

# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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## Teaching Conference—Manchester

1st and 2nd January, 1966

### Cable to the Conference :

RECALL WITH PRIDE LEADERSHIP BRITISH BAHÁ'IS PIONEER FIELD  
CONFIDENT COMMUNITY SO DEAR HEART BELOVED GUARDIAN  
ENTRUSTED CARE SACRED RESTING PLACE WILL ARISE MEET  
IMMEDIATE CHALLENGE PLAN MANNER BEFITTING GLORIOUS  
DESTINY STOP ASSURE FERVENT LOVING PRAYERS

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

This faced us when we arrived. This galvanised a community grown conscious of its blessings and responsibilities. This was what we consulted about. This was—thank God—what all participants acted upon.

We were greatly blessed by the presence of two of the Hands of the Cause of God, Mr. John Ferraby and Mr. Faizi. After the first devotional programme, John Ferraby, in opening the Conference, spoke of the first one ever held in Manchester in 1946 and how that event had been a turning-point in the fortunes and the history of the Faith in Britain. He said the spirit of the Faith had never been more needed that it was now, and all our past work had been preparing the way for great developments.

We were told also that the glorious destiny of the British Bahá'í Community had been earned for it by the devotion and courage of its earlier warriors; that—unlike a conferred destiny—it could be lost if we failed to be worthy of the standards set for us. If we could be worthy, then this same British Bahá'í Community, could play a notable part in the building up of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh.

### EXCEPTIONAL PRESENTATION

With these soul-stirring ideals before us, all proceeded to discuss the practical means whereby our goals could be won, and we were given a truly brilliant visual

presentation of the Home Front goals.

A long row of blackboards, set close together and covered with black cloth, faced the audience from behind the speakers' table. On this, the representative of each of the various Teaching Committees would place 'stick-ons': brightly coloured symbols, red and yellow triangles, circles and green and red squares, representing maintained assemblies, lapsed assemblies, goal towns, temple sites, endowments and so on. When all had finished we had a very clear picture of the numerical state of the community less than four months before Ridván. We were able to see our total commitments in the 9-Year Plan laid out before us.

Since last Ridván, 82 pioneer offers had been made and 17 of them worked out to a successful move. Before us were no less than 33 gaps in assemblies on the Home Front alone.

### MASS CONVERSION THE AIM

After lunch, Mr. Faizi spoke to us about pioneering and said that mass conversion was the ultimate aim of all Bahá'í teaching activities throughout the world. The Master had said it would take place in some countries without any conditions, but that in others, certain conditions would have to be fulfilled first. 'Love and unity amongst the believers': this was one of the conditions.

During all this time the pressure was rising, and when our National Secretary pointed out that, far from being slow off the mark in the 9-Year Plan, we were one of the first national communities to take action, this was a foretaste of what the assembled friends were waiting for.

The National Treasurer spoke about the financial requirements of these goals and the mounting balance of the Capital Projects Fund. Unwilling to be 'adorned' merely with 'words' the floor voted that opportunity for immediate contribution to the Fund be given to all, and a receptacle was placed on the table for donations. By the end of the Conference over £250 had been given, £16 of which—the initial donation—was from the York Youth Winter School, held just the week beforehand.

It was pointed out that the strength of the whole community at the beginning of the Six Year Plan in 1944 was less than the number of believers and assemblies now established in Scotland alone; although a correspondingly vaster undertaking was before us, we had indeed an incomparably greater pool of manpower and of experience upon which we could draw.

But we departed for our beds uneasy.

### CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE

Sunday morning brought forth the results of many anxious prayers. We commenced—after devotions and a sharing of greetings to the Con-



ference from overseas—with a re-study of that trust placed in us by the Universal House of Justice: 'CONFIDENT COMMUNITY... WILL ARISE MEET IMMEDIATE CHALLENGE PLAN MANNER BEFITTING GLORIOUS DESTINY...'

Two hundred pioneers are required to fill goals between now and 21st April throughout the Bahá'í world. Our share of this spiritual tidal wave is twenty individuals to move to overseas posts.

We were told that the participation of every believer in achieving the goals was of the utmost importance and was a source of vitality and power yet unknown to us. We could not all pioneer, but we could all pray. We could contribute to the Fund and we could fight our own spiritual battles. If everyone would do this, we would be astonished at the power which would accrue to the whole body of the Cause and which would stimulate greater growth.

We were told this in a letter from the Universal House of Justice written in September, 1964.

Now they began — 'We are Bahá'u'lláh. We can only follow in His path' — the pioneer offers came from all over the floor. New believers, the aged; pioneers of experience offering to 'up-roots' once more, students, families, those burdened by difficulties and ties — and those with less.

The Conference cabled to the Universal House of Justice:

INSPIRED BY CABLES PRESENCE  
BELOVED HANDS FAIZI AND  
FERRABY STOP  
29 ADULTS 6 YOUTH ARISEN  
OVERSEAS GOALS AND HOME  
FRONT STOP  
FILLED ENTHUSIASM LOVE  
BAHA'U'LLAH STOP  
BEESECH PRAYERS SHRINES  
ACCOMPLISHMENT ALL GOALS  
BRITISH TEACHING CONFERENCE

This was—is—but a beginning; cannot be a complete expression of our love and devotion to the Cause of God. Mr. Faizi told us that 'Abdu'l-Bahá had once said that, up to the present cycle, it had not been permitted that man should try God; that now he should—and see what happened. Our beloved Hand went on to speak of the Command and the Creation of the Manifestations. When They command, They create first the conditions for the achievement of Their commands. They will not command until the conditions are ready.

