOALS BY NEXT RIDVÁN STOP HUMBLY BESEECH PRAYERS AT SHRINES.

Hawaiian Islands

ALLAHUABHA ALOHA FROM SECOND HAWAIIAN CONVENTION STOP DEEPLY GRATEFUL YOUR OVERWHELMING MESSAGE PRESENCE TWO BOARD MEMBERS INTENSIFYING SPIRIT ENTHUSIASM ALREADY EVIDENT PRIOR RIDVÁN STOP ALL DELEGATES PRESENT JOYFULLY REPORT DISPERSAL 21 SETTLERS AIDED ESTABLISHMENT FOUR NEW ASSEMBLIES STOP ATMOSPHERE PREGNANT WITH REALIZATION HAWAIIAN ISLANDS FORESEEN WRITINGS BELOVED MASTER AND GUARDIAN OUR LOVE PRAYERS SURROUND YOU.

May, 1965

and overseas. Declarations in the British Isles since the World Congress have been — during the year ending Ridván 1963, 115 adults, 44 youth; during the year ending Ridván 1964, 101 adults, 27 youth; during the year ending Ridván 1965, 86 adults, 57 youth.

The re-establishment of 50 Assemblies on the Home Front can certainly be claimed as a victory and the National Assembly's heartfelt thanks go to every pioneer and to our hard-working Pioneer Committee. We cannot let this moment pass without expressing also deep appreciation of the wonderful spirit which animated the Welsh Deepening School on April 3rd/4th from which 9 believers arose to consult with the Pioneer Committee; we were much moved by a young American serviceman who, at that school, offered all his accumulated leave to fill a gap in one of our Assemblies and when he later learned that he would have to return to the United States and take his leave there, he volunteered to come back immediately to the British Isles if he were needed to maintain an Assembly. This same spirit has animated believers from many parts of the world during the weeks leading up to Ridván and it is this spirit of devotion and sacrifice which will achieve the goals in the future.

CHILD EDUCATION

Good news has been received in the last month from Scotland, where there have been 6 new declarations in the Gilmerton area of Edinburgh; the Local Assembly reports that these wonderful new Friends have given a new impetus and spirit to the Community. Their declarations have brought 24 new children within the orbit of the Faith and have opened up for the Edinburgh Local Spiritual Assembly new fields in the sphere of child education. The Week-end School held in the Shetland Islands over the Easter week-end was a success, five Bahá'is took along 8 children who had a special afternoon programme, and there were 8 visitors from the mainland; this week-end school was followed by some welcomed press publicity.

In London also child education has progressed rapidly in the last year and its success will become apparent during the celebration to-morrow afternoon of the Twelfth Day of Ridván in which children of the London community will take part.

TELEGRAMS SENT

One very happy responsibility which is carried out each year early in the morning of April 21st is to send to Her Majesty Queen

Elizabeth loyal greetings on the occasion of her birthday. The National Assembly telegram this year read:

"THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'IS OF THE BRITISH ISLES ON BEHALF OF THE BAHÁ'IS IN THE BRITISH ISLES AND IN THE COMMONWEALTH EXTENDS TO YOUR MAJESTY RESPECTFUL AND LOYAL GREETINGS ON THE JOYFUL OCCASION OF YOUR MAJESTY'S BIRTHDAY."

The reply received from the Queen's Private Secretary was:

"PLEASE CONVEY THE QUEEN'S SINCERE THANKS TO ALL THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH YOU IN YOUR KIND MESSAGE OF LOYAL GREETINGS ON HER MAJESTY'S BIRTHDAY."

Earlier in the year at the request of the Universal House of Justice, the National Assembly conveyed to Lady Churchill and her family on behalf of the Bahá'is of the world deepest sympathy on the passing of Sir Winston Churchill. Sir Winston, at that time Mr. Winston Churchill, had held the office of British Secretary of State for the Colonies at the time of the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1921, and it was he who—as recorded by Shoghi Effendi in "God Passes By"—"telegraphed immediately to the High Commissioner for Palestine, Sir Herbert Samuel, instructing him to 'convey to the Bahá'í Community, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, their sympathy and condolence'."

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

The National Assembly is delighted to have the permission of Dr. Habib Moayyad to announce his generous gift of £1,000 to be used in any part of the world for the service of the Cause. £200 has already been made available to the National Spiritual Assembly of South Central Africa for the Hazíratu'l-Quds which has to be acquired in Malawi and another £200 of this gift has been made available to the National Spiritual Assembly of West Central Africa for the Hazíratu'l-Quds in Victoria, Cameroons. Both these projects are assistance goals of the British Community.

EXTENSION TEACHING

A new development this year has been sustained extension teaching undertaken by several established Local Spiritual Assemblies. The most successful of these projects has been that in Worthing, carried out by the Brighton Spiritual Assembly, and that in Stretford, carried out by the Eccles Spiritual Assembly.

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This pattern of teaching, undertaken with the specific intention of establishing another Local Spiritual Assembly, is warmly encouraged.

LONDON HAZIRATU'L-QUDS

There have been several changes in the Haziratu'l-Quds during the last year. Mrs. Edith Johnson returned to the United States for health reasons; we were sorry to see her go and missed her assistance in the National Office. The staffing position in the National Office has been a cause of constant concern during the year as we have throughout been understaffed. Plans are in hand, however, which it is very much hoped will solve our major difficulty of secretarial help and in this respect we have welcomed the tremendous assistance in the last few weeks of Jeanette Robbin, also from the United States. With Edith Johnson's departure the basement flat became vacant and the secretary of the London Spiritual Assembly, Mr. Ron Stee, took up residence there, being joined by Iain Macdonald.

