

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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TENACITY - STEADINESS - FORTITUDE

**A Message from
The Universal House of Justice,
to the
National Spiritual Assembly**

20th January, 1966

National Spiritual Assembly of the
Baha'ís of the British Isles

Dear Baha'i Friends,

We are filled with admiration for the wonderful spirit which animates the British Baha'i Community, and which produced such splendid results at the recent Youth Conference and Teaching Conference. We look forward to hearing further news of the offer by the youth to teach in the weak Assemblies and, as you know, we eagerly anticipate your cables announcing the departure of the pioneers to their international goals.

We have considered the problem of maintaining weak Assemblies, which harasses nearly every National Spiritual Assembly. The beloved Guardian's instructions are clear upon the point: every effort must be made to maintain Assemblies once established. At the same time we feel that their maintenance must be on a firmer basis than the temporary residence projects which your National Spiritual Assembly has accepted in the past. This early period of the Nine Year Plan is a good time for you to call upon the friends to maintain all the Local Spiritual Assemblies on a basis of settlers who will stay permanently or until they are replaced. This policy, although it may result in the temporary loss of one or two Local Spiritual Assemblies, will disclose to the British friends the true picture of the strength of their community and by relieving you of all the tremendous expenditure of effort, money and time on impermanent "last ditching" will enable you to lay firm foundations of constant and regular teaching in every Local Spiritual Assembly town.

In this connection we feel you would be well advised to develop a system of travelling teacher circuits. There is no doubt what ever that the constant movement of teachers, even though circulating within a small radius, can have a highly stimulating effect on the teaching work. Permanent settlers, a constant stream of visiting teachers to speak at regular firesides, is a pattern which has not yet been bettered.

The tremendous strides which the British community has made within the last few years, and the bright future which now lies open before it, both require that its home base be made sound and strong. Your tasks will not lessen as the years unfold and you may not have time later on to consolidate that reservoir of manpower, energy and administrative experience which must be the springboard for your world-wide tasks no less than for the proclamation of the Faith to the masses in the British Isles. Now is the time to send out pioneers to settle in the goals, both overseas and at home, and to institute a campaign of regular teaching such as has never before seen in Britain, and which, if well planned and relentlessly pursued will so consolidate and extend the homefront as to enable you to concentrate all your energies on your glorious overseas mission and on proclamation at home.

The qualities of tenacity, steadiness and fortitude which the beloved Guardian so greatly admired in the British friends must now be reinforced by that audacity which he asked them to display. Boldness in pioneering, tenacity in teaching, will irresistably propel the British friends along that road of destiny which he unveiled for them and upon which they are now called to advance.

With loving Baha'i greetings,

(Signed and sealed) THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

NOW IS THE TIME

The following letter from the Universal House of Justice was shared with all the Friends on February 10, 1966, and is reproduced here for permanent record. As well as the pioneer moves mentioned, news has come from the Universal House that pioneers have settled in the undermentioned goal territories since their cable of December 10th, 1965:—Turkey (3 pioneers), Honduras (2), Arabia (5), Maldives Is. (1), Nicobar Is. (1), Nieu I. (1), Elba (1), Liberia (1), French Somaliland (2), France (2), Saba (1, by enrolment), Cape Breton I. (1), Mackenzie (2), Queen Charlotte Is. (2), Spanish Guinea (1), Nigeria (1), Laccadives (1), Tierra del Fuego (1), Zululand (1), Chiloé I. (1), Arabia (2).

February 4, 1966.

To:

All National Spiritual Assemblies.
Beloved Friends:

Since our last report on January 15, 1966, the following territories, including three priority goals, have received settlers:

Argentina	2
Quintana Roo	1
Martinique	1
(by enrolment of an islander)	
Senegal	1
Admiralty Is.	1
Turkey	1
Austria	1
Arabia	12
	20

With the 127 announced in our last report, our total figures now show 147 pioneers at their posts, and 180 pioneers who are consulting their respective National Assemblies or Pioneer Committees and preparing themselves to reach their goals.

This means that against the 460 pioneers called for in our Ridván Message, 313 posts remain to be filled before next Ridván. Assuming that all the 180 pioneers being processed will reach their goals, there still remain 133 posts lacking pioneer offers. Of these 133 posts, we have already acknowledged that 27 are dependent upon favourable circumstances. Thus the rock-bottom need of this hour, less than eleven weeks from Ridván, is for 106 more offers to be received for immediate pioneer settlement.

In view of the urgency of filling the pioneer goals as expeditiously as possible, National Spiritual Assemblies assigned such goals should give them priority over all their other Bahá'í activities for the balance of the year. We also request National Assemblies with needs for pioneers other than those specified for the current year to refrain from encouraging or taking steps that may lead prospective pioneers to settle in areas outside those specified in the Plan.

The time is extremely short. Seventy-six brief days separate us from Ridván. Every day, every minute of this interval is infinitely precious.

We assure you all of our special prayers at the Holy Shrines for the success of this vital enterprise.

Please share this message at once with all your friends.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,
(Signed)

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

cc: Hands of the Cause of God.
Pioneer Committees.

In their letter to all National Spiritual Assemblies of February 20th, 1966, the Universal House wrote, "With the 147 announced in our last report, our total figures now show 161 settlers at their posts against the 460 pioneers called for in our Ridván message. Reports from various National Spiritual Assemblies indicate that a total of 190 pioneers are consulting and preparing for departure to their goals. Assuming that all these 190 prospective pioneers will set out for the goals specified in the Plan, there will still remain 109 posts lacking pioneer offers. Of these 109 posts, some are dependent upon favourable circumstances, leaving a minimum of 79 pioneer offers still needed, if we are to meet the challenge before Ridván." Their letter continues:—

"Beloved friends, during the period of a little over two months since we announced that the fate of the pioneer plan was hanging in the balance, 68 pioneers have succeeded in setting out for their goals. That from the ranks of the supporters of the Most Great Name 79 more believers may come forward, in the remaining two months, to offer themselves for the posts specified in the Plan and set out for their glorious goals is the longing of our hearts and the object of our constant supplications at the Holy Shrines."

* * *

In his last letter to the British Bahá'í Community, dated August 30th, 1957, Shoghi Effendi said, "Now of a certainty is not the time for the members of this gallant band . . . to dwell, however, tentatively, on the nature of the tantalizing tasks awaiting them in the not distant future, or to seek to probe into its mysterious, divinely guided operations. Theirs is the duty to plod on, however tedious the nature of the work demanding their immediate attention, however formidable the obstacles involved in its proper execution, however prolonged the effort which its success necessitates, until the signs of its ultimate consummation, heralding

the launching of what is sure to be the most spectacular phase of their Mission, are clearly discerned." In that same letter, the beloved Guardian refers to the British Community as "the chief builders of Bahá'u'lláh's embryonic World Order, throughout the unnumbered, the diversified and widely scattered Dependencies of the British Crown."

