

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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THE RIDVÁN MESSAGE

A Summary for Guidance

The National Assembly hopes that everyone will read over and over again the Ridván message from the Universal House of Justice, printed in the last Journal, to learn more about the sure guidance that it gives us for this year and time to come. The message cannot be shortened in any way without losing some of its meaning. We set out below some of the outstanding subjects in the message to assist those who may have found it long and hard to read and to quicken the interest of others. It is good to read and think about the full message, and to talk about it with each other. If this can be done in Groups then this would be better.

The Faith Continues to Expand.

Bahá'u'lláh uses every effort we make for Him. Bahá'ís will achieve victory through determination and sacrifice.

This year there are 11 new National Spiritual Assemblies making the total 108. The Faith is in 311 territories and its scriptures printed in 397 languages, 29 more than last year. Bahá'í Marriage has been recognised this year in Iceland, Korea, Liberia, Luxembourg and Rhodesia. Holy days have been recognised in the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Hawaii, Iceland, Italy, Kenya and Luxembourg. There are now more than 6,000 Local Spiritual Assemblies of the 13,737 we must have by 1973, and there are Bahá'ís reported in 28,217 centres. We have obtained the building in Chihriq, where the Báb was kept prisoner. There have been about 200 travel teaching journeys, during the past year, throughout the world.

Bahá'u'lláh Helps Us.

Bahá'u'lláh is helping Assemblies as they face their problems and make new plans. He helps committees and the activities of Bahá'í Youth. He helps every individual Bahá'í, and families as they try to teach or hold a "fireside". The more we pray the greater will be the success. Nothing in the world can resist the power of the Cause. The World Centre is thrilled by the vigorous life of the Faith and wants every Bahá'í to share their joy.

The World Centre.

Important writings of Bahá'u'lláh and His Book of Laws are being put in order for use in the future. The

gardens round the Shrines are being extended and beautified. The constitution of the Universal House of Justice is being written. Closer relations are being made with the United Nations. An International Audio-visual Aid Centre has been set up.

The few gallant Hands of the Cause are always helping with the work of the Nine Year Plan. Their wonderful service wins our love and admiration as well as our honour and respect.

The design for the Panama Temple has been chosen and pictures will be available soon.

Pioneers and the Home Front.

209 pioneers are needed urgently in 87 countries. Pioneering is open to everyone and any Bahá'í moved to make an offer should contact the National Spiritual Assembly. We must have a strong Home-front as well for all expansion begins here. We are encouraged to set a timetable for the winning of our goals.

The Funds.

The Panama Temple, the World Centre, and world-wide teaching all need money. Every Bahá'í must make sacrifices. Although inflation means that more money is needed some of us also have more to give. Assemblies must help everyone not to forget the privilege of giving according to their circumstances. Only Bahá'ís are able to give to the Funds. This is an honour and a challenge.

World-wide Proclamation Begins.

For 100 years the Faith has spread through sacrifice, throughout the world, but still most people have not heard of the Faith. Now, at long last we must proclaim to all men that the Promised One is come and that His message is to bring unity and well-being to the human race. This long campaign starts in October this year and will build up during the rest of the Nine Year Plan. This may be the beginning of many plans until the time when the whole world accepts its Redeemer and its Lord.

Bahá'u'lláh wrote to the Kings and rulers of the world 100 years ago and now the Universal House of Justice is printing a special book to send that message to the rulers of today. The book will be printed in several languages

and will be available to everyone.

On September the 27th all the Bahá'ís will commemorate the centenary of Bahá'u'lláh's proclamation while six Hands of the Cause will go to the house where Bahá'u'lláh lived in 1867. These Hands of the Cause will then go to the six inter-continental Conferences and they will take a photograph of Bahá'u'lláh for everyone to see.

These conferences will show the joy of Bahá'ís and make us more determined. Plans will be discussed for winning all the goals of the Nine-Year Plan. We must remember all those friends who are in countries where they are restricted and be thankful for our freedom and teach all the more. Proclamation adds another dimension to our work and must become part of all our plans. We must teach to make sure that those who hear the proclamation can readily learn more about the Faith.

The Duty of Every Bahá'í.

Every Bahá'í must deepen in the Faith. We should study the purpose of God for man Bahá'u'lláh's purpose for our time. A higher standard of living, education, medicine and science will not bring what Bahá'u'lláh promised. The Báb did not die for these things. The changes for which Bahá'u'lláh suffered are much greater and much deeper than we can imagine. The civilisation that Bahá'u'lláh will bring has a fullness of life that the world has never seen.

All the things we need to know are found in the writings of the Faith. We must read the writings of Bahá'u'lláh and what 'Abdu'l-Baha and the Guardian said about them. We must have study classes and every Bahá'í is told by Bahá'u'lláh to pray and read the Word of God every day.

We must work hard and become better Bahá'ís ready for the proclamation programme. We must be ready for opposition. A great crisis faces man but our Scriptures are full of Love. Great things are expected of us. Bahá'u'lláh, the Báb and 'Abdu'l-Bahá all suffered in order to set men free and bring gladness. The Universal House of Justice pray that our efforts may help this glory and happiness to come.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY'S NEWS LETTER

THE WORLD CENTRE.

The National Assembly is happy to share with you the following news from the Universal House of Justice, received in their letter to us of 14th June: "Your loving letter of May 24th was warmly appreciated. Through the protection of Bahá'u'lláh, the Holy Places, all Bahá'í properties and all World Centre personnel have remained safe during the recent war."

In the same letter, the Universal House sent a special message to the British Friends: "We offer ardent prayer in the Holy Shrines that the British Bahá'ís may act in the service of the Cause they love so dearly, with such valour and devotion as to bring upon their community an accession of spiritual strength which will enable them to transcend their limitations of numbers and resources and achieve great victories in the teaching field."

A News Letter of the Hands of the Cause in Africa, shared further news from the Hands in the Holy Land about recent events in Israel: "Even at the height of the conflict there was no military action at or in the vicinity of the Holy Places in Akka or Haifa, and all of the friends serving here are well and confident. Following the example set by our beloved Guardian in earlier times of war and crisis, the work of the World Centre was continued from day to day without interruption."

HANDS OF THE CAUSE OF GOD.

We were happy and honoured that Mr. Shua'u'lláh Ala'í was in the British Isles during June and July. He was accompanied by his son, who had come to see a London specialist, and stayed for several weeks in Oxford. Mr. Ala'í consulted twice with the National Assembly; made a much-appreciated tour of Dublin, Belfast, Edinburgh, Manchester and London; met Youth both in Oxford and during his tour; and in his second consultation with the N.S.A. said that he felt the Bahá'í Youth had a tremendous part to play in the expansion of the Faith and urged them to spread enthusiastically the good news of the Message of Bahá'u'lláh.

Mr. John Ferraby attended the Harlech Summer School, and as well as taking part in the main programme, he led stimulating late-night discussion, when the Friends were able to share the rich resources of his wide Bahá'í experience. Mr. Ferraby plans to attend the Dalston Hall Summer School.

From Brazil, Mr. Jalal Khazéh sends his special love to the Friends in the British Isles and Guyana. He was seriously ill after his extensive Ridván tour, when he attended the Bahá'í Conventions in Argentina and Chile, then visited Paraguay and two far-off communities in Brazil itself. We are happy to learn that he has made good recovery.

In other parts of the world, Amat'ul Bahá, Rúhiyyih Khánúm followed her

attendance at the Bahá'í Convention in Sikkim, when the new National Assembly was elected, by visits to India, Mauritius, Reunion Islands and the Malagasy Republic. Mr. Ali Akbar Furutan, who visited Persia, is following this by a journey to India. Mr. Paul Haney, who went to South East Asia, continued his journey to Japan, Hawaii and the United States, and will meet the Friends and National Assemblies in those areas. Mr. Ali Muhammad Vargha went from Persia to serve for several weeks at the World Centre. Mr. Musa Banani, who spent some time recently in Persia, is now back in Kampala, Uganda; Mr. Enoch Olinga visited the Bahá'ís in the north-eastern Congo, then returned to Kampala to consult with the N.S.A. of Uganda and Central Africa. Mr. William Sears completed visits to some 22 countries in Africa, where he met National Assemblies and Auxiliary Board Members, and he is continuing with several more visits.

PROGRESS ON PANAMA TEMPLE SITE.

We are happy to share with you a letter from the N.S.A. of Panama, acknowledging the transfer of \$2129.06 (U.S.A.) to the Temple Fund:

"Our N.S.A. was deeply moved on the receipt of your very generous contribution to the Fund for the Temple soon to be built in Panama as the Mother Temple of Latin America. This is probably the largest sum received to date. We are especially grateful for contributions from afar because we are very much aware of the tremendous financial burdens the other countries have in fulfilling their immediate goals.

You will be happy to know that we have an expert Bahá'í (retired) engineer who is on the job constantly, climbing up and down the mountain under our tropical sun, and through his constant attention we are being saved large sums of money on the construction of the access road . . . it will be a far better road than we had dared to hope to build. This road will be finished by the end of July."