### "THE MESSENGER IS COMING"

During the time between His imprisonment in the Siyáh Chál of Teherán and His declaration in Bagdad, Bahá'u'lláh was preparing

people by His letters and discourses, so that some, at least, would recognise Him. When these people were created, then the declaration took place.

The Tablets to the kings of the earth were all written in Adrianople. Some were sent from there; others were kept and sent from Akka, because those who could take them were not created. When the Tablet of the Sháh of Persia was revealed, Badi was not yet a Bahá'í; he was still a Muslim boy. Others begged the Blessed Beauty to allow them to take it, but He replied "No. The messenger is coming."

When He revealed the Universal House of Justice, the believers became very excited and asked when it would be established. Bahá'u'lláh told them that the time was not then ripe, the men were not created, the time would come. The Ten Year Crusade signalled that the world had become ready.

### THE BAHÁ'Í YOUTH

A very large proportion of the participants were youth or young adults. They too were not to be out-shone. Their projects are ambitious, their enthusiasm infectious, their future full of promise; indeed, much of what is being done to-day would not have been accomplished but for their spirit of audacity.

They asked for suggestions on their careers: occupations that would enable them to serve the Cause more advantageously, and also about schemes for training Bahá'í youth as teachers of the Faith.

It was called to mind that the beloved Guardian had encouraged the youth everywhere to complete their studies and become qualified in some profession initially, and only then enter the pioneer field. Also, while they were studying — the chance of helping spread the knowledge of the Faith through participation in some of the activities of the Voluntary Services.

Representatives of the Youth Committees shared with the friends their plans for Youth Projects during the spring and summer vacation periods; visiting in groups to assist weak assemblies and going to the northern islands.

### BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN

It was during the Youth session that a plea was made for those who will, in the process of time, become Bahá'í Youth: the children. Happily our Bahá'í family is increasing so fast that there is now a sufficient body of Bahá'í children for something to be organised successfully for them on a national

level; a Child Education Committee has been appointed from whom parents will be hearing concrete news.

Mr. Faizi said that the education of children was very important; modern systems have taught them to fight against Nature, but not against themselves. The Bahá'í principles of education were only gradually being codified from the Writings. Education by the parents means that the child must be taught manners and obedience before he learns to read and write.

When he spoke of our Bahá'í community life, offering his immense wisdom and learning with such humility, we felt that we, too, could perceive the door to the Kingdom:

To bear in mind our equality as Bahá'ís; to eliminate all those petty differences which will so impede our work—there must be no dominating personalities—to be forgetful of self.

Never to presume to judge the receptivity of others to the message of God, but to be as free as the wind in our presentation of the Glad Tidings.

To be patient and never over-anxious for the harvest.

Above all, to accept the benediction of the 19-Day Feast as the source of purification for our souls.

### RELENTLESS PERSISTENT TEACHING

After a fitting devotional period, we set off, bidding each other lingering farewell. We felt this had been not only a memorable Teaching Conference, but a momentous one. Will it be said that this inspiring week-end was a turning point in the development of the British Bahá'í Community?

It could well be so. Now to act 'as if all had already been accomplished.'

But not until we had returned to our homes and, still flushed and excited, were sharing the spirit of that spiritual gathering with the friends unable to be physically present, did the answer of God's House of Justice confirm our determination and fortify our hearts:

THRILLED SUCCESS TEACHING  
CONFERENCE BRILLIANT SPIRIT  
BRITISH FRIENDS URGE RAPID  
SETTLEMENT PIONEERS RELENT-  
LESS PERSISTENT TEACHING  
CONSOLIDATION ENABLE MUCH  
LOVED EVERADVANCING COM-  
MUNITY COMPLETE ASSIGNED  
TASKS EXTEND ASSISTANCE  
WORLD WIDE OBJECTIVES NINE  
YEAR PLAN STOP  
ASSURE LOVING PRAYERS  
BOUNTIFUL CONFIRMATIONS.

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

Thanks be to God that we had attained.



# NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY'S NEWS LETTER

## FOUR SWIFTLY PASSING MONTHS

The following cable, dated December 10th, 1965, from the Universal House of Justice, was shared with the Friends who attended Teaching Conference, and the wonderful opportunity is now given to everyone to respond to this international pioneer appeal. Those who long to take part in this great uprising of pioneers but cannot go overseas, can still have the joy of carrying forward the Standard of Bahá'u'lláh by pioneering on the Home Front. Further details about overseas and homefront pioneering can be obtained from the Secretary of the Pioneer Committee, to whom all pioneer offers should be made: Mrs. Margaret Bachrich, 19 The Orchard, Tayleshill, Ewell, Surrey.

ANNOUNCE ALL BELIEVERS REJOICE RESPONSE BAHÁ'Í WORLD PIONEER CALL RAISED RIDVAN MESSAGE REQUIRING 460 PIONEERS COURSE CURRENT YEAR STOP THUS FAR 93 SETTLED POSTS INCLUDING 15 VIRGIN TERRITORIES ST. ANDRES ISLAND PROVIDENCIA ISLAND M A R M A R A CHAD NIGER CAYMAN ISLANDS TURKS AND CAICOS ISCHIA GOTLAND ALASKA PENINSULA BARBUDA ST. KITTS-NEVIS INNER HEBRIDES BORNHOLM CAPRI 35 ADDITIONAL SETTLED SAME GOALS. 167 MORE ARISEN AND IN PROCESS SETTLING TOTALLING 295 SOULS RESPONDED CALL STOP FURTHER 200 BELIEVERS NEEDED NEXT FOUR SWIFTLY PASSING MONTHS FILL REMAINING GOALS STOP FATE PIONEER PLAN HANGING BALANCE PRAYING FERVENTLY HOLY SHRINES REQUIRED NUMBER HEROIC SOULS PROMPTLY ARISE MEET CHALLENGE CRITICAL HOUR URGE NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES NEEDING FUNDS EXECUTE ASSIGNMENTS APPLY IMMEDIATELY INTERNATIONAL DEPUTIZATION FUND STOP IMPERATIVE SETTLE ALL TERRITORIES ANNOUNCED RIDVAN EXCEPT THOSE DEPENDENT FAVOURABLE CIRCUMSTANCES STOP VIRGIN AND RESETTLEMENT TERRITORIES PRIORITY STOP CONFIDENT SPIRIT DEVOTION FRIENDS GLORIOUS FAITH ENSURE BRILLIANT VICTORY THIS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE SO VITAL NINE YEAR PLAN UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