In recent months we have had two indications from the Universal House of Justice that the future of which the beloved Guardian spoke has now dawned. In their letter of 20th January, 1966, included in this issue, they write of "The tremendous strides which the British community has made within the last few years, and the bright future which now lies open before it . . ." They continue, "Your tasks will not lessen as the years unfold and you may not have time later on to consolidate that reservoir of manpower, energy and administrative experience which must be the springboard for your world-wide tasks no less than for the proclamation of the Faith to the masses in the British Isles." They conclude that letter with "Boldness in pioneering, tenacity in teaching, will irresistably propel the British friends along that road of destiny which he (the Guardian) unveiled for them and upon which they are now called to advance."

In an earlier letter, of 6th June, 1965, the Universal House of Justice, wrote, "The vision of the 'glorious destiny' promised to the British believers, both for themselves and for their country, by our beloved Guardian is manifestly bright before them, and we are assured that they will achieve the very heavy goals assigned to them as their share of the Nine Year Plan."

The challenge which faces us now is a double one: on the Home Front, to maintain all our Local Spiritual Assemblies, in accordance with the new directive of the Universal House of Justice, "on a basis of settlers who will stay permanently or until they are replaced", as well as to "institute a campaign of regular teaching such as has never before been seen in Britain"; and Overseas, we send out 21 pioneers to places as far apart as Sierra Leone on the West Coast of Africa and Fiji in the South Pacific. Pioneers are needed; Bahá'í teachers and visitors are needed, as well as hospitality for them; money is needed; and, most important, prayers are needed. Whatever your talents, whatever your capacity, your service is urgently needed. We are no longer called upon to "plod on", now is the time to advance together along the road of destiny.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

HANDS OF THE CAUSE

Residing in the Holy Land

P.O. BOX 155,
HAIFA, ISRAEL.

March 1, 1966.

National Spiritual Assemblies of Europe.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Our beloved co-worker, Hand of the Cause A. Q. Faízi, has just returned to Haifa after a visit to the various countries on the European continent, extending over a period of more than seven months. Mr. Faízi has shared with us enthusiastic and inspiring accounts of his experiences in meeting the pioneers and friends in the summer schools and in the various communities, and has given us a most encouraging picture of the opportunities and potentialities for the development of the teaching work in the areas which he visited.

After hearing his comments, all of the Hands in the Holy Land went together to the holy Shrines and prayed ardently for the success of the devoted labors of the friends in teaching the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh and in guiding the peoples of Europe to accept the truth of His Revelation.

Mr. Faízi's reports have given us a deep feeling of spiritual kinship with all of the National Assemblies in Europe and the communities of which you are the elected representatives. Please assure the devoted pioneers and all the friends of our continued and ardent prayers that they will be guided and assisted in all their endeavors and that the divine blessings will descend upon them in great abundance.

With warm Bahá'í love,

In the service of the beloved Guardian,

HANDS OF THE CAUSE IN THE HOLY LAND.

Rúhiyyih,
Paul S. Haney,
R. Mohajér,
A. Q. Faízi.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY'S NEWS LETTER

DECLARATIONS

We are very happy to welcome to the Faith Mrs. Gertrude Alvey of Borth, N. Wales; Mr. Edmund A. Ashcroft, of Fareham; Mrs. Ann Downie of Mid Lothian; Mrs. Anna M. Thompson of Paignton; Roya Jahangiri (Youth) of Torquay; Richard H. Battrick (Youth) of Twyford, Berks; Mr. Paul J. C. Harvey of Chester; Mr. John E. Leith of Cambridge; Shabbaz Farhangí (Youth) of Cheadle; Sóhrab Sábet (Youth) of Motherwell; Mrs. Sandra Gallagher, Mrs. Jane Mearns, Mr. Andrew B. Mearns, Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke, Miss Anne D. Hutchison, Mrs. Harriet Black, all of Edinburgh; Miss Anne Lambert of London; and Denis M. McKeown (Youth) of Belfast 8, as well as Miss Marie Bowman of Norwich, Miss Pixie MacCallum of Oxford (now pioneering in Skye) and Mr. Barry Ryan of Burnley, all Youth who have claimed voting rights.

CONVENTION, APRIL 30th/ MAY 1st, IN LONDON

Convention this year will be held at the Town Hall, Kensington High Street, London, W.8., commencing at 10 a.m. on the Saturday and ending at 10 p.m. on the Sunday.

LIBRARY REFERENCE FOR BAHÁ'Í BOOKS

When donating a Bahá'í book to a public library it would be useful to give a note of the independent reference number for the Bahá'í Faith, allocated by the British Museum in 1954. It is the British National Bibliography number '299.15, Bahá'í'.

GOAL TOWN FOR ESSEX

When Romford was taken into the Greater London area to become part of the London Borough of Havering, we were left without a goal town in Essex, and the National Assembly has now approved Chelmsford as the goal town for the establishment of a Local Spiritual Assembly for that county.

RIDVÁN ELECTIONS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Each Bahá'í Community has its own problems to solve as Ridván approaches. On the Home Front we, like some other communities, have problems of assembly maintenance, but we have no difficulties when it comes to holding the election meetings on April 21st. It is just the opposite in Bolivia, where they have no problem of assembly maintenance, but the utmost difficulty in holding elections, as so many local communities are without even one person who can read or write. This Ridván at least 200 local spiritual assemblies will be elected in 32 provinces, and as it is not possible to send out 200 literate Friends from the cities on that one day, April 21st, to take

care of the elections, other plans have had to be made. The Hand of the Cause of God, Mr. Jalál Khazé, has written to us about the three months' training project to prepare the Friends for the elections, and then goes on to say, "... we made more than 30 illustrations of different birds, animals and plants, and on the day of the election each one will tie around his neck one of the illustrations; the same picture is printed on so many sheets. Then each one will come near the supervisor (who during the three months before Ridván has been trained how to act) and will put a mark on the pictures which he believes are the most suitable and proper persons for the Assembly. For example, he will mark on the sheet nine pictures, such as a cock, pig, ox, corn, cabbage, etc. All the adult Bahá'ís will do this, then the instructors will come and collect the papers, count the votes and announce who are the members of the L.S.A. in that locality." Mr. Khazé concludes, "Now, dear friends, see how much we must work in the world to develop mankind to undertake their spiritual obligations, and how much the friends in developed countries, such as North America, Europe, Persia and the other literate societies must contribute of themselves and of their wealth for service to mankind."

CONTINENTAL SUMMER SCHOOLS

Information has been received about Summer Schools on the Continent, and anyone who would like to know about these Schools in Europe should send a stamped-addressed envelope to the National Assembly, 27 Rutland Gate, London, S.W.7.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TRAINING PROGRAMMES

The first of a series of Training Programmes on Bahá'í Administration was successfully launched at the One Day School held in Cardiff on Sunday, January 23rd, when Friends from North and South Wales took part. The first of the one-and-a-half hour sessions was devoted to 'Learning about the Bahá'í Community', the second to Work-Shops on assembly consultation, and both sessions were brisk and lively. Similar Training Programmes, which are for Bahá'ís only, are already planned for Liverpool/Chester/Southport, Burnley/Nelson/Blackpool, Manchester/Eccles/Swinton/Cheadle, Sheffield/Bradford/Leeds/York and Brighton/Hove; and it is hoped to arrange a Programme shortly for Salisbury/Winchester/Portsmouth/Bournemouth. This is part of the National Assembly's plan to help to make the home base "sound and strong",

as required by the Universal House of Justice in their letter of January 20th, 1966. We must also be prepared to send out to the developing countries pioneers who are equipped to shoulder the responsibilities of helping to build the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, and the Training Programmes are being designed to give everyone sound administrative experience.

