

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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MAJOR UNDERTAKINGS AT THE WORLD CENTRE

Announcement by the Universal House of Justice

The National Assembly is happy to share this wonderful letter with the friends, sent to all National Assemblies. It calls upon us to increase our contributions from the National Fund to the World Centre to help with important developments there. Over the last few years we have annually sent £500 from the National Fund and have now pledged to send £2,000 in this coming year. The friends are now asked to increase their donations to the National Fund so that we can send this promised money as soon as possible and thereby strengthen the link between us and the World Centre of our Faith in a most practical way.

“Beloved Friends,

The time has now come in the progress of the Nine Year Plan when the Bahá'í World must devote a greater effort towards the development of the Faith at its World Centre.

Nearly all the accessible unsettled territories of the Plan have now been settled, bases have been established throughout the world for the future expansion of the Faith; a programme of progressive consolidation is being pursued hand-in-hand with continued expansion; plans for the construction of the Panama Temple are well advanced; the Haziratu'l-Quds, Temple Sites and endowments called for in the Plan are being steadily acquired; by the year of the next Ridván period 81 out of the 108 National Spiritual Assemblies by 1973 will have been established, and the opening of the period of the proclamation of the Faith is fast approaching.

Since the Universal House of Justice came into being in 1963, its primary concern at the World Centre of the Faith has been with the basic, minimum essentials of undertaking repairs to the Holy Places; establishing its administrative offices; re-organising the accommodation of pilgrims; gathering its staff; developing a suitable housing programme for the Hands of the Cause and their families, the members of the House of Justice and their families, and all other believers serving at the World

Centre; formulating plans for the expansion of the Gardens and taking the first steps in their initiation; collating the Sacred Texts and the letters of Shoghi Effendi and indexing them; and fostering relations with the Government of the State of Israel and with the United Nations.

The increased burden which these essential steps have imposed upon the International Fund we have endeavoured to keep at a minimum, so that, in the early stages of the Plan, the maximum resources could be utilized in the teaching work throughout the world.

However, we must now embark on certain major undertakings vital to the future progress of the Cause. Extensive beautification of the sacred endowments surrounding the Holy Shrines in Bahji and Haifa, as well as at the site of the future Mashriqu'l-Adhkar on Mount Carmel must be undertaken, both for its own sake and for the protection of these lands which are situated within the boundaries of rapidly expanding cities; the work of classifying and codifying the Holy Texts must be urgently prosecuted; the arrangements for pilgrimage may have to be greatly expanded to provide for the ever-increasing numbers of applications from East and West; the Intercontinental Conferences and the International Convention must be held and paid for; and the auxiliary institutions of the Universal House of Justice must begin to unfold so that the ever-growing and increasingly complex work of the World Centre of the Faith may continue to be efficiently discharged. Moreover, the vital assistance given by the International Fund to the work of the Hands of the Cause and National Spiritual Assemblies must be maintained.

The minimum budget requirements of the International Fund have nearly doubled since 1963, and if in addition we are to be enabled to undertake these developments, a much greater flow of funds will be needed than is now available.

We call upon every National Spiritual Assembly to consider now the amount that it can allocate as a contribution to

the International Fund in its budget for the coming year. In some cases this may mean that contributions made hitherto will be doubled, trebled, or even more greatly increased. Please write as soon as your decision has been made and not later than 21st April, telling us the estimated amount of your allocation.

This is a vitally important matter, and we shall pray in the Holy Shrines that the friends throughout the world will respond wholeheartedly to this call,”

with loving Bahá'í greetings,

(Signed and Sealed),

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

Draw Nigh unto Bahá'u'lláh.

How wondrous is the unity of the Living, the Ever-Abiding God — a unity which is exalted above all limitations, that transcendeth the comprehension of all created things! He hath from everlasting, dwelt in His inaccessible habitation of holiness and glory, and will unto everlasting continue to be enthroned upon the heights of His independent sovereignty and grandeur.

How lofty hath been His incorruptible Essence, how completely independent of the knowledge of all created things, and how immensely exalted will it remain above the praise of all the inhabitants of heavens and the earth!

CABLE TO TEACHING CONFERENCE.

To the National Spiritual Assembly of
the Bahá'ís of the British Isles.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

In reply to your letter of 24th February, 1967 our cable should have read: “... REINFORCE NORTHERN ISLANDS ...”

We had in mind the beloved Guardian's letter to the British community of 11th July, 1956, in which he called attention to “... the newly opened islands bordering the homeland itself, now standing in such dire need of a flow of pioneers and a concentration of material resources unexampled in British Bahá'í history.”, and he indicated that even greater results could be expected from such attention paid to these islands than had been vouchsafed to the Africa campaign.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY'S NEWS LETTER

GREETINGS FROM HANDS OF THE CAUSE.

The National Assembly is happy to share with you greetings from Mr. Faizi, who wrote from Haifa, "May Bahá'u'lláh sustain, support and strengthen you and your dear co-workers in the British Isles is the ardent prayer of this humble brother of yours;" and from Mr. Khazéh, who cabled from Brazil, "HAPPY NAW RUZ BRITISH COMMUNITY LOVE * KHAZEH."

DECLARATIONS.

We are very pleased to welcome to the Faith, Miss Barbara F. Darkes, Formby; Mrs. Gladys M. Barrett, Weybridge; Mr. A. Zaim Mostafanejad (Youth), Paignton; Mrs. Ada Lee, St. Annes on Sea; Mr. Jagdeo Hauzaree, London (Southwark); Mr. Babu P. Vadlamudi, Aberdeen; Miss Enid M. Whitelaw (Youth) Glynneath; Mr. Eric Jones, York; Mr. William Cahill, Dublin; Mr. Robert D. Lewis (Youth), Winchester; Mrs. Sybil M. Layne, Mackenzie, Guyana; Mr. Aloyseus B. Profiero of Morawhana and Mr. Rupert A. Dover of Golden Grove Village, both Guyana. Mr. John Harflett, Reading; Mrs. Margaret Appa, Barnet and Miss Farideh Farhangez, Romford (both London Boroughs); Miss Hilary Kemp, York; and Mrs. Pazhou Zamiri, Northumberland, all youths claiming voting rights.

