

# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

For circulation among Bahá'ís only

27 Rutland Gate, London, S.W.7

Published by the National Spiritual Assembly  
of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles

No. 188

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1968

## CENTENARY COMMEMORATION

### *Highlights of the gathering in the Holy Land*

It was a day not unlike any of the thousands of hot summer days which had come and gone in the Holy Land since the last day of August 1868 when Bahá'u'lláh came ashore in Haifa near the end of His historic journey from Gallipoli to the prison city of 'Akká. Now, on this day exactly one hundred years later, cool breezes were wafted over the assemblage as from a breath on high, mitigating the heat of the sun. As four o'clock approached, all stood as honoured Hands of the Cause and members of the august Universal House of Justice entered single file to be seated in front of Bahjí Mansion, followed by Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum, widow of the beloved Guardian, attended by Hand of the Cause Dr. Ugo Giachery. Missed from their midst was revered Hand of the Cause Mr. Tarázu'lláh Samandari, who lay ill in a hospital.

Signalling the beginning of the commemoration, Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum brought greetings on behalf of the Hands of the Cause and the Universal House of Justice. Emphasizing the monumental significance of the occasion, she read, in Persian, words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá about His Father. Characterizing the Cause as a great love affair, she cited God's love for His creatures and named Bahá'u'lláh as the greatest beloved that the world has ever known. Stressing, together with Bahá'u'lláh's majesty, His infinite kindness and mercy, she said "We must come to feel Him as the nearest thing in our midst." Turning to Bahá'u'lláh's mission, she referred to His words to Professor Browne—the only Westerner known to have left any record of attaining His presence—in which Bahá'u'lláh stated that He sought the good of the world and the happiness of nations. She commented on the extent of the misery of the world, stating that no longer are only individuals unhappy but whole nations are engulfed by sorrows. She characterized Bahá'u'lláh's message as one of joy and fulfilment, emphasizing that Bahá'ís must become rededicated and take to the Bahá'ís at home and to the world the inspiration of the days of commemoration of Bahá'u'lláh's journey to the Holy Land and of the unprecedented visit of many friends to the Shrines. Beloved Rúhiyyih Khánum closed with a prayer in English (*Prayers and Meditations*, pp 35—39).

Alternating among Persian, Arabic and English, other Hands of the Cause followed with readings and prayers. Dr. Rahmatu'lláh Muhajir presented a prayer of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Persian; Mr. Paul Haney read extracts in English (pp 64—67) from the writings of Bahá'u'lláh quoted in *The Advent of Divine Justice*. Mr. Dhikru'lláh Khádem then recited a eulogy of Bahá'u'lláh in Arabic from the writings of the beloved Guardian, followed by Mr. William Sears' recitation of a eulogy of Bahá'u'lláh in English—quoting extracts from *God Passes By* (pp. 93—100). Following the eulogies Mr. 'Alí Akbar Furútan presented in Persian quotations from *Lawh-i-Ra'is*—The Tablet of Bahá'u'lláh to the Grand Vizir of the Sultan of Turkey. In English translation Mr. Enoch Olinga followed with a meditation of Bahá'u'lláh (pp. 103—106, *Prayers and Meditations*). While the entire assemblage faced the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh, Mr. Abú'l-Qásim Faizí closed the verbal part of the commemoration with the recitation in Arabic of the Tablet of Visitation for Bahá'u'lláh.

Then filing in solemn procession, the honoured Hands of the Cause, led by beloved Rúhiyyih Khánum and the members of the Universal House of Justice, began circumambulating the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh, followed by the friends who had come by air and by sea for this unforgettable occasion. Struck with awe by the great beauty and the immensity of the cypress-lined gardens, they streamed down the paths past the green, red and purple patterns of shrubs and flowers. Only the sound of footsteps, the singing of the trees, and whispered greetings of "Alláh-u-Abhá" could be heard as the continuous stream passed guides along the way; youth from many countries who had come to serve at the World Centre for the period of commemoration. Then as twilight descended, the last members of the long procession climbed the steps leaving the gardens, returning past Bahjí Mansion to the waiting buses.

Another procession highlighted the next morning—this time the steepest of ascents to the Shrine of the Báb, the route that the kings will take in the future to pay homage. At the foot of the mountain, only blocks from the home of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and of the headquarters of the Universal House of

Justice, the pilgrims assembled starting the ascent in the early morning heat of Haifa. Looking far up to the magnificent Shrine of the Báb above and looking back occasionally to the streets and the harbour below, the friends—the old and the young—mounted the steep path lined by towering cypress trees and bougainvillea along the wall. Photographers along the way recorded the climb for a film that will seek to convey the beauty, the uniqueness and the universality of our beloved Faith.

These days of commemoration, inspiration, and rededication shine forth as the friends scatter now to all corners of the world with the introductory words of Bahá'u'lláh's Tablet of Carmel in their hearts: "*All glory be to this Day, the Day in which the fragrances of mercy have been wafted over all created things, a Day so blest that past ages and centuries can never hope to rival it, a day in which the countenance of the Ancient of Days hath turned towards his holy seat.*"

#### PASSING OF LOTFULLAH HAKIM

"GRIEVE ANNOUNCE PASSING LOTFULLAH HAKIM DEDICATED SERVANT CAUSE GOD. STOP SPECIAL MISSIONS ENTRUSTED HIM FULL CONFIDENCE REPOSED IN HIM BY MASTER AND GUARDIAN HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH EARLY DISTINGUISHED BELIEVERS EAST WEST INCLUDING HIS COLLABORATION ESSELMONT HIS SERVICES PERSIA BRITISH ISLES HOLY LAND HIS MEMBERSHIP APPOINTED AND ELECTED INTERNATIONAL BAHAI COUNCIL HIS ELECTION UNIVERSAL HOUSE JUSTICE WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED IMMORTAL ANNALS FAITH BAHAUILLAH STOP INFORM BELIEVERS HOLD BEFITTING MEMORIAL MEETINGS ALL CENTRES STOP CONVEY ALL MEMBERS HIS FAMILY EXPRESSIONS LOVING SYMPATHY ASSURANCE PRAYERS PROGRESS HIS RADIANT SOUL ABHA KINGDOM."  
UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

#### Draw nigh Unto Bahá'u'lláh.

*The first and foremost duty prescribed unto men, next to the recognition of Him Who is the Eternal Truth, is the duty of steadfastness in His Cause. Cleave thou unto it, and be of them whose minds are firmly fixed and grounded in God. No act, however meritorious, did or can ever compare unto it. It is the king of all acts, and to this thy Lord, the All-Highest, the Most Powerful, will testify... Bahá'u'lláh."*



## National Spiritual Assembly's News Letter

### "THINK VICTORY".

When two Divine Institutions come together to direct their attention to some particular point on this planet, something is bound to happen at that point. In the last "Bahá'í Journal" a letter from the Universal House of Justice was printed to share with the British Community the news that Hand of the Cause, William Sears was to spend two months in Britain immediately after the Holy Land visit. Today we are beginning to feel some of the effects of that visit, even after Convention we felt that a new life was stirring amongst the British Bahá'ís; a further impetus was given by the return of the Palermo contingent of nearly two hundred souls and now the visit of the Hand of the Cause is reaching its closing stages.

From the Islands out in the North Sea to the southwestern tip of Britain, declarations have been received; goal towns have been opened; weak Assemblies strengthened; lapsed Assemblies brought back to the required number; one-day and week-end schools have attracted record attendances and more believers than ever are participating in active service in the Cause. The friends are really beginning to "Think Victory", the call of William Sears as he meets the friends of Britain.

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

#### N.S.A. Officers

Philip Hainsworth, *Chairman*.  
John Long, *Vice-Chairman*.  
Betty Reed, *Secretary*.  
Charles Macdonald, *Treasurer*.

#### Meetings.

The schedule of meetings to be held and other national events is as follows:— November 1st/3rd; December 6th/8th; January 10th/12th; February 21st/23rd; April 4th/6th.

Teaching Conference January 4th/6th—Blackpool; Convention April 25th/27th—Acton Town Hall.

#### National Office Staff:—

Claire Copley left for U.S.A. shortly after attending the Irish Summer School and Jeanette Robbin returned to her home in the U.S.A. a few weeks later. Elizabeth Asbury and Jackie Bendix are the new 'team' and are settling down to the tremendous national and international demands which are made on this office. Additional long-term plans are under way and will be announced to the community when completed.

### NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE.

Accepting in principle some of the challenging resolutions from Convention, the N.S.A. made some radical changes in the Committee structure.

Four important needs are to be met by this new structure:—

1. The needs for L.S.A.'s to be more conscious of their responsibilities in the teaching, consolidation and proclamation work.
2. The need for the particular goals of each country in the British Isles to be the sole concern of a 'national' Goals Committee. (Largely affecting England which had one committee assisting Assemblies and another working in 'new territories')
3. The need for the whole community to be "galvanised" into "universal participation" to achieve the goals of the Plan.
4. The need to free, as far as possible, N.S.A. members from time-consuming administrative work so that they could get out to meet the friends, consult with Assemblies and develop better communication between the local and national institutions.

The new structure comprises:—

- (a) English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh Goals Committees.