WORLD CENTRE

The links with the World Centre have been further strengthened this year by the departure from London of Miss Mimi Tabmassebi who joined the Secretariat of the Universal House of Justice. The steady flow of pilgrims from the British Community has been kept up this year too, and we cannot over-emphasise the rich blessing this brings to the whole community.

Continental Pioneer Committee for Africa

Shortly before Ridván the Universal House of Justice directed that five of the National Spiritual Assemblies each form a Continental Pioneer Committee. The British N.S.A. was called upon to appoint the Pioneer Committee for Africa, and we are happy to announce the membership of this Committee, which is Mr. Eric Hellicar of Edinburgh, Mr. Joe Jameson and Mrs. Mary Jameson of Newcastle. Joe Jameson is the Secretary. The responsibilities of these Continental Pioneer Committees have been explained by the Universal House of Justice in their Ridván Message.

The Africa Pioneer Committee has the tremendous task of assisting in the settlement in Africa in the next fifty weeks of eighty-six pioneers from all over the world. This is an indication of the size of the tasks which face us all in the coming year.

We have joyfully cabled the Universal House of Justice:—

“JOYOUS RIDVAN GREETINGS, 8 GOAL TOWNS OPENED THIS YEAR, 48 ASSEMBLIES HELD, 2 RE-ESTABLISHED STOP. SUPPLICATE PRAYERS HOLY SHRINES OCCASION BRITISH CONVENTION MAY

PIONEER COMMITTEE REPORT TO CONVENTION

May, 1965

THE Chairman expressed the gratitude of the Pioneer Committee to all the pioneers who had arisen and moved into their pioneering posts during the past year. He also thanked all those who had played any part in guiding the friends to offer themselves for pioneering, particularly mentioned London Community, who can play a large part in directing the thoughts of friends freshly arrived from abroad to the possibility of going to a goal town.

We had to bear in mind that every Local Spiritual Assembly is a gift to us from Bahá'u'lláh and a trust to be cherished, and we were humbly thankful that with the help of the whole community our Fifty local Assemblies had been maintained.

During the past year we received 121 pioneer offers

Actually moved into new localities	59
Those still consulting	19
Friends not able to move	43
Of the total moves made (59)	
Permanent moves totalled	37
Short term moves	22

During the year pioneers arose from the following communities:—Birmingham, Bournemouth, Brighton, Bath, Cambridge, Canterbury, Exeter, Huddersfield, Leicester, London, Manchester, Motherwell, Northampton, Nelson, Oxford, Oakham, Pontypridd, Swansea, Southampton, Watford, Worthing.

Goal Towns (Poole, Ipswich, Bath, Stafford, Guernsey, Bedford, Oakham, and Isle of Wight) opened by fifteen of the 59 15

All the other pioneers went out to maintain L.S.A.'s 44

i.e. nineteen L.S.A.'s were below numbers, and two of them needed five friends each to bring them up to strength.

1ST-2ND BEFITTINGLY RESPOND CHALLENGE NEW TASKS. LOVE.

BAHA'I LONDON.

The following cable was received in reply:—

DELIGHTED NEWS VICTORIES HOME FRONT ASSURE FRIENDS ASSEMBLED CONVENTION ARDENT PLAYERS HOLY SHRINES DIVINE GUIDANCE THEIR DELIBERATION IMPORTANT TASKS ASSIGNED BRITISH COMMUNITY.

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

The Chairman stressed the need to look at this problem very seriously in order to find a positive way of avoiding the need to maintain 38% of our local Spiritual Assemblies. Having heard the Convention Message from the Universal House of Justice and the definite need for at least 100 Bahá'is to arise to fill them, it was obvious that intensified teaching and personal dedication of every follower of Bahá'u'lláh would be the only way to solve this annually recurring problem. If the Pioneer Committee had been able to direct the 37 permanent moves into our new goal towns we could possibly have had FOUR NEW L.S.A.'s to add to our achievements in the British Isles.

We have yet to open the following Towns which were our target for the past year — Bangor, N. Wales, Lincoln, Isle of Man, Aberystwyth, Lurgan, Skye, and we have to re-open Ipswich.

Therefore, an assessment of our needs for the new year commencing April 21st, 1965, is as follows—

Towns not yet opened	7
New Towns to open	9
Numbers required for consolidation (Old & New)	50
Overseas requirements from this country (U.H.J. Ridván Message)	23
Other possible needs	10
	99

On the basis of the past year's actual moves by the friends in relation to those who offered, we need **THREE HUNDRED BAHÁ'IS** to offer themselves for pioneering in order to get **ONE HUNDRED** permanently into their posts!

The Committee realises the magnitude of this statement—bearing in mind the smallness of our total membership in these Islands—but with God everything is possible. (It is only the 'I'm' in front of POSSIBLE which makes it IMPOSSIBLE).

The Pioneer Committee looks forward to a constant stream of friends coming for consultation all through the year in order that the great work of spreading the Cause of God throughout the World may forge ahead.

Let us take as our signpost the glorious words of Bahá'u'lláh from His Prayers and Meditations—

“Here am I with my body between Thy hands, and my spirit before Thy face. Do with them as it may please Thee, for the exaltation of Thy word, and the revelation of what hath been enshrined within the treasuries of Thy knowledge.”