INTERCONTINENTAL CONFERENCES.

We are delighted that over 160 Bahá'ís, youth and adult, with 22 children, are hoping to attend the Frankfurt Conference, the great majority wish to travel with the group from London, travelling to Frankfurt on the Friday and returning to London on the Wednesday. Mr. Eruch Munsiff will be handling the group travel arrangements on behalf of the National Assembly; and everyone will deal individually with the Travel Agency in Frankfurt concerning accommodation. Full information about both these aspects of the Frankfurt Conference should already be in your hands by the time this Journal is off the press, but if you have not yet received it, the information will certainly be coming to you from the National Office very shortly.

The official Language of the Conference may be English. If it is, the N.S.A. of Germany will consider simultaneous translation into French, Persian and German. The cost of translation apparatus would be about D.M. 20.00 (£1 15s. 0d.) each for the whole period of the Conference. If you do not speak English, and would like to hire translation apparatus (if it becomes available) would you please let the National Assembly know immediately? Would anyone who is sufficiently fluent in French, Persian or German, to help with simultaneous translation from English and is willing

to do this at the Conference, please also let the National Assembly know?

We are equally delighted that nine adults and two children are hoping to attend the Panama Conference from Guyana. The Friends there are investigating the possibility of reduced air fares, following up favourable rates obtained by the N.S.A. of Brazil for their believers.

"PEOPLE NEXT DOOR" PROJECT.

Many communities reported having been contacted by non-Bahá'ís taking part in this project, organised by the British Council of Churches and the Conference of Missionary Societies in Great Britain and Ireland. If you have not already informed the National Assembly of activities in your locality, would you please do so?

SPECIAL REQUEST FOR PRAYERS DURING MAY.

On 21st May 1967, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission will be commemorating the 50th anniversary of its establishment by Royal Charter. The Commission is responsible for the permanent care and maintenance of the cemeteries, graves and memorials of the men and women from all parts of the Commonwealth who lost their lives in the two World Wars. It cares for over a million graves in 150 different countries, and has built memorials to commemorate three-quarters of a million whose mortal remains were committed to fire or whose graves are unknown. Before the Commission was founded, no trace was kept of most of those who lost their lives in wars, and the Commission's work has brought comfort to millions of bereaved relatives, as well as bearing silent witness, through these graves and memorials, to the cost of war. The Commission has asked that the Bahá'ís join with all other religious communities throughout the Commonwealth and South Africa, in prayers remembering its own work and that of kindred organisations in the other countries involved in the wars, as well as the millions of war dead of all countries and their bereaved relatives; and that, through these prayers, our united hope be expressed of peace on earth in the years to come.

The National Assembly asks all Local Assemblies, goal towns and groups please to arrange for your communities a special opportunity on or around Sunday, 21st May, for such prayers; and all isolated believers especially to remember this request in your prayers at that time. With the approval of the Universal House of Justice, we have been pleased to assist the Commission by passing this request to our sister National Assemblies in the world who are responsible for Commonwealth territories and South Africa.

CONVENTION PLANS APRIL 28th/30th, IN LONDON.

A gathering will be held at the Grave of Shoghi Effendi at 8 p.m. on Friday

evening, April 28th, for prayers before the opening of Convention itself at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall, Ealing on the Saturday morning. Everyone is invited to attend, and it is specially hoped that Convention delegates will be able to be at the beloved Guardian's Resting Place on the Friday evening, to supplicate there for the guidance and blessings of Bahá'u'lláh on their deliberations at Convention. Information about hotels in the Ealing area and directions how to reach the Town Hall have been sent to all believers.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER AT NATIONAL OFFICE.

Would you please note that the new "all-figure" telephone number of the National Assembly is 584-2566. When dialling from outside London, please use the prefix "01", i.e. "01-584-2566".

GLASGOW BOOK EXHIBITION.

A new cloth edition of "Religion for Mankind" by Horace Holley was exhibited by George Ronald in the Glasgow Book Exhibition held from March 11th to 18th in connection with National Library Week.

APPEAL FOR YOUTH FOR LARGE SCALE CONVERSION AREAS.

As you will remember, in their letter of 23rd February 1966, the Universal House of Justice appealed to the British Community as well as those of Germany, Persia and the United States, for single young men or young married couples to volunteer to spend one year, six months, or even their summer holidays in travelling to countries where large-scale conversion is presenting challenging problems. The Universal House of Justice wrote, "These problems, including the lack of postal facilities, the illiteracy of the indigenous population, and inadequate local means of transportation, render, in many instances, the mere act of correspondence by mail or the sending of literature by the National Assembly or its Teaching Committees almost ineffective and make it imperative that, however inhospitable the climate and inaccessible the centres, a continuous stream of travelling teachers make regular visits to the various local communities to encourage and inspire the friends." These youth projects will have to be self-supporting, and while in the field the young volunteers will be under the direction of the National Spiritual Assembly concerned. The Universal House of Justice felt that "Many Bahá'í parents may willingly provide the expenses of such projects for their children." The National Assembly now renews this appeal both to confirmed and enthusiastic young Bahá'ís and also to parents. Those whose own children may not be able to respond to this challenge, may wish to support a "spiritual child," and thus take part in this vital work of consolidation. Please send all offers to the National Assembly at 27 Rutland Gate, London, S.W.7.