## HANDS OF THE CAUSE OF GOD

The National Assembly was delighted to welcome to the British Isles the Hand of the Cause of God, Mr. A. Q. Faizi, who extended his

stay here, especially to be able to attend Teaching Conference. Together with the Hand of the Cause, Mr. John Ferraby, Mr. Faizi spent two days at the Youth Winter School in York before they both went on to Teaching Conference in Manchester. Mr. Ferraby made a highly successful tour of the South of England during the first three weeks of December, which was warmly appreciated.

## DECLARATIONS

The National Assembly is delighted to welcome to the Faith Mrs. Mary M. Dickson, Mrs. Janet and Mr. Tait Hale, Mrs. Alison and Mr. James Walker, Mr. Adam Forbes and Miss Janet Forbes (Youth), all of Edinburgh; Mrs. Christine Dee (Youth) and Mr. Mervyn Dee of Sheffield; Mrs. Joan E. Scanes and Mr. Walter E. Haynes, both of Romford; Miss Gai Lin Low and Mr. Graham Davie (Youth), both of Burnley; Mr. David C. Jenkerson (Youth) of Oxford; Mrs. Hilda and Mr. Ernest Carter of Warlingham; Miss Elaine Hayward of Macclesfield; Mr. Brian Leach of Chester; Mrs. Florence Fairclough of Manchester; Mr. Charles C. Oldfield of Thames Ditton; Mrs. Doreen Buckley of Earby, Nr. Colne; Mrs. Avril Roberts of Newcastle and Miss Valerie Jones of Brighton, both Youth claiming voting rights; Mr. Rasheed Ali, Mr. Theobald Bowman, Miss Jessica Levy, all of East Coast Demerara, British Guiana; and Mrs. Thelma G. Appollo and Miss Janette McDonald, both of East Bank, Demerara. B.G. Since their acceptance in Sheffield, Christine and Mervyn Dee have left for Australia, so strengthening our links with the Bahá'í Community.

## OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Miss Ethel Bird of Norwich, on 5th November, 1965. Ethel was the first Bahá'í of Norfolk origin, she accepted the Faith during the historic Six Year Plan, the Plan which the beloved Guardian said earned the British Community its destiny, and she saw the Bahá'í Community develop through almost twenty years. The passing last month of another believer, Miss Toni Cooper of Salisbury, came at the end of a long illness, endured with faith and steadfastness. Recalling Bahá'u'lláh's reference in 'The Hidden Words' to death as a 'Messenger of joy,' our hearts are comforted and uplifted as we realise the joy which these dear souls will have found in the Abhá Kingdom.

## COMMITTEES

### SALES COMMITTEE

A new Sales Committee has been appointed, its membership being Mrs. Vera Long, Miss Gwen Prince and Mr. Felix Balyúzi; it will handle the sale of all items except printed matter normally dealt with by the Publishing Trust. Orders previously sent to Mrs. Rose Wade for such things as photographs of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, of the Guardian's Grave and of Bahá'í Temples, ring stones, etc., should now go to Miss Gwen Prince, 4 Barrington Road, Stoneygate, Leicester.

### PROCLAMATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Weston Huxtable of Dublin was unable to serve on this Committee, but we are happy to announce that Miss Madeline Thomson of Edinburgh has accepted to serve in his stead.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

We regret that the name of Mrs. Mehrangiz Munsiff was omitted from those Friends who are giving valuable help to the National Assembly in this field; our thanks to Mehrangiz for her work.

### JOURNAL COMMITTEE

The membership of the newly appointed Journal Committee is Mrs. Olive McKinley, Mr. Charles Macdonald, Mr. Adib Táherzadeh and Mr. Hugh McKinley, with Hugh acting as Editor in place of Mr. Richard Backwell. Stimulating reports of Bahá'í activity, clearly expressed and not too long, will be much appreciated, and accompanying photographs should be black-and-white, glossy, of good definition. Local Assemblies and all national Committees are particularly urged to send news regularly to the Bahá'í Journal. All items should be sent direct to Hugh McKinley, whose address is Rosslare House, Sligo, Eire.

## VISITS TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Now that the British Community is growing so much bigger, it is essential that all Bahá'ís wishing to visit another local Community shall carry, and present immediately upon arrival, some form of up-to-date Bahá'í credential. Local Assemblies should provide short letters of introduction for any member of their Community who has not had an international credential card (the small green credential card signed by the National Secretary which is now sent to each new believer by the N.S.A.), or whose international credential card is out of date. This is not intended to be a restriction on your movements, but rather it



is the privilege of every Bahá'í to carry a "Bahá'í passport" when visiting another Community.