BAHA'I PUBLISHING TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 1964-65

The Trust had had an active year during which a new edition of the "Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh" has been published and further quantities of the "Dawnbreakers", of the "New Era" and of "Paris Talks" have been bound and issued. Much time has been given to preparing a new edition of the 'Red' Prayer Book, a special committee of the NSA has been checking the authenticity of certain prayers and it is hoped that final guidance from the Universal House of Justice will be received soon so that printing, at present at the 'galley proof' stage, can proceed.

HANDLING PROBLEM

For many years one of the Manchester friends has generously provided free warehouse accommodation for our stock and another Manchester friend has carried out all the handling and distribution of that stock. Because not long ago new warehouse accommodation had to be found, the old one being about to disappear under a rebuilding scheme, and also because the growth of the Trust has resulted in the volume of work involved in handling, packing and distributing our publications becoming greater than can reasonably be carried out by one man in his spare time, an intensive search has again been made to find a Trade Counter—these are firms which undertake the stocking, packing, despatching and invoicing of books for the publishing trade—to take over our distribution but, we regret to say, without success for our turnover is too low to be a business proposition for them. While this search was being made another friend generously offered to consider opening and financing a bookshop in London with a view to it acting also as a Trade Counter for us but this too proved not to be a business proposition and so neither solution to our problems proved possible, at least for the present.

OLD ACCOUNTS

During the year Robert Semple found it necessary to resign from the combined post of Manager and Accountant to the Trust and a change in the structure of the Trust became necessary, involving a re-allocation of the duties undertaken by its different members. An offer by Vera Long to undertake the book-keeping side of the accounts work was gratefully accepted and she has worked hard to get the posting of the Sales Day Book and of the Cash Book to the Sales Ledger up to date. It will now be possible after the books of account are received back from the auditors (and after Vera has settled in Aberdeen to which she has just

pioneered) to commence getting out statements to Assemblies, Groups and individuals both at home and abroad who, together, owe the Trust more than £2,600—a sum equal to the total of all sales to everybody for ten months, very nearly a whole year, and some of this has been outstanding for a very long time. We will need the help of the friends and of Assemblies concerned in clearing up the queries which will inevitably arise when we start asking for payment of these old accounts.

Mr. Semple agreed to continue to prepare the final accounts for the year and we are truly grateful for this, indeed so helpful is this that our auditors commented that when they received the books and the draft accounts from him they had no single query to raise on them.

Quite recently the NSA appointed Bill Prince of Leicester to the Trust to become its Business Manager and even more recently asked Jimmy Habibi of Manchester to help Reg. Coulson with stock-keeping. We are indeed grateful to all three friends for their help.

FINANCING THE TRUST

Another important step taken during the year was in connection with the finances of the Trust. Money (called Assets on the balance sheet) has been set aside to repay loans to the Trust as they fall due; the sum of £265 was repaid from this in 1963 through to June, 1964, and a further £600 is due, or about to become due, for repayment. You will see from the balance sheet that the money is there with which to make such repayments and further sums will be set aside each year so that we can meet future repayments as they become due.

Each time we print a new edition and each time we have a further quantity of books bound up, we find prices have risen. Further increases in printers charges have occurred this year and we are warned of more to come! As a result of such increases we were forced to increase the prices of "Principles of Bahá'í Administration", "The Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh", "Paris Talks", "Bahá'í Revelation" and of "Gleanings" during last year.

FUTURE POLICY

The NSA has been considering future policy for the Trust in the light of the goal of 'developing the Trust' set by the Universal House of Justice as one of the Nine-Year Plan goals for the British Community and although this has not been completed in detail we have already been given the general principles which will bring new publications in the future into

alignment with the then current needs of the teaching work called for in the Nine-Year Plan. As part of this it is proposed to bring out a series of nine booklets, each one complete in itself, yet which will together form a simple but complete exposition of the Faith and also a new series of leaflets, attractively got up, each of which will be aimed at a particular section of the teaching field. As the subjects have yet to be defined and writers found for them, it will be some time yet before these booklets and pamphlets appear. That such booklets and leaflets are needed is evidenced by sales in the 21 months to December last which included, quite apart from any sold at the World Congress, some 3,000 copies of the booklet, "The Message of Bahá'u'lláh", seven thousand copies of the yellow pamphlet, "The Bahá'í Faith", and 2,500 copies of the single sheet, "Facts about the Bahá'í Faith".

CLOSER WORKING WITH THE AMERICAN TRUST

Another part of this policy is to secure closer working with the American Publishing Trust and steps have already been taken to effect this; there has been a ready response on the part of the American Trust and as the publications of both Trusts are in the same language greater co-ordination of our publishing efforts will be to the benefit of all the English speaking parts of the Bahá'í world.

FUTURE NEEDS

Whatever these future plans for the Trust entail, one thing is certain, finance will play a big part in the carrying out of the plans. For items in our current catalogue which will need fresh printing or bind up of sheets in stock during the next two years, including those already under way, an expenditure of £3,000 will be called for apart from all the running expenses of the Trust, while the projected series of booklets and leaflets will need a further £1,500 to £2,000 according to the size of the booklets and the nature of the leaflets. Together, these financial needs will use up not only the entire income from sales received during this period but most, if not all, of the cash at present in the bank. In addition to this, the publishing of at least one entirely new book is expected and has to be financed.