Each Goals Committee is given the overall responsibility of achieving the Goals in its own country with specific tasks for the year given to it in detail.

- (b) The Community Development Committee has ceased to exist purely as an advisory, material producing committee, but it is an active, dynamic small committee engaged upon setting up training projects throughout Britain, training the participants to carry out similar projects, so that as the months go by, all the believers in the community will have had opportunity to participate.

- (c) These five committees will keep paper work down to a minimum and will brief selected "field workers" to go to Assemblies and Goal Towns to consult with the friends and get things moving through personal contact rather than by letter. The field workers are not a new administrative body; they have no administrative functions; they are each briefed by the committee calling on them, to carry out specific tasks. They will in this way, not only maintain close personal links between the committees and the groups or Assemblies they are working with, but enable more and more of the friends to participate actively in the work of the Cause, helping the less experienced to assume more demanding service as time goes on and giving those already burdened with perhaps a less exciting job, to get out occasionally and visit other places on a project. This movement of the friends, as travelling teachers, visitors, helpers, or whatever the brief may be, will inevitably bring

new life to the places visited and stimulation to those who move.

- (d) All five committees are encouraged to bring isolated believers into the orbit of their activity and to use regional conferences, schools, gatherings etc. to stimulate still further the greater participation of all the believers.
- (e) A Home Front Pioneer Committee to work closely with the Goals Committees and weak Assemblies according to the priorities given to it by the N.S.A.
- (f) A Publicity Service. This is a development of the Bahá'í Publicity Service which was last year a sub-committee of the Proclamation Committee. Press Assistants have been appointed in London, Midlands, East Anglia, North West England, Manchester, Wales, Scotland and N. Ireland. A Correspondence and Feature Advisory Service is being formed as a sub-committee of the main Publicity Service. This is a development of the Bahá'í Correspondence Bureau.
- (g) Exhibition Committee; This will meet only occasionally in full, as it is divided into two distinct sections—preparation, production and maintenance will be the concern of one section and the routing and the preparation of the communities for its reception will be the function of the other section.
- (h) A Proclamation Advisory Committee will advise the N.S.A., on all Proclamation matters, who will then call on the Goals Committee and the Local Assemblies to implement plans or projects.
- (i) The Overseas Goals, Bahá'í Publishing Trust, Reviewing, Youth, Child Education and Blind Committees remain substantially the same as last year.
- (j) The very important function of the utilisation of travelling teachers from outside the country is, for the time being, the responsibility of the sub-committee set up by the A.A.T.C. but now taken over by the English Goals Committee. Each Goal Committee has one or two people, not necessarily committee members, responsible for the full use of teachers who are routed to their country and each Committee has the responsibility of stimulating people to arise to travel and of co-operating with other Goals Committees, and the National Youth Committee.

From the early reports of all the new committees it seems that, as the terms of reference are studied and the work gets into full swing, the new structure is sound and capable of giving the necessary framework for that most desirable of all the goals—the full and



universal participation of all the believers in the British Isles in an all-out effort to achieve complete victory.

#### INTER-ASSEMBLY CO-OPERATION.

A circular letter to all Assemblies, Committees and Goal Towns has just been released calling on the Assemblies to embark much more than in the past on inter-Assembly projects. Two, or more Assemblies, linked geographically can set up specific projects for schools, gatherings, publicity, advertising, proclamation, exhibitions, participation in County Shows, etc. The resources and expertise and manpower can be shared, and a better presentation to the public can thereby be made. It is emphasized however, that all such activities are on an ad hoc basis and no permanent regional or area organisation to handle these activities should be set up. Each L.S.A. must always retain its individual responsibility for the affairs of the Cause in the area within its jurisdiction. Whenever such joint activity can help a Goal Town or bring into its orbit some isolated believers, the appropriate Goals Committee should be consulted and kept in the picture; on the other hand, the Goals Committees can call on Assemblies to co-operate in this way to help achieve the Goals. The purpose behind all this is to utilise to the full the resources of the community for the achievement of the Goals.

#### BOARD OF COUNSELLORS.

A very happy and successful consultation was held with the newly-formed Board of Counsellors for Europe when the functions of the Board and its relation to the N.S.A., L.S.A.s and Committees were clarified. As they have been given the full responsibility for the Auxiliary Board Members, any requests we make for the services of Board Members will be made through the Board of Counsellors.

#### SUMMER SCHOOLS.

A standing committee has been set up for the preparation of Summer School programmes and for the locating and booking of future Summer Schools. Dalston Hall has already been booked for next year and a Physical Arrangements Committee has been formed.

#### BAHA'U'LLAH'S BIRTHDAY. 1968.

On the 11th September, a letter from the N.S.A. was sent to every believer reporting on the situation in Britain and calling on the friends to arise to move to the pioneer posts as a birthday gift to Bahá'u'lláh; thirty pioneers were needed for the Home Front by November 12th. That day will soon be here. Much has been achieved, but there is still more to be done. Here is the list of priorities as this "Journal" goes to press; as the present progress continues these may be modified slightly:—

First Priority—Overseas Goals.

Second Priority—Eire and the Scottish Islands.

Third Priority — Unopened Goal Towns.

Fourth Priority—Goal Towns for Assembly Status this year and lapsed Assemblies.

Fifth Priority—Other Goal Towns.

#### HAND OF THE CAUSE AND THE BAHÁ'Í YOUTH.

It seems very significant that a message to the Bahá'í Youth the world over should have been sent out from the Universal House of Justice less than three weeks before Hand of the Cause William Sears meets with the British Youth in London. This Breakfast meeting is part of a national week-end, 26/27 October, when the Hand hopes to meet many of the friends in the National Haziratu'l-Quds. In his letter to the youth Mr. Sears says, "I hope our Sunday together will blossom with a harvest of all your finest ideas . . ." Our prayers echo that sentiment.

#### PANAMA TEMPLE.

In acknowledging the contributions made by individuals and from the National Fund, the Panama N.S.A. has written,

"Thank you for your beautiful letter of September 15th, the generous contribution and the loving message are both very welcome. The generosity of the friends all over the world is truly heart warming. Perhaps you will be interested to know that the N.S.A. here plans to publish the story of the building of the Temple, all the problems and struggles and—yes—miracles, that have blessed us in this work. We plan to have it ready for the dedication, and we hope that you will be here then to receive our thanks in person, and to rejoice with us in the beautiful House of Prayer, that we all have raised to His Glory. With most loving greetings to all of you our Sisters and Brothers in His service."

#### DECLARATIONS.

We are delighted to welcome to the Faith Miss Adrienne E. Clark, Miss Barbara A. Dobinson, Miss Diana V. Colley (Youth), Miss Elizabeth C. Cotton, Miss Elisabeth E. Wiggins (Youth), Wokingham R.D.; Miss Lorna P. Thompson (Youth), Belfast; Miss Shahnaz Tahzib (Youth), Miss Shahnaz Tahzib (Youth), Brighton; Miss Gitty Momen (Youth), Miss Rowena A. Mills (Youth), Cheadle-Gatley; Miss Denise M. Grove (Youth), Eccles; Mr. Paul R. Habibi (Youth), Manchester; Mrs. May Vine, Dublin; Miss Natalie Msimang, Swansea; Mr. Iain S. Palin (Youth) Edinburgh; Mr. Brian A. Lewis, Leicester; Miss Ann M. Little (Youth), Peterborough; Mr. Norman K. Collins (Youth), Mr. Frank S. Appleton, Norwich; Miss Susan M. Hoyle, Leeds; Miss H. Margaret

Ferguson, Castlereagh R.D.; Mrs. Elise F. Ham, Cardiff; Mrs. Alice A. Shepherd, Burnley; Mr. Murli A. Sherwani, Havering; Mr. Anthony D. Cullen, Mr. Dominic Eamische, Haringey; Miss Jacqueline L. Bendix, Kensington and Chelsea; Miss Jina Farzaneh (Youth), Ealing; Miss Brenda J. Lemon (Youth), Richmond; Mrs. Mary W. Stagg, Kingston-upon-Thames; Mrs. Katherine and Mr. John Powell, Lytchett Matravers, Dorset; Miss Maureen Carmen, Ellesmere Port; Miss Christine Nicholas (Youth), Kingswood, Surrey; Miss Janice Churchill (Youth), Rugby; Miss Deborah G. Maton (Youth), Liss, Hants; Miss Dorothy J. Lumsden (Youth), Durham; Mr. Ian S. Worthington (Youth), Miss Linda Turbine (Youth), Mr. Anthony D. Jefferson (Youth), Salford, Lancs.; Mrs. Phyllis and Mr. Geoffrey Dillon, Chipping Sodbury; Mr. Eric N. King, Biddenden, Kent; Mr. Edward J. Whiteside, Newtownabbey, N. Ireland; Mr. John Murray, Heriot, Midlothian; Mr. Stanley A. Wrout, Southwark; Mrs. Phyllis E. Walden, Brentwood; Miss Carol I. Fraser (Youth), Miss Barbara T. Fraser (Youth), Campbellville, Guyana; Miss Alberta Bacchus, Miss Dorothy G. Dunbar, Alexander Village, Guyana. We are also happy to announce that the following Bahá'í Youth have claimed their voting rights: Miss Honor M. Shaw, Wokingham R.D.; Mr. Paul Jenkinson, Miss May Hofman, Oxford; Miss Yvonne Evans, Portsmouth; Mr. Kambiz Shoghian, Exeter; Miss Jyoti Munsiff, Wandsworth; Miss Faezeh Setareh, Hammer-smith; Miss Cheryl Pierre, Georgetown, Guyana.