OBITUARY

We announce with regret the passing in January of Miss Marion Gibson, stalwart believer, of Hove, who had been a Bahá'í for 25 years, on February 13th; and of Mrs. Florence G. Jones, a dear and elderly Bahá'í who had recently moved from Watford to Brighton. Both these Friends were rich in years and experience when they passed through the gate of death to the glory of the 'Abhá Kingdom.

EDUCATION: THREE CARDINAL PRINCIPLES

(Excerpt from a statement made by 'Abdul-Bahá to President Bliss of the American College of Beirut, Syria, at Haifa, Palestine.)

The universities and colleges of the world must hold fast to three cardinal principles:

First. Whole-hearted service to the cause of education, the unfolding of the mysteries of nature, the extension of the boundaries of science, the elimination of the causes of ignorance and social evils, a standard universal system of instruction, and the diffusion of the lights of knowledge and reality.

Second. Service to the cause of morality, raising the moral tone of the students, inspiring them with the sublimest ethical ideals, teaching them altruism, inculcating in their lives the beauty of hoiness and the excellency of virtue, and animating them with the graces and perfections of the religion of God.

Third. Service to the oneness of the world of humanity; so that each student may consciously realise that he is a brother to all mankind, irrespective of religion or race. The thoughts of universal peace must be instilled in the minds of all the scholars, in order that they may become the armies of peace, the real servants of the body politic—the world. God is the Father of all. Mankind are His children. This globe is one home. Nations are the members of one family. The mothers in their homes, the teachers in the schools, the professors in the colleges, the presidents in the universities, must teach these ideals to the young from the cradle to maturity.

(Taken from the Bahá'í Magazine, Star of the West, vol. 18, No. 6, p. 181.)

International News

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICA

Proclamation of the Faith in Swaziland

'It was a glorious day. Groups of brightly clad people marched in single file from North, South, East and West. These were different religious Groups, coming from all over Swaziland on their way to the King's Kraal.

'The King, Sobhuza II, would be their host for the day. Once a year all religious Groups meet before this wise King, who wishes to unify all the religious Groups in his country. The meeting is also attended by people from outside the country.

'The programme lasted from noon until early evening. Some 2,000 people were present and speakers represented all the various Groups.

'It was at this gathering that the beloved Faith was spoken of for the first time at such a meeting, and when William Masehla was introduced as the Bahá'í speaker there was a murmur through the crowd, because they had obviously heard of the Faith.

'Mr. Mashla spoke simply and with conviction and the Bahá'í choir added their beautiful voices in praise of all the Messengers of God.

'We do not know how far-reaching this Proclamation will be; only that His Name and Message have been mentioned. All this was made possible by the untiring efforts of Princess Goinaphi, one of the King's daughters.'

(condensed from *Bahá'í Newsletter* of South and West Africa).

Basutoland

The friends here hope to form as many as nine new Local Spiritual Assemblies this Ridván.

St. Helena

This island, final place of banishment for Napoleon, is soon to receive two pioneers from Canada, Mr. and Mrs. C. Huxtable, who have been pioneering in the Gulf Islands off Vancouver.

The National Spiritual Assembly announce that Convention this year will be held in Johannesburg. Four Teacher Training Institutes have been held in Swaziland, Basutoland, Mozambique and the Northern Cape. They have also stimulated the formation of Youth Groups, to 'vie' with the active Group in Cape Town, which has regular programmes of study, sport and recreation.

WEST AFRICA

News comes of the first declaration in Niger, opened by pioneers last August. The first believer, Mr. Jazy Souleymane, a school teacher, writes "As soon as I read of the

Bahá'í principles one day, I knew immediately that I was a Bahá'í without knowing it."

Many people are coming into the Faith in Cameroons, in Nigeria and in Ghana.

FIJI

The Government of Fiji has issued a certificate of Incorporation for the National Spiritual Assembly of the South Pacific Ocean.

PHILIPPINES

These islands had the bounty of a visit from Hand of the Cause of God, Dr. Mohajér, last autumn. A pioneer has arrived from Hawaii, fulfilling one of the supplementary goals of consolidation, in Mindanao.

In the island of Mindor, first opened to the Faith in 1963, there are now hundreds of Bahá'ís in more than seventy villages, and six Local Spiritual Assemblies. "These people are extremely peaceful, with such a deep-rooted respect for parents that they will not even mention their names. Their ancient belief is a God the Father concept, and they reject formalised religious claims that the Prophets are God, readily understanding the Bahá'í belief."

(Condensed from TIDAL WAVE —Philippines Bahá'í News.)

EL SALVADOR

Throughout the country comes the news of a steady stream of enrollments and we quote from their fine newsletter words that have universal application in 'these numbered days':—

"Action is a magic word. Action transforms everything."

NEW ZEALAND

A seminar of the New Zealand Healing Association heard a Bahá'í speaker address them last October. During the rest of the week-end the speaker, Mrs. Alexe Cookson of Hawkes Bay, was besieged with questions and requests for more information. Believers from other communities attended one of the sessions and were welcomed by the Association's President.

INDIA

This vast land was likewise visited by Hand of the Cause of God, Dr. Mohajér in the course of his tour. He met with the National Spiritual Assembly and visited the friends in Bangalore and Mysore.

In spite of unfavourable conditions, news comes that teaching is progressing rapidly and successfully in Ujjain and Gwalior as well as eleven other areas.

COLOMBIA

The English Center at Cali now has six Bahá'ís on its staff and observes the Bahá'í Holy Days.

KENYA

The provincial teaching committees report much travelling of teachers and a total of nearly 500 declarations in the past months.

FINLAND

A Temple site has been acquired near Helsinki, covering 3,480 square metres of rocky terrain in an elevated position and with fir trees growing upon it. Bahá'ís and interested friends met here for a Prayer Hour on November 6th, during which excerpts from Bahá'í and other Sacred Scriptures were read on this blessed spot.

WEST CENTRAL AFRICA

A most successful Teaching Conference was held in Eastern Nigeria at the end of December. About thirty believers attended the two-day programme, all receiving hospitality from the communities nearby. Seven declarations were received during the Conference, and it is felt these will bring many more as the new believers return to their homes aglow with the Faith. Another conference was held at the same time in Ibadan.

BAHA'I

PUBLISHING TRUST

Bahá'í Teachings on Economics and Progressive Revelation

Stocks having been exhausted of these pamphlets, reprintings have now been made and in response to requests by the friends, have been given coloured covers and will now be priced at 6d. each.

Prayer Book

Stocks of all versions of this have been exhausted for some time. An announcement will be made as soon as the new edition is available, but this cannot be run off by the printers, who have them already set up in type, until the particulars of approved translations for certain prayers have been received from the Universal House of Justice.

BAHA'I NEWS

Subscription is 13/- per annum for 12 copies, including postage.