A number of Friends have expressed to us concern that Bahá'ís have arrived suddenly, unannounced on the doorstep, expecting hospitality and perhaps accommodation, and sometimes the visitor has had no identification. This has all caused embarrassment and sometimes unhappiness. The Edinburgh Assembly has written to us specially about this, as their Community is delighted to meet Bahá'í visitors, to provide hospitality and, if circumstances permit, accommodation, but they cannot offer accommodation unless the visitor writes to them beforehand about the proposed visit, and also presents a Bahá'í credential upon arrival. The National Assembly urges all Bahá'ís who travel to refrain from embarrassing other Bahá'ís in this way.

## VOTING RIGHTS

The National Assembly announces with regret the removal of the voting rights of Mr. John (Jack) H. Steed of London, Mrs. Beatrice Smith and Mr. Louis Ross-Enfield of Manchester.

## TEACHING SUCCESS IN RODRIGUEZ ISLAND

Everyone will remember the joyful news which was announced at Teaching Conference 1965 which was that two believers in Mauritius, Mr. R. Muree and Mr. V. Runghen, had arisen to pioneer to Rodriguez.

This island is 2,000 miles east of the African coast in the middle of the Indian Ocean, and to bring the Faith there for the first time is the task of the N.S.A. of the Indian Ocean (in Mauritius), assisted by the British Community. Progress in this lonely little island is, therefore, of special interest to us all.

On arrival there, our pioneers, who are Primary School teachers by profession, found their task made difficult by a population almost 100% Roman Catholic and also addicted to alcohol.

Despite this, we have heard that a couple, indigenous to the island, have just declared their faith in Bahá'u'lláh; these are Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Augustine. The pioneers are now confident they will achieve a full Assembly by next Ridván.

## AFRICA & PACIFIC COMMITTEE

# International News

## VIETNAM

Via Somalia and the Netherlands comes the news that by October last the number of believers in Vietnam had risen to 40,000.

## SOUTH PACIFIC

Beloved Hand of the Cause, Miss Agnes Alexander, now 90 years old, visited Tokyo to attend the World Esperanto Congress in July. Unfortunately while there she had a fall and had to stay in hospital for some time, but has made good progress.

## MALAYSIA

After the opening of the new Bahá'í Centre at Sungei Gaat/Ulu Kapit/Sarawak, three of the friends, Mrs. Grete Fozdar, Krishnan and Lalok tracked through miles of jungle path and rubber plantations to visit five "long-houses," from which they returned with a total of 114 declarations!

## AUSTRALIA

A Memorial Service to commemorate the Hands of the Cause, Henry and Clara Hyde-Dunn, was held in July last on the completion of their beautiful gravestone. Father Dunn, who met the Master, then married "Mother" Dunn and pioneered to Australia in 1920.

The following passage appears in October BAHÁ'Í BULLETIN of Australia, quoted from BAHÁ'Í NEWS of July, 1957:—

"The Friends must realise their individual responsibility. Each must hold a fireside in his or her home, once in 19 days, where new people are invited, and where some phase of the Faith is mentioned and discussed. If this is done with the intent of showing Bahá'í hospitality and love then there will be results. People will become interested in "what" you are interested in, and then be interested in studying. Individual firesides will bring the knowledge of the Faith to more people, under favourable circumstances, and thus constantly enrich its circle of friends, and finally its members. There is no substitute for the teaching work of the individual."

Letter written on behalf of the Guardian.

## FRANCE

Professor Probst, honorary doctor of medicine and member of the Institut de Sociologie, wrote as follows in the "Messenger" of

Antibes - Juan - les - Pins on 12th February, 1957:—

"... Desiring unity, the Báb Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the Founders of the Bahá'í World Faith, wrote and taught, long before the Great War (1914-18); when no one in Europe was thinking of world unity, they said: 'Be united, O kings of the earth, for thereby will the tempest of discord be stilled amongst you, and your peoples find rest... Should any one among you take up arms against another, rise ye all against him, for this is naught but manifest justice...!'"

"One should not suppose that this prophecy was unknown to the governments and religious authorities of the world at that time, for, many years before the War, Bahá'u'lláh had sent out from Acca, his place of exile, formal letters to the 'Sovereigns' of the world, and these ideals were discussed everywhere, even in America. He foresaw a World Federation of all peoples and particularly a United States of Europe, long before the great leaders of the present day did so."

## GERMANY

A report on the success of the Bahá'í bookstall at the 1965 Frankfurt Book Fair says: "It was quite clear that an increasing number of people were becoming conscious of the Bahá'í Faith as a firmly founded institution; the name is known to many, an astonishing number of people had already been in closer contact with the teachings and many more knew the World Centre of the Faith." The Bahá'í Temple at Langenhain is undoubtedly one of the causes and this continues to be visited by scores of people, including, last October, a group of 30 evangelical clergymen with their wives, who were holding a conference in the neighbourhood.

## ITALY

Through the German Bahá'í Nachrichten comes the news of a youth from Bari, whose death brought six new believers to the Faith. While attending Summer School, Pietro Mazzacane and his sister were knocked down by a car passing in front of the building. He was killed outright and she had to spend over six months in hospital. Pietro was the only Bahá'í in his family. He had brought with him to Summer School his friend Mario Morano, and the latter was so impressed by the attitude of the Bahá'ís to the accident that he declared a week later, in order to carry on his dead friend's work. He



is at present Secretary of the Italian Nat. Youth Committee. A few months later Pietro's mother declared. She took his place on the Local Assembly. The third member of the family was Dina, a sister who had already been interested in the Cause, and who soon afterwards became engaged to Mario, thus giving the family a new son. The next to declare was Pietro's elder sister, who had been rather unfriendly to the Faith and wondered why Pietro wanted to attend the Summer School. The fifth member of the family was the younger sister, who had spent so long in hospital and whose declaration was received with tears of joy. Finally two other friends of Pietro's became Bahá'ís, who had previously been taught by him. His mother recently had a dream, in which she saw her son watering the flowers in a garden, and she knew that the meaning of this dream must be that he was now watering the flowers of the hearts of those in his family with the Water of Life.