In the next issue of the Journal the list of declarations will be brought up to date.

#### NATIONAL FUND.

Well done! Donations to the National Fund at the half-way mark are just ahead of the Budget target. This is a splendid first-time achievement and the N.S.A. is most grateful for such wonderful support. Now we must not only keep up the good work, but also raise the level of donations to the International Fund so that we can reach the target of £3,000.

#### BAHÁ'Í PLAY COMPETITION

##### Can You Write a Bahá'í Play?

The Richmond Bahá'í Youth offer prizes for the three best one-act plays. not to exceed 40 minutes. It is hoped to produce the plays, later this year, in aid of the National Fund.

Please note that the Central Figures of the Faith should not be portrayed.

All entries should be sent to:

Richmond Youth Committee,  
46 Queens Road,  
Twickenham, Middlesex.



# Service at the World Centre

This article has been compiled from a number of impressions offered by the British Youth who served at the World Centre. It does not pretend to be an exhaustive account of our experiences, but we hope that it will give the friends some idea of what it was like to serve at the World Centre for 19 days. As many of the excerpts are necessarily of a personal nature, they have been distinguished by inverted commas.

"At first overwhelmed and unbelievably excited, one was unable to fully comprehend the contents of the letter from the National Assembly—19 days in Haifa! . . . . to serve at the World Centre! Then the organization: overnight train journeys, furtive early morning footsteps in Rutland Gate, miraculous rendezvous in Paris, and somehow eventually seven of us were in the same plane—destination Tel Aviv."

"My own personal feeling, and I think I am probably speaking for the others also, was one of mental and spiritual unpreparedness as we flew towards the Holy Land. None of us, I feel sure, felt at all worthy in the slightest to be on this journey, the greatest journey of our lives . . . ."

We finally arrived at the back of the Pilgrim House. The beautiful smell of the Persian Garden was enough to convince us that this was the most heavenly spot on earth. This was a moment that I shall never forget. As soon as we clambered out of the taxi I began to wonder where the Shrine of the Báb was. It was dark and so peaceful. As if being pulled by a magnet I walked round the back of the Pilgrim House. looked up, and, right before my eyes, two hundred yards away, was the Shrine.

What went through my thoughts at that moment, I'll never know. Such majesty, such tranquility. As I sank to my knees it seemed as though nothing else in the world existed or mattered. The only thing at that moment was to humble oneself and just thank and thank Bahá'u'lláh and be grateful to Him for allowing us to come here . . . .

The next morning we went to the Shrine of the Báb . . . . any Bahá'í who returns from Haifa tells us of very moving experiences at the Holy Shrines. I suppose, being aware of this, I was expecting something very powerful, but to be honest, it all seemed very strange at first. I felt very uncomfortable and confused. How unworthy I felt as I approached the threshold. I felt very much an intruder and all the time one of the Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh seemed to be spinning around and around in my mind:

*"O children of Men!*

*Know ye not why We created you all from the same dust . . . ."*

"We are dust, we are only dust, we are nothing, we are nothing," I kept saying to myself. Again I was reminded of another Hidden Word:

*"O Son of Bounty!*

*Out of the wastes of nothingness, with the clay of My Command I made thee to appear . . . ."*

Here before us was the "*Point round Whom the realities of the Prophets and Messengers revolve*", "*from Whom God hath caused to proceed the knowledge of all that was and shall be*," Whose "*rank excelleth that of all the Prophets*."

"During the first few days in the Holy Land one was overcome by the magnitude of the privilege of being there, in the Holiest Place on the Earth, and in the capacity of Service. It was a truly wonderful experience to meet and get to know the sixty people who had come from many countries to act as Guides during this time. There was so much to learn from each other, so much to gain from hearing of the experiences of Bahá'í Youth all over the world. While we were there we really came to know and love each other, bound together by this wonderful shared experience; an experience which will be meaningful to each one of us for the rest of our lives. Before the Bahá'is arrived from Palermo we had the joy of an evening with Rúhiyyih Khánum, when we saw slides and heard many wonderful stories of South America."

"From the night that we spent with Rúhiyyih Khánum, I remember vividly the extreme sadness that she evinced while recounting some of the opportunities that have been lost to the Faith because the Bahá'is have not grasped them quickly enough. She opened our eyes to the importance and urgency of pioneering."

"We met the Universal House of Justice at Bahjí, and visited the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh in their company. This was an experience moving beyond words, as most of the Guides entered the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh for the first time, in the company of the Supreme Body of the Faith. All of us were overwhelmed by the welcome they gave us and by the love they showered upon us."

Once the pilgrims from Palermo arrived, the Guides were split into teams; Peter retired to work at Registration, where in the sanctified surroundings of the Old Technion cafeteria I smiled sweetly at all the Friends as they staggered in, spiritually uplifted and physically exhausted, from Palermo. The job I was doing for most of the time then was quite different to the ones the

rest of the British guides were doing. Whilst we were not working in the vicinity of any of the Holy Places the job we had was in no way "unspiritual": we had a very happy time. One of the great excitements was the fact that mostly the Friends' first action upon arrival in Haifa was to come to Registration—this meant that we felt the "shock-wave" of their arrival to the full. It was at times quite difficult to reconcile the two principles of warmly welcoming the friends to Haifa and being ultra-efficient and making sure there was no build-up of Bahá'is eager to go through all the formalities of arriving, as quickly as possible.

I remember how wonderful it was when our first "customers" arrived—a pioneer couple (Persian) from Japan—the momentous occasion of 2,000 Bahá'is coming together at the World Centre of our Faith to commemorate the Centenary of the Arrival of the Blessed Perfection, Bahá'u'lláh, had begun. It was with great joy that these dear friends were greeted. The first big contingent to arrive was the British followed in the ensuing days by the Canadians and the Americans, not to forget, of course, a whole boatload of 500 Persians. Apart from these big national groups there were scores of smaller groups from all corners of the world—those amongst us who were acting as interpreters were kept rushing around furiously!

For most of the time I was handing out various information to each of the friends as they passed by. As the number of Persians coming through increased, especially as they came in big groups together, I learnt what all the various things I was handing out were in Persian.

It took me a long time to master the correct pronunciation of "roje-be . . ." so I kept having to have my Persian translated into "Persian Persian"—quite amusing! Then after great exclamations of surprise I was able to continue with the rest of my speech which was fortunately able to be understood."

Lesley, Denis and Margaret helped at the Shrine of the Báb.

"Service at the Shrine of the Báb was an extremely beautiful experience—one's heart overflowed with joy, when standing at the very Threshold of the Shrine watching hundreds of Bahá'is arrive in humility and love from all over the world. It was especially wonderful to see the Bahá'is one knew and to share in spirit their feelings as many of them approached that Holy Spot for the first time.

While guiding there was much time to meditate and to gaze at the beauty and colour of the Shrine Gardens. How



wonderfully the tall dark green cypresses from Shrines echo the spirit and atmosphere of the Holy Land. From the moment one enters the gate to the Pilgrim House, one has a feeling as of entering a new plane of existence. The senses are immediately elevated by the scent of the flowers and above all by the colours. Even in the summer season when most of Israel is parched and brown, the grass in the gardens remained green and the flowers and trees were a mass of brightly coloured blossom.

Incredibly the more often one sees the Shrine of the Báb the more beautiful it becomes. From each different angle and at whatever time, be it dusk or mid-day, it is new and exciting, always beautiful, and so in harmony with the Gardens, Mount Carmel and the whole of Haifa. En route to the hostel where we stayed, we had a wonderful view of the Shrine from a distance, as it stands out majestically, apart from the rest of the city—separated from the clustered houses of Haifa both by the dignity of its structure and by the beauty of its setting!!

The hostel we stayed in was a new one, belonging to the Technological University, or Technion, of Haifa. We had been warned before our departure that our accommodation might be crowded and inconvenient; imagine our delight and gratitude, then, when we found that the Universal House of Justice had arranged for us to stay in this luxurious hostel, in most comfortable large double rooms, with ample bathroom facilities. There was one moment of alarm when Moojan, after passing six months unscathed in West Africa, fell foul of a scorpion hiding under his bathroom door, but luckily he suffered no lasting harm.

"The bite of that scorpion I will never forget. Nor will those Felafels (meatballs) and a salad of sorts inside Arab bread) that were our staple diet for three weeks easily fade from my memory. John Wade's endless energy and enormous organising talent will not be forgotten, nor will his "shh . . . . Quiet, please!"

From the Gardens, the 8.0 a.m. bus tour, with Farhad as guide, set off to visit the Holy Places outside Haifa. Paul's job was to see that the buses left safely with their passengers. The job of the bus guides was a difficult one, as they had to tell the friends briefly where they were going, making sure that everyone understood, and keep their party on time, in order to stay within the tight schedule necessary when such numbers were involved.