Friends who wish to become subscribers should send their names and addresses and 13/-, not later than 28th May, 1966, to:—

Mrs. Jean Pitcher,
Ger-y-Nant,
Talybont,
Merioneth.

The first copy will be the July 1966 issue.

A CONSTANT STREAM OF VISITING TEACHERS

In the heart-stirring letter, dated 20th January, 1966, from the Universal House of Justice, the pattern for teaching is drawn simply, directly and clearly, when we are told "a constant stream of visiting teachers to speak at regular firesides, is a pattern which has not yet been bettered."

Together with the letter from the Universal House of Justice, came a letter from the National Assembly urging us all to act without delay; calling on all Local Assemblies and Goal Towns to consult at once and to get to work immediately. As well as this—all Teaching Committees were called upon to implement plans made for circuit teaching. This is a call to action in which every believer can and indeed must participate!

FIRESIDES

In a letter dated March 6th, 1957, to some American believers, the Guardian wrote, through his Assistant Secretary:—

"The friends must realize 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 knowledge of the Faith to more people, under favourable circumstances, and thus constantly enrich its circle of friends, and finally its you

members. There is no substitute for the teaching work of the individual."

A fireside must be an occasion for showing our friends Bahá'í hospitality and love, when one introduces ones Bahá'í friends to the friends one makes in everyday life, so that people can be drawn, as by a magnet, to the 'fires' kindled in our hearts by Bahá'u'lláh. It is not necessary to possess a clever tongue, but the human element in attracting hearts cannot be over-emphasised. God Himself sets the pattern of spreading His love and teachings, by sending His Manifestations, and Bahá'ís in their turn, must manifest to the world, the 'fire' of the love of Bahá'u'lláh, so that new fires may be kindled in other hearts. This is the way teaching begins and in this way will gradually gain momentum.

Firesides need everyone—whether one can speak or not. There is no time to look at ones shortcomings! Everyone can hold one—everyone can visit other firesides, to help to start a great movement of Bahá'ís throughout the country.

A CALL TO BELIEVERS

The Guardian writes:—

"All must participate, however humble their origin, however limited their experience, however restricted their means, however deficient their education, however pressing their cares and preoccupations, however unfavourable the environment in which they live."

A special "coupon" is being sent to every believer—which will reach either through your Local

Spiritual Assembly, or in the case of Groups and isolated believers, directly. This special coupon, in common with many coupons, offers a free gift to anyone who fills it in, in this case, the gift of an opportunity of being one of God's helpers. Here is an invitation to put into action an answer to the call from the Universal House of Justice, to develop a system of travelling teacher circuits to man the firesides in radii both large and small. Some friends may only be able to travel short distances, some further; some may have more time, some less, for the coupon is planned in such a way that surely everyone will feel they can fill it in. Surely everyone has some time to offer, from one evening, once a month, travelling one mile—to distances and time unlimited!

The Teaching Committees need all this information to work upon, so that a definite sustained effort can be put into practice without delay.

The Guardian writes:—

"The field is so immense, the period so critical, the Cause so great, the workers so few, the time so short, the privilege so priceless, that no followers of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, worthy to bear His name, can afford a moment's hesitation."

"Arise to aid thy Lord at all times and in all circumstances, and be thou one of His helpers."

—Bahá'u'lláh.

NOW IS THE TIME!

NEW TERRITORIES TEACHING COMMITTEE

RESPONSIBILITY OF BAHA'IS

"Now surely, if ever, is the time for us, the chosen ones of Bahá'u'lláh and the bearers of His Message to the world, to endeavour by day and night, to deepen, first and foremost, the Spirit of His Cause in our own individual lives, and then labour, and labour incessantly to exemplify in all our dealings with our fellow men that noble Spirit of which His beloved Son 'Abdu'l-Bahá has been all the days of His life a true and unique exponent. The sayings of our beloved Master have been noised abroad, His name has filled all regions, and the eyes of mankind are now turned expectant towards His disciples who bear His name and profess His teachings. Shall we not by our daily life vindicate the high claims of His teachings, and prove by our services the influence of His undying Spirit? This surely is our highest privilege,

and our most sacred duty.

"Let us, with a pure heart, with humility and earnestness, turn afresh to His counsels and exhortations, and seek from that Source of Celestial Potency all the guidance, the spirit, the power which we shall need for the fulfilment of our mission in this life.

"Behold, the station to which Abdu'l-Bahá is now calling His loved ones from the Realm of Glory:—

"It behoveth the loved ones of God to be enamoured of one another and to sacrifice themselves for their fellow-workers in the Cause. They should yearn towards one another even as the sore athirst yearneth for the Water of Life, and the lover burneth to meet his heart's desire."

"Such is the sublime, the glorious position He wishes us, and all the peoples and kindreds on earth, to attain in this world; how much more to achieve unity and

common understanding among ourselves, and then arise to herald with one voice the coming of the Kingdom and the salvation of mankind.

"With unity of purpose firmly established in our minds, with every trace of personal animosity banished from our hearts, and with the spirit of whole-hearted and sustained fellowship kindled in our souls, can we hope to deliver effectively the Message of Bahá'u'lláh and execute faithfully the various provisions of our Beloved's Will and Testament."

SHOGHI EFFENDI.

Advance Notice LYME PARK WEEK-END SCHOOL

will take place at
LYME HALL, DISLEY
CHESHIRE

on June 3, 4, 5, 1966

Further details will be published
in due course.



ECCLES BAHÁ'IS DONATE NINE TREES

The Mayor and Mayoress of Eccles (centre) with Mrs. Betty Reed and Local Assembly Secretary Gitta Chaplin (second from left, front row), at the ceremony held in a new local Garden of Rest. Also present are local Councillors and believers from Eccles.

NEWS of the Communities

ECCLES' DAY TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, 22nd of December, was a day of grey skies, blustery clouds and streaming rain, but the weather could not dampen the spirit of those in Eccles who went to help with the Tree-planting, by official invitation, at the newly-established Garden of Rest behind the Parish Church.

When the transformation of the old graveyard was first announced, the Bahá'í Community of Eccles presented the Council with a gift of nine trees. This was gratefully accepted, and when we received invitation to participate in two planting ceremonies, one at 10 a.m. and another at 2 p.m., we accepted with great joy, feeling this was really our day and one that warranted the presence of our National Secretary.

It was indeed a proud moment when it was announced over the loud-speaker that "tree number 9 would be planted by Mrs. Betty Reed, National Secretary of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles" and that "the local Bahá'ís had made a gift of nine trees to the Gardens."

The announcement was made again in the afternoon, when our dear friend, Mr. Habib Habibi, planted the second tree, also "tree number 9", for us; all in streaming rain and deep mud, with the wind

blowing out umbrellas. Nevertheless it gave us opportunities to chat with our leading citizens, and Betty stood her ground well despite the storm, talking to the local newspaper editor amongst others.

We were also invited to inspect, in the company of the Mayor and Mayoress, Council members and other prominent citizens, a partly finished pavilion that was being erected in a corner of the Gardens for the use and pleasure of the old folk in Eccles, both in summer and winter; this too, had been donated by a charitable body.