DISTINCTION

"I desire distinction for you. The Bahá'ís must be distinguished from others of humanity. But this distinction must not depend upon wealth, that they should be more affluent than other people. I do not desire for you financial distinction. It is not ordinary distinction I desire; not scientific, commercial, industrial distinction. For you I desire spiritual distinction; that is, you must become distinguished in morals. In the love of God you must become distinguished from all else. You must become distinguished for loving humanity and accord; for love and justice. In brief, you must become distinguished in all virtues of the human world; for faithfulness and sincerity; for justice and fidelity; firmness and steadfastness; for philanthropic deeds and service to the human world; for love towards every human being; for unity and accord with all the people; for removing prejudices and promoting international peace. Finally, you must become distinguished for heavenly illumination and acquiring the bestowals of God. I desire this distinction for you. This must be the point of distinction among you."

'Abdu'l-Bahá, "Star of the West". Vol. III.

EXCHANGE VISITS Etc. with BAHÁ'ÍS FROM EUROPE

From time to time we receive requests from sister National Assemblies in Europe who have been approached by believers in their Communities who would like to come to the British Isles. Some would like to arrange holiday-exchanges with British Bahá'ís; some younger believers want to come here to learn English and would like to work au pair in a Bahá'í home; some are seeking hospitality during school holidays for their children, and would be prepared to take a young Bahá'í from the British family into their homes in exchange. If you would like to take part in this sort of exchange, or to offer hospitality to an overseas Bahá'í, would you please let the National Assembly know exactly what you would be prepared to do?

CAN YOU DESIGN A POSTER ?

The Community needs posters! Can you help?

We need to design a poster which communities can use to advertise public meetings or firesides, for display in shops, libraries, etc. Designs and suggestions should be submitted to the Secretary of the Publicity Committee: Mr. A. Robarts, 26, Newmarket Road, Redcar, Yorks, by May 31st.

We hope to be able to make a display at Summer Schools from the designs submitted. If your community already has a poster please submit it.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

BRIGHTON.

There has been quite a lot of varied Teaching activity carried out by the Brighton Bahá'ís over the last two or three months. A talk on Persia, its life and culture, has been given by our Secretary to the Townswomens Guild and the Friends Centre.

The Brighton Unitarian Church held an "All Faiths Service" and we accepted the opportunity to read from the Bahá'í Scriptures in company with similar readings from a Member of the Jewish Faith.

Probably the most rewarding teaching has been that in which Youth Movements have been addressed. The Grammar School Religious Society asked for a talk to be given on the Bahá'í Faith, and about twenty boys attended. As is usually the case at Youth Meetings, the time allowed for questions was well taken up. Equally interesting was a talk given by Mrs. Munsiff to an audience of Students at the Teachers Training College. Her humour and sensible answers appeared to make a great impression on the young people present. Because of these meetings, there are already two or three more young people attending our Firesides.

DURHAM.

Twenty Bahá'ís met in Durham to pray for the opening of this goal town and to meet thirty non-Bahá'ís at a social evening. The first immediate signs of the success of this are the three people reading about the Faith and the fireside organised by a non-Bahá'í and attended by seven non-Bahá'ís, including a local curate. Quotations will start soon in the local paper and the library has already been asked for Bahá'í books and the pioneers have been allowed to observe the Bahá'í Holy Days and not work. This is a happy start that owes its success to the work and prayers of many Bahá'ís from several communities to which the sincerest thanks of the pioneers go.

WANDSWORTH.

A large gathering of Bahá'ís and their friends initiated the observance of Intercalary Days on Sunday, 26th February, 1967, with a 'pot-luck' lunch. The function was well supported by the Bahá'ís from the neighbouring Communities of Barnes, Richmond and Hammersmith. The Bahá'í Spirit of hospitality was evident in the large variety of English and foreign dishes provided. Eight non-Bahá'ís present had a very enjoyable time, and learnt a good deal about the Faith in the two hours general discussion that followed the meal.

CHILD EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

It might be of interest to the friends to know the progress of the child education activities in the British Isles. To obtain as clear a picture as possible to enable the Committee to plan their work, a Questionnaire was sent to the local Spiritual Assemblies. From these 56 enquiries, 42 replies were received. In nine Communities there are no children. There are 113 children in the remainder. There are, actually, many more than 113 children in the whole of the Bahá'í community in Britain. The foregoing information was derived from the replies received, enquiries were not made to groups or isolated believers, where there are many children.

Six Communities have been holding Children's classes for a long time. Some for Bahá'í children only, some for Bahá'í and non-Bahá'í children only. Reports have also been received that isolated believers and groups are also holding classes for their children. So encouraging is this news that the Committee hopes that very soon all Communities will be holding children's Classes. As is well known, children's classes have also been held in the Hazirátul-Quds, London, for some time now.

Attendance of children at 19 Day Feasts and Bahá'í Holy Day celebrations is encouraged, in some Communities special 19 Day Feasts for children are organized. The book, "God and His Messengers," by David Hofman, is recommended as an aid to teaching the Bahá'í Faith to the 5 to 9 years age group, and "The New Garden," by Hooshman Fathe'azam, as an aid for the 10 to 14 years age group. Assemblies, parents and teachers in general are encouraged to subscribe to the Magazine, "The Child's Way," from U.S.A., in which very useful information and guidance for child education is given. This magazine can be obtained by sending subscriptions to Mrs. Jean Pitcher, 3 Silvester Way, Stafford. The annual subscription for six copies is £1 1s. 0d.

The Committee is pleased to announce that publication of "The Little Journal," the Bahá'í magazine for children, is being resumed. Number 3 edition is to appear soon. From reports received it seems that the magazine fills a need of the children, and the Committee would like to be able to continue publication. It will be necessary to make the magazine self-supporting and to do this a small subscription of 5 (five) shillings per annum will need to be charged for six copies, and it is hoped that parents will support this project. Subscriptions would commence with the No. 4 issue of the magazine, and should be sent to Mrs. L. Smithson, 92 Beechwood Road, Sanderstead, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2, OAB.