BAHÁ'Í SONGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

The Hand of the Cause William Sears has invited every national Community to send him two or three of their best Bahá'í songs, which he will share with all the Hands in each Continent, and through them with all the National Spiritual Assemblies in the Bahá'í World. He says, "Do not be concerned if you do not have a 'professional' chorus, or a group of trained singers . . . get a group together to sing three or more of the songs they feel best represent their part of the Bahá'í World." The National Assembly invites anyone who has composed a Bahá'í song to get it recorded by some of the Friends on tape, at a speed of either $3\frac{3}{4}$ or $1\frac{1}{4}$, and send it to us at 27 Rutland Gate, London

S.W.7, with a copy of the words (and an English translation if it is not sung in English) and information about who wrote it, how it came to be written, the nationality or race of the composer of the song and of those who are singing it.

If you wish to send more than one song, they will all be welcome, and from them the National Assembly will select three to send to Mr. Sears in Africa. He wants to get this project completed before the Inter-Continental Conferences, so please do not delay.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES FOLLOWING THE INTER-CONTINENTAL CONFERENCES.

Following the suggestion of the Universal House of Justice that Regional Conferences be held following the Inter-Continental Conferences, to "diffuse the benefits of the Inter-Continental Conferences", the National Assembly is calling nine Conferences in the British Isles, and invites all believers to attend one or other of them. Full details will be circulated later within the regions by the respective National Teaching Committees, but the preliminary details are as follows:

Saturday, November 4th:
In Cambridge.

Sunday, November 5th:
In Liverpool, Exeter, Leicester.

Sunday, November 19th:
In Leeds and Portsmouth.

Date to be agreed (possibly October 29th or November 5th) in Wales.

Date to be agreed, in Ireland.

The Conference in Scotland will be on Saturday, October 28th and may possibly be followed by a One-Day School on Sunday, October 29th. In their Ridván 1967 Message, the Universal House of Justice expressed the confident hope that the Inter-Continental Conferences would be "potent sources of unity, spiritual enthusiasm and realistic planning." The main purpose of our Regional Conferences will be to bring the spirit of the Inter-Continental Conferences to the whole Community, and with eagerness and enthusiasm to plan for the early completion of our teaching/Assembly goals of the Nine Year Plan.

The National Assembly is contacting our sister National Assemblies in the Netherlands and France concerning the possibility of holding a Regional Conference in Georgetown for the Guineas and Surinam, about which we are already in touch with the Hand of the Cause Jalal Khazéh.

OBITUARIES.

Dear Elizabeth Chapman passed to the 'Abhá Kingdom on June 11th, after a long illness which followed a major operation last summer. Her services to the British Community were outstanding; she returned from Africa in 1961, and for the last two years of the Ten Year Crusade she was Secretary of

the National Teaching Committee; from May 1963 until Ridván 1967 she was a member of the National Spiritual Assembly; she served on the Local Spiritual Assembly of Oxford; and she was active in the teaching field as well as playing such a full part as a Bahá'í administrator. Elizabeth had deeply appreciated the constant remembrance of the Friends and the loving prayers which had helped and strengthened her during the months that followed her operation. One of the most loyal and devoted servants of the Cause, she will be greatly missed. Her welcome into the 'Abhá Kingdom must have been one of great joy and happiness.

We are sad to report the passing of Mr. John Gresty of Stretford, but are very happy to share with the whole Community that John had resigned from Freemasonry and applied to the National Assembly for restoration of his voting rights just a few days before his sudden and unexpected death. In his heart his belief in Bahá'u'lláh had never wavered, and his courage in the end to take the step that would restore him as a Bahá'í in good standing was rewarded by the respect of his old friends and associates and the happiness of the Bahá'í Community. We have no doubt that he passed joyously to the Abhá Kingdom.

Stanley Shaw of Blackpool died suddenly on July 20th. Stan had pioneered with his wife, Mary, and their young daughter Alison, from Burnley to Blackpool over two years ago to maintain that Assembly, and he had done excellent Bahá'í work there. He will long be remembered for his loyalty

enthusiasm and joy and Bahá'í service. We are sure that he has found even greater happiness in his service to Bahá'u'lláh.

DECLARATIONS.

We are delighted to welcome to the Faith Miss Kathleen Richmond (Youth) Burnley; Mr. Philip R. Chambers, Kensington & Chelsea; Miss Brenda Brazier, Chester; Mr. Hooman Momen, (Youth) Poole; as well as the following Youth who have claimed voting rights, Mr. Alan Pollitt, Burnley; Mrs. Diane Rameshni, Kensington & Chelsea; Miss Rita Bridge, Langley, Slough.

We are especially delighted to welcome Mrs. Iona Moses of Coomacka, Guyana, the first Amerindian to recognise Bahá'u'lláh and to become a Bahá'í in that new Nation. Congratulations to the new L.S.A. of Mackenzie, Christianburg and Wismar at this wonderful outcome of their teaching work.

PURCHASE OF BOOKS FROM THE LONDON HAZÍRATU'L-QUDS.

The staff of the National Office are happy to help the Publishing Trust by selling books to callers during normal office hours, but it is not possible for books to be obtained by post through the National Office staff. The National Assembly regrets this, but only cash sales can be handled, and our staff will have to decline to send books by post. Any enquirers for books by post will be referred to the Publishing Trust, who have the facilities of a Trade Counter especially to handle this postal service.

HAZÍRATU'L-QUDS COMMITTEE

LETTING OF THE FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM AT THE HAZÍRATU'L-QUDS.

This room and the kitchen are available for any Local Assembly in the country who wishes to use it. The rental is £1 inclusive.

Area or regional meetings in the form of week-end schools, administrative training programmes, etc. organised by a National Committee can be held, and the charge will be the same.

Marriage ceremonies can take place at the National Hazíratu'l-Quds (but not wedding receptions), and there is no charge for the use of this room on those occasions.

The room cannot be hired for any other purpose.

Application to book the room for any of the reasons given above should be made to:

Mrs. Kathleen Hyett,
Secretary
Hazíratu'l-Quds Committee,
118, Kingsbury Road,
London, N.W.9.

APPEAL FOR TWIN CHANDELIERS.

The National Hazíratu'l-Quds Committee asks if any friend is able to give for use in the Hazíratu'l-Quds, two matching chandeliers for use in the first floor meeting room and the annexe

adjoining it. The chandeliers should be of good appearance in keeping with the dignity of the rooms in which they are required.

COMMEMORATION OF BAHÁ'Í HOLY DAYS AT HAZÍRATU'L-QUDS.

JULY—DECEMBER, 1967.

Sunday, July 9th: 11.45 a.m.

Martyrdom of the Báb.

Devotional Programme.

Thursday, October 19th: 7.45 p.m.

Birth of the Báb.

Programme, including the showing of new slides, provided by the Borough of Westminster Assembly.

There will also be a talk, and the programme will be suitable as a Thursday evening public meeting.

Sunday, November 12th: 3.30 p.m.

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh.

10-minute programme by the children.

Short talk.

Devotional Programme.

Sunday, November 26th: 3.30 p.m.

Day of the Covenant.

Short talk.

Devotional programme.

Tuesday, November 28th: 12.45 a.m.

Passing of 'Abdu'l Bahá.

Devotional programme.

FOR MEDITATION

“Consecrate all thy time to the service of the Kingdom of God and the propagation of its principles. Let thine own supreme concern be the promotion of the Word of God. Thou wilt ever be surrounded by the invisible angels of Confirmations and they will always come to thy assistance. Whenever thou dost enter a meeting, raise thy voice and say:

O ye believers in God . . . This day is the day in which you must diffuse the Fragrances of God. This day is the day that you must unfurl the Banner of the Kingdom of Abhá . . . This day is the day of the proclamation of the oneness of the world of humanity. This day is the day of forgiveness . . . Waste not your precious time in fault-finding and back-biting. Polish the surface of the mirrors of your hearts from the dross of human frailties. If you live according to the standard of other communities, then what difference does there exist between you and them? Bahá'u'lláh has summoned you to such a lofty summit the very thought of which is too dazzling a prospect. He has not chosen you to be satisfied with water and clay.

Thou must live in such a spiritual condition that thy very presence in the meetings may transform the audiences into the congregations of the elect and set aglow in their hearts the fire of the Love of God. Exalt thy ambition. Universalize thy ideals. Spread thy wings of compassion over all the regions of the globe. If some people come to thee alone complaining against each other, don't listen to them, don't let them breathe the faults of others in thy presence . . . Friends. It is high time for you to throw away these tales, these barren stories. God is not pleased with them, humanity is not pleased with them. Your time is too costly to be expended on these trifling events. You are made in the image and likeness of God. Your birthright is more valuable than all the treasures of the empires. Arise with heart and soul and let not these days slip by without results . . . This day is the day of the fulfillment of glorious promises. This day is the day of joy and fragrance”.