#### UGANDA AND CENTRAL AFRICA

We reprint here the final words of Isobel Sabri's stirring description of the family's visit to the Holy Places in Persia:

"When one is on the soil of Persia, one is more than ever before impressed with the knowledge that we all have the great responsibility of proving ourselves worthy of the sacrifices in blood and life which have been made for our sake. The sufferings and martyrdom of the Manifestation of God Himself, the slaughter of His early followers, the ceaseless harassment of His Community into the present day, the imprisonment and exile of Bahá'u'lláh—all these were bourn in upon us. We are not called upon by God to give our life's blood in this day, but we are called upon to give with all the power in us, our life's energy for His sake. Let us ensure that our offering in energy and work for His Cause is not less complete than their offering in blood and sacrifice. The people of the world are desperately seeking to find Him. We have the gift of spiritual life for them; let us give it with all our hearts, our minds and our life's energy."

#### ALASKA

From the friends of Alaska comes the news of participation in a Fourth of July Parade with a Bahá'í Float, built by the committees of Juneau and Auke Bay, and demonstrating in a most graphic way the oneness of mankind. This colourful float, which won a \$25.00 prize under the category of Most

International Patriotic, brought much publicity to the Faith. More people than usual turned out in pouring rain to see the parade and, for those who stayed at home, it was also televised.

It is interesting to note that because many areas are sparsely populated, it will be necessary to establish assemblies in nearly all the towns and villages of Alaska with even so few as 150 inhabitants in order that the goals of the Nine Year Plan be fulfilled!

#### BRITISH HONDURAS

Mrs. Edith McLaren, secretary of the Comite Pro Metas Belize, in Guatemala, has spent nearly three weeks with the friends of Belize,

Orange Walk and Burrell Boom. Rain made some of the roads impassable, so she was not able to go everywhere that she had planned.

The National Teaching Committee have chosen for their goals of Local Assemblies to be formed in April, 1966, the following places:

Orange Walk, Roaring Creek, and either Bermudian Landing or Punta Gorda for the third. It is obvious that much work must be done in the remaining four months. Shirley Warde of Belize will devote full time to the teaching work in Orange Walk and Bermudian Landing. Two of the believers from Burrell Boom where there is a Local Assembly, will spend a week in Punta Gorda, where they know many people.

## NEWS of the Communities

### INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION YEAR in Bangor, Co. Down

The Bahá'ís in Belfast, Green-island and Bangor all worked together to run a Coffee Party and a 'Bring and Buy' sale in October, and also to run a shop for the whole of United Nations Week. The overall results did much to increase the prestige of the Faith in Bangor, bringing to many for the first time some knowledge that the Faith works towards international understanding and the unity of mankind.

Gifts were accepted by the Deputy Mayoress, who said a few words, as did the U.N.A. Public Relations Officer, who thanked the Bahá'ís for their efforts in raising funds for I.C.Y. About 150 people came along, and the various stalls raised a grand total of £50. We found that we had more friends than we knew, who all wanted to help with gifts, or come for coffee, on receipt of their printed invitations; some of them helped to make and to serve the coffee.

The Shop was opened by the Deputy Mayor, who stayed to chat for half an hour. On sale were U.N.I.C.E.F. cards, which brought the people in (£30 worth were sold!) and then visitors saw a display of pictures of the work of U.N. Agencies. Three schools sent classes along and all twenty-five churches were requested to announce the occasion. One fireside was held there one afternoon; other sellers became firmer friends and some of these, when asked who put on the display, had to apologise that they could not give any information about the Faith!

No mention was made in early press publicity that it was the

Bahá'ís who were opening the shop, as there are deep religious prejudices still in N. Ireland. However, there was a friendly account and a picture in the newspaper afterwards, and this made it quite clear who was responsible.

#### ROMFORD

With the re-organisation of the New London Boroughs the town of Romford has now become part of the London Borough of Havering. The new plans mean that the neighbouring town of Hornchurch also becomes part of the new Borough. In view of this the Romford friends recently decided that it would be appropriate to extend their teaching activities to Hornchurch.

Invitations were sent to all the local religious and social organisations and press releases were sent to the three local newspapers. Two of the three newspapers printed the releases almost word for word whilst the third published their own article.

The speaker at the meeting was Mrs. Betty Reed and the Chairman was Mr. Earl Cameron. The meeting was held, perhaps significantly, in the "Persian Room," which is situated over a Coffee Bar. There were nine enquirers present at the meeting and the discussion which followed Betty's talk had to be drawn to a close due to the lateness of the hour.

The proprietor of the Coffee Bar refused to accept payment for the use of the room and insisted on providing the refreshments free of charge with an invitation for the Bahá'ís to use the room again. Two of the local newspapers had sent photographers along and Betty was interviewed before the talk by a reporter. A report was subsequently printed in one of the papers and



each carried a photograph of the Chairman and Speaker.

The meeting was considered to be a great success; in all, twenty-seven column inches of free publicity were obtained, enabling a considerable number of people to become familiar, in some degree, with the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

## LONDON

(1) On Saturday, November 13th, a party was held at the Haziratu'l-Quds in Knightsbridge, to honour the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh. It was held a day late, in order to accommodate the V.I.P.'s who had been invited for an afternoon celebration—about 50 children of Bahá'í parents, from London and neighbouring communities, as well as some of their non-Bahá'í friends. First of all, there was a marvellous Fancy Dress Parade—nearly all National Costumes, and after the march past, each child stepped forward to ask, "From which country do I come?" Then John Morley read the narrative for a playlet of "The Good Samaritan," with an obvious moral for Bahá'í children, to do good to anybody of any race or nationality. The players performed with great aplomb, especially the little donkey, wearing a pair of fine long ears.