The Committee thanks all who have helped them in their work either by writing for the magazine, helping to teach or look after children in national gatherings, or by doing secretarial work.

CHILD EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

- FAR AWAY PLACES -

David Hopper has now arrived in The Gilbert and Ellice Islands in the Pacific. Arriving by small boat, having travelled deck passage from Fiji, he writes:

"By ten o'clock we had anchored off Tarawa (Capital of the colony in Gilbert Islands) with the lights of Betio in sight. The following morning we entered the narrow lagoon passage between the buoys, and dropped anchor some hundred and fifty yards off the wharf. After daybreak, with the sun climbing on the gloomy rainfull sky, I had my first look at the lagoon. Paul (a friend David had made on the boat) had told me what to expect, but it was not possible to anticipate the astonishing size of this stretch of water. From the anchorage, the visible land stretched round nearly half the horizon. Though the land area of the Atoll is small, the lagoon area is probably the size of Morecambe Bay. The avenues of coconut foliage are very beautiful. In parts the island is narrow enough for you to see both lagoon and ocean. The sunlight is intense and there is a lot of glare from the water and sand.

The island house I am living in, is entirely made of wood. There isn't a nail in sight, for the Gilbertese custom is to lash all the parts together with cord. It is beautifully made, but I'm sure it will go up in smoke if I am not careful and alert when using my Tilley lamp!!"

Within a few days David has thrown himself into the great amount of work that has to be done on the islands. Already he is serving on the Area Teaching Committee, and has started teaching among the Gilbertese. He writes:—"You can never push a Gilbertese to work. He'll start working just when he feels like it and its sometimes astonishing to see how well he can work if he puts his mind to it. Then there have been disputes over who should do the work and who should be the foreman.

I have been teaching English to some local children. Now the attendance is reaching a half dozen or more and I am trying to organise them on a regular time-table, as it is best to take 2 or 3 at a time. There is not much room in the lagoon house, and of course no desks or blackboards."

Now David has started to arrange for the forthcoming National Convention. His work on the islands has only just begun and there is much to do, but we feel sure that with God's help, he will make a tremendous contribution to the Faith in the South Pacific.

Shidan and Susan Kouchekezadeh, who pioneered to Seirra Leone in September 1966 have now been living in Freetown six months, and despite the initial difficulties and vicissitudes they are now gradually settling down. Susan writes back very descriptive and humorous letters of life in Sierra Leone and

the many problems that have to be overcome. Following are quotations from Susan's letter.

"Having just concluded the discussion part of our Nineteen Day Feast I have settled down to write to you while Shidan prepares the food part of the feast. First of all apologies for the infrequency of the letters we write and once again my excuse is illness. I have developed a very bad ear infection just before Christmas; the pain was so severe that for about a week I did absolutely nothing. Mind you during that week lots of things happened to us. We were "thieved" twice. On the first occasion we heard some noises and Shidan got up to investigate but he saw nothing. However, in the morning we found that thieves had managed to prise open one of our windows and had hooked out a lot of our stuff, mainly clothes. We lost about £60 worth of goods, but of course it would cost us about £100 to replace it here. Two nights later Shidan was wide awake and he heard a noise and then saw a head bobbing up and down in the living room. He yells out "thief" at the top of his voice and leaps out of bed. In the few seconds that it took Shidan to get into the lounge the thief had shot out of the window (This was a fantastic feat since the windows are barred and he went through a space 8 inches by 10 inches). and had jumped from our verandah to the ground. He must have belonged to the Fulah tribe who are renowned for their acrobatics and also can get through small spaces by magic! . . . by whispering passages of the Quran as they go through!! In the same week however, we had some good news . . . Shidan was offered a job . . ."

In a recent letter Susan writes: "Shidan's job is going well. He is thoroughly enjoying it and it is a marvellous experience for him. The only disadvantage is that it is all rather uncertain. His firm have definitely got their contract renewed and will be busy here for another couple of years, but Shidan's exact position is a little vague, as unlike the other engineers, who are all French, he is not on a contract. My job is as before (teaching). I am enjoying it immensely. I miss Shidan very much in the week but the Week-ends are like paradise! Shortly after Shidan started to go up-country we had a 'flood'. One Monday just after Shidan had left Freetown, the tank in the attic went wrong and was filling and overflowing all day and when I arrived home from school I found the whole place under 3 to 4 inches of water. As you can imagine clearing up was a tough job although I had much help from our very kind neighbours downstairs. Anyway, that fairly exhausted me and for two or three weeks after I was not particularly well and seemed to have spent more time at the doctors than at home, but I am glad to say I'm infinitely better now and feel absolutely

fine. Probably the rising temperatures and the loss of Shidan's company had something to do with it all . . . but my system seems to have become reconciled to both these now! Shidan stubbornly remains as healthy as a horse! . . . well I should keep my fingers crossed when I say that."

Susan then describes a rather unpleasant incident with their landlord following their 'flood' at which they are given notice to quit. She then writes: "It seems to me that out of this rather unpleasant episode with this landlord everything is going to turn out for the best, as it has done all along the line even since we came here. Bahá'u'lláh has looked after us every step of the way and when we have been too tired to get up and see people, Bahá'u'lláh has brought the people to us. This has happened several times. At present we are holding regular Sunday meetings of worship with two Quaker, American friends and as you can imagine the meeting comes round again and again to a discussion on the Bahá'í Faith. We have also had a letter from a Liberian Bahá'í who is living in Sierra Leone. He lives at a great distance from Freetown but visits here occasionally. He asked us to go and see his wife who lives here and I did that right away. She turned out to be an extremely nice person . . ."

Shidan and Susan are busy teaching friends, acquaintances, driver, servant and anyone else willing to hear the word of God, and they plan to attend the National Convention of the N.S.A. of West Africa in Monrovia, Liberia.