Ronnie and Moojan were two of the guides at the Most Great Prison:—

"At first, I was very disappointed, mainly because of the depressing atmosphere that we had all felt on our first visit here, when some of the mental patients had leaned out of the windows shouting and throwing various things at us. As time went on, however, I became glad that I had been appointed to this job. I could appreciate now some of the

suffering that Bahá'u'lláh had endured as He looked out of those narrow windows, for two lonely years. The heroism and devotion of the believers who had walked all the way from Iran just for a glimpse of the wave of his handkerchief from a small distant window slowly became very real to me, and I was awed at the standard that they had set for us, their spiritual heirs."

"Some of the Youth sympathised with us for having to be positioned there—but why? why?—this was the most wonderful thing that could ever have happened to us—this was the very spot where the Manifestation of God for this day and Age had spent two years, two months and five days subject to unknowable suffering. *"Remember My days during thy days, and My distress and banishment in this Remote Prison . . ."*—never again would we have this opportunity, never again would we have this bounty and privilege. I think for the first time I have realised a little the greatness and power of the Tablet of Ahmad. No-one will ever understand even a drop of the ocean of suffering and humiliation imposed upon Bahá'u'lláh at that time. How can one say this Tablet *"with absolute sincerity?"*

The major event of the visit was, of course, the Commemoration of this very imprisonment."

"The commemoration of the arrival of Bahá'u'lláh in the Holy Land was an occasion of great dignity and one at which all were very aware of the power and magnitude of the Cause. As we sat in the hot sun, surrounded by the beautiful gardens at Bahjí, one could sense the unity, not only of the 3,000 Bahá'ís gathered there, but of the whole Bahá'í world, drawn together in prayer. It was particularly moving to see those hundreds of Bahá'ís from so many parts of the world—many of them in national dress—circumambulate the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh in an atmosphere of humility and love; this was beautiful beyond the power of words to describe."

"For myself that had been a day full of exhaustion and after 'those who remembered' had gone, the helpers were left in the gathering dusk sitting on the benches in front of Bahjí—the true "delight". From every side arose the fragrance of love and harmony; under a tree, a friend was chanting; the hearts of all were filled with love and tears; some were talking quietly, reverently, in "awe, in wonder of this place, this paradise"; and with the cicadas chirping gently in the background others were praying, fervently entreating in tears, humble at His Gate; and around them the sky turned from yellow to red and finally enveloped them in its darkness.

But there was an added bounty for many of the pilgrims—we were able to attend the funeral of Mr. Samandari—to pay tribute personally to the last Bahá'í to have known Bahá'u'lláh."

"During the evening of Monday 2nd September news was gradually passed around that Hand of the Cause Mr. Samandari had passed away. Silence gradually fell as the friends gathered in and around the Pilgrim House slowly made their way towards the Shrines. It was dark and the Shrines and gardens were illuminated. A feeling of great peace and serenity permeated the atmosphere as the Friends quietly entered the Shrine. Throughout the Devotional held for Mr. Samandari at the House of the Master on the following afternoon, peace and love prevailed and the hearts of all were lifted by the profusion of flowers from the believers of the world and by the beauty of the prayers and chanting. Haifa had never seen such a funeral since the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, as the long train of cars and buses made its way to the Bahá'í Cemetery at the foot of Mount Carmel."

"Together with a small group of the youth, I visited Hand of the Cause Tarazu'llah Samandari just a week before he passed away. Even with the great difficulty that he had in speaking, he asked each of us our names and assured us of his prayers for us as well as the youth in general. Towards the end of our stay, at the party that we held for all the World Centre personnel and the Hands of the Cause, Rúhíyyih Khánum told us that the great funeral that Mr. Samandari had had, he had earned by his ceaseless labours in the teaching field at an age when most people would have given up and said that they had done enough. Then she said that now it was up to us; we too had a completely open choice: we could do whatever we wanted with our lives." Truly, our experiences were indescribable:

"For what can describe the evenings sitting on the steps of the Avenue of the Kings, gazing at the lights of Haifa and of Akka across the Bay, at Akka, 'the Prison by the Sea', in the company of the Friends . . ."

" . . . . So many important and significant things happened to us from the very moment of our arrival that as one person I remember put it, every day felt like a whole year of normal life gone by. By the time we left we felt as though we had lived in Haifa for years; as though our previous lives were only a dream, a distant shadow; our previous friendships but fleeting faces on a crowded street; the things that we had thought important before, merely ephemeral notions."

"For all of us these were undoubtedly the greatest days of our lives—none of us will ever have a greater experience or a greater bounty. For myself, I shall never forget one of those days—they were priceless. As we flew home, I was not in the slightest bit sad for I knew in my heart I was grateful to Bahá'u'lláh for allowing me to come to the Holy Land and now it was my turn to try to repay what little I can to Him."



## A SURVIVOR OF THE HEROIC AGE

by Adib Taherzadeh.

Mr. Tarázúlláh Samandari was born in the small town of Qazvin around the year 1875.

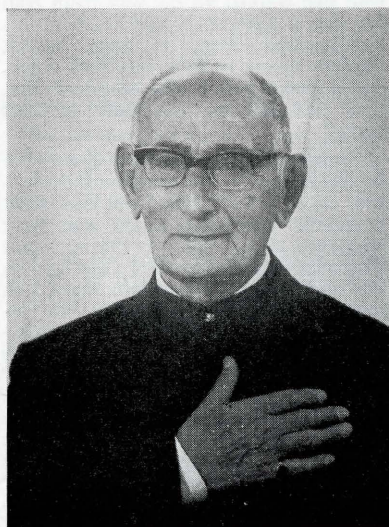
In the early days of the Bábi dispensation, his grandfather embraced the cause and became a staunch supporter of the new born Faith. His father, Shaykh Kázim, was one of the Apostles of Bahá'u'lláh, who championed the Faith of God with exemplary devotion, shedding imperishable lustre on the annals of the Faith. It was on the occasion of Shaykh Kázim's writing a detailed apologia, defending the newborn faith, and refuting with clarity and brilliance the false claims of Mirzá Yahyá, the Arch-breaker of the Báb's covenant, that Bahá'u'lláh, in a tablet, bestowed upon him the title of "Saman-dar".

It was to him that some of Bahá'u'lláh's weighty tablets were addressed. Among them is the tablet of Fuád, revealed about 1869 on the occasion of the death in France of an implacable enemy of Bahá'u'lláh, Fuád Páshá, the Foreign Minister of Turkey, denounced by Him as the "Agitator" of His banishment to the Most Great Prison. This is one of Bahá'u'lláh's momentous tablets, foreshadowing in clear terms, the downfall of Sultan Abdul Aziz and his prime minister Ali Páshá.

Tarázúlláh Samandari grew up under the care and love of such an illustrious father. He received the customary education in his native town and soon distinguished himself in calligraphy—an art regarded as important in those days. Indeed Bahá'u'lláh was so impressed by the penmanship of young Tarázúlláh and his brother that, in a tablet, He praises their work and instructs Amín (His Trustee) to purchase and present, on His behalf, an "Aba" (cloak) to the teacher, as a token of appreciation for his excellent tuition.

From an early age Tarázúlláh developed an intense love for Bahá'u'lláh. This love dominated his whole being, and soon his heart became a receptacle of those energizing forces released by the revelation of Bahá'u'lláh.

The crowning glory of his life was when he attained the presence of Bahá'u'lláh at the age of sixteen. The outpourings of Divine Revelation left an abiding impression on his soul, and the transmuting power of Bahá'u'lláh's presence transformed the brass of his heart into pure gold. His whole being was so galvanised that throughout his long and eventful life, he never faltered, nor hesitated in the service of his Lord. With a dedication, exemplary in its wholeheartedness, he entered the arena of service, and for over seventy years laboured unceasingly for the promotion of the Faith of God. No earthly cause,



however important, no preoccupation, however pressing, no obstacle however insurmountable, could ever deflect this man of God from serving the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh.

After the passing of the Blessed Beauty, he, together with his illustrious father, rallied around 'Abdu'l-Bahá, defending the cause and protecting it against the onslaught of the covenant-breakers.

During the ministry of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and for most of the Guardian's ministry, the scene of his teaching tours was his native country. There he travelled to every town and village, encouraging the friends and helping them in their teaching work. Fortified by his strong faith, and guided by the Hand of Bahá'u'lláh he was eminently suited to the crying needs of a community, trampled under foot, deprived of every right and persecuted to its very core. His visits were like a breath of life, uplifting the friends, banishing from their midst all traces of weakness, and inspiring them to soar to loftier heights of service. In most places he left behind numerous works of excellent penmanship in the form of tablets, Greatest Names, or quotations from the Writings.

During the second World War, he made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where he basked in the sunshine of Shoghi Effendi's affection and love. There, feeling the burden of age, he had remarked that the end of his services was perhaps approaching. The Beloved Guardian promptly assured him that this was only the beginning of a new phase in his long record of service.

Indeed when we look back on his eventful life, we can see that just as the seed of the International Bahá'í Com-

munity was germinating in those days, Mr. Samandari's services were assuming a new dimension. In 1951, he was appointed Hand of the Cause of God. From that time he travelled extensively all over the world. His international travelling exploits, extending for over two decades were truly remarkable.