Any profits which the Trust may make are used to finance future activities in this way and it is important that funds are available if we are to execute promptly a useful policy of publishing in the future. One very practical and important way in which the community can

NATIONAL CONVENTION 122



Bahá'í Convention, London.

Photo by Rohy.

CONVENTION 122 was a befitting beginning to what will surely be a tremendous year of expansion and progress. The keynotes were enthusiasm and responsibility. The Ridván message from the Universal

provide the funds for the development of the Trust is to **sell** those books already published! Will you not, at every Feast, draw attention to the literature which is available both for personal use and for giving to contacts and other people who may be interested? A leaflet to one person to let them know of the existence of the Faith, a booklet to another who wishes to learn something about the teachings of the Faith, a book to the one who is ready to study the Faith, there is some item of literature available for every such purpose. And the written word continues to teach long after the spoken word is forgotten! So—teach the Cause—and give and sell the books; give away and sell the books—and so teach the Cause!

House of Justice was read early on the Saturday afternoon; it spread before us a rich carpet of world-wide achievements, then raised our eyes to mountain peaks still to be conquered. The consultation which followed showed a degree of maturity, a spirit of dedication and a grasp of fundamental needs, greater than anything yet experienced. Session by session enthusiasm mounted, until the climax came with the celebration on Sunday afternoon of the 12th Day of Ridván. A recording had been made specially of the dawn chorus of birdsong at the Grave of Shoghi Effendi, and our spirits soared upwards with the joyous birds as they greeted the new day at that Sacred Spot. Then trumpets heralded Bahá'u'lláh's Words, read in the devotional programme that followed, as He announced the new Day of God for the whole of humanity. For the first time, the children gave a specially prepared programme as

part of the Ridván Feast. It was a joyous Festival, which is still fragrant with the love and happiness shared together.

Seventy-five of the 76 delegates voted in the election of the National Spiritual Assembly. The one delegate who could not vote was out of the country. £54-0-0 was collected for the new International Deputation Fund launched by the Universal House of Justice. Book sales exceeded £90-0-0. Within ten days of Convention, the Pioneer Committee reported fourteen pioneers were consulting on overseas projects.

The National Assembly is delighted to share the letter just received from the Universal House of Justice, in which they write that the message "conveying the sentiments of the delegates and friends at Convention was gratefully received and we are delighted to have this further evidence of the fine spirit of the British believers."

This year's work: Emphasis on Teaching

Of the eleven English goal towns and the nearby islands chosen for development last year, Lincoln has not yet been opened and Ipswich and the Isle of Wight, which were opened, are now vacant; and the other eight places opened last year all need reinforcing; the Isle of Man must be opened. In addition, a further nine goal towns must be opened in England in the second phase of the Nine Year Plan. In Wales, teaching is going steadily forward in Bangor and Aberystwyth, but each urgently needs a resident pioneer; development must continue in Swansea; the counties of Brecon and Carmarthen are to be opened. In Scotland, development work must be continued in Hamilton and North Berwick; Dundee has been opened this year by a Bahá'í Youth and development work now needs to follow; Perth is to be opened this year; the Isle of Skye in the Inner Hebrides must be opened this year, and the Outer Hebrides reinforced; the Orkneys and Shetlands must be further developed. In Northern Ireland, the Rural Areas of Larne and Castle-reagh need developing further; Londonderry needs reinforcing and Lurgan re-opening. In the Irish Republic, Sligo needs developing; Dun Laoghaire and Dundalk need opening.

Overseas, twenty pioneer assignments for fulfilment this year have been allocated by the Universal House of Justice to the British Bahá'í Community, 9 in Africa, 3 in Central America, 1 in Asia, 4 in the Pacific and 3 in Europe. These are in addition to the overseas commitments we already had in Malta, Cyprus, Faroes and British Guiana. We now begin to see the size of the challenge which faces us. We need more and more Bahá'ís and more and more pioneers for the Home Front and for Overseas. There must be such an upsurge of teaching as has never been seen in the British Isles before.

Mindful of the urgency, the National Assembly has already appointed the Home Front and Overseas Teaching Committees. Committees have been appointed for Wales, Scotland and Ireland. In England, the volume of work has become so great that instead of having one Committee concerned with both the new goal towns and with helping local assemblies, two Committees have been appointed, one—called the New Territories Teaching Committee (England)—is responsible for the development of goal towns to assembly status, for encouraging isolated believers to teach and to establish groups, and

for helping groups to grow into local assemblies; the other—called the Assembly Assistance Teaching Committee (England)—is responsible for helping local assemblies to increase the tempo of teaching activity. Some local assemblies are already giving sustained help to goal towns, they should continue to do this, and will in future work with the New Territories Committee which has the prime responsibility for bringing goal towns to assembly status. Other assemblies have their own extension teaching projects, these should continue also, and those assemblies will be helped in their projects by the Assembly Assistance Teaching Committee.