Petty bickerings and jealousies make one lose all the traces of spirituality, ex-communicate a person from the divine company of the worthy ones, submerge one in the sea of phantasms, suffer one to become cold and pessimistic and throw him headlong into the depths of despair and hopelessness. You must not listen to anyone speaking about another; because no sooner do you listen to one than you must listen to someone else, and thus the circle will be enlarged endlessly . . . O friends. Let us come together, forget all our self-thoughts and be in one accord, and cry at the top of our voices, ‘Ya-Baha-El-Abhá”.

‘Abdu'l-Bahá, reprinted from “Star of the West”, March 21, 1914, No. 1, Vol. V.

From the Community Development Committee.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

ABERYSTWYTH AND BORTH.

The groups in Aberystwyth and Borth have made an interesting contact with Miss Elma Williams, a writer of several books about animals, and have been invited again to visit her 'Valley of the Animals'. She has set up a little open-air chapel in the woods on her land and invited a Bahá'í to be the first speaker. He spoke about Bahá'u'lláh and the principles of the Faith to about 20 non-Bahá'ís. Mention was made in the local press. The groups of Aberystwyth and Borth visit the valley regularly and have been invited to hold meetings in the chapel.

ABERDEEN.

The Aberdeen Bahá'ís were pleased to welcome their friends from various parts of Scotland, to their week-end school held on 17/18th June, 1967.

The theme of the School was based on deepening in the faith to which the talks were mainly related.

Friends enjoyed the presence of Dick Backwell. His two wonderful talks, which, along with the efforts of other speakers, added to the success of the school.

All talks were followed by enlightening discussions; and everyone enjoyed participating in the 'workshops' on various aspects of teaching the faith.

BOURNEMOUTH.

Two quotations from "Gleanings" were submitted by Elsie Cranmer and accepted in a local newspaper and in the Spring-Summer issue of "World Faiths, the Journal of the World Congress of Faiths".

BRADFORD.

Recently, Bahá'ís from a wide area gathered in Bradford to take part in an event which was unique in Bradford and of great significance to the progress of the Faith in that city.

Carol Moorby, representing the Bradford Bahá'í Youth, after negotiating with the local Unitarian Church was able to arrange a joint service of worship in that Church. Lou Turner came from Southport on that Sunday to address the congregation, to find at the eleventh hour that she was invited not only to address the congregation but in fact to conduct the entire service, with her own choice of readings and prayers from Bahá'í Writings.

The occasion was a great success. A gathering of 63 including 37 non-Bahá'ís heard Lou give an outline of the Bahá'í principles and aims, and the majority of non-Bahá'ís stayed behind for discussion and afternoon tea provided by the Bradford Bahá'í community. A measure of the warmth with which this enterprise was welcomed was indicated by the expressed desire of the Unitarian Committee to repeat the experience soon, and the offer of the use of their premises for Bahá'í One Day Schools and meetings. Altogether, a worthwhile and stimulating occasion and thanks must go to the Bahá'ís who

travelled in some cases great distances to support this venture, to the Bradford Youth whose enterprise made the occasion possible, and to Lou, whose warmth and personality made such a deep impression.

This opportunity should also be taken to mention the efforts of another young Bradford Bahá'í, Shahros Sadeghian, within the new University of Bradford. He has taken advantage of the fact that this is a new University and so far without the usual organised societies etc. to present and have accepted a charter for a society to promote the understanding and unity of all World Religions. Called "The United Religions Association" it is envisaged that regular meetings will examine each World Religion and by discussion try to eliminate some of the prejudice and misunderstanding which surrounds them.

Outside speakers will be invited and in order to establish a fountain for future meetings the first speaker, Philip Hainsworth, addressed an audience of about 65, almost entirely non-Bahá'í, on the subject "The History of Religion".

Pamphlets on the Bahá'í Faith were presented to each person and fifteen new enquirers have since attended Friday firesides.

Shahros has also been responsible for breaking new ground at Bradford Cathedral. After attending the C.P.V. (Christian Point of View) meetings, he was invited to represent the Bahá'í Faith in a public debate at the Cathedral before a mixed audience of about 60, including Christians, Agnostics, Communists, Atheists etc. The Bahá'ís who were able to attend heard a lively debate, were given a hearty breakfast (the meeting started at 7.15 a.m.) and were afterwards the centre of informal discussion groups on the Faith for a further 2½ hours.

Thanks to the efforts of these young Bahá'ís, the Faith in Bradford has gained many friends and attention in two important institutions, Church and University and thus gained a platform for the mass proclamation which lies before us.

DURHAM.

One of the pioneers is now treasurer of a local young wives group and on the committee of another body, and the number of friends made is increasing. The other pioneer has been given leave to observe the Holy Days and also leave from work to give Bahá'í talks. Small beginnings but we hope that they will bring greater things soon. Some people are reading about the Faith and a few attended a slide show of the Shrines. Visits from other Bahá'ís, of which we have had many, are undoubtedly helping a number of people to notice and feel interested in the Faith.

ECCLES.

The ladies of the Community have formed a Social Welfare working group to which they are able to recruit non-

Bahá'ís when organising social evenings for charitable purposes. The first of such evenings was a Bring-and-buy-cum-Coffee Evening, in aid of relief from hunger in the Bihar area of India, held in the Stretford Civic Theatre, which is used for monthly Bahá'í meetings.

Much work was done in preparing for the event. Busy hands sewed and stitched the many delightful items which sold well. The evening was well supported and was attended by members of the Indian Community in the Greater Manchester area, who had been invited. Lots of garments have been collected for allocation to hospitals in India and will be sent to the High Commissioner of India in London for further distribution. In doing this work the friends are attracting the attention of the general public and use such occasions to teach and make mention of the Faith.

EPSOM.

"Christ and Bahá'u'lláh" is the theme of a one-day school to be held at Myers Hall, Ashley Road, Epsom, commencing at 10.0 a.m. on Saturday, 16th September.

Speakers will include Eric Hellicar, David Lewis and Jyoti Munsiff.

Myers Hall is behind the Surrey Trustee Savings Bank, three minutes walk from Epsom B.R. Station.

HAMMERSMITH.

Success crowned the efforts of the Hammersmith community in holding their first public meeting on the Bahá'í Faith in their borough, on May 20th at Blythe Hall, London. Over fifty people, including twenty who came to their first meeting on the Faith, listened attentively to a most stimulating talk by Owen Batrick. The atmosphere of the social which followed was so happy that many people returned to the nearby flat of some Hammersmith friends to continue their discussions. There they also listened eagerly to a visiting Bahá'í from the United States, Mr. Foster Mudd, share stories of the American Indians and how the Faith is spreading amongst them, especially through the Indian Council Fires. Within a week, the local weekly newspaper that had run an advertisement on the meeting for two previous weeks, printed an article on the meeting and a large photograph taken by the newspaper of three Bahá'ís in Hammersmith. This meeting was also well publicised through the media of Posters etc.

Prior to this public meeting the Hammersmith community held a dance during the Intercalary Days, where over eighty people from the London area had a wonderful evening of fun. Most recently on July 23rd the community had a picnic in Richmond Park and invited all the London communities to join in and bring their friends, as well as food and games.

LEICESTER.

The Bahá'í Centre at 248, London Road was opened on Saturday 24th June.

Many friends from several other communities were present to hear the opening talk given by Joan Gregory, there were also nine non-Bahá'ís present. In the evening, Ernest Gregory spoke on "The Bahá'í Road to World Peace" and sparked off an excellent discussion.

Joan and Ernest together with John Long and Marion Hoffman were the speakers at a one-day School held on the following day.

LYME PARK.

This year Lyme Park, organised by the Bahá'ís of the North West Region was specifically designated for the purpose of our proclamation work. It demonstrated a pattern in public relations work in addition to bringing to the notice of the Friends the importance of starting now to build up public relations.