LETTER FROM A NEW BELIEVER.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

In our homes catering for family needs or at work doing the daily routine, in fact in any environment that isolates us from other believers, we may at times be apt to feel that the Faith is not a strong point in our lives, doubts about its necessity and progress may even trouble some of us. This, of course, can only happen to new Bahá'ís like myself, but then I have only to read some passages from the scriptures to find the truth that just cannot be contradicted. The greatest help of all, I find, is the coming together with steadfast believers, sharing their warmth, friendliness, wonderful talks and discussions. As I learn more about the Faith and gradually dispel my doubts I realise that these misgivings delay its progress. Please God I may have the courage not to hinder the Bahá'í Faith but rather be a channel through which it can be brought to the knowledge of those who earnestly want Peace, for who can deny that the Bahá'ís have the means of achieving it through the Manifestation of Bahá'u'lláh.

PROCLAMATION

ENGLISH ASSEMBLIES PREPARE FOR ACTION.

READINESS.

The news from Assemblies throughout England has indicated the anticipation of the Friends and their readiness to study for the coming Proclamation period. This past year has not produced any particularly startling events, nor has there yet been a great increase in declarations, and at present a number of Assemblies are in jeopardy, being low in numbers close to Ridván. We pray that the news may be brighter by Ridván but everywhere hearts are beginning to turn to September and the start of Proclamation. Having read the messages from the Universal House of Justice there is a feeling that this period can bring a new impetus to our teaching so that the growth of communities by declarations will make pioneering to maintain the Assemblies unnecessary.

SYSTEMATIC PLANS.

Gathering together the experience of successful teaching from all Communities, the Assembly Assistance Teaching Committee is now launching a systematic teaching plan that will unite all the Assemblies in England. By now every believer in these Communities should have details of the plan, entitled "PROCLAIMING OUR FAITH." Designed so that it can be adapted to the capabilities of every Community, backed by a large number of teaching aids and material, based on the guidance of the beloved Guardian and the instructions of the Universal House of Justice, this plan uses no gimmicks but will succeed through the devotion and service of the Local Assemblies and the dedication of every believer.

A PART FOR EVERYONE.

The Guardian has told us that we will succeed in our teaching only as much as we all, individually, live the Bahá'í life, and he has reminded us that we will not succeed through our own brilliance or intelligence, but through the power of God that works through our humility and our obedience. The plan then starts with prayer, study, and consultation. Already communities are active in studying the Writings ready for Proclamation and this study will lead every Assembly and believer to find out just what they can offer in service and sacrifice as their response to Bahá'u'lláh's Proclamation. Every believer will find a part in this plan and through his study become assured, through his obedience to his Assembly become orientated and through his teaching become happy until we really do stand out as the "assured", orientated and fundamentally happy beings that the Universal House of Justice has demanded.

ASSEMBLIES UNITED.

As the various Assemblies start putting this plan into action they will be uniting in a number of ways. Not only will they all be linked through carrying out the teaching activities at the same time, not only will they be using a plan that has been built up from the experience of all these Assemblies, not only will they all be obeying the same supreme body that called for systematic teaching plans, but they will all be based on the same foundation of belief in Bahá'u'lláh. "Unity, discipline and vigour" is what our communities must have and it is these essential qualities that can make our united activity a success, can make it a means of bringing yet more and more people to the knowledge of Bahá'u'lláh. This plan will not replace any of the present teaching activity which must not stop for a minute; this is for that extra service and sacrifice that will make us "emerge from obscurity."

"REMEMBER MY DAYS . . ."

"Remember my days during thy days, and My distress and banishment in this remote prison." This is exactly what we are all doing as we study what happened 100 years ago in Adrianople. "And be thou so steadfast in My love that thy heart shall not waver, even if the swords of the enemies rain blows upon thee and all the heavens and the earth arise against thee . . . Rely upon God. . .". From these words we start, and relying on God rather than our own limited resources, we look forward with hope and determination to Proclamation.

OUR NEW ASSEMBLIES.

As soon as the sun sets on April 21st, there will be a large number of new Assemblies waiting to start their year of service, which, we trust, will include participation in this teaching plan. We look forward to hearing from every Assembly, as soon as possible, so that we can be ready to work with each one. If an Assembly wishes, we will come to consult with it, but whether you wish this or not, please give us your secretary's address immediately so that no time is lost. There is no time to spare. Our secretary's address is: Mrs. Lois Hainsworth, Sharaf, 10, Church Road, Horsforth, Leeds.

ASSEMBLY ASSISTANCE TEACHING COMMITTEE.

SUMMARY OF PLAN

- A. **PREPARATION:** May 23rd to September 30th.
1. **PRAYER: May 23 to June 24.**
Communities to hold meetings for Declaration of the Báb and Prayer. Outlines for meetings and further suggestions to be sent by AATC.
2. **STUDY: June 24 to August 1.**
Communities to hold meetings for study and prayer for Proclamation. Assemblies to consult with friends on best ways of using all effort. Programmes and further suggestions to be provided by AATC.
3. **VISITING: August 1 to September 8.**
Study and prayer continue; visits to nearby goal towns and isolated believers. Programmes provided by AATC.
4. **CLUBS, SOCIETIES, ETC.: September 8 to September 30.**
Notices for clubs and societies, contacts with these bodies afresh. A widening circle of contacts.
- B. **PROCLAIMING: Oct. 1 to Mar. 21.**
5. **WORLD PEACE: Oct. 1 to Nov. 4.**
A meeting on World Peace; firesides to continue and intensify. Frankfurt Conference during this period. Press releases, programmes and outlines for World Peace and UN Day provided by AATC.
6. **WORLD UNITY: November 4 to 28.**
A meeting on World Unity. Social devotional meeting for the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh. Approaches to local UNA or Human Rights Year Committees with details of plans for Bahá'í activity. Programmes and outlines supplied by AATC.
7. **ABOLITION OF PREJUDICE: November 28 to December 31.**
A meeting on Abolition of Prejudice to be held on Human Rights Day (December 10). Where feasible an effort to contact other classes and races. Regular firesides to continue with special effort to invite visiting speakers.
8. **WORLD RELIGION: January 1 to February 7.**
Meeting for World Religion Day. Announcement of plans for Human Rights Year and invitations to other bodies to join activities. Programmes and Press releases to be provided by AATC. Teaching Conference in this period.
9. **WORLD COMMONWEALTH: February 7 to March 2.**
Meeting on World Commonwealth; Human Rights activity; increased visiting during Intercalary Days, approaches to local press. Programmes and publicity material to be supplied by AATC.
10. **THE LAW OF GOD: Mar. 2 - 21.**
Meeting on the Law of God in every community. Prayer and study for national events for Proclamation. Naw Ruz celebrations. Programmes and publicity ideas will be provided by AATC.