The Overseas Committees have been reconstituted and reduced from four to two. This has been possible because the difficult work of exploration and getting acquainted with new areas has been accomplished, and we are now at the stage where the work of the Overseas Committees would seem to benefit from being linked more closely together. Central and South America has been linked with Europe, as both areas of operation

call for close co-operation with European N.S.A.'s, the National Assemblies of France and Holland, for instance, are involved respectively in the work in French Guiana and Surinam. The Pacific and Africa have been linked together, as each area has numerous assistance goals, there is a need to turn to the same Departments of the British Government in connection with both areas, and experience built up in relation to one area is valuable in the other. These moves have made it possible to release some Committee members for the vital work of direct teaching on the Home Front. The use of energy, enthusiastically and purposefully in the teaching work, is the most vital undertaking of all at this stage of the Nine Year Plan. It will be a wonderful year, and we can keep in our minds and hearts Bahá'u'lláh's words: "By the righteousness of God, should a man, all alone, arise in the name of Baha and put on the armour of His love, him will the Almighty cause to be victorious, though the forces of earth and heaven be arrayed against him."

BRITISH HONDURAS

*Visit of
Mrs. Louise Caswell*

"I arrived in Belice on the first day of the fast to work with Mrs. Cora Oliver in Burrell Boom. We visited contacts every day and two persons declared themselves during my visit, bringing the number of Bahá'ís to seven. The Hands of the Cause were very anxious to bring Burrell Boom to assembly status before April 21, making two local assemblies with Belice, so that the National Spiritual Assembly of British Honduras can be formed next April.

"As we drove around visiting these appreciative people I couldn't help thinking what nice English couple would enjoy the hot climate in March, the beautiful birds and butterflies and the simple cottages. The fast prayers certainly reached the receptive souls during those days in spite of orthodox opposition.

"My last evening was spent in Belice, capital of British Honduras. We attended a play, "Boss King", a folk-lore play written and directed by the pioneer, Shirley Warde, former actress and playwright. Shirley did the research work and wrote all of the songs. Many have accepted the Faith through her activities in art and drama. The big-headed giant in the play was killed, but later came to life as a

Bahá'í believer and went to Burrell Boom to help win the assembly. Strangely enough, the last two believers were men we saw every day working on the construction of Cora Oliver's house. Cora Oliver and Shirley Warde were the first pioneers to go to this country at the beginning of the World Crusade in 1953. Cora renounced an excellent position with a promise of a wonderful pension, to work in Belice.

"Bermudian landing has several believers. It is not far from Burrell Boom. We made several trips there, crossing ferries. British Honduras is green and refreshing and not overpopulated like so many places.

"As a member of the N.S.A. of Guatemala, the trip was an eye-opener for me as I realized that our N.S.A. was responsible in aiding this country to form their own N.S.A. and to buy the properties necessary. The endowment and a substantial amount toward the Temple land have been donated by Mrs. Oliver, but the Hazira must be bought this year at a cost of eight or ten thousand dollars. Where is this to come from? But we must remember that 'Abdu'l-Bahá always said, "Make a start."

NEWS of the Communities

NEWS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

TWO members of the Belfast L.S.A. and one member of the Greenisland group are now on a committee set up by the United Nations Association in Belfast for International Co-operation Year. Lisbeth Greeves represents the Bahá'í World Faith, Jane Villiers-Stuart the United Nations Association and Keith Munro the Northern Ireland Council of Social Services (Junior Committee). The committee decided that it was too late to prepare a float for the Lord Mayor's show on May 22nd but the Bahá'í members asked for the blessing of the committee if they found a way to build a float in time for the show. The committee agreed and were astonished and delighted when the float won first prize in its section.

Two of the Bahá'ís are also serving on sub-committees, one to plan a service of praise and prayers for the peace of the world, another to arrange a social on the occasion of the reception during United Nations week in the City Hall. The first of these sub-committees consisted of a Free-Presbyterian, a Roman Catholic, a Methodist leader and a Bahá'í.

BIRMINGHAM

A 'PUBLIC meeting with a difference' was held in Birmingham on May 8th. This consisted of an introductory talk on the Faith followed by a film of the Holy Land; later there was a social arranged by the youth. The evening proved to be a great success with over 20 non-Bahá'ís present and over 30 Bahá'ís (from nine other communities as well as from Birmingham).

PRESS PUBLICITY

IN February an article appeared in the Aberdeen Press and Journal under the heading "Moderator attacks Inverness Heretics" in which the Faith was described as a sect. A letter from an Inverness Bahá'í was then printed pointing out that the Faith is in fact a new revelation.

In a similar vein have been the several letters which have appeared during March in the correspondence columns of the Scotsman.

A very favourable article also appeared in the Middlesex County Times of 26th February under the heading "Ex-Major is Bahá'í Lecturer." This gave a short biographical sketch of Major Harry Charles followed by a report on his lecture at Ealing.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS

THINGS are going on round here, especially in Coniston. It began

in December, 1963, when the Hellabys and the Turners climbed up the hillside overlooking Coniston water and recited prayers for the spread of the Faith in the Lake District. Four Bahá'ís, one youth and three children—very insignificant if looked at like that, but who can measure the power and vibrating influence of the Word of God? Since then the Macdonalds arrived and a lot has been accomplished in the way of spreading knowledge of the Faith, both in Barrow and in the surrounding area.

In June last year Madeline had the use of the car for a day (this happens once a month) and, inspired by Gloria Faizi's trip to the Scottish Islands the previous summer, decided to go out into the villages and talk to anyone who would listen. She began with Coniston. Just before entering the village, she pulled in to the side of the road, read some prayers and asked God to guide her to someone—if only one person—in Coniston who would be receptive to the Faith.