The school started on Friday evening with a round panel organised by the youth members, in which the audience wrote questions, and these were passed on to others in the audience for replies. We had a large number of resident non-Bahá'ís and they particularly appreciated the wide picture presented as each replied in accordance with Bahá'í Teachings on the subjects raised. Saturday morning brought more visitors and the school was full to capacity. Philip Hainsworth gave a very stimulating and enlightening talk on proclamation which invoked many questions. After lunch, a panel of speakers which included Meherangez Munsiff, Earl Cameron and Miss Richards, the regional organiser for Save the Children's Fund, with Bill Hellaby as chairman spoke on 'Human Rights'—this being the Human Rights Year organised by a special section of the United Nations. This topical meeting gave an opening to contact the press and television, through the personalities of Meherangez Munsiff and Earl Cameron. Mention was made on Granada T.V. on Friday evening. This illustrates the need to exploit every opportunity for wide publicity. The evening programme was organised and compered by a non-Bahá'í and some 150 people attended including the local Chairman and his Lady (comparable with the Mayor and Mayoress). All enjoyed an excellent cabaret, and we were able to give £20 to the 'Save the Children's Fund' as a charge of 5/- per head was made for this function. The audience included 80

URGENT APPEAL

The vital work of the Cause requires £11,000 from donations this year. Already we are £700 behind target. The gap must be closed. Surely this Community so richly blessed and so esteemed by the beloved Guardian will not fail. Who will make the extra sacrifice? Please send your donation to:—

The National Treasurer,
Charles Macdonald,
25 Martello Park,
Craigavad,
Co. Down.

non-Bahá'ís and good visual aids prepared by Gitta Chaplin; a display of library books and other media gave us the chance to mention the Bahá'í Faith to a wide circle of people who had come from many districts. A film show of life in India was also presented by a non-Bahá'í. The films were loaned by India House and were of excellent quality, compelling interest and were varied, colourful and educational. Some of the artistes who took part in the cabaret were afterwards invited to a Bahá'í home when they of themselves, asked about the Faith. They are keenly interested and are participating voluntarily in another project which the Bahá'ís of the North West Region have in mind for the Autumn by way of a Celebrity Concert at Central Hall in Manchester. Our Sunday morning audience was keenly interested and stimulated by a talk by Eric Hellicar. In the afternoon others attending were reached through a talk by Gitta Chaplin, on the life and work of Richard St. Barbe Baker, founder of the 'Men of the Trees'. The whole week-end was sparkling, lively, and very, very inspiring. The devotionals were appreciated and enjoyed; beautifully prepared by the Sheffield friends; and again opened up a new vista to our visitors. We had quite a lot of publicity afterwards in our local newspapers.

By bringing our friends into our sphere of work we are forging bonds of friendship and co-operation which can be of inestimable value for our future proclamation work.

WINCHESTER.

On 22nd May, Farhang Jahanpur gave a talk to about 40 girls at the County High School. Intelligent questions were asked and a request made for Bahá'í pamphlets for the school folder. "Thief in the Night" and "Glad Tidings" were also given to the school library.

The same evening as the monthly public meeting, Farhang spoke on "The Healing of the Nations". Nine non-Bahá'ís were present. The weekly newspaper printed approximately 500 words about his talk.

Miss S. G. Kilford who is 84 years of age has recently made her pilgrimage to the Bahá'í Holy Places. Killy, as she is affectionately known, knew personally Dr. Esslemont and Martha Root, and her reminiscences are a bounty, of which we never tire.

In the sylvan surroundings of the Haziratu'l-Quds of Norway, The Martyrdom of the Báb was commemorated by the Oslo Bahá'ís and the Newman sisters, who were afterwards taken to the grave of Johanna Schubarth, Norway's first Bahá'í pioneer. Oslo Bahá'ís send loving greetings to the British Bahá'í Community.

David Lewis, Auxiliary Board Member and the L.S.A. Chairman and Secretary were received on Tuesday, 18th July, by the Mayor of Winchester, at the Mayor's Parlour.

— IRISH TEACHING COMMITTEE —

The Irish Teaching Committee is very concerned about the situation of the goal Towns in Eire. Limerick and Cork are as yet unopened; in accordance with the provisions of the 9 year plan, these towns must achieve Assembly status by Rídván 1971, in order that the National Assembly of Eire may be established in 1972. Teaching work in Eire can only be successful when the pioneers are accepted in the Community and loved by the people, the I.T.C. is therefore anxious that Bahá'í families, who can open their homes and attract people to the Cause should settle in these towns. Up to now, no such Pioneers have arisen. The time is short and this is a challenge to the British Community through sacrifice, to serve Bahá'u'lláh.

In the field of employment there are openings for people with professional qualifications, such as senior engineers with experience, teachers for special schools and all types of Medical Auxiliaries. There are also opportunities for shorthand typists, secretaries and hotel staff.

The Irish community was happy to welcome Hand of the Cause General Allai, who shared with us some thoughts on the Bahá'í life and spoke of the responsibility of every Bahá'í to teach the Cause.

Since our last report Cathy Boyd, Jeanette Robbin, Claire Copley, Jane Harding, Farhang Jahanpour, Emily Eastgate, Iraj Zamiri and Dorothy Wigington have visited us from Great Britain. Their presence has been a source of assistance and joy to the friends. Also, within Ireland there has been movement among the communities. The state of the goal towns remains the same apart from Dun Laoghaire, this community is now four, which has been achieved by the pioneer move of Lesley Gibson from Belfast. We are happy that Lesley has been able to secure employment in her profession.

We are extremely sorry to lose from Ireland, our Canadian Pioneers, West and Mary Huxtable, who have been posted to Brazil; during their stay both West and Mary have been active workers for the Cause. West has been invaluable to the work of the Hazíra Committee and the I.T.C. Their home has been a place of many Bahá'í gatherings. We wish them every success in Brazil.

The I.T.C. will hold a one-day Conference in early Autumn, to consult with the Irish friends on the goals of the Nine Year Plan in Ireland.

DALSTON HALL SUMMER SCHOOL

This School is now fully booked up, the committee very much regret that NO further bookings can be accepted.

A LONG RANGE PROGRAMME

The National Assembly shares with you the following letter dated July 2nd from the Universal House of Justice to all National Spiritual Assemblies which gives additional comments on the nature and purpose of proclamation. As every believer will be taking an active part in proclamation activities, the National Assembly asks everyone to study this letter carefully; Local Assemblies, Goal Towns, and Groups are asked to give it special attention in relation to their own plans for proclamation.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

In just over three months the period of the world-wide proclamation of the Faith will be opened at the six Intercontinental Conferences called to celebrate the centenary of the revelation of the Súriy-i-Mulúk. Those conferences will provide an opportunity for representatives of the National Spiritual Assemblies to exchange ideas and co-ordinate plans for the proclamation which will continue throughout the remaining four and a half years of the Plan.

The stimulating effect of this interchange of ideas will produce greatly increased momentum throughout the world, but inasmuch as many projects must be worked out before that date, we feel a few additional comments on the nature and purpose of proclamation will be helpful now.

Proclamation comprises a number of activities, of which publicity is only one.

The Universal House of Justice itself will be conveying the Message of Bahá'u'lláh to the heads of all states, but, in addition to this, one of the most important duties of each National Spiritual Assembly is to acquaint leaders of thought and prominent men and women in its country with the fundamental aims, the history and the present status and achievements of the Cause. Such an activity must be carried out with the utmost wisdom, discretion and dignity. Publicity connected with such approaches must be weighed very carefully, as it may be unwise or discourteous. This is, of course, a long-range programme, for such things cannot be rushed, but it must be given constant attention.

Another aspect of proclamation is a series of teaching programmes designed to reach every stratum of human society—programmes that should be pursued diligently and wisely, using every available resource.

Publicity itself should be well-conceived, dignified and reverent. A flamboyant approach which may succeed in drawing much initial attention to the Cause, may ultimately prove to have produced a revulsion which would require great effort to overcome. The standard of dignity and reverence set by the beloved Guardian should always be upheld, particularly in musical and dramatic items; and photographs of the Master should not be used indiscrimin-

ately. This does not mean that activities of the youth, for example, should be stultified; one can be exuberant without being irreverent or undermining the dignity of the Cause.

Every land has its own conditions, thus the kind of proclamation activity to be followed in each country should be decided by its National Spiritual Assembly. National Spiritual Assemblies need not follow or copy programmes initiated in other countries.

In all proclamation activities, follow-up is of supreme importance. Proclamation, expansion and consolidation are mutually helpful activities which must be carefully interrelated. In some places it is desirable to open a teaching campaign with publicity—in others it is wiser to establish first a solid local community before publicizing the Faith or encouraging contacts with prominent people. Here, again, wisdom is needed.

We have been elated by the enthusiasm with which the Bahá'í community is preparing for the challenging months and years ahead, and we eagerly await those days but a few short months away which will open a period of such promise for the diffusion of God's Word.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,
(signed and sealed)

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

- A.A.T.C. REPORT -

REGIONAL CONFERENCES.

In order that the spirit generated by the Frankfurt Intercontinental Conference in October may be spread as widely as possible, the National Assembly has asked the A.A.T.C. to organise Regional Conferences which will be attended by friends who have been to Frankfurt. It is hoped that all Bahá'ís will attend one or other of these conferences. They will be held at the following dates and places:—

- November 4th; Cambridge:
N.S.A. representative attending—
Philip Hainsworth.
- November 5th; Liverpool:
N.S.A. representative attending:
Charles Macdonald.
- November 5th; Exeter:
N.S.A. representative attending:
Adib Taherzadeh.
- November 5th; Leicester:
N.S.A. representative attending:
Eric Hellicar.
- November 19th; Leeds:
N.S.A. representative attending:
Joe Jameson.
- November 19th; Portsmouth:
N.S.A. representative attending:
Betty Reed.

It would be very helpful if Bahá'ís intending to attend these conferences could inform the secretary of the host Assembly in order that some indication of numbers may be obtained.