NORTHERN ISLES

"Parallel with this highly vital and urgently needed exertion in foreign fields, a further intensification of effort is required on the Home front, and particularly throughout the newly opened islands bordering the homeland itself now standing in such dire need of a flow of pioneers and a concentration of material resources unexampled in British history."

Extract from the Guardian's Letter to the British Bahá'í Community, July 11th, 1956.

Since this letter from the Beloved Guardian eleven years ago, these staunch and steadfast souls in their respective island out-posts, have been very fortunate if they have had more than one visitor each year. These friends are in need of an outpouring of Bahá'í love and fellowship, to be able to converse with other Bahá'ís, to be made to feel that they are as much an integral part, not only of the British Bahá'í Community, but also of this World encircling Cause of Bahá'u'lláh.

Yes indeed, these islands off the Northern Coast are the responsibility of the British Bahá'í Community; your responsibility, haven't you felt the joy and exhilaration of a Weekend School, Summer School, Teaching Conference or Convention, yet these people are deprived not only of these activities but of being able to talk with other Bahá'ís from one year to another.

Constant progress of the Cause of God is a source of joy to us all and a stimulus to further action, but without action we cannot stimulate that constant progress. Under the direction of the Universal House of Justice, these islands have to attain Assembly status in the Nine Year Plan.

What are YOU doing about it?

Why not dedicate your vacation to teaching the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh! It is little to ask, to combine a holiday with spreading the love and fragrances of this wondrous Cause.

These islands are not difficult to reach, but it takes time, and summer-time is when most of us have the most time available.

Lands of the Midnight Sun, each of these islands have a fascination of their own, rich in history, folk-lore and crafts, with a people who are friendly and hospitable.

Decide now, to go! Tomorrow may be too late, for these islands are inundated with tourists in the summer months, and transport may not be available to you then.

Enquiries may be made to Mr. H. Shepherd, 42 Island Bank Road, Inverness, Scotland, and a stamped addressed envelope would be helpful.

SCOTTISH TEACHING COMMITTEE

BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST NO. 1.

Ref. No.	Title.	Per Copy
Alterations to Prices.		
B.40	The Chosen Highway — by Lady Blomfield. Cloth. U.S.A.	... 23/6
L.10	Bahá'í Teachings on Life after Death. by Florence Pinchon	... 3d.
Correction of Reference Numbers.		
P.40	A Commentary on the Will and Testament of Abdu'l-Bahá. David Hofman ... ..	... 1/-
(Please alter Ref. No. on page 18 of Catalogue).		
No longer Available.		
L.2	The Bahá'í Faith — Yellow Pamphlet	... ..
B.41	The Good Message by Rúhiyyih Rabbani. IND.	... ..
ADDITIONS TO CATALOGUE.		
B.40	The Chosen Highway by Lady Blomfield. Paper. U.S.A.	... 14/-*
B.74	Shoghi Effendi—An appreciation. U.S.A.	... 16/-
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B.79	Vol 4 of Teacher's Handbooks—Administration	... 12/-*
B.80	Bahá'í Administration (American Addition)	... 20/-
B.81	The Nine Year Plan—1964/73. U.H.J.	... 8/-
L.35	World Government and Collective Security. A collection of Bahá'í Quotations. IND.	... 3d.
L.36	What is a Bahá'í? U.S.A.	... 3d.
L.37	Pocket Calendar Cards—from May 1st 1967 to April 30th 1968. Kampala Temple Photo. U.S.A.	... 3d.*
P.33	Teaching and Consolidation Manual	... 5/- \$0.75
This revised edition has been subsidised by the N.S.A. to encourage every believer to purchase it.		
P.34	Buddha and Amitabha by Mrs. Shirin Fozdar. IND.	... 6d.
P.35	I Found God—by Mrs. Shirin Fozdar. IND.	... 6d.
P.36	Reincarnation—by Theodore Cortazzi. IND.	... 1/3
P.37	This Radiant Age. A collection of talks given by 'Abdu'l-Bahá during His travels to Europe and America. IND.	... 1/3d.
P.38	God, His Mediator and Man. U.S.A.	... 3/-
P.39	The Promised Day is Come—Study Guide by Shoghi Effendi. U.S.A.	... 6/-*
Specially prepared to help every believer to study this wonderful book by the Guardian, in preparation for Proclamation.		
P.41	Tablets of The Divine Plan — 'Abdu'l-Bahá. U.S.A.	... 5/6
*Available shortly.		

BAHÁ'Í NEWS.

Friends who wish to subscribe to "Bahá'í News" should send annual subscriptions of 13/- for 12 copies (including postage), no later than May 26th, 1967, to:—

Mrs. Jean Pitcher,
3 Silvester Way,
Stafford.

The July copy will be the first to be despatched.

"THE LITTLE JOURNAL."

Parents and other Friends interested in child education are invited to send stories, short plays, drawings in colour, or any other material suitable for children, up to the age of fourteen, to

the Secretary of the Child Education Committee for publication.