You have to start somewhere, so she went to an artist's studio selling crafts, paintings and drawings, that she had noticed previously. Noting Bernard Leach's name as a starting point (he sold Leach pottery) it came out that the artist had had a Bahá'í staying with him not long before! He asked questions and Madeline left a pamphlet. There was some correspondence, he read Esselmont and that was apparently the end of it. Naturally, it was disappointing and we all wondered what it could mean. Madeline called again a few months later (to buy things!) and this time met his wife. The Faith was not mentioned but on subsequent visits it came up and questions were asked.

The next act in the drama was the Men of the Trees Week-end in May, at Brantwood, one-time home of John Ruskin on the east bank of the lake. We in Barrow got interested and tried to get up some local interest in the work of the society. The artist's wife supplied us with a list of fifteen names and we wrote to all of them as well as our friends in Barrow. We had a most inspiring time at Brantwood and all the Bahá'ís present thought "What a wonderful place for a week-end school!" Here was another prayer answered in a way we didn't expect. We acted quickly, with the result that there will be a Bahá'í week-end school at Brantwood on 15th—17th October.

The Men of the Trees are forming a branch in the Lake District, and our artist friend—or rather his wife—far from being only one person receptive to the Faith, has been re-

sponsible for putting us in touch with lots of other people to whom in time the Faith is bound to be passed on.

Truly, God doeth whatsoever He willeth!

LONDON REPORT, MAY 1965

WE were invited to participate in an all Faiths service at the Newington Green Unitarian Church on Sunday, 24th May. Prayers were read from the Hindu, Jewish and Christian Faiths, and Philip Hinton read three short Bahá'í prayers. The sermon was given by Dr. Geoffrey Parinder, who is Reader in Comparative Religion at London University. Dr. Parinder was lecturing in Australia, when he was asked by some of his audience about the Bahá'í Faith, and this may be the reason we were invited to participate on this particular occasion.

After the service, everyone was invited to stay for tea. In the case of the Bahá'í reader, this involved a party of supporters—fifteen of them, whereas the other readers had no representatives of their Faith present. Our party occasioned quite a lot of interest, since it consisted of believers from Malaya, Persia, Italy, Hungary, Indonesia, South Africa, and Somaliland, thereby demonstrating our real international character.

SHEFFIELD

Weekly meetings are held in Sheffield, i.e.

Tuesday Evenings, 8 o'clock— Fireside meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Halliday, 11 Strathtoy Road, Sheffield, 11.

Thursday evening, 7.30 p.m.— Fireside meeting at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Rabbani, 377 Crooksmoor Road, Sheffield, 10.

Sunday afternoons at 3 o'clock— Mrs. Rabbani holds a Class for Language and Study at her home at 3 o'clock.

Bahá'ís passing through Sheffield, or visiting will be warmly welcomed to any of these meetings—with or without notice.

DEADLINE

All contributions for the July Journal must reach the Editor, 71 Bellevue, Bangor, Co. Down, not later than **Monday, 5th July.**

COMING EVENTS

FEASTS

June 24—Rahamat, Mercy

July 13—Kalimat, Words

COMMEMORATION

July 9—Martyrdom of the Bab.

Dublin Week-end School

EARLY in March, the Spiritual Assembly of Dublin decided to have a public meeting on the evening of April 9th and a week-end school on the following two days, at the Royal Hibernian Hotel, in a second floor room decorated with charm and taste overlooking Dawson and Molesworth Streets in the heart of Dublin. Marie Baillie, Secretary of the Assembly, placed two dignified advertisements for the public meeting in "The Irish Times," one on the Monday before the meeting, in the much read personal section of the back page, and another on the day of the meeting, just below the advertisements for theatres and the cinema.

At least thirty-six came to the public meeting, believers from Dublin, Sligo, Belfast, Bangor, Greenisland and Liverpool, fourteen in all, and twenty-two enquirers, some attending their first Bahá'í meeting.

After a warm introduction by the Chairman, Grace Pritchard, and a reading from Bahá'í Scriptures by O. Z. Whitehead, Richard Backwell, recently appointed as auxiliary board member for Ireland, began his talk entitled "Unity in Diversity." He spoke with engaging restraint and fine scholarship mixed occasionally with delightful dry humour.

His talk brought forth interesting questions and constructive discussion.

Grace Pritchard invited all present to come to the week-end school.

Everyone at the meeting, except one enquirer, remained for the reception that followed the talk and discussion. Most of them stayed, apparently happy, for an hour after the service of tea began.

On Saturday morning, more believers arrived from Belfast, Bangor, Greenisland and just outside of Dublin. A few enquirers returned. By the time that the reading from Bahá'í Scriptures was over there were thirty in the room.

The Chairman of the school, O. Z. Whitehead said, "Often at the beginning of a Bahá'í meeting some of us are so burdened with our own disturbing problems that it is not until prayer and meditation have helped us to forget ourselves that we start to receive benefit from the meeting."

He repeated a story that Willard Hatch from the United States of America, a believer for over fifty years, told him.

He had just returned from the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh.

"What did you feel in the Most Holy Shrine," asked the Guardian? "I felt power, Shoghi Effendi."

The Guardian sent him back into the Shrine.

When Willard returned again, the

Guardian asked him the same question.

Willard did not change his answer.

The Guardian sent him into the Shrine once more.

This time when Willard came back he had tears in his eyes and said: "I felt great, great power, Shoghi Effendi, but I felt, too, overwhelming love."

Charles MacDonald, in a talk entitled "God and His Manifestations," spoke with refreshing clarity and much force. His natural warmth and deep sincerity did much to enhance the delivery of his well chosen words.