The goals of the Nine Year Plan MUST be won! There is therefore a great deal of work to be done and a much greater teaching effort required from every single Bahá'í. However much we may think we have done, can we not all try to do a little more? It is hoped that consultation from these Regional Conferences will result in an upsurge of teaching activity which will carry us all through to great victories in the Cause.

Further details of programmes will be published in a later issue of the Journal.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF LAPSED ASSEMBLIES

Four assemblies in England need to be re-established before Ridván—Epsom, Northampton, Portsmouth and Torquay—this can only be done through teaching activity. The A.A.T.C. would greatly appreciate help from isolated Bahá'ís near these towns, and if anyone feels able to make visits to these towns we should be pleased to hear from them:

A.A.T.C. Secretary—
Mrs. Lois Hainsworth,
Sharaf,
Church Road, Horsforth,
Leeds.

CIRCUIT TEACHING AND VISITING.

The committee continues to search for people who are prepared to make

visits to Assemblies and we shall be most grateful for these offers. Long or numerous journeys need not be undertaken, and these should usually be self-supporting. If every Bahá'í in England made only one visit to one Assembly other than his own, the teaching effort would receive a great stimulus.

“PROCLAIMING OUR FAITH—” SYSTEMATIC TEACHING PLANS.

Our committee is most grateful for the helpful comments received from many Local Assemblies about the plans, issued each month. At the moment these contain such things as devotional programmes, ideas for meetings and teaching methods. Is there anything else which any of the friends would like to see included in the information sheets sent out by our committee to help the L.S.A.'s in their teaching endeavours? If so, please let us know, so that the ideas of the whole community may be used to intensify the teaching activity in this period of preparation before Proclamation.

Draw Nigh unto Bahá'u'lláh.
“O Son of My Handmaid. Guidance hath ever been given by words, and now it is given by deeds. Every one must show forth deeds that are pure and holy, for words are the property of all alike, whereas such deeds as these belong only to Our loved ones. Strive then with heart and soul to distinguish yourselves by your deeds. In this wise We counsel you in this holy and resplendent tablet.”
Bahá'u'lláh.

HARLECH SUMMER SCHOOL



Although this event could be held for only one week this year, and although the time of year and the attraction of Frankfurt meant a smaller attendance, the School was a decidedly successful and happy one; indeed, it seemed to possess an intimate family atmosphere.

Not only was the school greatly blessed by the presence of Hand of the Cause, Mr. John Ferraby, who remained with us for the whole week, but also three Auxiliary Board members were present for part of the week and delivered inspiring talks.

During the opening of the school the Hand of the Cause said that after a Summer School we should feel more capable of responding to the Truth of Bahá'u'lláh, and by the end of the seven days it was felt that we had travelled nearer to the heart of the Faith. The school further benefited from Mr. Ferraby's presence during the late-night discussions at which certain Tablets from "The Gleanings" were studied.

The programme was based on the Ridván message from The Universal House of Justice and it was agreed that the actual form of the programme was highly successful. Workshops enabled

those present to gain a greater understanding from words which are possibly the most meaningful in the Ridván message, for instance; "the unknown sea on which we must soon sail,"—"a new race of men"—"raising the divine call."

Each talk imparted a sharpened realisation of the great need for personal deepening in all aspects of Bahá'u'lláh's teachings in order that we may be fully prepared to deal adequately with the results of Proclamation, which are as yet unknown, and to be prepared for whatever calamities may engulf the world in clearing the way for the establishment of the New World Order.

During the middle of the week the whole school attended the Memorial Hall in Harlech Village for a public meeting, which had as its theme, "The Charter of Human Rights". Unfortunately the number of Bahá'is were far greater than non-Bahá'is who came to hear the two talks.

The session conducted by the National Spiritual Assembly was truly inspiring and again emphasized the work before us and our privilege in being chosen to undertake it.

The barbecue held on the beach and the two social evenings formed part of the entertainment organised by the twenty five or so Youth at the school.

It is so wonderful how the Youth and adults complement each other and create that atmosphere which is richer and sparkles all the more because of this very mixture of ages. At the end of the school we were able to see a very pleasing exhibition of the work completed by the children in their sessions.

We take this opportunity to thank those who planned and organised the school, and those whose talks directed us towards the fulfillment of the goals before the British Bahá'í Community.

MESSAGE FROM THE HANDS

The following letter was sent by the Hands of the Cause, residing in the Holy Land to the friends gathered in the Harlech Summer School:
Dearly loved friends,

Your most welcome message brought much joy to our hearts. Each word touched us deeply and we reciprocate such exalted feeling with the assurance of ardent and continued prayers at the Holy Shrines. We supplicate the Almighty to enkindle your hearts with the fire of His love and adorn you with the mantle of His heavenly qualities so that each of you will quicken many souls and resuscitate many of the dead and gather them in the tabernacle of His love and protection where they will no more suffer the onslaughts of passion and wrath and the fear of wars.

Follow, dearly beloved young friends, the path trodden by our beloved Guardian and all the goals will be achieved whether they are at home or in the forsaken islands of the far-off seas, in the depths of obscure forests, or in the summits of the lofty mountain, or the most inhospitable climes and countries. Yours is the assurance of His assistance, strength and support. You shall never be in dismay or feel disheartened or forsaken.

In the service of the beloved Guardian,
A. Q. FAIZI

(On behalf of the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land).

- N.T.T.C. REPORT -

WINNING THE GOALS OF THE 9 YEAR PLAN—ENGLAND.

Despite the fact that there has been a steady growth in numbers in the goal towns and islands during the past year, and that development has taken place in the "opened" towns, following the plans worked out by this committee, not one of the goals set to be won by Ridván 1967—namely—the establishment of 5 new Assemblies, and the opening of all remaining goal towns, has been achieved.

At the last meeting of this committee, a review was made of each goal town, and then of the work as a whole. One point which emerged most clearly was the apparent unawareness of the community of the goals of the 9 Year Plan, and of their special significance. It is inevitable with so many weak Assemblies that the friends become very absorbed within their own orbit, and we all perhaps need to be reminded of the necessity to turn our thoughts outwards to other areas. In doing so we strengthen the Cause both spiritually and physically. Now, more than ever, there is a need for those Assemblies chosen specially by the National Assembly to assist goal towns, to direct their activities to "their" goal town. As well as this, both the groups and isolated friends must make help to the goal towns, their prime activity.

With Proclamation so near at hand, and with all the emotions aroused by this exciting word, we may do well to stop and thoughtfully reflect upon the effectiveness of this period, should we not act in accordance with those words of the beloved Guardian, when in October 1947 he wrote "Indeed, the steps preliminary to the formation of a Bahá'í administrative centre in every county throughout the British Isles, must sooner or later be taken as an essential prelude to the effective proclamation of the Faith to the masses."

Can we say at this stage that we are adequately prepared?

Action is needed now by every single believer, after getting into perspective what is needed for the Proclamation period in relation to the goals of the 9 Year Plan. Wherever there is a Bahá'í teaching goes on, either actively or by example and attraction. This is inevitable. From now on it is vital that every soul channels their activities and teaching towards winning the goals, either individually, as members of a group or as members of a local community. 'Abdu'l-Bahá called the Bahá'ís the Army of Life. We must be as closely knit together as any successful army in carrying out our carefully thought-out campaigns.

To enable this committee to obtain a true assessment of the situation, the sponsoring Assemblies have been asked to indicate just what they have been able to achieve in "their" goal town

since 1965, for we need to know whether our suggestions have been both practical and feasible, for if they have not, then other ways of encouragement must be found. To this end the secretary of the committee, Betty Goode, will endeavour to visit as many goal towns as possible during the month of August to consult with the friends there, and it is hoped, with members of the sponsoring Assemblies. These are the goal towns and islands:—

Aylesbury, Bath, Bedford, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Derby, Durham, Hereford, Kendal, Kidderminster, Lincoln, Ipswich, Oakham, Poole, Stafford, St. Austell, Shrewsbury, Bangor (Wales), Isle of Wight, Channel Islands, Isle of Man.

There is one thing that every single believer can do at this very moment—even while reading this copy of the Journal—stop, and pray for the goals to be won! In addition, if you are visiting or passing through one of the goal towns, please find time to stop, even if for only a few moments, and say a prayer for that town. This indeed is very effective help!

And now may we share with you these stirring words of the beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, from his book "The Advent of Divine Justice."

"Dearly-beloved friends! Though the task be long and arduous, yet the prize which the All-Bountiful Bestower has chosen to confer upon you is of such preciousness that neither tongue nor pen can befittingly appraise it. Though the goal towards which you are now striving be distant, and as yet undisclosed to men's eyes, yet its promise lies firmly embedded in the authoritative and unalterable utterances of Bahá'u'lláh. Though the course He has traced for you seems, at times, lost in the threatening shadows with which a stricken humanity is now enveloped, yet the unfailling light He has caused to shine continually upon you is of such brightness that no earthly dusk can ever eclipse its splendour. Though small in numbers, and circumscribed as yet in their experiences, powers and resources, yet the Force which energises your mission is limitless in its range, and incalculable in its potency. Though the enemies which every acceleration in the progress of your mission must raise up be fierce, numerous, and unrelenting, yet the invisible Hosts, which, if you persevere, must, as promised, rush forth to your aid, will, in the end, enable you to vanquish their hopes and annihilate their forces. Though the ultimate blessings that must crown the consummation of your mission be undoubted, and the Divine promises given you firm and irrevocable, yet the measure of the goodly reward which every one of you is to reap must depend on the extent to which your daily exertions will have contributed to the expansion of that mission and the hastening of its triumph."

