

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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TEACHING CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS FROM BLACKPOOL

CONVEY TEACHING CONFERENCE HEARTS
WARMED EVIDENCES RENEWED SPIRIT
BRITISH BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY STOP URGE
CONCENTRATED ATTENTION GOALS RIDVAN
1969 REGAIN FOUR ESTABLISH SEVEN
LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES OPEN FOUR
REMAINING GOAL TOWNS ENROL ONE
HUNDRED NEW BELIEVERS STOP IMPERA-
TIVE TO UNFOLDING DESTINY MUCH
LOVED COMMUNITY BRILLIANT PIONEER
DEEDS BE MADE FRUITFUL THROUGH
SACRIFICIAL EFFORTS ALL BELIEVERS STOP
HIGH HOPES TEACHING CONFERENCE THIS
CRITICAL POINT NINE YEAR PLAN MAY
PROVE HISTORIC SOURCE GRAND MOMEN-
TUM CARRY COMMUNITY STRIKING DIS-
TANCE GLORIOUS PEAKS ENVISAGED
BELOVED GUARDIAN STOP ASSURE ARDENT
LOVING PRAYERS HOLY SHRINE.

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

This cable from the Universal House of Justice, read early in the Conference was at once our theme and our inspiration throughout the week-end. With these words every session opened, their spirit pervaded every talk, every consultation. With these words in our hearts we finally left Blackpool to face the challenge of the future.

We were blessed throughout the week-end by the presence among us of Hand of the Cause Dr. Adelbert Muhlschlegel. After a beautiful devotional, arranged by the English Goals Committee, he opened the Conference, speaking of the new spirit animating the British Community, he said that while this dedication would surely bring the confirmations of Bahá'u'lláh, he wondered whether we were all aware of the urgency of our task. Society was crumbling and men were seeking the answer. Our responsibility was very great.

"We are in a situation of urgency" he said, "we must try to arrange our lives around our Bahá'í duties."

The chairman, Philip Hainsworth, then read the message of the Universal House of Justice, suggesting that it should be read at the beginning of every session. This was agreed, and so the cable really became part of the conference. Amongst other messages was a cable from the friends in Guyana, which especially delighted us, and greetings

from Central Africa, where special prayers were being said in the Kampala Temple for the British goals.

Going on to speak of teaching, Philip said that there had always been periods in the history of the Faith when people declared in numbers. The key to this kind of success was to be found in the Writings—prayer and movement, for "movement itself from place to place, movement anywhere for the sake of God, this alone has tremendous effect."

The National Spiritual Assembly had called for one hundred new believers before Naw-Rúz. The challenge was to each individual to arise, independently ignoring difficulties, to find these waiting souls. How did we find them? First of all by prayer, then by meeting people and trying to create an opening. We should aim to bring them to accept and love Bahá'u'lláh, rather than insist too much at first on the laws.

After Philip's talk there was a consultation and many practical suggestions were offered from all over the country. Ranging from cards in shop windows to visiting working men's clubs, they showed how much our community is already on the move.

After a short break we returned to the Conference sessions, to a talk by Eric Hellicar on teaching the masses. In England, Eric said, because of the structure of our society, there was a real difficulty of communication between the different social classes. It was for Bahá'ís to show their lack of prejudice, but this prejudice could be two sided. The main barrier was that of language, or rather accent. But all mankind had the right to hear of Bahá'u'lláh and the Universal House of Justice had stressed that 'every stratum of human society' must be reached. Somehow we must widen our circle and so deepen ourselves through prayer and reading that we could speak from the heart. We must show friendship, love and unity, and involve ourselves in our environment.

Another short consultation produced still more ideas. Then followed the evening break, during which many of us took the opportunity to visit the Exhibition, which will be on show at all the

main centres later this year. Assembled with artistry and loving care were many moving, frightening pictures of the sufferings in Vietnam and Biafra, contrasted with the happy faces at great Bahá'í gatherings and the peaceful dignity of the Holy Places. The whole is linked as simply as possible with quotations from the Writings. The effect was to drive home once again the urgency of our teaching work.

After supper we returned to our seats to hear Betty Reed speak about the goals of the Nine Year Plan. She spoke of the responsibilities given to the British Community by the Universal House of Justice, which must be met. Betty went on to speak of each of the goals, first those on the Home Front and then those Overseas. Two maps were dramatically plotted in coloured wools, every L.S.A. and goal town in the British Isles being linked by a coloured wool to London, the seat of the National Spiritual Assembly, and then every goal-place Overseas being linked on another, world map to London. The pioneers present, from the Home Front and some from Overseas, each plotted their own goal town, L.S.A. or goal country on the maps as they were built up, and gradually London became the centre of two vast networks, one stretching all over the map of the British Isles and the other stretching across the whole world.