During the period of questions an enquirer asked, "What do the Bahá'ís think of Mary Baker Eddy?"

He answered something like this, "Such a person spoke part of the truth, but human fallibility cast shadows upon it."

On Saturday evening Richard Backwell gave a second talk, this time with the title "Christ and Bahá'u'lláh." He spoke with calm logic and unflinching conviction.

A commotion on the street caused by a political movement interrupted his talk for a few moments and showed a marked contrast between the disturbances in the material world and the harmony of the Bahá'í world.

Richard answered many questions with subtle perception and the friends and enquirers stayed together until after ten o'clock.

Before introducing Adib on Sunday morning the Chairman described a little the way in which four early believers of the United States of America came into the Faith, Edward and Carrie Kinney through a meeting at Paul McNutt's house in the Bronx, New York, in 1898 and a tablet from the Master in reply to Edward's letter to Him; Juliet Thompson through a vision of the Master when she was desperately ill in New York and through her hearing Who He was later in Paris in 1901, and Marjorie Morten through listening to Juliet and through her first look at the Master when He came to New York in 1912.

Adib Taherzaheh spoke with much fire and great effect on "The Teachings of God for this Age." He deeply impressed not only the friends but also the enquirers.

In the afternoon the school held a panel of four composed of Lisbeth Greeves, Dr. Margaret Magill, Brian Townshend and Ann Brew.

Encouraged not to restrain themselves the friends asked many questions.

At the conclusion of the school we did not forget to say prayers of Healing for some not with us.

IRISH TEACHING COMMITTEE

Bill Hellaby made his first visit to Ireland at the end of March and concentrated his teaching efforts in the goal area of Larne rural district. He gave a talk at a public meeting in Greenisland which was well advertised in the local Press, and attended by friends from Dublin, Belfast and Bangor, and some non-Bahá'ís, including a Unitarian minister. Bill met and talked to many people who are interested in the faith at various firesides and luncheon parties etc.

Following the marriage of Olive Sutton and Hugh McKinley, there is now a Bahá'í group in the goal town of Sligo in the Republic of Ireland. As they have a car it is hoped that they will be able to visit the various Bahá'í communities in Ireland. Since Sligo is a small provincial town it will be their policy to integrate with the local people and make friends before making any public proclamation of the faith.

The Dublin L.S.A. will be losing Zebby Whitehead, who has to return to the U.S.A. for business and professional reasons, but everybody is firm in the belief that it will not be long before he returns to the Emerald Isle.

When Ho-San Leong, one of the friends from Malaya, was visiting the British Isles, he stayed for a while in Ireland. During his Irish visit he was given an interview on an Ulster television programme. He described how he had been lucky enough to win a prize which allowed him to travel. He mentioned the Faith twice in connection with his travels to Frankfurt and Israel.

Results of the Election of the National Spiritual Assembly at Convention 122

The newly elected National Spiritual Assembly:—

Charles Macdonald	70
Betty Reed	67
John Long	63
John Wade	58
Adib Taherzadeh	53
Owen Battrick	50
Joe Jameson	49
Elizabeth Chapman	40
Abbas Afnan	24
Eruch Munsiff 13, Ted Cardell 11, John Morley 11, Jeannette Battrick 10, Gloria Faizi 10, Eric Hellicar 10, Hugh McKinley 8, Meherangiz Munsiff 8, Valerie Morley 8, Harry Charles 8, David Lewis 7, Ron Stee 7, Carl Card 6, John More-Nesbitt 6, Lisbeth Greeves 5, Robert Hallam 4.	

In addition eight Friends had 3 votes each, nine had 2 votes each and twenty-seven 1 vote each. Seventy-five of the seventy-six delegates voted (the delegate who did not vote was out of the country at the time of Convention) and there were no spoilt ballot papers.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CANADA

St. Laurent P.Q. We quote a letter received from Ian Millington that should serve as a source of inspiration to other isolated believers: "Even though things are lonely Bahá'í-wise here in St. Laurent, it is truly refreshing to have four or six people come to my house every couple of days to once a week to ASK for a Bahá'í Fireside. We have had question periods where one of the contacts is answering the questions for the other contacts and then asking me to look them up in books to affirm the answers. It has been a wonderful experience. Two of the contacts are asking how to become Bahá'ís and will probably declare themselves within a year."

FINLAND

President of Finland receives copy of "New Era"

The Eighteenth World Medical Congress, held in Helsinki, Finland, last year afforded a rare opportunity for the message of Bahá'u'lláh, the All-Knowing Physician, to be presented to the President of Finland, the Minister of the Interior and many other distinguished persons. It was given to Mr. Urho Kekkonen, the President, by Dr. Habib'u'llah, Persian pioneer in Finland, who was accepted as an international observer at the Congress on behalf of the Iranian Medical Association. As the doctors attending the Congress were eager to find out what had been presented to the dignitaries, Dr. Zabihian was able to obtain a table for exhibition of Bahá'í literature which was subsequently shown on television.

MALAWI (NYASALAND)

"Mr. George Mpyaile's teaching trip has been very wonderful and full of encouragement. The first place to be visited was Senzani area, Ncheu district. He was well received by the village headman, as a Bahá'í friend. During his four days stay in that village, 11 people declared as Bahá'ís. He then proceeded to Penga Penga area to visit other Bahá'í friends. Six people declared there, two of them youth. George then left for Dilila, where he managed to meet with six believers whom he refreshed by giving them the spiritual water of life. The village headman asked him to plan holding a public meeting in his village sometime in May."