FIRESIDES.

The following are details of "firesides"

NORWICH

Mrs. E. Bowman,
156, Northfield.
Friday evening.

Mrs. E. Hardy,
97, The Avenue.
Wednesday evening.

Mrs. C. Welham,
65, Woodcock Road.
Thursday evening.

SWINTON

Mr. & Mrs. A. Hirst,
207, Manchester Road.
Wednesday, 8.0 p.m.

The following is an amendment to the details included in the last Journal:

STRETFORD

Mr. & Mrs. F. Varjavandi,
52, Cornbrook Street,
Old Trafford.
Friday 8.0 p.m.

MAGAZINE FOR CHILDREN— "THE LITTLE JOURNAL".

The Child Education Committee wishes to thank all those friends who have sent subscriptions for the above magazine, covering the period June 1967 to May 1968, and would like to remind those who have not yet done so, but who would like their children to receive "The Little Journal", kindly to send their subscriptions to the secretary of C.E.C. The Annual subscription for six numbers is five shillings.

Secretary:

Mrs. Lina Smithson,
92 Beechwood Road,
Sanderstead,
South Croydon,
Surrey, CR2 0AB.

We would also like to remind the friends, both adults and children, that contributions to "The Little Journal", in the form of short stories and plays, letters, drawings to colour or any other material suitable for children up to the age of fourteen, will be appreciated. Kindly send the material to the Secretary of C.E.C.

Child Education Committee.

MESSAGE OF FAREWELL FROM JEANNETTE AND OWEN BATTRICK.

We wish to say how sorry we are to have had insufficient time to visit and say goodbye to our many friends in the British Community.

As we leave for the other side of the world, we take with us so many memories. These memories will greatly assist and inspire us.

We shall continue to watch the British Community and pray for your success.

Deepest love to you all.

Jeannette and Owen.

YOUTH! If you are not on a project and would like to help the A.A.T.C., please write to the Secretary, or telephone Horsforth 3190.

— PROCLAMATION PATTERN —

The British Bahá'í Community is gearing itself for action. News comes in from all over Britain of meetings, devotionals, concerts, conferences and the like, all on a local or area level and indeed this should be the pattern of a process which will grow and gather momentum as the months go by.

Our "opening notes" must not be a "trumpet blast" for we have been warned by the Universal House of Justice that "nothing will be more disheartening than for thousands to hear of the Faith and have nowhere to turn for further information." Consequently we will start quietly, building up as our capacities grow. The pace of growth will depend in each area on the strength of the local communities. If there are funds and talent to stage public meetings, with ample study classes, firesides, teaching meetings and an abundance of literature to give the necessary follow-up, then this should be the pattern. There should be no effort to proclaim without the follow-up facilities. As the Universal House of Justice wrote: "Every effort of proclamation must be sustained by teaching, particularly locally where public announcements should be related to such efforts. This co-ordination is essential."

The pattern, then, as we see it today, is as follows:—

Early September. A leaflet for introduction to the press, societies, at meetings and for general use, will be sent out with the local press releases. This will also be available, in bundles of a hundred, for purchase from the Publicity and Proclamation Committee. To encourage the widest use of this leaflet—"Centenary of the Proclamation of the Message of Bahá'u'lláh"—the cost will be subsidised and will be sold to Assemblies and friends at 10/- per hundred.

Souvenir Programme. A most beautiful programme will be available for sale at the National Observance Day meeting and the Regional and National Teaching Conferences, as well as at other events. Assemblies may order their copies from the Publicity and Proclamation Committee.

Combined Nineteen Day Feast. The Bahá'ís throughout Britain are encouraged to hold joint Feasts on 8th September, inviting groups and isolated believers in the vicinity to come together and discuss their Proclamation plans. Perhaps weaker communities can participate in the activities of nearby stronger communities. Joint publicity may help a wide area; a number of small meetings and firesides in a particular area may be advertised to the benefit of all participating. Consultation along these lines could well take place instead of the usual Local Assembly consultation on this last pre-Proclamation Feast.

September 27th. On this day, at the very hour the small group of Hands of the Cause meet in Adrianople, the

National Assembly will attend a special ceremony at the grave of the Guardian and, during that same evening, in every group and community, the occasion will be celebrated at the Nineteen Day Feast of Mashíyyat.

Earlier in the month, study material and local press releases will have been sent to all communities and groups so that all will be aware of these occasions. **September 30th.** National Observance Day:

Royal Commonwealth Society Hall,
16-20, Craven Street,
London, W.C.2.

Visitors from outside London may wish to visit the Guardian's grave on this day, and guides at the cemetery will be on duty between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. The Hall will be open from 11 a.m. for the friends to meet and the programme will commence at 2.00 p.m. A buffet supper will be followed by evening's entertainment. The supper is provided only for those who book in advance and about two hundred bookings have been received to date.

October 7th—10th: Frankfurt Conference. Local publicity for those attending the Conference should be easy to obtain, and the Bahá'í Publicity Service will supply a release to be used for these three events—Feast, Observance Day and Conference—all of which are, of course, for Bahá'ís only.

There will be no national publicity for these occasions. As the impact of Proclamation builds up in the Provinces, interest will be shown in the national press, and then will be the time for special national press releases.

Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh.

Responding to the call of the Universal House of Justice, communities all over Britain will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh on Sunday, November 12th with devotional meetings of a nature suitable for the non-Bahá'í public.

December 9th/10th: Human Rights Meetings.

It is very significant that the launching of the Proclamation period should coincide with Human Rights Year, and Human Rights Day comes at a very suitable time for Bahá'í participation. Guidance on the subject is being circulated by the N.S.A. and the A.A.T.C., with copies for other committees and groups, as Bahá'ís may find the opportunity in many parts of the country to spread Bahá'í teachings on such matters as unity of mankind, equality of the sexes, universal education, spiritual solution of economic problems and so on; all indirect teaching opportunities. Bahá'í communities might even sponsor Human Rights meetings to which other speakers can be invited.

January 6th/7th, 1968: National Teaching Conference.

This Conference to be held at The

Trades Hall, Leicester will pay great emphasis to the Proclamation aspects of teaching as an "additional dimension" of our work.

As the year progresses, we will be able to assess the initial impact; study the responses, both favourable and critical, to our efforts, and plan accordingly. In the meantime three important services are available for the community: the Publicity and Proclamation Committee; the Bahá'í Publicity Service and the Bahá'í Correspondence Bureau.

The Publicity and Proclamation Committee, co-ordinating all the proclamation work, encouraging local Proclamation Committees, and giving direction to the two other new services, has already received many offers of help from the article in the last Journal. These are being acknowledged and full use will be made of the offers as and when possible. **Bahá'í Publicity Service.** This service is solely concerned with the preparation of press releases and advertisements. These are sent out to all Assemblies and groups for use as indicated or adapted to meet local conditions. Reports and specimens of successful acceptances should be sent to this Service as well as suggestions and requests for publicity items.

Bahá'í Correspondence Bureau. This is an entirely new venture and will gain in stature and importance as the friends begin to use its specialised facilities. The Bureau will produce articles, letters to editors, answers to other people's letters and enquiries when requested by Assemblies and groups. It will co-ordinate the work of the Corps of Correspondents and will be on the continual look-out for opportunities for articles in magazines and periodicals. The Bureau will commission articles from the friends and all those Bahá'ís who can write such articles should feel free to consult this committee. It is also important that the friends should advise the Bureau of the magazines and periodicals which they usually buy so that the Bureau need not go to the expense of subscribing to those already being studied by the Bahá'ís. The Bureau will only make an effective contribution to our Proclamation work as the friends turn to it, and use it.

The two Bahá'í services are for the friends to use — please note their addresses:

Bahá'í Publicity Service.

Press Officer:

Mrs. Margaret Hellicar,
22, Hallgarth Road,
Durham.

Bahá'í Correspondence Bureau.

Bureau Officer:

Mrs. Gitta Chaplin,
11, Westminster Road,
Ellesmere Park,
Eccles, Lancs.

NATIONAL PROCLAMATION
AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.

OVERSEAS GOALS COMMITTEE

Bobby Leedham is now working for the Faith in Fiji, she writes this account of her journey to this goal country.