MESSAGE FROM BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

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

Gleanings p. 136.

For this and many other inspiring books the Bahá'í Publishing Trust can provide you with a comprehensive range from stock.

Send a stamped addressed envelope to the Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 248, London Road, Leicester for a free catalogue.

- N.T.T.C. REPORT -

AYLESBURY.

Following our visit to the goal town of Aylesbury in January, during which time there had been an interview with the local press, an excellent and very fair article about the Faith appeared in the Bucks Herald. This seems to have aroused quite a lot of local interest, and the pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. Nabil Mustapha, and Mr. Stephen Jenkerson are hoping to follow this up by holding a public meeting soon.

KENDAL.

Continuing our practice of holding committee meetings in the goal towns and goal areas, the February meeting of the N.T.T.C. took place in the goal town of Kendal, Westmorland. Both the joint consultative meeting with the pioneers, and the committee meeting were held in the home of the pioneers, Madelaine and Bill Hellaby.

As an example of indirect "seed sowing", John Long was able to visit Kendal the day before the committee meeting, and lecture at the local technical college.

This was a particularly joyous weekend, when it was felt a great Bahá'í spirit had been generated and released in this town. Much of the practical side of "working" a goal town was discussed, but always the discussion seemed to turn to the more spiritual nature of teaching.

IPSWICH.

Those friends interested in the whereabouts of the New Territories Teaching Committee, will have noticed from time to time their unusual meeting places. For our meeting on 18/19th March — not this time, an ancient Cromwellian Inn, in the old town of Aylesbury, but a Chest hospital in the similarly old town of Ipswich! The "centre" of the enthusiastic and devoted Bahá'í Group of Ipswich, at present, is the home of Dr. and Mrs. Ma'ani, who live at the hospital, and where the committee had the great joy and privilege of consulting with them. During the year the numbers of the Ipswich group have been doubled by a declaration and the pioneer move of Mrs. Margaret Bachrich, who was secretary of the Pioneer Committee. These friends, needing little encouragement, are enthusiastically making many friends and acquaintances in Ipswich, and a number of contacts are attending their fireside meetings.

YOUTH WORK IN THE GOAL TOWNS.

During a recent visit on behalf of the Committee, to the Easter Youth Conference at Manor Farm, St. Neots, Betty Goode called for youth volunteers to work in some of the goal towns during the summer vacation. Details of requirements were presented to the Youth and plans include the following:

1. Goal towns chosen for special youth project . . . Aylesbury, Bath Bedford, Derby, Durham, Kidderminster and Lincoln.
2. Minimum of 2, maximum of 3 youth per town.
3. Length of stay should cover 6 weeks, if necessary using two groups, each for three weeks.
4. Jobs should be preferably part-time, selected to leave free time not only in the day-time but during the evenings. (Should be possible as the towns are not holiday resorts).
5. Volunteers would be expected to be able to support themselves if possible.
6. Work to be done during the Project:—
 - a. Prime job . . . a complete survey of the town. e.g., facilities for both youth and adults, colleges, coffee bars, newspapers, libraries, book-shops, societies, societies prepared to accept Bahá'í speakers . . . etc. etc. (A detailed list of what is required would be given to each volunteer).
 - b. Development work in the goal town. Youth would help with this, and support all that was taking place in the town . . . firesides, devotional meetings, etc.
 - c. Attend as many youth evenings, clubs etc. as there are in the town to make youth contacts.
7. Volunteers should not assume hospitality, and all contact with resident Bahá'ís must be completed before setting out on the project.
8. Recommendations will be invited from the youth on completion of the projects.

Those youth not present at the Youth Conference and who are interested to serve the Cause by working in the Goal Town Summer Project, should contact the Secretary:—

Mrs. Betty Goode,
8, Knowle Road,
Stafford.
Tel. Stafford 62157.

PREPARING FOR PROCLAMATION.

Enquiries have been received from goal areas as to the best way the study of the Tablets to the Kings can be programmed, and the following advice has been given, which we print below for any of the friends who may find it helpful.

Study Guide.

1. The pattern should be based upon that given by Hand of the Cause, Col. Jalal Khazéh, using the references given in the Journal, page 10, February/March.
2. Get as a result:—
 - a. Chronological order of the Tablets.

- b. Realize the power of Bahá'u'lláh's condemnation in some, and praise in others.
 - c. View both in the light of happenings in the last century.
 - d. Study what happened to those who rejected His warnings.
3. By going through the letters carefully, become well briefed with the contents, so that during Proclamation one becomes well equipped to meet outside enquiry and criticism.

"That the Cause associated with the name of Bahá'u'lláh feeds itself upon those hidden springs of celestial strength which no force of human personality, whatever its glamour, can replace; that its reliance is solely upon that mystic Source with which no worldly advantage, be it wealth, fame, or learning can compare; that it propagates itself by ways mysterious and utterly at variance with the standards accepted by the generality of mankind, will, if not already apparent, become increasingly manifest as it forges ahead towards fresh conquests in its struggle for the spiritual regeneration of mankind.

Indeed, how could it, unsupported as it has ever been by the counsels and the resources of the wise, the rich, and the learned in the land of its birth, have succeeded in breaking asunder the shackles that weighed upon it at the hour of its birth, in emerging unscathed from the storms that agitated its infancy, had not its animating breath been quickened by that spirit which is born of God, and on which all success, wherever and however it be sought, must ultimately depend?