Although at an advanced age and unaccustomed to the complexities of modern life, often facing difficulties and hardships that men of younger age could not endure, he managed to break through every barrier, remove every obstacle and remain unruffled and unperturbed. The source from which he drew his energy seemed to be inexhaustible. That in spite of fatigue and hardships, which he endured while journeying from country to country, often racing against time, denying himself sleep and comfort, he still remained full of vigour and health till the end of his life, is due to his indomitable faith and spiritual stamina.

Once he told the writer, jokingly, that he had made a covenant with every limb, and organ of his body, requiring them not to become ill separately or go out of action individually. He wanted them all to work together, so that he could serve the Cause effectively, and when the end came, all would go together!

In all his journeys, whether in the midst of an oppressed community in the Islamic world, where the friends needed help and guidance, whether amongst the simple hearted, spiritually sensitive newly enrolled tribes of Africa; whether in the company of the western believers living in a decadent materialistic world so alien to his way of life, he always imparted to his audiences some of that indefinable power which emanated from his person.

To those assembled at the Royal Albert Hall in London, on the occasion of the Most Great Jubilee, though many were unfamiliar with his background, customs and language, yet his reminiscences of Bahá'u'lláh, his radiant face, his mannerisms, his true humility, his vibrant voice, all were glimpses of the unique spirit of the Heroic Age to which he undoubtedly belonged.

Throughout his life Mr. Samandari lived very modestly, detached from all earthly things. He showed a deep sense of love towards the friends. His outstanding qualities of courtesy, humility and self-effacement were combined with a strength of character—dynamic, firm, and imperturbable. The pivot around which all his activities revolved was his unflinching loyalty to the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh. With the span of his life he bridged the Heroic and the Formative Ages of the Faith, witnessing, on the one hand, the glories of a divine Springtime, and on the other the birth and growth of the administrative order to a



point where he himself took a major part in the erection of its crowning edifice and under whose guidance he served with loyalty until the end of his life.

His passing away on September 2nd, 1968, during the commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of Bahá'u'lláh's arrival in Akka, his funeral attended by almost one thousand of his lovers from all parts of the world, his burial place situated in the world centre and in close proximity to the resting places of some of his illustrious contemporaries, were all too dramatic and glorious.

The following gracious message from the Universal House of Justice may well serve as a befitting epilogue to his memory.

WITH SORROWFUL HEARTS ANNOUNCE  
PASSING HAND CAUSE GOD SHIELD HIS  
FAITH DEARLY LOVED TARAZULLAH  
SAMANDARI NINETY-THIRD YEAR HIS  
LIFE ON MORROW COMMEMORATION  
CENTENARY BAHAUULLAH'S ARRIVAL HOLY  
LAND STOP FAITHFUL TO LAST BREATH  
INSTRUCTIONS HIS LORD HIS MASTER HIS  
GUARDIAN HE CONTINUED SELFLESS  
DEVOTED SERVICE UNABATED UNTIL FALL-  
ING ILL DURING RECENT TEACHING  
MISSION STOP UNMINDFUL ILLNESS HE  
PROCEEDED HOLY LAND PARTICIPATE  
CENTENARY STOP EVER REMEMBERED  
HEARTS BELIEVERS EAST WEST TO WHOSE  
LANDS HE TRAVELLED BEARING MESSAGE  
HIS LORD WHOSE COMMUNITIES HE  
FAITHFULLY SERVED THIS PRECIOUS  
REMNANT HEROIC AGE WHO ATTAINED  
PRESENCE BLESSED BEAUTY YEAR HIS  
ASCENSION NOW LAID REST FOOT MOUN-  
TAIN GOD AMIDST THrong BELIEVERS  
ASSEMBLED VICINITY VERY SPOT BAHAU-  
LLAH FIRST TROD THESE SACRED SHORES  
STOP REQUEST ALL NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES  
HOLD MEMORIAL SERVICES INCLUDING  
FOUR MOTHER TEMPLES BAHAI WORLD  
BEFITTING LONG LIFE DEDICATED EX-  
EMPLARY SERVICE LORD HOSTS BY ONE  
ASSURED CENTRE COVENANT LOVING  
WELCOME PRESENCE BAHAUULLAH ABHA  
KINGDOM STOP EXTEND LOVING SYM-  
PATHY ASSURANCE PRAYERS MEMBERS  
DISTINGUISHED FAMILY".

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

#### BAHÁ'Í NEWS.

The American Bahá'í News is available in the British Isles on payment of 16/- for 12 monthly copies (including postage). Any friends requiring copies of this very interesting and informative publication should send their subscription to:—

Mr. Edward Richards,  
26 Cartwright Road,  
Four Oaks,  
Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

#### DURHAM WEEK-END SCHOOL

30th November — 1st December

Help the work in this goal town by coming to this weekend school and bringing your non-Bahá'í friends. Programmes and further details from:—

Eric and Margaret Hellicar,  
22 Hallgarth Street, Durham,

## TO THE BAHÁ'Í YOUTH IN EVERY LAND

9th October, 1968.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

In the two years since we last addressed the youth of the Bahá'í world many remarkable advances have been made in the fortunes of the Faith. Not the least of these is the enrollment under the banner of Bahá'u'lláh of a growing army of young men and women eager to serve His Cause. The zeal, the enthusiasm, the steadfastness and the devotion of the youth in every land has brought great joy and assurance to our hearts.

During the last days of August and the first days of September, when nearly two thousand believers from all over the world gathered in the Holy Land to commemorate the Centenary of Bahá'u'lláh's arrival on these sacred shores, we had an opportunity to observe at first hand those qualities of good character, selfless service and determined effort exemplified in the youth who served as volunteer helpers, and we wish to express our gratitude for their loving assistance and for their example.

Many of them offered to pioneer, but one perplexing question recurred: Shall I continue my education, or should I pioneer now! Undoubtedly this same question is in the mind of every young Bahá'í wishing to dedicate his life to the advancement of the Faith. There is no stock answer which applies to all situations; the beloved Guardian gave different answers to different individuals on this question. Obviously circumstances vary with each individual case. Each individual must decide how he can best serve the Cause. In making this decision, it will be helpful to weigh the following factors:

Upon becoming a Bahá'í one's whole life is, or should become, devoted to the progress of the Cause of God, and every talent or faculty he possesses is ultimately committed to this over-riding life objective. Within this framework he must consider, among other things, whether by continuing his education now he can be a more effective pioneer later, or alternatively whether the urgent need for pioneers while possibilities for teaching are still open, outweighs an anticipated increase in effectiveness. This is not an easy decision, since often times the spirit which prompts the pioneering offer is more important than one's academic attainments.

One's liability for military service may be a factor in timing the offer of pioneer service.

One may have outstanding obligations to others, including those who may be dependent on him for support,

It may be possible to combine a pioneer project with a continuing educational programme. Consideration may also be given to the possibility that a pioneering experience, even though it interrupts the formal educational programme, may prove beneficial in the long run in that studies would later be resumed with a more mature outlook.

The urgency of a particular goal which one is especially qualified to fill and for which there are no other offers.

The fact that the need for pioneers will undoubtedly be with us for many generations to come, and that therefore there will be many calls in future for pioneering service.

The principle of consultation also applies. One may have the obligation to consult others, such as one's parents, one's Local and National Assemblies, and the pioneering committees.

Finally, bearing in mind the principle of sacrificial service and the unfailing promises Bahá'u'lláh ordained for those who arise to serve His Cause, one should pray and meditate on what his course of action will be. Indeed, it often happens that the answer will be found in no other way.

We assure the youth that we are mindful of the many important decisions they must make as they tread the path of service to Bahá'u'lláh. We will offer our ardent supplications at the Holy Threshold that all will be divinely guided and that they will attract the blessings of the All-Merciful.

Deepest Bahá'í love,  
THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

#### ART EXHIBITION

##### Notice to Parents and Teachers.

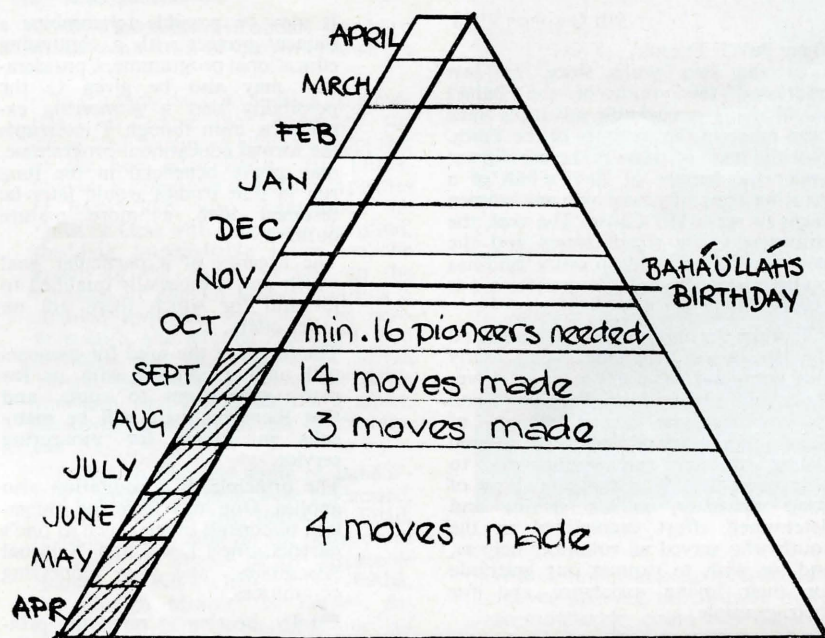
The Child Education Committee is planning an exhibition of children's paintings and drawings to be shown at National Bahá'í gatherings. All children up to the age of 14 are warmly invited to send their drawings and paintings to the C.E.C., to Mr. Peter Moore, 19 South Primrose Hill, Chelmsford, Essex. The closing date for reception of the pictures is 1st December, 1968. The pictures may be inspired on themes of the Faith such as: Mankind—One Family; Work is Worship; Flowers of One Garden; Children Praying; The Mountain of God (Mt. Carmel); Helping Others; The Bahá'í Temples, etc., or any other subjects the children like. Pencils, water colours or oils may be used as desired.