Then followed a big "Party" tea, with lots of cakes, orangeades and sweets.

(2) At the present time, London's teaching activities are being stepped up towards the goal of the Borough Assemblies which it is hoped to form next Ridván. In addition to maintaining the usual coffee evenings and public meetings twice weekly at the Knightsbridge Centre, the number of weekly firesides has been increased, and introductory public meetings have been held in Finsbury Park, and in Stepney. In other teaching areas books are being presented to hospital and municipal libraries.

West London has, of course, had regular public meetings in Ealing for over two years, during the course of which, publicity has been obtained in 6 local papers, either by way of reports of meetings, local events, letters, or by personal contact. Recently a teaching college outside the area, apportioned to various students the task of writing reports on various aspects of life in the Borough of Ealing. Two women students chose "Religious" activities in the Borough, and tackled the local Town Hall list of religious organisations, from which they obtained the address of a local Bahá'í, and made contact with us, by calling at the home of the believer. They have had literature, and attended one of the meetings, and we hope that their report will bring the Faith to the attention of a wider circle.

## GOAL TOWNS: ST. NEOTS

On April 1st, 1965, the new administrative County of Huntingdon and Peterborough came into being. One of the goals of the Nine Year Plan is the establishment of a local assembly in every County in England, and as the L.S.A. of Peterborough fulfills this requirement in the new County, St. Neots has been withdrawn from the list of goal towns in which a new assembly is to be formed.

## NEW TERRITORY NEWS

### ADVERTISING IN STAFFORD

An advertisement, bearing a list of Bahá'í principles with an enquiry address, appeared in the Stafford Newsletter in October last, inserted by our pioneer there. It is being followed by fortnightly insertions, dealing with each principle in turn.

### CHANNEL ISLES

Jersey has been chosen by the N.S.A. as the island on which a Local Spiritual Assembly is to be established during the Nine Year Plan.

Winter conditions make travel between Jersey and Guernsey difficult, and sometimes impossible; but this does not prevent the Bahá'ís on the two islands from holding a 'joint' Nineteen Day Feast. Details of the Feast are arranged well in advance, so that the friends, although on separate islands, may draw inspiration from the same prayers and writings, and meditate on the same theme. In particular they pray for the unity of the islands, and of the Bahá'ís there.

Emily Eastgate has spent nearly three weeks in the Channel Isles, visiting the pioneers and their friends. She obtained an interview with the sub-editor of a local newspaper, and visited the beautiful islands of Herm and Sark, offering prayers in the churches there.

### PRESENT POSITION IN GOAL TOWNS

#### 1st Phase Towns:

Stafford 2	Carlisle 7
Bedford 2	(inc. 4 Youth)
Oakham 2	Poole 5
Lincoln 2	Isle of Wight
Bath 4	(1 Youth)
Ipswich 0	Jersey 3
	Guernsey 1

#### 2nd Phase Towns:

Kidderminster 0	Hereford 0
Derby 1 (plus 1 Youth)	Shrewsbury 0
	Durham 1
	Kendal 0

Friends are asked to contact the Pioneer Committee as the first step to pioneering.

### NEW TERRITORIES TEACHING COMMITTEE

## REMOVAL OF VOTING RIGHTS

The removal of voting rights is an administrative sanction, it is not excommunication. A believer who has had his/her voting rights removed is still a Bahá'í. It is, however, a very serious step indeed. As well as being removed from the voting list, which means that the believer without voting rights is not eligible to be elected to a local assembly, or as a delegate to Convention, or to the National Assembly or the Universal House of Justice, the removal of voting rights brings other sanctions. Shoghi Effendi's guidance on this matter is to be found on p. 86 of "Principles of Bahá'í Administration," under the heading "Effect of Deprivation," and reads as follows:

"Regarding the matter of believers who have been deprived of their voting rights; just as no one should ever be deprived of his voting right lightly, it should, likewise, be realised that to be deprived of it is a grave matter, and involving heavy penalties spiritually. People who have been so deprived should not be permitted to attend any meetings involving the administration of the Cause, such as an election or a Nineteen Day Feast. They can attend the Nine Holy Days however; they should not be married by Bahá'í Law, no money should be accepted from them, they should not be given credentials (which imply a member of the community in good standing) nor should they be used officially as teachers or speakers."

The National Assembly is always reluctant to remove a believer's voting rights, and tries by every possible means, sometimes over periods of many months, to help the Friends to make the necessary adjustments in their lives so that the removal of voting rights is not necessary. When all efforts are to no avail, however, voting rights are removed. When a Law of Bahá'u'lláh is deliberately violated, such as the Law requiring parental consent to marriage and a Bahá'í marriage ceremony, then there is no alternative but to remove the believer's voting rights. The National Assembly asks everyone carefully to note all this, especially the heavy spiritual penalties involved, for a believer without voting rights is deprived of playing a full part in Bahá'í Community life, and his/her services to the Faith are very much restricted. Voting rights can be restored whenever the believer has corrected that action which was the cause of their removal, and the National Assembly always welcomes the opportunity to restore a believer's voting rights.