Meanwhile the N.S.A. had sent a cable to the Universal House of Justice, in reply to theirs:

"DEEPLY GRATEFUL YOUR CABLE AND PRESENCE TEACHING CONFERENCE HAND-CAUSE MUHLSCHLEGEL COUNSELLOR THREE BOARD MEMBERS STOP WONDERFUL SPIRIT LARGE REPRESENTATIVE GATHERING HEARTFELT APPRECIATION PRAYERS DETERMINED ACHIEVE GOALS RIDVAN 1969 STOP ALREADY 28 NEW DECLARATIONS LOVE BAHÁ'Í LONDON."

to which the Universal House of Justice replied:

"DELIGHTED NEWS TEACHING CONFERENCE STOP CONFIDENT BRITISH COMMUNITY WILL SPARE NO EFFORTS ATTRACT DIVINE CONFIRMATIONS WIN URGENT GOALS BY RIDVAN LOVE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE."

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On Sunday morning we heard reports from the Goals Committees. First Betty Goode, speaking for the English Goals Committee, reminded us of the 'sacrificial efforts' which alone would bring success. She gave us the latest news of the state of the goal towns, and told us of the "Bahá'í weeks" to be held in January in those goal towns due to reach Assembly status at Ridván Stafford, Poole, Ipswich, Bedford and Bath. She appealed for support from all the friends, for prayers and visits.

The Scottish Goals Committee reminded us of the vital island goals, the Orkneys, the Inner and Outer Hebrides, and Shetlands. Teaching was difficult, distances great. Pioneers were needed, travel teachers and visitors. From Ireland too we heard of progress in spite of great difficulties in teaching, and having to do without publicity.

There was an appeal from the N.S.A. for funds and during the consultation it was decided to invite donations during the Conference and contributions amounted to £70. From the Publishing Trust came good news of expansion, and we were reminded of our duty to buy and read Bahá'í literature.

On Sunday afternoon Adib Taherzadeh spoke about our special relationship with the Universal House of Justice. He told us we were as yet unaware of the tremendous spiritual powers which could be ours. In time we shall learn to use them, and in the end it is these forces which must dominate. He told us there had always been a visible centre, the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the Guardian. Now it is the Universal House of Justice which is the Centre of the Covenant, our radio beam. Adib reminded us once again that we must read the Writings. We must, he said, be really 'concerned for the Cause of God', and forgetting ourselves, let Bahá'u'lláh work through us.

Then came the final session taken by Hand of the Cause Dr. Muhlschlegel, who illustrated clearly on an excellent diagram the channels of communication of the Cause and we saw the flow of the spirit from God through Bahá'u'lláh to the Centre of the Covenant, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and on to the Guardian, Shoghi Effendi; from the Guardian the channel was to the Hands of the Cause and the Board Members. The Continental Boards of Counsellors, newly appointed by the Universal House of Justice, appropriately linked the House with the Hands of the Cause of God. Alongside the pillar of the Guardianship that of the Administrative Order was clearly displayed, with the flow from the Universal House of Justice to the National Spiritual Assemblies, the Local Spiritual Assemblies and on to the 19 Day Feasts and every individual believer; back from the believers to the local and national institutions and up to the Universal House of Justice flowed the love and

NINETEEN DAY FEASTS — GREATER PARTICIPATION.

Letter from the Universal House of Justice.

Below is an extract from a letter dated December 1st., 1968 from the Universal House of Justice about 19 Day Feasts. After reading it the friends will want to make a renewed effort to ensure that everyone has an opportunity of being with their fellow Bahá'ís on these special occasions. The National Spiritual Assembly now shares news with the friends at Feasts through the 19 day newsletter, so this is another reason for inviting all the friends in your area, to your Feasts. The National Spiritual Assembly is asking all communities when holding Feasts to make sure that they invite nearby isolated believers. If the isolated believers can themselves contact their local communities and make new efforts to attend, this should help bring yet greater unity to the community in these exciting times. "... We feel that all friends, whatever their circumstances, should be encouraged to observe the Nineteen Day Feast. Obviously it can only be an official administrative occasion where there is a Local Spiritual Assembly to take charge of it, present reports to the friends, and receive their recommendations. But groups, spontaneous gatherings of friends, and even isolated believers should certainly remember the day and say prayers together. In the case of a group it may well hold the Feast in the manner in which a Local Spiritual Assembly would do so, recognizing of course that it has no official administrative standing.