It is not necessary for me to recall, even in their briefest outline, the heart rending details of that appalling tragedy which marked the birth-pangs of our beloved Faith, enacted in a land notorious for its unrestrained fanaticisms, its crass ignorance, its unbridled cruelty. Nor do I need to expatiate on the valour, the sublime fortitude, that defied the cruel torture-mongers of that race, or stress the number, or emphasise the purity of the lives, of those who died willingly that their Cause might live and prosper. Nor is it necessary to dwell upon the indignation which those atrocities evoked, and the feelings of unqualified admiration that surged, in the breasts of countless men and women, in regions remote from the scene of those indescribable cruelties . . . Suffice it to say that upon those heroes of Bahá'u'lláh's native land was bestowed the inestimable privilege of sealing with their life-blood the early triumphs of their cherished Faith, and of paving the way for its approaching victory. In the blood of the unnumbered martyrs of Persia lay the seed of the Divinely appointed Administration which, though transplanted from its native soil, is now budding out, under your loving care, into a new order, destined to overshadow all mankind."

SHOGHI EFFENDI.

GARDEN PARTIES FOR THE SUMMER.

This summer there will be three garden parties at the Cardell's Farm at Gt. Paxton, St. Neots, Huntingdonshire.

When: Sundays June 4th, July 2nd, and August 6th.

Who is invited? All Bahá'ís and their friends. A special invitation is being given to the children and their friends. **What** to bring? A picnic lunch, sandwiches for tea. We will furnish the tea milk and sugar.

What activities? The farm is extensive, and very good for walks. The river Ouse stretches for about 1 mile along the farm boundary; it is in good walking distance, and is good for fishing. There will also be garden games, including tennis. Indoor games if wet.

Where? To reach the Manor Farm, make for the Great North Road, (A1). Turn off about 60 miles north of London, at St. Neots or Huntingdon to the 1043 to Gt. Paxton. The Farm is in the village, under the shadow of the Church. If needed the 'phone is St. Neots 2038.

Come as early as you like and stay for picnic lunch and tea. Drop us a line if we can help with your arrangements.

DEADLINE: Material for next Journal to be in by the 22nd May, 1967, to—

Mr. J. Coates, Editor,
45 Overfield Road, Fawdon,
Newcastle upon Tyne, 3.

LYME PARK WEEKEND SCHOOL.

The above school will be held on 19th/21st May. The charges, inclusive of meals are as follows:

Full week-end 75/-.
Saturday and Sunday . 50/-.
Children 3 - 14 40/-.
Children under 3—no charge.

Friends wishing to attend the school should write as soon as possible to:

Miss M. Manson,
"Strathmore",
100 B Monton Road,
Eccles, Manchester.

LUTON YOUTH WEEKEND SCHOOL

on

13th/14th May

at

**BRACHE CENTRE
ASBORNE ROAD
LUTON, BEDS.**

Meals and Accommodation are available at the Centre.

for further details please contact:—

Mr. Shahram Firoozmand,
191, North Approach,
Kingswood,
WATFORD, Herts.

BLIND SERVICES COMMITTEE.

If any Community has blind friends for whom they would like Bahá'í material in Braille will they please send names and addresses to this Committee, with notes as to the type of person they have in mind, i.e., young, old, male or female.

c/o Miss Phoebe Brown,
16 Valley Gardens,
Hapton, Nr. Burnley, Lancs.

FIRESIDES.

Hove: will now be held on Tuesday evenings at the home of Mr. Mehrnoosh, Antler Court Hotel, 10 Wilbury Road, Hove, and NOT on Fridays as previously advertised.

Sutton Coldfield: Firesides continue to be held at the home of Mrs. Brevitt, 9 Lyndon Road, Sutton Coldfield, every Thursday evening. We reported incorrectly that these had been discontinued.

ASSEMBLY ASSISTANCE TEACHING
COMMITTEE.

FOR OUR OVERSEAS FRIENDS.

You are invited to send picture postcards, used or unused, of the Shrines, Holy Places, Gardens and Temples to the Overseas Goals Committee for distribution amongst our simple, but appreciative friends in far-a-way places. Please send all gifts to K. Kouchekezadeh, 3 Wentworth Close, Watford, Herts.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE NO. 1 ACCOUNT.

1st January, 1967 to 20th March, 1967 (incl.)

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.			
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
Donations—				N.S.A.—			
L.S.A.'s and Groups	...	371	11 7 (45)*	Travel ...	...	105	3 0
Individuals	...	2,302	15 4 (71)	Office ...	...	673	5 5
		2,674	6 11	Telephone and Cables	...	24	1 7
Less Payments against Covenants	...	1,060	13 7	Postage and Stationery	...	255	14 1
		1,613	13 4	Convention and T.C.	...	42	13 2
Interest and Dividends	...	749	0 10	Journal	...	160	13 0
Refunds to us:—				Extraordinary Expenditure	...	80	9 0
Loans	...	10	0 0	Legal	...	26	5 0
Excess expenditure over income	...	661	7 3	A.A.T.C. ...	...	210	0 5
		£3,034	1 5	N.T.T.C. ...	...	157	15 8
				Other Home Committees	...	240	16 6
Donations—				Overseas Committee	...	Cr. £160	16 4
Budget	...	9,000	0 0	Pioneer Committee	...	198	0 0
To Date	...	7,260	0 0	Other Committees	...	202	0 10
Gap	...	£1,740	0 0	Youth Committee	...	45	0 1
				Monthly Transfers—			
				H.Q.—Repairs and Decorating	...	150	0 0
				Running	...	290	0 0
				H.Q.—Dublin	...	122	0 0
				Donations	...	211	0 0
						£3,034	1 5
				Bank Balance £407.			

***Communities Contributing:**—Bangor, Belfast, Bournemouth, Brent, Brighton, Brighton Children, Bristol, Canterbury, Cardiff, Castlereagh R.D., Cheadle, Chester, Croydon, Dublin, Dun Laoghaire, Eccles, Epsom, Glasgow, Hammersmith, Harringay, Hove, Inverness, Jersey, Leicester, Liverpool, Lytham St. Anne's, Malta, Manchester, Merton, Newcastle, N. Berwick, Norwich, Oxford, Poole, Portsmouth, Reading, Sheffield, Southport, Stafford, Swansea, Winchester, Wandsworth, Watford, Wokingham R.D.