## NEWS FROM IRELAND

The highlight of the events in Ireland has been the visit on 3rd to 4th January of the Hand of the Cause of God, Mr. Faizi, who was accompanied by Mrs. Faizi. Words fail us to convey the joy and blessings which it brought to the whole Irish Community, both North and South. This visit, which was a great spiritual experience for one and all was, undoubtedly, a bounty from Bahá'u'lláh which will strengthen us for the difficult tasks which lie ahead.

We rejoice in the arrival of John and Val Morley, who are pioneering to Dublin, in order to consolidate this community, which is the mother-assembly of Eire. It will have an important role to play in helping to form the National Spiritual Assembly of Eire towards the end of the Nine Year Plan. Val and John are residing in the Irish Haziratu'l-Quds. The Irish Teaching Committee welcome them and wish them every success in the promotion of the Cause in this country.

The borough of Dun Laoghaire was opened on January 1st by Adib Táherzádeh. We pray that the Cause will now go forward in this goal town.

In Northern Ireland the Faith is generally progressing. The great need there is for a pioneer for the goal town of Lurgan and a second one for Londonderry.

One of the goals of the United States N.S.A., in the message of the Universal House of Justice last Ridván is to provide two pioneers for Eire. We ask the friends to pray at the Nineteen Day Feast that two friends may arise to fulfil this important goal, and also for the goals of Lurgan and Londonderry.

All offers of pioneering from outside Ireland should be made through the Pioneer Committee.

Believers from Castlereagh Rural District, after consultation with the I.T.C., have now organised themselves into a formal Bahá'í Group, and are holding their own Firesides every week and observing the 19-day Feasts.

They have reported that Firesides are well attended and are usually of a stimulating nature. We look forward to even better news from them in the near future now that this Group has been strengthened by the pioneer move of Jamshíd Arjumandí.

Plans are afoot for an Irish Summer School to be held in 1966, if possible, and one on a much larger scale in 1967 in which believers from Great Britain will participate.

IRISH TEACHING COMMITTEE.

## YORK YOUTH WINTER SCHOOL 1965/6

Of all the winter schools that have been held in York, there was widespread agreement that this was the best ever. There is no doubt that what made for this great occasion was the presence of two Hands of the Cause, Mr. Faizi and Mr. Ferraby, for just half the week, giving their valuable explanations and advice to all and sundry, and contributing immeasurably to the atmosphere of love, enthusiasm and devotion.

The school began on Sunday and an interesting and varied programme was arranged for the whole week, the aim being to deepen our own knowledge of the Faith, especially of its history, and to see more clearly the place of the Faith, and of ourselves as Bahá'ís to-day, in the world around us. It was also hoped that through Ernest Gregory's self-expression classes and the opportunity given for several youths to gain experience by talking to an audience for the first time, some new young speakers would appear, and this expectation was fully realised.

Two non-Bahá'í speakers told us of organisations which, like the Bahá'ís, foster international aid and co-operation on a practical level, the International Voluntary Service, and the United Nations, whose role in the modern world was explained by Dennis Finlayson.

On Wednesday evening a fancy-dress ball was held, with the theme 'Robin Hood and his Merry Men'. All one could say was that if anyone

had met that collection of Arabs, Eskimoes, Pirates, Gypsies and Christmas trees in Nottingham Forest in King John's day it would have been quite a shock. However, the evening was very successful, and of the four prizes awarded, one was to Robin Hood himself.

Thursday was devoted to the Hands of the Cause; Mr. Ferraby speaking in the morning on various topics, including the place of the Faith in helping more primitive peoples to adjust to modern society, which is an important factor in world civilisation. Mr. Faizi spoke in the afternoon about prayer, stressing the importance of praying, not to change God's Will, but to bring ourselves in harmony with it so that it is our will which is changed. He then gave an arrangement of the Hidden Words as a guide for spiritual progress, showing preparation, stop signals, and go signals, and what will be the result.

At the social in the evening there were singing and sketches, and the cries of "We want John" as John Twinome rose to heights of oratory, will echo for a long time.

For the last day of the school we heard two very good talks by Aldie Robarts and Derek Cockshut, and in the afternoon were roused to action, as we packed to depart for Teaching Conference, by Marion Hofman, leaving us in no doubt what was our purpose after leaving the happy atmosphere of the school.

## 'ALA ('LOFTINESS), THE MONTH OF THE FAST

March 2nd to March 20th

'Alá (Loftiness) is the nineteenth and last month of the Bahá'í year, it begins on March 2nd and ends on March 20th, and for those nineteen days the whole Bahá'í World keeps the Fast. No food or drink is taken between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

Those Friends who have not kept the Fast will want to know how it came about. It came from the Pen of Bahá'u'lláh Himself, who wrote in the "Kitáb-i-Aqdas," "We have commanded you to pray and fast from the beginning of maturity; this is ordained by God..." In another passage He says, "We have enjoined upon you fasting during a brief period, and at its close have designated for you Naw-Rúz as a feast..." Bahá'u'lláh also Himself fixed the age of maturity at which one may begin to keep the Fast, as "the fifteenth year." A brief passage from the book "Traveller's Narrative," describes the Fast with deep feeling, "The

cycle of the year ends with a period of nineteen days of fasting to prepare for the coming Naw Rúz, the New Year, when both the physical and spiritual beauty blend and we advance to another year in which to mature the soul and prepare 'for the everlasting kingdom'."

Those who have already kept the Fast will have experienced those moments of wonder as one says the Dawn Prayer actually at dawn, when the sky lightens and life stirs again after the night. Shoghi Effendi, in writing about the Fast, says, "It is essentially a period of meditation and prayer, of spiritual recuperation, during which the believer must strive to make the necessary readjustments in his inner life, and to refresh and reinvigorate the spiritual forces latent in his soul. Its significance and purposes are, therefore, fundamentally spiritual in character. Fasting is symbolic, and a reminder of abstinence from selfish and carnal desires."