This provided further occasion for chats and comment; for myself, the renewal of acquaintanceships with people I had frequently met in the past through my work for the 'Men of the Trees'. By now they all know that the Faith and the 'Men of the Trees' have some common ground; indeed, the whole occasion helped to develop the excellent relations already established between the Faith and leading citizens of Eccles.

Was it a coincidence that both trees planted by our representatives should have been 'number 9'? Our curiosity aroused, we asked one of the officials. But the answer was "no special reason, just coincidence."

Whatever it was—there grow the nine trees. Only time can tell what harvest they may produce. But when gentle breezes blow and the blossoms shed their perfume,

the whole town may be influenced by that 'special fragrance'; one day it will indeed be as Bahá'u'lláh has said: "Ye are all the fruits of one tree."

GITTA CHAPLIN, Secretary.
Spiritual Assembly of the
Bahá'ís of Eccles.

LONDON

January is the month when there seems to be little activity in the garden, although, below the surface, all kinds of living things are forming new shoots, ready to burst through into green glory. For the London Bahá'í Community, January has been a busy month in respect of teaching, as we face towards Ridván and our new responsibilities to be shouldered wherever a new Borough L.S.A. may be formed in place of the single 'mother' Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of London.

Administration School

With this thought in mind, London held a One Day School on Bahá'í Administration, as a preparation for many people who may suddenly find themselves members of one of the new Local Assemblies, without the benefit of other Assembly members to help them with their 'growing pains.'

The school was held on 9th January, and the proceedings opened with a lecture by John Wade, emphasising the bounties of the Divine System given to us. Then followed a session of brain-racking, as we battled with an interesting questionnaire prepared

by Frank Safidvásh and based on the book 'Principles of Bahá'í Administration.' In the afternoon, a mock L.S.A. meeting was held (none of the participants being members of London's present Local Spiritual Assembly) and this proved to be not only a source of instruction, but also of entertainment, as a 'consultation' was held with a 'married couple,' among other business.

Weekly Course

To fill in the many gaps in our knowledge, which must inevitably appear when one has had a 'lightning tour,' the Central Area Teaching Committee for London obtained the consent of the Spiritual Assembly for the holding of a course on Bahá'í Administration every week. This provides opportunity for questions and further studies, largely based on the book referred to above, and should prove invaluable to those who will soon have to rely on these 'lessons' for practical working purposes.

WORLD RELIGION DAY

London Bahá'í Community celebrated World Religion Day at the Kensington Central Library on 15th January, with Marion Hofman and Riáz Khádem as speakers. A programme of readings about all the Manifestations of God were presented, to which the children contributed by reciting prayers or quotations from the books of all the Faiths. Although it was a very cold night, the meeting was quite well attended by both Bahá'ís and visitors.

WIDENING PUBLICITY

As a result of Area Teaching activities, the whole tempo of teaching has been stepped up, with an increasing number of Firesides.

An inaugural public meeting was held at Stoke Newington, which did not provoke any response from local residents.

In Hillingdon, a Borough in which no Bahá'í is at present living, good publicity had been obtained in the local press through reports of meetings in the West London area and also through letters on the subject of Church Unity. It was decided to hold a public meeting there and, on an icy night, Betty Reed addressed a small audience which included a sprinkling of visitors. As a result, reports appeared in the two local papers.

PETERBOROUGH

We congratulate the Local Spiritual Assembly on the production of an admirable local news-sheet: "Peterborough Bahá'í News."

Beautifully laid out and clearly stencilled, this takes one into the middle of of Peterborough Bahá'í

activity by having a Calendar of Events on the front page. News, including a most dignified general appeal for the Local Fund, is concluded by quotations from Bahá'í Scriptures and (something to warm the heart of the newly-formed Child Education Committee) a prayer of Bahá'u'lláh 'for young people to learn.'

They **have** the reproduction facilities there, but it is an effort other local communities could ponder. "Vie ye . . ."

'OUR HERITAGE'

Birmingham Deepening School

At ten o'clock on the morning of February 26th, thirty Bahá'ís gathered at the Lea Mason Centre for a week-end of serious and detailed study of the History of the Faith. After a short devotional, an introductory lecture was given by Malcolm Lee on "The Situation of the World in the 19th Century", which was followed by a discussion. By lunch-time more friends had arrived and at 2.30 p.m. we embarked upon the ark of time to be carried away into the early days of our Faith. Gloria Faizi and Ted Cardell were our lecturers, and as they unfolded before us our rich heritage, we saw vividly the lives and experiences of the heroes and martyrs of the Dawn Breakers: their joys, their sorrows; their sacrifices, and their martyrdom.

On Saturday evening a party was given in aid of Oxfam. There was live music from a "pop" group, organized by Naysán Faizi, which was made up of five young boys from three different nationalities: Ghanaian, English and Iranian. All 75 guests, many from the U.N.A., thoroughly enjoyed themselves and gave generously toward the silver collection.

Sunday morning was another day of intensive study. Although much was given during the two days, both lecturers had to cut out many details in order to take us up to the Martyrdom of the Báb before we left. We had all tasted but a drop of the ocean of our heritage and were thirsting for more, but there was no time.

The Birmingham Assembly is planning a series of such week-ends where the whole History of the Faith will be studied; and later on such books as the 'Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh' and the 'Iqán'. When they start, will you be willing to support them?

DAWN PRAYERS

Ten Bahá'ís from Birmingham and Sutton Coldfield gathered together for dawn prayers on Sunday, March 13th. Their prayers were for the speedy progress of teaching work in the British Isles.

CABLES TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE YORK SCHOOL

HEARTS REJOICE FILLED ADMIR-
ATION VIGOROUS ACTIVITY DEDI-
CATED BAHÁ' YOUTH REFLECTED
YORK SCHOOL ASSURE ALL
PARTICIPANTS LOVING ARDENT
PRAYERS BOUNTIFUL CON-
FIRMATIONS

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF
JUSTICE

* * *

CABLE FROM THE HANDS IN HAIFA:

WELCOME JOYOUS NEWS WIDELY
REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDANCE
SCHOOL PRESENCE BELOVED
FELLOW HANDS ASSURE ARDENT
PRAYERS SUCCESS DEVOTED
EFFORTS PROMULGATE TEACHINGS
HANDSFAITH

NEW TERRITORIES

Gradually—slowly but surely the Goal Towns and island Goals for England are being opened to the Faith, another beacon is lighted—another "spot" is placed on the map, and sometimes the process does seem so slow, and one is reminded of the words of the beloved Guardian, in his last letter to the British Bahá'í Community, when we were told to "plod on however tedious the nature of the work", for more often than not our work is to "plod on" and is "tedious" in this island. Now, from the Universal House of Justice come other words—RELENTLESS—PERSISTENT! We all of us would like to see sensational things happening in this island, we hope one day we shall, but until then we must "PLOD ON, RELENTLESSLY AND PERSISTENTLY" establishing the Faith on a firm foundation in all areas.