"At Pago Pago I was dashing to get my plane when a hand on my arm stopped me; it was Lillian Alai, she had seen my ring. A whole bunch of believers met me with garlands, I was informed that they had cancelled my flight and that we were all taking the evening flight. We got onto a bus, when it was observed that I had a bad cut on my leg. To my amazement the driver took us straight to a Hospital where we waited whilst the driver went in and came out with ointment and bandage for me. Then I was enlightened, the driver is a newly declared Bahá'í, a doctor, he has bought the bus to take believers around as his car was not big enough!

At Apia the community met us at the Airport with a hired bus this time, and a Bahá'í message right across the front. We long distance visitors were tired, but after hot cocoa and food, the Islanders were ready for some music and speech making. When it was all over, there was no warm water for showers, but who cared."

Bobby has now found herself a flat in Fiji and is already deeply immersed in the work of the Faith.

Bobby is however rather disturbed at receiving letters from a number of the Friends who have heard that she is ill and has asked us to say that she is fit and well.

One thousand miles away David Hopper is working in the coral island of Bikinebu, in the Gilbert and Ellice island group. He writes "I have not yet been to Beru as the new ship which went to the southern islands on its maiden voyage would not take any passengers. I have however just returned from a short trip to the neighbouring island of Abiang. It was a most pleasant trip—this is the oldest Bahá'í

community in the Gilberts since the Fearnays lived on this island. One can see that these villages scarcely change from generation to generation. You can't help feeling that in ten or twenty years time the faces will have changed a little but the pattern of life will be just the same. When there is little or no education, when there is no stimulus in the environment to urge material progress, then it is hardly surprising that these people are largely unconscious of the world outside the limits of their village or island.

It is good to see that the Bahá'í school started by the Fearnays is still going. The teacher can speak very little English, the children have writing books, but no reading books. I suggested to the teacher that each child should have at least one basic English reader, and I showed him how immensely useful these readers could be in teaching English. Now I can only hope the Local Assembly and the community generally will make use of the advice I have given them, and will thus try to improve their school.

The school teacher and his wife were very kind and I was well accommodated in the house that was built for the Chapmans (Hawaii) when they were here. I had great fun with the children and was only sorry that I didn't have some of the readers I have described with which to teach English."

Pasoni Tafaki, an Ellice Islander who has been studying in England, has just returned to Tarawa where he will be working for the Department of Education. Together with David they will make a powerful team to firmly establish and consolidate Bahá'í schools in Gilbert and Ellice.

On the other side of the world, in South America, we have heard of the great progress which the friends are making. The first Amerindian to de-

clare has just joined the Faith. We are sure that she is the first of very many. She is Mrs. Iona Moses of Coomacka on the Demerara River, Guyana. The friends in Guyana have set themselves a goal for this year to obtain land for their Temple. One of the L.S.A.s in Guyana, that of Georgetown, has set itself the additional goals this year of establishing five new centres and two new L.S.A.s by extension teaching. They had a third goal for this year, to obtain land for their National endowment, and this they have already achieved within three months! Almost casually they told us that for the occasion of the Martyrdom of the Báb, they have arranged a half hour programme on the Guyana Broadcasting Service and a further half hour on Radio Demarara! With such spirit and enthusiasm we feel sure that these friends will achieve their goals and inspire friends all over the world to even greater achievements.

British goals in Africa have also had successes. The friends in Rhodesia and Malawi have contributed £100 towards their National Haziratu'l-Quds in Blantyre, Malawi. This brings the present total to £525, and at this very moment land is being purchased on which will soon stand their National Centre.

FRANKFURT CONFERENCE— URGENT.

Bookings are urgently required from those who will be attending the Frankfurt Conference and who wish to participate in the group travel facilities. If sufficient bookings are not received then it might not be possible to get the most advantageous reduced rates.

BOOK NOW and send a stamped addressed envelope for reply to:

Eruch Munsiff,
28, Inner Park Road,
Wimbledon,
London, S.W.19.

PLANNING TO PIONEER . . .

This Year? Next Year? Or the year after.

To join the privileged ranks of pioneers overseas often requires long preparation, adequate training, specialised employment and even careful allocation of pioneers to the goal territories where they stand the best chance of making their most vital contribution. How is this done?

How can anyone who longs to pioneer, but feels unequal to the task, set about achieving the goal?

Who should one consult? When?—often many questions come to the minds of those who want to respond to this most great call to Pioneer overseas. The following explains how a start can be made.

FIRST STEP.

Answer the question to yourself, "If I really had the chance, would I like to serve the Cause overseas?" "Would I, if chosen, be prepared to respond to this most urgent call of Bahá'u'lláh?"

If the answer is "Yes", take the

SECOND STEP.

Write to Mrs. Betty Reed, 27 Rutland Gate, S.W.7 and ask for a consultation with the Overseas Goals Committee. In this consultation you should feel perfectly free to share your wishes, preferences, doubts and problems with that Committee. A decision can then be reached on the positive steps you can take, what preparation will be needed, which territory you should study, who to contact, in fact, your mind will be cleared on many aspects

and you will know with confidence what to do next. It may not be opportune for you to plan for an overseas post, but if it is and you require a period of preparation, you will be ready to take the

THIRD STEP.

This is to consult the Pioneer Committee Secretary, Mrs. Pat Green, 49, Walmer Close, Mawney Road, Romford, to say "I am preparing to pioneer overseas and need to study certain subjects, or get a specific qualification. Where can I do this in Britain; where are the best facilities and can I be guided to a place where I can also be of help to the British Plan?"

In goal towns, new territories, weak Assemblies there are facilities for study, for preparation, for training, for learning

new skills and new techniques and at the same time the stimulus of knowing that your long term planning is in sympathy with the urgent and pressing needs of the British Bahá'í community. You are then in a position to take the FOURTH STEP.

You have answered the vital question, written and consulted the proper Committees, set the process into operation and your pioneering has in fact begun so you can now open your heart and mind to let the spirit work. Pray for guidance, meditate on your stage by stage development, study to enable you to act, always with wisdom, and then act! Act as though all your prayers were answered. This is the secret of success. To know that the right steps have been taken, that your prayers are in the process of being answered. This is the bounty of the Cause—to know what to do and when to do it. To know what is the real pattern of life and then to "get with it", is the undoubted secret of success.

Perhaps, having read so far, your first step is taken. Courage and inspiration for the next steps may be gained from the following notes on some valiant pioneers.

YOUTH. A youth of 17, with the Guardian's approval, arose to pioneer in South America, then virtually an unopened Continent. A lone pioneer to one great country he saw his service rewarded when some years later the first Local Assembly in that country was elected, yet he was still too young to be on it!

MIDDLE-AGED. A man and his wife in a flourishing business, with two young, and one grown-up, children, sold the business, he to study to become a teacher and she to become a language teacher and interpreter. Not just a rush job this, but one involving years of study and preparation. They leave this very month to pioneer in the Pacific Islands.

ELDERLY. The very first offer to pioneer in the British Two Year Plan, 1951/53, was a widow of 73 who had only just recovered from a major operation. Already famed for her pioneering in the Six Year Plan when she had taken a job at nights (over 70 then) so that she would not require budget help, she was told to wait until there was some pioneer settlement in Africa so that she would at least have a home to go to. She died whilst waiting and the Guardian wrote of her, "Her reward at the hands of the true Beloved is certainly assured. He wishes more of the Bahá'ís would arise to such heights of devotion and sacrifice".

Why not write now and seek your first consultation?

The final stage may be years ahead but you need not be frustrated in the meantime. The call is great; the goals many and you are neither too old nor too young to make a start. Perhaps to start your pioneering in the Year of Proclamation may have special merit but what greater encouragement could be sought than to know that the "reward at the hands of the Beloved is certainly assured."

SCOTTISH NEWS LETTER

During the past year the Scottish Teaching Committee has had a difficult time, due to members leaving to take up new jobs, and sickness, among other things. We hope the new S.T.C. will be more settled and soon able to function properly.

Function.

The function of the Scottish Teaching Committee is to be a link between the Assemblies and groups in Scotland, to co-ordinate and direct visitors and travelling teachers to where they may be most helpful, to give advice and encouragement to groups and Assemblies with respect to teaching, and to keep the N.S.A. informed on progress and development on all matters within Scotland and the Northern Islands.

It is of vital importance to the functioning of the S.T.C. that the communities give it information regarding their activities and plans and advise the S.T.C. as to how it can best help them. There is a great deal yet to be done in Scotland. One third of the Nine Year Plan has already passed and as yet the five Assemblies of the last Ten Year Plan have not been consolidated and only four of the five goal towns have been opened.

Travel Teachers.

However, in response to the call from the Universal House of Justice for travelling teachers, a handful of individuals have informed the S.T.C. of their desire to serve in this way. If anyone else, from inside or outside Scotland, can spare some time to assist the Faith by travelling in Scotland, please write to Harold and Betty Shepherd, Glasdair, 42 Island Bank Road, Inverness. It is not necessary to be a polished public or fireside speaker. All that is needed is time, willingness to travel, and a great desire to serve our glorious Faith.

Activities.