CHILD EDUCATION COMMITTEE.



## PIONEER COMMITTEE REPORT

As you may already know the Goal of the pioneer committee is to attain as many goals as possible by November 12th—Bahá'u'lláh's Birthday.



To achieve this goal we need pioneers—NOW.

The top priority goals are in Eire and the Scottish Islands. Of these top priorities the actual goal to be attained is as follows:

To be opened: Craigavon—N. Ireland.

To be brought to Assembly Status by Ridván 1969: Orkney Islands, Dun Laoghaire.

To be brought to Assembly status by Ridván 1970: Larne RD.

To be brought to Assembly status by Ridván 1971: Londonderry, Cork, Limerick.

To be brought to Assembly status: Outer Hebrides, Shetlands.

Other Goals are as follows:—

To be opened:	Assembly status by 1969:
Hereford.	Orkney—Bahá'is at present 6
Shrewsbury	Stafford " 6
Dundee	Poole " 5
Llanelly	Ipswich " 4
Guernsey	Bedford " 2
	Bath " 6

Lapsed Assemblies to be regained:

Glasgow—Bahá'is at present 7
York " 6
Chester " 8

Other Goals of Nine Year Plan:

Bahá'is at present:

St. Austell ... .. 4	Carlisle ... .. 2
Hamilton ... .. 1	Chelmsford ... .. 2
N. Berwick ... .. 2	Derby ... .. 1
Dumbarton ... .. 2	Durham ... .. 2
Elgin ... .. 2	Kendal ... .. 2
Aberystwyth ... .. 2	Kidderminster ... .. 2
Isle of Wight ... .. 1	Lincoln ... .. 5
Jersey ... .. 4	Newport ... .. 1
Isle of Man ... .. 1	Oakham ... .. 2

The Pioneer Committee meets and is available for consultation every Thursday at 27, Rutland Gate, Knightsbridge. The Secretary is Margaret Appa, telephone number 01-449-4232.

## Guyana

Proclamation in different countries must necessarily proceed in ways suitable to local conditions and often many avenues are closed. In Guyana the friends have taken every opportunity to bring to the notice of a broad cross-section of the leading people the Proclamation Message in one way or another.

The special copy of the Proclamation Book was presented to the Governor General with Press Publicity, and an account with the photograph appeared in the leading newspapers. Ten further cloth-bound copies of the book were then obtained for presentation and copies have been given to the Lord Mayor of Georgetown, His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies, the Mayor of New Amsterdam, the President of the Trades Union Council, the Deputy Prime Minister and others.

The presentation of the Proclamation Book was made to the Prime Minister on 6th September, 1968. Mrs. Hahnfeld who was accompanied by Mr. Griffith for the presentation ceremony, was interviewed for a radio broadcast, which was transmitted on the same evening. Photographs were taken of the presentation. The Prime Minister was not aware that the Bahá'í Faith was already 100 years old, and promised to read the book.

During the visit of Hand of the Cause of God, Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyeh Khánúm in February there were three Radio programmes, in addition to the usual coverage when special Bahá'í celebrations and commemorations are given radio time. As a direct result of these radio programmes, there have been declarations and interest has been aroused.

In order to extend the area of direct proclamation it was agreed to send copies of the Proclamation Booklet to the Chairmen of all the Village Councils, and 54 have gone out. In addition, Proclamation books have been sent to several local authorities. Proclamation Booklets have also been sent to all Ministers of the Government and to the Heads of some of the leading firms in Georgetown.

Over the radio there are selected book reviews and here the friends have arranged for the British Council to review the "Chosen Highway" by Lady Blomfield.

In addition to what might be termed direct proclamation the friends in Georgetown were asked to be represented on committees set up by the National History and Arts Council, for the Promotion of Human Rights.

We commend the friends in Guyana for their achievements so far in this Proclamation period, and we look forward to hearing news of further successes.

OVERSEAS GOALS COMMITTEE.



## YOUTH NEWS

### Summer Youth Projects

The youth teaching projects last summer were fantastically successful. Several groups of youth travelled to Scotland, Orkneys, St. Austell, and Wales. One of the youth, Mike Monroe, has actually decided to spend one year in the Orkneys. You can write to him and, if possible, go and visit him. His address is: c/o Daryoush Mehrabi,

Carmel, New Scapa Road, Kirkwall, Orkney.

Since the visit of Irene and Helene Momtaz and May Khadem to St. Austell, (report in the last issue of the Journal), there have been two declarations in that city.

### York Winter School

Don't forget the exciting York Winter School which is to be held in the Youth Hostel in Clifton, York during the period December 21st—29th. The pro-

*continued in column three*

*continued from column two*

gramme will be stimulating, and your presence vital, come and find out why. For reservation send a deposit of £1 to the Secretary, Miss Irene Jones, Bulmershe College of Education, Woodley, Reading, Berks.

### Arts and Crafts Exhibition

There will be an arts and crafts exhibition at the York winter school. Entries for this exhibition will be on display during the whole session. Awards will be given to those of exceptional quality. Entries will also be on exhibit at one of the Summer Schools for adult viewing.

### Leeds University Union Bahá'í Society.

The Leeds University Union Bahá'í Society has prepared a programme for next term that looks exciting indeed. They have co-ordinated some of their meetings with other religious societies on campus—a very worthwhile venture. Their programme is an example of what just a few youth on a University or other school campus can accomplish.

October 24

The Bahá'í Faith P. Hainsworth

November 15

Joint Meeting with Islamic Society

November 17

Joint Meeting with Anglican Society

November 28

Buddhism Dr. T. O. King

The joint meetings will have speakers representing both Faiths. Coffee meetings will also be held at Leeds on Thursdays at 8.00 p.m. Any youth who can possibly come are most welcome. The address is:—Carol Moorhouse, 10 Burclett Terrace, Hyde Park, Leeds, 6.

### National Youth Committee

The National Youth Committee is pleased to welcome its two new members: Elizabeth Morley and Helene Momtaz. The members of the N.Y.C. are presently as follows:—

Abbas Afnan  
Elizabeth Asbury  
Stephen Jenkinson  
Irene Jones  
Riaz Khadem  
Helene Momtaz  
Elizabeth Morley  
Pixie Rawhani

Jeanette Robbin, who served on this committee during the last year, has now returned to the United States. We are deeply grateful for her invaluable contribution.

### Reports for the Journal

Send articles, reports of local youth activities, notices of week-end schools to Riaz Khadem, Department of Mathematics, The University, Southampton.

NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE

## Firesides

See "Travel Teaching — Visiting" on page eleven.