CORNWALL

News has reached us about the visit to Cornwall of Hand of the Cause of God, Mr. John Ferraby, who visited St. Ives on December 16th and 17th. The St. Ives friends report . . . "We were visited by John Ferraby and invited people both evenings to firesides in Bernard's (Leach) flat to hear John speak on "The Reality of God" followed by discussion. These gatherings were the most successful so far, and it seems the name Bahá'í is really getting known and talked about, because some of those

there had asked others if they could come. We had seven contacts the first night, and ten the second, all different ones each night. Many people wrote Bernard apologising for not being able to come, but in every case asked to be invited to another meeting."

ISOLATED CENTRES

Valuable work is being done by several "visiting helpers" to help the isolated friends keep in touch with the rest of the Community. Bob Cheek writes of his visits in the Eastern area, some of the friends being in rather remote places. He has visited such places as Woodbridge, Hethersett, Mundford, Stalhamis and King's Lynn, and talks of the warmth of the welcome received wherever he goes.

Help is badly needed for this sort of service to the Cause, and the ownership of transport really a necessity to reach some of the friends. The committee would welcome assistance in this field and offers of help should be sent to the secretary, Mrs. Betty Goode, 8 Knowle Road, Stafford.

NEW TERRITORIES TEACHING COMMITTEE

THE MISSION OF THE CAUSE

"Great as is the love and paternal care which our beloved Master is extending to us from on High, and unique as is the Spirit that animates to-day His servants in the world, yet a great deal will depend upon the character and efforts of His loved ones on whom now rests the responsibility of carrying on His work gloriously after Him. How great is the need at this moment when the promised outpourings of His grace are ready to be extended to every soul, for us all to form a broad vision of the mission of the Cause to mankind, and to do all in our power to spread it throughout the world! The eyes of the world, now that the sublime personality of the Master has been removed from this visible plane, are turned with eager anticipation to us who are named after His name, and on whom rests primarily the responsibility to keep burning the torch that He has lit in this world. How keenly I feel at this challenging hour in the history of the Cause the need for a firm and definite determination to subordinate all our personal likings, our local interests, to the interests and requirements of the Cause of God! Now is the time to set aside, nay, to forget altogether, minor considerations regarding our internal relationships, and to present a solid united front to the world animated by no other desire but to serve and propagate His Cause."

SHOGHI EFFENDI.

WARNING ABOUT ORIENTALS

The National Assembly again finds it necessary to draw attention to the beloved Guardian's warnings about association with Orientals. In his own words he said, "The attitude of the Friends towards Orientals should be one of great caution, according to the Master's own often-repeated and explicit instructions and warnings. Any believer in good standing would not leave his home community without a letter of credentials, and certainly no Persians, claiming to be Bahá'ís, but lacking credentials, should be accepted until the Persian N.S.A. has clarified their status. They can, naturally, attend Public Meetings, but should not be permitted to come to the Nineteen Day Feast; the Friends may associate with them, but should be very cautious, bearing in mind that many Orientals, who scorned, or were even actively against the Cause while living in the East, now find it convenient to pass as believers or friends of the Faith in a Western country where they are strangers.

"I desire to reiterate the warning that no Persian, student or otherwise, must be admitted into the community under any circumstances unless provided with full credentials. Exception and compromise would be detrimental to the vital interests of the Faith at the present juncture. The utmost caution and vigilance are imperative." ("Principles of Bahá'í Administration," p. 21). Through his secretary, Shoghi Effendi wrote, "As to your question as to what races should be regarded as coming under the heading of 'Orientals' in connection with 'Abdu'l-Bahá's warnings; there is not doubt He was primarily thinking of the Near Eastern races of Islamic extraction, who have every reason to look upon the Faith either with contempt as a mere heresy within, or sect of Islam, or with hatred as a potential threat to the supremacy of their religion. Likewise, it is these Near Eastern Races, particularly the Persian, who have been most persistently exposed to the propaganda and bad example of the Covenant-breakers, old and new, and from whose ranks these very Covenant-breakers have sprung. These circumstances, combined with the fact that, like his Prophetic Forebears, Bahá'u'lláh appeared amongst the people most in need of enlightenment — and hence at their lowest ebb morally — are the reasons for not only 'Abdu'l-Bahá's and his own (i.e. the Guardian's) repeated warnings concerning Orientals, but also for the conduct, so often demonstrated, unfortunately, by these same Orientals and which amply justifies our attitude of great precaution and

wariness concerning receiving them in our midst and believing their declarations to be sincere. Shoghi Effendi also feels that the Moslems of India should likewise be included in this category, owing to their respective religious and racial background." ("Principles of Bahá'í Administration," p. 22).

Since Shoghi Effendi gave those explicit warnings, Pakistan has come into being, and his reference to the Moslems of India applies now also to the Moslems of Pákistán. The National Assembly cannot over-emphasise the need to expand teaching efforts amongst the people of the country in which we live, the Scots, English, Irish and Welsh, who must form the backbone of the British Bahá'í Community and provide the reservoir for our overseas work. Friends who have come from overseas are asked especially to join in this teaching of the British people.

MALTA G.C.

The History

Throughout the ages Malta has been coveted by many tribes and rulers, for its geographic position in the centre of the Mediterranean. From early days Phoenicians left evidence of temples and subterranean dwellings, and Carthaginian coins have been found. Later, Malta was annexed by Rome and became part of the Province of Sicily, when in 60 A.D. St. Paul suffered shipwreck on Malta's rocks.

The islanders had to defend themselves against continuous raids by Corsairs and sea-wolves and repulsed an attack by the Turks in 1464 A.D.

In 1522 A.D. Charles V., King of Spain and Sicily, gave Malta as a sovereign Fief to the Order of St. John, whose Knights distinguished themselves during the Crusades. They embellished the island with handsome palaces and elaborate forts and built hospitals, churches and chapels. The Island prospered under the rule of the Grand Masters of the Order.

In 1814 Malta became a British Colony and much was done to raise the standard of living. Schools, colleges and hospitals were built and the University established. Money spent by the British Forces and their families helped the Island's economy.

During 1964, Independence was granted, and Malta is now rapidly developing as a tourist resort and industrial nation.

The climate is semi-tropical and sunny with temperatures up to 110 F. during mid-summer. The

population is predominately Catholic and well over 300 Churches exist together with many convents and monasteries. The total area of the island is 122 square miles, with a population of 332,000.

The Faith

Malta was opened to the Bahá'í Faith during the Holy Year, Una Townsend arriving in October 1953, followed by Olga Mills a few weeks later. The Beloved Guardian's instructions were explicit... "Avoid all publicity and contact with officials. Gain the friendship and confidence of the people before mentioning the Faith." Unfortunately Una had to leave after six months due to the failing health of her father, Hand of the Cause of God, George Townsend.

During July 1954, Dr. John Mitchell arrived with half his household, ready to make his home there. It was a sad loss to Malta when his health broke down forcing him to return to England after

only seven months. So many Maltese liked and admired him.

At the beginning of November 1955, Gwendoline Venus and Rene Aldridge came to help with the work. They made many friends, including a number among the British Forces, resulting in the acceptance of the Faith by a Naval Officer, who was later transferred to the East, where he joined the Hong Kong Bahá'í community.

Mrs. Venus spent one year, and Mrs. Aldridge 14 months on the Island. Mrs. Aldridge returned to Malta in September 1959, and has succeeded in establishing a business of her own.