A Scottish Teaching Conference is being planned for the end of October—the date is as yet uncertain, pending notification from the Youth Hostel in Perth where we have asked to hold the conference. It is also planned to have several special week-end schools throughout the year. Information will be sent out later, when we have more details to hand.

Mrs. Betty Reed was present in Edinburgh at a one day school on 23rd July. While in Scotland she also visited the Motherwell and Glasgow communities. Harold and Betty Shepherd have been on a teaching trip around the Scottish islands and the Scottish mainland communities.

News of the Scottish Communities.

Aberdeen. After a lapse of 12 months, it sprang to life and regained Assembly status following two declarations. A week end school held in mid-June was a great success. Firesides, social evenings, and other teaching activities are frequently being held.

Dumbarton. Bill, Moira, and Anne are now preparing to tackle a big job of teaching in the months ahead.

Elgin. The Fox family have recently moved into this goal town and are already teaching and holding firesides.

Edinburgh. The Mother Assembly has had many difficulties—the loss of the Hellicar and Robarts families together with an influx of declarations, who require deepening in the Faith.

Glasgow. This Assembly was maintained through hard work, only to lose Tom and Ann Shaw recently.

Hamilton. The lone Bahá'í here has recently married. There is great potential in this up and coming town.

Inverness. The Assembly fell by the wayside through being two short at Ridván, but the community is in good heart and very active and have already had one declaration.

Motherwell. The Assembly was saved by Naidu's wonderful self sacrifice to go anywhere he could be of service. Teaching goes on but not without its difficulties.

North Berwick. No effort has been spared here and, although public meetings have had to cease for the summer, individual teaching goes on. The seeds are being sown and some day we will be rewarded.

The Islands. Shetland, Orkney and Outer Hebrides. These island outposts are being firmly held by pioneers, although little progress has been made. A weekend school in Stornoway brought a good deal of publicity to the Faith through a barrage of hostile letters which appeared in the local newspaper. These letters were all answered in the press.

Inner Hebrides. Skye lost its pioneer towards the end of last year, but there are now three local people interested in the Faith.

Plans for the fulfillment of the goals of the Nine Year Plan.

The goals which have been chosen for this year, to be achieved by Ridván 1968, are (1) an L.S.A. to be formed in Shetland, (2) North Berwick group to be increased from three to six persons, (3) Skye to be reopened by a pioneer, (4) another pioneer to join Anneliese Haug in Lewis, (5) one pioneer to be sent to Hamilton and one to Dundee.

The overall plan for the achievement of the goals includes North Berwick to achieve L.S.A. status by Ridván 1969, Dumbarton and Elgin by Ridván 1970 Dundee and Hamilton in 1971, and L.S.A.s to be formed in Orkney and Outer Hebrides by Ridván 1972—leaving 1973 for consolidation.

As you can see, there is plenty to do. Let us, therefore, pray and dedicate ourselves to more earnest teaching throughout the present year, for *those who arise to serve my cause, each one of them will be like unto a regiment.*

Welsh Teaching Committee Report

The Bahá'ís in Wales send, to our brothers and sisters everywhere, Loving greetings in His Name.

It must be some six months or more since a report from us appeared in these pages (dare we suggest we have been too busy?) A little belatedly then, may we share with your a few of the highlights of recent months.

Early in April the newly-formed Bahá'í group in Glynneath, (one adult and five youth) held their own 'Weekend School'. Assisted by the W.T.C. and well supported by all the local communities, a gathering of some 30 believers and their friends enjoyed sessions led by Dr. Maude, Mr. & Mrs. David Lewis and other friends. Truly a remarkable and successful venture for so 'new' a Group.

This was followed later by a Deepening School at Rhose when Auxiliary Board member David Lewis, assisted by some of the Welsh friends, enhanced our understanding of the Covenant and Administration and the Ridván message of the Universal House of Justice. Two most enjoyable features of this Weekend were a Musical session led by May Hofman and the presentation of a play-reading, Rúhiyyih Khánúm's "A Spiritual Assembly's Growing Pains".

During the following week we had the pleasure and privilege of a 'seven-centre' tour in Wales made by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Macdonald. Some of the meetings were well attended; all were very greatly appreciated. Their visit

to the Town Hall, Llanelli, was the second meeting towards the opening of this New Goal Town. (The First Bahá'í meeting in Llanelli was held on April 7th, when the Mayor and Members of the Town Council welcomed the Bahá'ís to our inaugural meeting).

An English Goal Town which has been placed under the wing of the W.T.C. is Newport, Mon. For 15 weeks the Bahá'í quotations selected by the A.A.T.C. have appeared in the local press and three Public meetings there, supported by Cardiff, Pontypridd and Swansea, have attracted interested enquirers. Please remember these Goal Towns before the Throne of Bahá and pray too for the dear Souls whom, we believe, are near to embracing His Light

The most remarkable Bahá'í gathering in Wales (we believe we may truly claim) took place in Swansea, when, to celebrate the formation of their Spiritual Assembly, the local Bahá'ís presented to the town a seat for one of their parks. The Mayor, members of the corporation and other prominent citizens, some forty in number and as many Bahá'ís from near and far gathered to witness the presentation and proceeded afterwards to the Guildhall for refreshments. In his speech at the reception the Mayor said that this was the first occasion in his year of office on which he had been 'entertained' instead of providing entertainment; but the Bahá'ís will remember the joyful occasion for the splendid opportunity of making still more widely known the Name of Bahá.

During the year Mr. & Mrs. Card have had the pleasure of showing their Pilgrimage slides in every centre in Wales, as well as in Chester and Winchester. Miss Margaret Lord has visited Brecon for a public meeting and Margaret and Carl visited the home of Gillian Phillips' for one of the first firesides to be held in Narberth (Pembrokeshire).

Once again Glynneath were the hosts to Bahá'ís from five centres when three Assemblies and two groups met at a Unity Feast to commemorate the Martyrdom of the Báb and to hold a joint consultation on plans for the Period of Proclamation. Everyone agreed that the Feast was so uplifting that another 'communal' Feast must be held again in the future and the three hours consultation which followed the picnic lunch was productive of many helpful propositions and ideas.

Finally to our friends over the border may we say, "Do come to Wales." Sustain the 'perpetual movement like the ceaseless surge of the sea' (Universal House of Justice). You will not find a lovelier country, nor a more loving welcome anywhere, and we need you to help to awaken this 'spiritually sleeping' land with the cry "Ya Bahá-u'l-Abhá."

DEADLINE:—

Material for the next issue of the Journal to be in by 25th Sept. 1967. to—

Mr. J. Coates, Editor,
45 Overfield Road,
Fawdon,

Newcastle upon Tyne, 3

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE No. 1. ACCOUNT 21st MARCH, 1967 to 30th June, 1967 (inclusive)

INCOME.		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
Donations:—					N.S.A.—				
L.S.A.'s & Groups (58)	.....	575	11	10	Travel	.....	207	17	11
Individuals (75)	.....	2189	19	9	Office	.....	768	0	6
					Telephone & Cables	.....	87	8	2
					Postage & Stationery	.....	66	3	7
					Convention	.....	128	10	11
Less Payments against Covenants.....		677	1	4	Journal	.....	240	6	2
					Extraord.	.....	77	19	4
		2088	10	3	A.A.T.C.	.....	154	10	8
Interest & Dividends	.....	425	2	3	N.T.T.C.	.....	58	5	8
Refunds to us—Loans	.....	5	0	0	Other Home Committees	.....	282	5	9
Rent—Endowment	.....	7	10	0	Overseas Committees	.....	185	10	5
Tax Recovery (Cov.).....		2441	3	6	Pioneer Committee	.....	332	11	6
Sundry.....		3	9	7	Other Committees	.....	314	13	5
Excess expenditure over income	.....	413	5	11	Youth Committees	.....	69	17	6
Donations—					Monthly Transfers—				
Budget	£2,788				H.Q.—				
To date	2,088				Repairs and Decoration	.....	300	0	0
Gap	£700				Running	.....	700	0	0
					H.Q. Dublin	.....	150	0	0
					Donations	.....	1260	0	0
		£5,384	1	6			£5,384	1	6
					Bank Balance	£290.			

Communities Contributing:—

Aberdeen, Barnet, Bedford, Belfast, Brent, Brighton, Cambridge, Camden, Canterbury, Castlereagh, Cardiff, Carlisle, Cheadle and Gatley, Chester, Croydon, Dublin, Dunlaoghaire, Eccles, Epsom, Exeter, Glasgow, Glyn Neath, Hammersmith, Haringay, Inverness, Jersey, Kensington and Chelsea; Leicester; Liverpool; Lytham St. Anne's, Malta, Manchester, Motherwell, Nelson, Newcastle, Norwich, N. Berwick, Nottingham; Oxford, Paignton, Peterboro', Pontypridd, Reading, Romford, Sheffield, Shetland, Southport, Stafford, Stretford, Sutton Coldfield, Swansea, Torquay, Wandsworth, Watford, Wembley, Westminster, Winchester, Wokingham R.D.