As to visitors to a Nineteen Day Feast, Bahá'ís from anywhere in the world should of course be warmly welcomed, and may take part in consultation. However, only members of the local community can vote on recommendations to the Local Spiritual Assembly"

with loving Bahá'í greetings,

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

loyalty of the friends and communities all over the world, and that channel gave the opportunity for the views and ideas of every believer to travel through the communication network. The two great pillars of the Cause, the Guardianship and the Administrative Order were linked together at every level by the strong ties of communication and consultation. As Dr. Muhlschlegel spoke, we all felt again the tremendous upsurge of spirit and the strength and unity of the Bahá'í World.

After Dr. Muhlschlegel's talk it was time to disperse and leave for home, Teaching Conference was over for another year, but what a conference. Many thought it was the best ever held, and all must have left with renewed courage and high hopes for the future.

A NEW POST IN THE NATIONAL OFFICE.

The volume and complexity of the work in the National Office, both from home and abroad including the Holy Land, has grown to such an extent that it has become necessary to expand the office facilities. Even with a full time National Secretary and two secretarial assistants it was not possible to give that service which the friends deserve. It was therefore decided to create the position of Office Manager and to ask Joe Jameson to accept the post.

The whole plan was shared with the Universal House of Justice as well as the additional call on the National Fund this would involve, they left the decision entirely to the N.S.A. and it was felt that such a step forward in the administrative development of the Cause in Britain was long overdue.

Joe consulted with his family as for some years this move may mean them being separated, Joe living in London and the remainder of the family staying in Newcastle. This is a great sacrifice to make yet for the sake of the Cause they were fully behind him. He then had to extricate himself from the National Coal Board and was extremely fortunate in having them regard him as redundant thereby lessening the measure of financial sacrifice involved.

In the Newsletter to the Feast of Sultan it was announced to the friends that Joe was free to take up his new duties on the 1st February and he moved into the Private Guest Room in the National Haziratu'l-Quds. Tony and Anne McCarthy moved out of the downstairs flat in February and Barbara Darks is sharing the top flat with Betty Reed. Plans are being made for the reorganisation of the guest accommodation, for the answering of the telephone and door during the out-of-office hours and for the improvement in the office organisation.

The exact apportionment of the work which will fall directly on Joe's shoulders has not yet been worked out but already the spread of the work load has had a beneficial effect on the permanent staff and gradually this will be reflected in improved service for the community.

We are deeply grateful to the whole Jameson family for making this move possible and the N.S.A. regards this development as a most important step forward in the evolution of the National Office.

FIRESIDES.

Croydon. 45, Riddlesdown Road, Purley. Friday 8 p.m.

Epsom. Mr. and Mrs. R. Bates, 25, St. James Avenue, Ewell. Friday 8 p.m.

Newcastle. Mrs. M. Jameson, 78, Wingrove Road. Tel. 30418. Tuesday 8 p.m.

SWINTON—World Religion Day



Adele Senior presenting awards to the children

World Religion Day this year was celebrated by the Bahá'í Community of Swinton by a Presentation of "Sacred Scriptures of the World" read by the children of the community and Matthew Aitken of a nearby town. Unfortunately at the last minute Carl Goodier was taken ill and his place was taken by Fuad Taeed from Wigan, who at a moments notice stepped into the breach and adequately coped with the demands of the evening.

The parents had made colourful costumes, very simple but very effective and each child was dressed according to the religion which he represented; Jewish, Zoroastrian, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Moslem and Bahá'í.

Two interlocutors Gordon Grant junior and Margaret Hufton maintained the continuity and Adele Senior drew

the evening into a delightful whole, as Chairman.

No greater tribute could be paid than that made by the audience with almost one voice "We did not know whether to smile or cry" one was so moved and so exhilarated at the same time that words are inadequate to describe the intense feeling engendered by the sincerity and the enthusiasm of the children.

Swinton is greatly indebted to Margaret Hufton who as a teacher of dramatic art helped us with the preparations and presentation. The evening was repeated in the Manchester Centre on March 9th. It was quite a thrill also when the newspaper photographer appeared unsolicited and took pictures for his paper, who also sent a reporter the next evening for information about the Teachings.

"THE UPSURGE OF SPIRIT ..."

FROM THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE:

December 1st, 1968.

To the National Spiritual Assembly:

"Please convey to the whole Bahá'í community our delight and admiration for the wonderful response they have made to the call of the two Hands of the Cause for a birthday gift to Bahá'u'lláh. Fifty-two pioneers on the homefront is indeed a worthy offering and we feel sure that this new upsurge of dedication among the believers in Britain will earn for them the confirmation and good pleasure of their Lord whom they serve with such devotion."

With loving Bahá'í Greetings,

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

The following extracts are from another letter to the National Spiritual Assembly dated December 20th 1968.