The latest arrival is Miss Jean Campbell, who joined Olga Mills and Rene Aldridge in February 1964, and who is meeting many people and making friends among both the Maltese and the British.

EUROPEAN AND SOUTH AMERICAN TEACHING COMMITTEE.

FINAL STEP PURIFICATION OF SACRED ENDOWMENTS IN BAHJI

On November 11th, 1965, the Universal House of Justice sent the following cable to the United States for publication in "Bahá'í News," and informed all National Spiritual Assemblies of the step taken:

"ANNOUNCE BAHÁ'I WORLD REMOVAL FROM IMMEDIATE PRECINCTS HOLY SHRINE BAHÁ'U'LLAH REMAINS MIRZA DIYAULLAH YOUNGER BROTHER MIRZA MUHAMMAD ALI HIS ACCOMPLICE IN EFFORTS SUBVERT FOUNDATIONS COVENANT GOD SOON AFTER ASCENSION BAHÁ'U'LLAH STOP THIS FINAL STEP IN PROCESS PURIFICATION SACRED INTERNATIONAL ENDOWMENTS FAITH IN BAHJI FROM PAST CONTAMINATION WAS PROVIDENTIALLY UNDERTAKEN UPON REQUEST FAMILY OLD COVENANT BREAKERS, A PROCESS WHOSE INITIAL STAGE WAS FULFILLED BY ABDU'L-BAHA, WHICH GATHERED MOMENTUM EARLY YEARS BELOVED GUARDIAN'S MINISTRY THROUGH EVACUATION MANSION, ATTAINED CLIMAX THROUGH PURIFICATION HARAM-I-AQDAS AND NOW CONSUMMATED THROUGH CLEANSING INNER SANCTUARY MOST HALLOWED SHRINE, QIBLIH BAHÁ'I WORLD, PRESAGING EVENTUAL CONSTRUCTION BEFITTING MAUSOLEUM AS ANTICIPATED BELOVED SIGN GOD ON EARTH—UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE."

From the December, 1965, issue of the "Bahá'í News" of the United States, we quote the following explanatory statement: "...This is a final victory in the process of

eliminating all traces of the presence of the Covenant-breakers, whose machinations to subvert the Cause brought trials and anguish to 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendí. Mirzá Muhammad-Alí, half-brother of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, designated by Shoghi Effendí as the "archbreaker of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant," challenged the appointment of 'Abdu'l-Bahá as the Center of the Covenant. In His Will and Testament, the Master mentions Muhammad-Alí several times and names him the "Center of Sedition, the Prime Mover of Mischief..."

Following the ascension of Bahá'u'lláh, Muhammad-Alí, his children, relatives and a few other Covenant-breakers, continued to live in the immediate vicinity of the Sacred Tomb, having inherited some shares in the Mansion and adjacent buildings. Muhammad-Alí died in 1937, five years after the Guardian had succeeded in removing him from the Mansion itself and restoring it to its former beauty...

On November 12th, 1952, the 132nd anniversary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, Shoghi Effendí announced the acquisition of a 40-acre property in the vicinity of the Holy Tomb and the Mansion. He also informed the Bahá'í World of the commencement of a large-scale landscaping programme to beautify the immediate precincts of the "holiest spot in the entire Bahá'í world," itself a prelude to the eventual erection of a befitting Mausoleum to "enshrine the Dust of the Founder of God's Most Holy Faith." The outer sanctuary,

immediately adjacent to the Tomb of Bahá'u'lláh, was termed by Shoghi Effendí as the Haram-i-Aqdas, or Most Holy Court, and was transformed into a landscaped area with curved paths, cypress trees and monument-lined path leading to a beautiful wrought iron gate. The gate is the gift of Hand of the Cause Mrs. Amelia Collins, and is the main entrance leading to the Shrine.

On September 6th, 1957, shortly before his passing, Shoghi Effendí announced the "complete evacuation of the remnant of Covenant-breakers and the transfer of all their belongings from the precincts of the Most Holy Shrine, and the purification, after six long decades, of the Haram-i-Aqdas, from every trace of their contamination." Now the removal of the remains of Mirzá Muhammad-Alí's younger brother, from the inner sanctuary of the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh Qiblih of the Bahá'í world, is final witness to the declined fortunes of those who exerted many years of effort in attempts to subvert the Cause of God."

Other references to the long period of Covenant-breaker activity in the Holy Land and victories over their machinations can be found in messages from Shoghi Effendí contained in "Messages to America, 1932-1946" and "Messages to the Bahá'í World 1950-1957"; an account by Shoghi Effendí of the activities of the two Covenant-breakers, Mirzá Diyá'u'lláh and Mirzá Muhammad-Alí, can be found in "God Passes By," especially pages 246-251, and 263-271.

NEWS FROM IRELAND

The Irish Teaching committee have received with joy reports of energetic teaching activity in Castlereagh and Larne Rural Districts. We have also had more hopeful reports from Londonderry. Dublin has been greatly blessed with the arrival of John and Val Morley, and in now having a Bahá'í home. This is becoming the pivotal centre for making friends for the Faith.

The highlight of February was the visit of Mrs. Gloria Faizí to Ireland for ten days. She spent a week in the north, where she carried out an intensive programme of visiting the friends, also speaking to a non-Bahá'í group on Persia, and making contacts.

The Dublin friends were privileged to have her visiting them for three days. A public meeting was arranged by the Local Assembly, at which Gloria spoke on "Persia—its Peoples, its Arts and its Crafts." Considerable interest was shown in her talk and in the delightful examples of handicrafts she displayed. This was followed by refreshments and opportunity

FIRESIDES—AN APPEAL FOR NEWS

The Assembly Assistance Teaching Committee would like to advertise in the Journal all regular Firesides being held in England, subject to the permission of the hosts. If you would like your Firesides "advertised", would you please send details of day, time, host and address to:

Mrs. Lois Hainsworth, Sharaf, Church Road, Horsforth, near LEEDS.

Regular Firesides are held as follows:—

BOURNEMOUTH

Mrs. Gloria Momen,
10a Glen Road, Boscombe.
SUNDAY, 3.30 p.m.

READING

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Talbot,
84 Waverley Road.
MONDAY, 8 p.m.

ONE DAY SCHOOLS will be held on the following days:—

3rd April at **BRIGHTON**, 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. at the Royal Pavilion.
3rd April at **ROMFORD**. Further details from Pat Green, 49 Walmer Close, Mawney, Romford.

ASSEMBLY ASSISTANCE TEACHING COMMITTEE

BAHA'I CALENDAR

19 Day Feasts:

Bahá—Splendour 21st March
Jalál—Glory 9th April
Jamál—Beauty 28th April

Holy Days:

Feast of Nawrúz 21st March
The First, Ninth and Twelfth day of Ridván—
21st, 29th April, 2nd May

National Spiritual Assembly Meetings:

8th, 9th and 10th April.

Convention:

30th April and 1st May at Kensington Town Hall, London, W.8.

for discussion. About 50 people attended and friends were made for the Faith.

An informal meeting was held in the Morley's new home for members of the community and their friends. Mrs. Faizi also spoke at the weekly fireside in the Haziratu'l-Quds, when she shared with us some of her recollections of the Greatest Holy Leaf, her memories of the Guardian and also of her experiences during her period of service at the World Centre.