Aylesbury	Miss B. Dobinson, 99, Westmorland Avenue.....	First Monday each month.
Bath	Mr. N. Burroughs, 40, Sheridan Road, Twerton.....	Thursdays, Sundays, p.m.
Bedford	Mrs. M. Humphrey, 108, Wendover Drive.....	Tuesday.
Blackpool	Miss J. Tadman, 132, Grasmere Road.....	spontaneous.
Burnley	Mrs. M. Cleasby, 42, Chatburn Avenue.....	Friday.
Brighton	Mrs. M. Kouchezkadeh, 19, Stanford Avenue.....	Wednesdays
Cambridge	Mr. F. Jahanpour, Pembroke College.....	Tuesday.
Camden, London	Miss M. Joseph, 49, Ridgemount Gardens, Torrington Place, W.C.1.....	Tuesday.
Canterbury	Mr. A. Weinberg, 5, Rhodaus Close.....	Friday.
Carlisle	Mrs. O. Smeatham, 13, Netherby Drive, Lowry Hill, Kingstown.....	Friday.
Cheadle & Gatley	Mr. C. Johnson, 35, Neal Avenue, Heald Green, Cheadle.....	Wednesday.
Chelmsford	Mrs. M. Moore, 19, South Primrose Hill.....	Tuesday
Chester	Miss B. Brazier, 11, Panton Road, Hoole.....	Monday.
Chippenham	Mrs. T. B. Smith, The Gables, Sheldon Corner.....	Friday.
Croydon, London	Mrs. L. Smithson, 92, Beechwood Road, Sanderstead, South Croydon.....	Friday.
Ealing, London	Mrs. V. Roe, 28b, CastleBar Rd., W.5.....	First Mon. each month
Eccles	Mrs. G. Wilson, 11, Westminster Road, Ellesmere Park.....	Wednesday.
Haringay, London	Mrs. B. Saminaden, 79, Muswell Hill Place, N.10.....	Thursday.
Havering, London	Mrs. C. Sherwani, 6, Grassmere Road, Hornchurch, Essex.....	Wednesday.
Hounslow, London	Mrs. R. Jones, 8, Spencer Road, W.4.....	First Tues. each month
Hove	Mr. D. Moody, 28, Lansdowne Street.....	Tuesday.
Kendal	Mrs. M. Hellaby, Bridge House, Castle Street.....	4th Sat in month
Kidderminster	Mrs. A. Pitt, 1, Hume Street.....	Wednesday.
Leicester	Miss G. Prince, 248, London Road.....	Wednesday & Saturday.
Liverpool	Mrs. P. Brackenridge, 3, Langdale Rd.....	Monday & Wednesday.
Lincoln	Mrs. V. Crook, 17, Carline Road.....	Friday.
Manchester	Mrs. F. Fairclough, 92, St. Ives Road, Rusholme, 14.....	Friday....
Newcastle on Tyne	Mrs. K. Coates, 45, Overfield Road, Fawdon.....	Wednesday.
Norwich	Miss M. Bowman, 156, Northfields.....	Monday & Friday
Oxford	Miss D. Wigginton, 71, Bainton Road.....	Any Time
Portsmouth	Mrs. O. Gagg, 40, Garnier Street, Fratton.....	Friday.
Reading	Mr. J. Talbot, 84, Waverley Road.....	Thursday.
Sheffield	Miss U. Coward, 41, Nethergreen Road.....	Tuesday.
Southport	Mrs. L. Turner, 33, Park Avenue.....	Friday.
Stafford	Mrs. J. Pitcher, 8, Knowle Road.....	Monday.
St. Austell	3, Fore Street, Tywardreath, Par. Cornwall.....	Friday.
Stretford	Mrs. J. Harding, 64, Park Road.....	Friday.
Sutton Coldfield	Mrs. C. Richards, 26, Cartwright Road, Four Oaks.....	Thursday.
Wandsworth, London	Mr. P. Chambers, 9, Beechmore Road, S.W.11.....	Friday.
Watford	Mr. K. Kouchezkadeh, 3, Wentworth Close.....	Any Time.
Weybridge	Mrs. G. Barrett, Eastgate, 259, Brooklands Road.....	First Sunday in month.
Winchester	Mrs. B. Lewis, 21, Hyde Close.....	Thursday.
Wokingham R.D.	Mrs. D. Prentice, 17, Wedderburn Close, Winnersh, Reading.....	Friday.

Warmest thanks to those Spiritual Assemblies and Groups who filled in the small questionnaire from which these lists were compiled. It is assumed that unless we are notified to the contrary all towns where there are Assemblies and Groups, wish to receive the benefit of travel teachers. Therefore it is further assumed that friends who have not returned the "coupon" completed, will be prepared to accept travel teachers at any time. Plans are in hand to produce further "package tours" by coach.

ENGLISH GOALS COMMITTEE.



# ENGLISH GOALS COMMITTEE

## NUMBER OF BELIEVERS IN THE GOAL TOWNS AND ISLANDS.

COUNTY	GOAL TOWN	NUMBER OF BELIEVERS.									
Buckinghamshire	Aylesbury	■	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Somerset	Bath	■	■	■	■	■	■	□	□	□	□
Bedfordshire	Bedford	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Cumberland	Carlisle	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Essex	Chelmsford	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Derbyshire	Derby	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Durham County	Durham	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Herefordshire	Hereford	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Suffolk	Ipswich	■	■	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□
Westmorland	Kendal	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Worcestershire	Kidderminster	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Lincolnshire	Lincoln	■	■	■	■	■	■	□	□	□	□
Rutland	Oakham	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Dorset	Poole	■	■	■	■	■	■	□	□	□	□
Staffordshire	Stafford	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	□	□	□
Cornwall	St. Austell	■	■	■	■	■	■	□	□	□	□
Shropshire	Shrewsbury	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Caernarvon	Bangor	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
<b>Islands</b>											
Isle of Man		■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
St. Helier, Jersey		■	■	■	■	■	■	□	□	□	□
Guernsey		□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Isle of Wight		■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□

Those friends who are keeping a careful check on the numbers of Bahá'is in the goal towns will note changes. The towns of Aylesbury, Bath, Lincoln, St. Austell, Bangor and the island of Jersey have all increased in numbers, Bedford has lost several friends, who have unfortunately had to leave the town, but who have been able to reinforce places needing additional believers.

### News from the Goals

**Aylesbury** is the joyful recipient of three pioneers, Lindsay Rutherford, Barbara Dobinson and Virginia Villiers-Stuart, all teachers. No sooner had these young people moved in than they met together to form a Group, elected their officers, made teaching plans, wrote their Minutes, and a copy was received by this committee within two days. This is Action!

**Bath** are holding a Weekend School on the 15th, 16th and 17th November, at Century House, the theme of which is "Detachment or Disaster". Two more pioneers have moved in.

**Chelmsford** have received their first publicity in the local newspaper, when a large advert appeared about the Faith, and a very good article about the pioneers May and Peter Moore.

**Durham** have sent enthusiastic reports about the Youth Project organised by this committee. The two youth taking part, Christine Whitely and Rita Green were thrilled about being in Durham but not so thrilled about the job they had in a sausage factory in the town, reports of which we felt are best forgotten!! However, doing to sausages whatever

has to be done, was just the means of keeping them in that town and spreading the word of Bahá'u'lláh, and we are grateful to these two dear souls. Regular firesides are held, societies are being approached offering Bahá'í speakers, and a Bahá'í talk will be given as a public lecture in a series "Religious Trends of the 70s". A weekend school is planned for March.

**Hereford** although not yet opened must have heard about the Faith for recently enquiries were received from students of divinity at the college.

**Kendal** held a very successful weekend school, 27th/28th September, blessed by the presence of dear Hand of the Cause, William Sears. The secretary of this committee attending, estimated that about 100 friends were present at the school during the weekend, and there were a number of enquirers present as well.

**Lincoln** has suddenly grown in numbers with the arrival of pioneers Jackie and David Craske and Brigitte Ferraby. Three other Bahá'í friends are being encouraged to move into Lincoln from just outside, and if they are able to do so this would make the number of friends eight!

**Oakham** are holding a one-day school on November 10th at the George Hotel, Market Square. This is the smallest of the goal towns and it is hoped that it will be well attended by Bahá'is on this occasion.

**Poole** held a public meeting at the Dolphin Hotel, on 28th September, when Dr. Nabil Mustapha spoke on "A Religion for our Time".

**Stafford.** The friends have been contacted by a local newspaper, asking for an interview, so that an article can be written about the Faith.

**St. Austell** joyously welcome two new believers, Anita and Colin Lee, to the Faith, so this group has now doubled itself!

**St. Helier, Jersey** has received a visit from Hand of the Cause, William Sears, and another pioneer has moved to the island, and although living in St. Martin will no doubt be a wonderful support to this little and very much isolated group.

**Bangor** will soon be opened, and will be by the time this Journal has gone to press, by dear souls Kevin Beint and Alan Ireland.

**Ealing** report they are now turning their attention to other parts of the Borough and plan to hold a meeting in Acton. They joined with other Boroughs for a commemorative meeting on 31st August and good reports appeared in the Middlesex County Times.

**Northampton.** It is reported that two friends are moving into this town thus bringing the numbers to nine.

**Winchester** is also "up to strength" by the movement of two friends into this town. A one-day school was held there on 28th September.

### Every Goal Town Opened, and Every Prime Goal to be Achieved by Ridván 1969

#### Prime Goals

The "prime goals" are those which have been selected to be achieved by next Ridván, and although work is proceeding in all the goal towns and islands, certain places need the special prayers and the special actions of every single believer, in order that successes can be reported next April. Every single believer can help! Beloved Hand of the Cause William Sears during his wonderful trip around Britain has continually encouraged us, and emphasised the importance of the united solidarity of all the friends in achieving the tasks set us by the Universal House of Justice. We desperately need help, all sorts of help everywhere—pioneers, teachers, visitors, but perhaps most of all, we need the united prayers of every single Bahá'í, each one turning his or her thoughts every day towards the goal towns, saying a prayer or even just saying Ya Bahá'u'l Abhá! This can release the forces from on high and help to assist those seeking souls in all these places to be guided to Bahá'u'lláh. Please act now!

#### The Prime goal towns chosen to reach Assembly Status by Ridván 1969 are:

**Bath, Bedford, Ipswich, Stafford and Poole.**



**Towns to be Opened by Ridván 1969 are:**  
Hereford, Shrewsbury.

**Islands to be Opened are:**  
Isle of Man, Guernsey.

**Plans for the Five Prime Goal Towns Nine-Week Campaigns**, starting in November, approximately at the time of the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh, have been planned for **Bath, Bedford, Ipswich, Poole and Stafford**, the ninth week of which will be a **Bahá'í Week** in each town.