## THE NATIONAL FUND

The National Assembly acknowledges gratefully the very real sacrifice which is made by many communities and individual believers in supporting the National Fund, and also the splendid effort made by the friends at Teaching Conference when over £350 was raised.

But now even greater efforts are needed because over the next few months fifty or more pioneers must arise and move to their posts in the Home Front gaps and in the vital overseas territories. Every one of these goals must be filled whatever the cost. The National Assembly calls on the British Bahá'í community to make whatever sacrifices may be needed to ensure that no Assembly is lost and no overseas goal left unfilled because of insufficient Funds. The Universal House of Justice has showered great praise on this community and entrusted it with equally great tasks. We can and must be worthy of this trust.

## THE MONTH OF THE FAST CONCLUDED

Certain people are not bound by the Fast, women who are pregnant or feeding babies, travellers, those who are ill, or those who are over the age of seventy; but those who are over seventy, wish to fast and are strong enough may do so, and travellers if they want to fast are free to do so.

### BAHA'I CALENDAR

#### 19-Day Feasts :

Mulk—Dominion : 7th February  
'Alá—Loftiness : 2nd March.

#### Intercalary Days : Ayyám'ihá.

26th February—March 1st.

Fest of Nawrúz—Bahá'í New Year :  
21st March

(This is also the 19-Day Feast of Bahá )

#### National Spiritual Assembly meetings :

26th/27th February. 8th/9th April.

## Income from Donations

Budget	Actual To Date
£10,000	£10,000
£9,000	£9,000
£8,000	£8,000
£7,970	£7,000
£7,000	£6,000
£6,000	£5,210
£5,000	£5,000
£4,000	£4,000
£3,000	£3,000
£2,000	£2,000
£1,000	£1,000
Gap £2,760	

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE No. 1 ACCOUNT

26th October, 1965, to 8th January, 1966 (inclusive)

INCOME			
Donations:—			
L.S.A.'s and Groups	...	£329 18 8	(45)*
Individuals	...	2,039 12 9	(147)
		£2,369 11 5	
Less Payments against Covenants		344 11 3	
		£2,025 0 2	
Interest and Dividends	...	201 17 10	
Refunds to us:—			
Loans	...	30 0 0	
Incorporation Expenses			
Sundry	...	4 17 0	
Tax (Covenants)	...	2,701 2 0	
Faroos	...	128 8 0	
Royalties	...	32 4 9	
Sales Committee	...	189 4 7	
		£5,312 14 4	

EXPENDITURE			
N.S.A.			
Travel	...	£173 8 10	
Telephone and Cables	...	8 4 11	
Office	...	424 8 0	
Postage and Stationery	...	22 14 9	
Convention	...	—	
Journal	...	69 2 7	
Extraordinary	...	76 1 9	
Legal	...	26 5 0	
A.A.T.C.	...	182 0 4	
N.T.T.C.	...	41 16 3	
Other Home Committees	...	75 2 3	
Overseas Committees	...	27 6 4	
Pioneer Committee	...	349 4 6	
Other Committees	...	3 8 6	
Youth Committee	...	65 0 8	
Sundry	...	21 2 0	
Incorp'n. Documents	...	25 15 0	
Transfer to No. 2 Account	...	59 4 6	
Monthly Transfers:			
H.Q.—Rprs. and Dec.	...	150 0 0	
—Running	...	300 0 0	
H.Q.—Dublin	...	126 0 0	
Donations	...	195 0 0	
Excess Income over Expenditure	...	2,891 8 2	
		£5,312 14 4	

\*Communities contributing: Bangor, Barrow Children, Belfast, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Brighton, Brighton Children, Birmingham, Caerphilly, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Derby, Dublin, Eccles, Edinburgh, Epsom, Exeter, Glasgow, Inverness, Jersey, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Malta, Motherwell, Nelson, Newcastle, N. Berwick, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Paignton, Pontypridd, Portsmouth, Romford, Salisbury, Sligo, Southport, Sutton Coldfield, Swansea, Swinton, Winchester, Wokingham R.D., York.

## BAHA'I ADDRESSES :

National Office : 27 Rutland Gate, LONDON, S.W. 7.

Pioneer Committee : Mrs. M. Bachrich, Secretary, 19 The Orchard, Tayleshill, EWELL, Surrey.

Bahá'í Journal Editorial : Hugh McKinley, Rosslare House, SLIGO, Eire.

Deadline—Arrival date for material for next number of the 'Journal' : 5th March, 1966.

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NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS  
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Please submit items

for the Journal, including articles, news and reports,

typed if possible

in double spacing and written on one side of the paper only, with a margin of at least an inch and a half on the left hand edge. Leave a wide space at top and foot of page as well.

If handwritten

same space requests apply. Write large and clear, with capitalized proper names (in our summing Bahá'í community we no longer know them all!)

Editorial deadline

To arrive on his desk the Saturday following each meeting of the National Spiritual Assembly.

In Reporting,

remember the Five Double-U's:

WHAT - WHY - WHEN - WHERE - WHO?

All material

should be graphically written and full of facts.

All Bahá'í events, local and national, deserve reporting and publication; this cannot occur until prompt, exciting copy appears on the Editor's desk all the time.

We appeal to all National Committees to send us material for each number; and all Local Assemblies to appoint their most pen-loving member as Bahá'í Journal Local Correspondent..

For your memo:

Deadline date will appear for the next number at the bottom of the back page, from now on.

Thank you all in anticipation,

Bahá'í Journal Committee