On March 6th, there was a One Day Conference in Belfast, called by the I.T.C. for the friends in Ireland to consult on the message from the Universal House of Justice encouraging an increase of circuit teaching. A truly representative gathering of nearly 50 believers participated in frank and valuable consultation. The committee hopes to be able to arrange for regular circuit teaching between the communities from now on.

The Belfast community arranged an excellent Week-end School in January. Lisbeth Greeves reports as follows:—

"Over 800 people had attended what amounted to a mammoth World Religion Day a few months earlier. This was an International Co-operation Year event at which Bahá'í readings were heard, and printed sheets distributed amongst the audience. This Week-end School, therefore, took the place of our usual World Religion Day and was held over 21st to 23rd January.

"The quotation on the programme was 'A new life is, in this Age, stirring within all the peoples

of the earth', and this was sent to all our most interested enquirers. On the Friday night, Adib Táherzádeh gave a most inspiring and illuminating address on 'The Oneness of Religion'.

"Saturday afternoon brought the highlight of the school, a Bahá'í wedding between Joe Watson of Ulster and Vivienne Hick of Dublin, serving as a demonstration of the power of the Faith in overcoming prejudices, since Joe comes from a Protestant and Vivienne from a Catholic background. It was a truly historic and joygiving occasion, as the bride and bridegroom had invited many friends from Dublin, Belfast and Cambridge, and their respective families were all impressed by the beauty of the ceremony. The fact that it was all planned by the Belfast community, and that friends from Dublin, Sligo, Londonderry, Belfast-Bangor, Gilnahirk and Greenisland attended made a deep impression upon all the guests; many asked for Bahá'í literature.

"When the wedding party had departed, two of the Public Relations committee organised a dinner to give those interested in drama in Belfast an opportunity to meet Zebbie Whitehead. He had appeared previously on television and spoken about his work as an actor and also about the Faith.

"After the dinner Zebbie spoke at the evening session of the School. His obvious sincerity when he talked of 'Order out of Chaos', touched the hearts of all present and elicited a growing interest in

the Cause of God.

"The Sunday began with a devotional programme supported by music, followed by a talk on 'Unity in Diversity', given by Adib Táherzádeh. This was followed by a good question period before lunch. In the afternoon a most impressive panel of speakers answered a series of questions about the Faith, and made an important contribution to one of the happiest and most creative Week-end Schools we have had so far.

"The School closed with a devotional, and all went home refreshed, renewed and fortified by a sense of the historic value of a school which had the joy of giving a wedding feast to our two young Bahá'í friends from the North and the South. Mr. Hackney was good enough to make a tape recording of each of the talks and also of the marriage ceremony. One copy of the latter has been sent to the bride and groom, and another to Tony McCarthy, who sent a splendid telegram which caused both great merriment and great happiness at the wedding."

IRISH TEACHING COMMITTEE

CEC Request for Teachers and Materials

'Abdu'l-Bahá has said children are of the kingdom. He goes on to say, "The kingdom of heaven is for such souls . . . for they are near to God. Therefore make ye an effort in order that these children may be rightly trained and educated and that each one of them may attain perfection in the world of humanity. Know ye the value of these children for they are all my children."

In the British Isles, assisting your efforts to educate the children is the Child Education Committee. The National Spiritual Assembly appointed this Committee to assist parents, LSA's and groups "to a better understanding of their responsibilities to the Bahá'í education of their children."

The CEC are pleased to answer queries, support in starting children's classes, assist with teaching aids, always mindful of a better understanding of the "values of these children."

Amongst us in the British Bahá'í Community are teachers, writers, children production specialists, and interested parties. The CEC would like them to step forward to volunteer in this vitally important endeavour. This present team is not complete; will you make it so?

Send names and addresses to:
CEC, Manor Farm, Gt. Paxton,
St. Neots, Hunts.

AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS

The following is the area covered by each of the Board Members appointed for Britain :—

PROTECTION BOARD MEMBERS :

Dorothy Ferraby—The territory below the northern boundaries of the counties of Essex, Hertford, Buckingham, Oxford and Gloucester, including the Islands in the English Channel.

Joan Gregory—The remainder of the British Isles north of the above line.

PROPAGATION BOARD MEMBERS :

TERRITORIES OF AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS OPERATING IN THE BRITISH ISLES

ERNEST GREGORY

England north of the southern boundaries of Cheshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire and Rutland. East Anglia (Norfolk, Suffolk, Cam-

bridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough). Scottish Islands.

DAVID LEWIS

England south of the southern boundaries of Cheshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire and Rutland. Wales. The Islands in the English Channel.

DICK BACKWELL

Ireland and Scotland.

Income from Donations

Budget		Actual To Date
£10,000		£10,000
£9,230		£9,000
£8,000		£8,000
£7,000		£7,000
£7,000		£6,340
£6,000		£5,000
£5,000		£5,000
£4,000		£4,000
£3,000		£3,000
£2,000		£2,000
£1,000		£1,000
Gap £2,890		

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE No. 1 ACCOUNT 9th January, 1966 to 18th February, 1966 (inclusive)

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
Donations :—				N.S.A.			
L.S.A.'s and Groups	...	...	£201 5 0 (36)	Travel	...	...	£72 0 9
Individuals	...	...	1,083 13 2 (81)	Office	...	...	272 15 0
			£1,284 18 2	Tel. & Cables	...	...	48 10 6
Less Payments against Covenants			153 8 9	Postage and Stationery	...	...	164 3 11
			£1,131 9 5	Convention	...	...	4 4 3
Interest and Dividends	...	...	22 4 4	Journal	...	...	22 18 2
Refunds to us :—				Extraordinary	...	...	29 9 8
Loans	...	...	25 0 0	A.A.T.C.	...	...	159 18 2
Incorporation Exps.	...	...	5 0 0	N.T.T.C.	...	...	65 12 11
Excess Expenditure over Income	...	...	804 7 10	Other Home Committees	...	...	44 2 11
			£1,988 1 7	Overseas Committees	...	...	20 13 5
				Pioneer Committee	...	...	490 1 4
				Other Committees	...	...	6 15 7
				Youth Committee	...	...	35 19 6
				Sundry	...	...	12 11 3
				Monthly Transfers :			
				H.Q.—Rprs. and Dec.	...	...	85 0 0
				—Running	...	...	200 0 0
				H.Q.—Dublin	...	...	82 0 0
				Donations	...	...	125 0 0
				Tr. No. 3	...	...	46 4 3
							£1,988 1 7

Communities contributing: Bangor, Belfast, Blackpool, Brighton, Brighton Children, Cambridge, Canterbury, Castle-reagh R.D., Cheadle, Eccles, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Inverness, Leicester, London, Malta, Motherwell, Nelson, Newcastle, North Berwick, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Peterborough, Pontyprydd, Portsmouth, Romford, Salisbury, Sheffield, Sligo, Southport, Sutton Coldfield, Watford, Wokingham R.D., York.

BAHA'I ADDRESSES :

National Office: 27 Rutland Gate, LONDON, S.W. 17.

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