During the first four weeks, the newspaper advertising in each town will be increased, and during the next three weeks, increased even more by special adverts referring to comments about the Faith by famous people.

There will be special posters displayed about each town, and posters will be displayed on the buses.

As the campaign gains momentum, it is planned to have shop-window displays.

On the eighth week, it is planned to have a reception for the local press, and news will be printed on posters of the special activities planned in the town for the ninth week, **Bahá'í Week**.

During the ninth week, plans include public meetings, special firesides, slide shows, social evenings, panels of speakers, and at the commencement it is hoped to hold a special reception for leading people of the town, when they will be invited to meet the Bahá'ís and the Mayor or Chairman will be presented with the book—"All Things Made New" (it is not possible to present the special Proclamation book, until the presentation has been made to the Queen).

As the "Backing" to these Campaigns the entire Bahá'í Community are asked to say Special Prayers each day, and the Prayers which are suggested are:

In the new prayer book . . . Numbers 44, 58 and 82.

Offers of help will be most gratefully and warmly accepted and should be sent to the secretary . . . Mrs. Betty Goode, 8, Knowle Road, Stafford.

**Amendments to List of Secretaries of L.S.A.'s, Goal Towns, Groups and Committees:**

#### **Aberdeen**

New address of Secretary:  
c/o 41 St. Clair Street,  
Aberdeen.

#### **Bournemouth**

Mrs. Janet Jivani,  
c/o Mrs. E. Cranmer,  
41 Woodside Road,  
Southbourne, Bournemouth.

#### **Dublin**

Correspondence until October to:  
Mr. V. Z. Whitehead,  
c/o 41 Morehampton Road,  
Dublin 4, Irish Republic

#### **Lambeth (London)**

Please note that Secretary's address should read:  
London, S.W.2.

#### **Richmond upon Thames (London):**

Miss Colleen King,  
59 Castelnau,  
London, S.W.13.

#### **Hammersmith (London)**

Miss E. Asbury,  
36 Redan Street,  
London, W.14.

#### **Chelmsford**

Mrs. May Moore,  
19 South Primrose Hill,  
Chelmsford.

#### **Isle of Wight**

Miss Kittie Glover,  
7 St. Mary's Close,  
Upton Road,  
Ryde, Isle of Wight.

#### **Committee Secretaries**

##### **Child Education:**

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

##### **Welsh Goals:**

Mrs. Denyse Dewar,  
33 De La Beche Road,  
Sketty, Swansea.

##### **Scottish Goals:**

Mrs. Elma Donald,  
41 St. Clair Street,  
Aberdeen, Scotland.

##### **Community Development:**

Mr. Roger Prentice,  
17 Wedderburn Close,  
Winnersh, Berks.

#### **TRAVEL TEACHING—VISITING**

Many pioneers have arisen and teaching efforts have increased almost everywhere, but the number of offers of friends wishing to travel teach/visit has gone down, and again the English Goals Committee, who are responsible for travel teaching would remind the friends of the important, nay vital part this service plays in winning the goals of the Nine Year Plan.

We have accepted Bahá'u'lláh as the Manifestation of God for this age, and by so doing have accepted His Covenant, and therefore when the Universal House of Justice sets out the "blueprint" for our successful teaching activities we cannot expect victories if we do not follow what we are called to do. It is as simple as that. *Travel Teaching is lagging!*

Offers will be warmly received by **Betty Goode, Co-ordinator for Travel Teaching, 8, Knowle Road, Stafford**. When writing, please state when you want to go, and for how long.

For those friends who may suddenly have a day, or a few days holiday, and there is not time for an official "tour" to be arranged, we have printed a list of towns where there are Assemblies or

Groups, who have generously co-operated with the committee in furnishing details of the days when firesides are held in the town. The addresses of where the firesides are held are not always known, so the addresses of the secretaries have been listed as well as the fireside days. This list appears on page 9.

#### **IRISH GOALS COMMITTEE**

The hearts of the members of the Irish Goals Committee were moved very deeply as the pioneers who have arisen to serve in the Irish community were welcomed at the meeting on October 13th. Gathering in the goal town of Dun Laoghaire, the pioneers came to meet us on Sunday morning for a beautiful devotional arranged for us by one of the pioneers, when the devotional ended we sat silently looking at the smiling faces of an enriched community, enriched by Persian, American and English faces, devoted pioneers who have left their homes and come to a new land in the service of Bahá'u'lláh. Mrs. May Bowers of Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. Sefidvash, and their two children from Teheran, Mr. Stephen, and Mrs. Shirin Ader from America and Turkey, and Mr. Reginald Newport from America. The arrival of the pioneers in answer to so many ardent prayers filled our hearts with the sure knowledge of the bounties and confirmations of God. Joy was added as we shared the news that our goal city of Craigavon in Northern Ireland, the city which has grown out of Lurgan and Portadown, an area which was opened in the past by pioneers who were then obliged to move by circumstances—Mr. and Mrs. South, Mrs. Dorothy Kennedy, and Dr. Rustam Jamshidi—now re-opened after great efforts to obtain employment by Mr. Barry Watson of Belfast. The meeting was further enriched by the news given us by returning friends from Palermo and Haifa, and the reports of travel teaching. Truly an exciting month for Ireland to culminate in the eagerly anticipated visit of the Hand of the Cause of God, William Sears. We look forward to an autumn and winter of increased activity in our communities, and continued travel teaching, the Committee making a firm decision that the travel teaching increased so markedly this year, should not be allowed to diminish during the winter months, especially to the pioneers who alone or in small numbers are building the foundations of future Bahá'í communities, communities which must become in two short years the pillars to support the National Spiritual Assembly of the Republic of Ireland.

#### **EDITOR'S NOTE.**

Would Assemblies, Groups, and individuals please note that all changes of address and amendment to the number of Bahá'í Journals required, should be notified to the National Office and **not** to the Journal Editor.



DURHAM.

## ORKNEY ISLANDS.

The arrival of an additional pioneer from California, has increased our

We again ask for the continued prayers and support of the friends.

The community has so far been very fortunate in obtaining well known speakers for its public meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month at Dryburgh Hall, Upper Richmond Road, S.W.15. Mr. James Fawcett of the European Commission of Human Rights was followed as in all these meetings by a Baha'i speaker and the contrast in attitude and optimism was sharply defined. Mrs. Mary Dines was our most recent guest, having appeared on television only a few days before, talking about racial prejudice, and she

The weekly firesides are proving to be a most popular and welcome get together for Bahá'is, particularly youth, who have succeeded in producing a warm, loving atmosphere which always impresses the seekers who are making contact for the first time. Intensive teaching has proved difficult in such a gay atmosphere and the fireside holders have been able to invite seekers to much smaller groups when they show signs of wanting deeper information. The Friday evenings will nevertheless continue to be a point of attraction for non-Bahá'í and Bahá'í youth (of all ages!).

Material for the next issue of the Journal to be in by 16th Dec., 1968, to—  
Mr. J. Coates, Editor, 45 Overfield Rd.,  
Fawdon, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE3 3AF

**21st June, 1968 to 20th September, 1968 (Inclusive)**

INCOME.		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
Donations:—					N.S.A.—				
L.S.A.'s and Groups (55)		521	18	8	Travel		215	5	0
Individuals (86)		1817	4	6	Office		663	15	2
					Telephone and cables		75	11	9
		2339	3	2	Postage and Stationery		102	4	11
Less Payments against Covenants.....		66	3	10	Convention		126	0	0
					Journal		74	2	4
		2272	19	4	Extraord.		11	11	0
Interest and Dividends		498	19	5	O.G.C.		326	1	6
Refunds to us:—					Pub. and Proc.		57	14	2
Income Tax (Covenants)		2466	7	7	Exhibition		300	0	0
Missaphi Estate		75	14	1	E.G.C.		173	13	6
					C.D.C.		16	19	4
					Other Goals Committees		458	4	3
					Pioneer Committee		431	0	0
					Other Committees		38	18	3
					Youth Committee		39	17	7
					Sundry		6	19	11
Donations—					Monthly Transfers—				
Budget		£4850			H.Q.—Repairs and Decorations		300	0	0
To Date		£4932			Running		780	0	0
Gap		Nil			H.Q.—Dublin		200	0	0
					Donations		410	0	0
					Excess Income over Expenditure		506	1	9
									</

Aberdeen, Bangor (N.I.), Bedford, Belfast, Blackpool, Brent, Brighton, Burnley, Cambridge, Camden, Canterbury, Cardiff, Castlereagh, Cheadle-Gatley, Chester, Croydon, Dublin, Dunlaoghaire, Eccles, Epsom, Hammersmith, Haringay, Hounslow, Inverness, Ipswich, Jersey, Leeds, Leicester, Limerick, Liverpool, Malta, Manchester, Nelson, Norwich, N. Berwick, Nottingham, Orkney, Oxford, Peterborough, Poole, Portsmouth, Reading, Richmond, Sheffield, Southport, Stafford, Stretford, Sutton Coldfield, Swansea, Swinton, Torbay, Wandsworth, Watford, Winchester, Wokingham R.D.

Co-operative Printing Society Ltd., Rutherford Street, Newcastle.