NEW ZEALAND

Several newspapers gave an appreciable amount of space to St. Barbe Baker's talk on 'Sahara Reclamation Program', the Bahá'í Summer School receiving publicity as being the place of the address. St. Barbe, who is working very hard for this program, requests prayers

for the progress of the project, which he feels 'may be an answer to the present impasse'. Several world organisations, including United Nations, have received letters and the report on 'Sahara Reclamation Program.'

UGANDA

The Bahá'í House of Worship appears on Uganda Television every time the News is shown, as one of the background buildings behind the news-reader. It is estimated that since its dedication about 50,000 visits have been made there. Some people come every week to enjoy the peace and beauty of the area; others come for the occasional visit and many tourist agencies and embassies

bring their visitors to this recognised beauty spot. It is also featured in the official tourist publications of the Government of Uganda. As the Master described the House of Worship, it is truly a "Silent Teacher."

VIETNAM

The Secretary of State, Le-van-Hoach, had a friendly meeting and dinner on the evening of 4/3/1965 at his private home and invited the representatives of the Catholic, Cao-Dai, Hoa-Hoa and Bahá'í Faiths and members of the National Legislative Council.

Various government ministries, religious, cultural and social associations have asked for copies of the Bahá'í speech on World Religion Day. The N.S.A. also completed souvenir picture brochures of that great function and despatched these to the religious speakers and to other dignitaries.

SOME THOUGHTS ON GIVING ?

RUHIYYIH KHANUM

U.S. BAHÁ'Í NEWS, DECEMBER, 1949—JANUARY, 1950

"WHAT most astonishes any impartial observer of the Bahá'í Faith is that here is a religion that not only believes that it is the greatest privilege to give to the world, but actually puts this sublime theory into practice.

"We not only give our spiritual teachings, our principles, our world order, which we know can alone guarantee international security, permanent peace, universal brotherhood, but we freely offer the advantages of our institutions and the privilege of visiting and worshipping in our Shrines.

"We go even further than giving, we refuse financial aid from any person who is not a Bahá'í. To be a Bahá'í is to be a giver, a benefactor to our fellowmen in the truest sense of the word.

'Abdu'l-Bahá once said that we do not take from the non-Bahá'í because we want the heart first.

"No Bahá'í is forced to give. There are no fees, no collections. Our teachings force nothing on the individual Bahá'í. But if you choose to give to the work of the Cause in order to enable it to give to the whole world its light, you set spiritual machinery at work. For to give is to receive, Bahá'u'lláh teaches. Be like the spring, forever giving out and being refreshed from a deeper source. To give in the truest analysis is to confer on yourself. God, the great giver, the everlasting giver, the all-possessing never permits us to give Him anything, for every gesture of giving we make to Him, even to giving our lives to Him, He returns a thousand

fold in blessings tangible and intangible, which He showers upon us.

(To be continued)

BRITISH GUIANA

AN historic Teaching Week-end School was held in Georgetown on April 16th-18th, a very happy week-end school with a session on teaching sandwiched in the middle of it. There was also an unexpected declaration, from yet another blind man, who has been asked to study a little more.

"There were 35 present, and we were happy to receive a cable from the National Assembly, a letter from the N.S.A. of Brazil and the good wishes of our own committee, for which we are very grateful; in fact it was a most auspicious beginning. We soon got into the spirit of teaching and learning, it is strange how you learn a different thing every time you read the same verse.

On our second day, Allan Armogum gave his talk on the administration and further study on that subject continued until our mid-day break, after which we had Ivan Fraser's talk; then we went on to 'Our experiences as a Bahá'í.'

On the whole, it was a very successful week-end, better than most of us expected, having reckoned without the spirit of unity that is generated when Bahá'ís meet and everybody is keen to have a repeat when our next holiday time comes along."

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN
AMERICAN COMMITTEE

RESERVATION FORM

Registrar: Mrs. Jean Pitcher, Ger-y-nant, Talybont, Merioneth.

This portion to be filled in by those wishing to reside at Coleg Harlech

Please reserve accommodation for:—

Sex

Age if
under 21

Names and Addresses

Day and date
of arrival

Day and date
of departure

I enclose £1 per person deposit (non-returnable)..... DATE.....

SIGNED.....

ADDRESS

WEEKLY RATE

Adults £9/10/0

Children:—

3—8 years £5/0/0

8—14 years £6/0/0

Under 3 years £1/15/0

DAILY RATE:—

Full board (24 hours) £1/15/0

Bed and Breakfast £1/5/0

REGISTRATION FEE:—

(Non-resident) Adults £1/0/0

Accommodation strictly limited to 12 children each week, friends with children are asked to book early.

A list of outside accommodation can be obtained from the Registrar.

Coleg Harlech has requested that no pets be brought to the school.

The College has also requested that no motor caravans be parked permanently in the College courtyard. There is a Caravan site available near the beach.

To facilitate Secretarial work please return this portion of the form with Registration Fee.

This portion to be filled in by those wishing to attend Summer School but who are arranging their own accommodation outside.

I should like to attend the sessions at Summer School from August 21st to September 4th, 1965.

I shall be alone/accompanied by.....
(State name and age if under 14 years for class information)

NAME

I enclose Registration fee:

ADDRESS.....

Please post to the Registrar.