"We are greatly uplifted by the new spirit which is apparent in the British Bahá'í community and wish to extend to you, the National Spiritual Assembly, our loving congratulations and admiration for the devoted way in which you are fostering this spirit and devoting so much time and effort to the sacred tasks entrusted to your hands. We have no doubt that this dedication on your part will bring rewards from Bahá'u'lláh and assist the entire community to arise, as they have done in the past, to astonish the Bahá'í world by their services. . . ."

"We wish once again to express our delight at the upsurge of spirit and activity in the British Isles and ask you to assure all the friends of our ardent prayers in the Holy Shrines that this may develop into a conflagration which will cast its light upon the healing message of Bahá'u'lláh so that large numbers in the British Isles may examine His Cause and arise to serve Him."

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

ONE-DAY DEEPENING SCHOOL IN HEREFORD

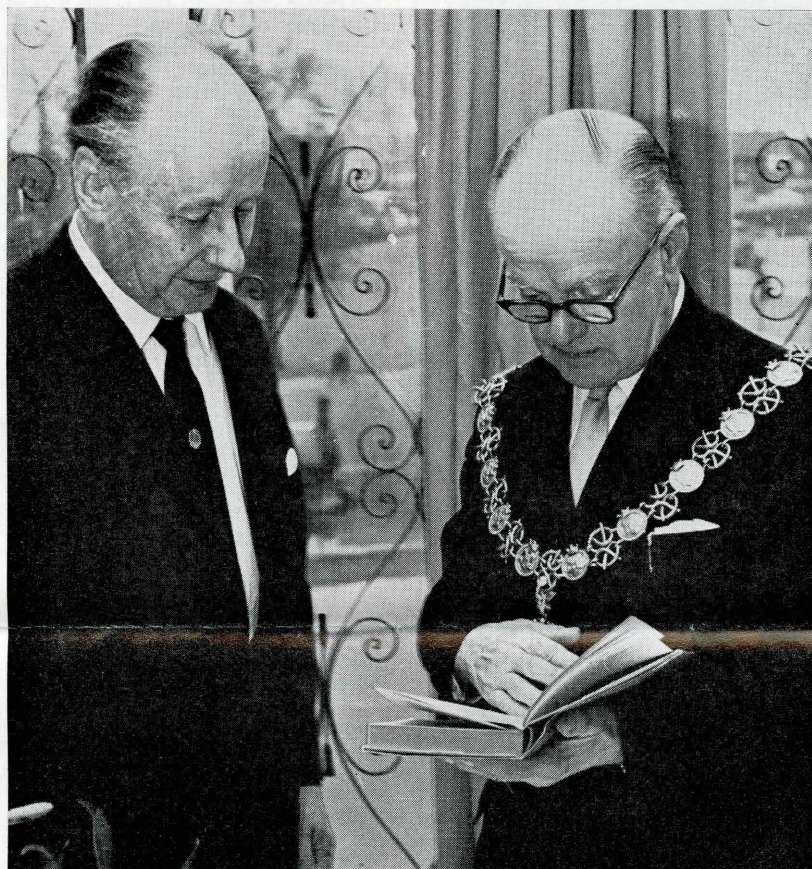
There will be a one-day Deepening School in Hereford on 23rd March, to study the eternal spiritual values of life as explained by Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá for this age.

The School will be held at St. Owen's Boy's School, Symonde Street, and will start at 10.30 a.m.

If any of the friends can go to Hereford the day before and stay for the night, a fireside can be arranged which will be of great help to the teaching work in this town, those who wish to go on **Saturday**, please write to Gloria Faizi, 26, John Venn Building, Bath Street, Hereford, so that she can find a 'Bed and Breakfast' place for them to stay.

ENGLISH GOALS COMMITTEE

REPORTS OF SPECIAL GOAL TOWN WEEKS



Hand of the Cause, Dr. Adelbert Muhlschlegel presents the Mayor of Stafford with a copy of the book, "All Things Made New"

The special "weeks" held in the goal towns of Bath, Bedford, Ipswich, Poole and Stafford, proved without a doubt to have been a great success, even though we feel that it may be some time before we can assess their even greater spiritual value in these 5 towns chosen to reach Assembly status at Ridván 1969. A town is very much like a person, having its own special qualities and characteristics, and so in the same way responds in a very individual way to events which take place within it. And so it was with the Bahá'í Weeks in our 5 goal towns. The advertising was the same, the programmes practically the same, the subjects for the public meetings the same, but each town responded in its own particular way.

Before giving a more detailed report, it should be specially mentioned however, that the signal cause for success was

the great influx into each town of helpers and supporters from other Bahá'í communities, without whose valiant assistance the small band of pioneers would have become overwhelmed by the enormity of their task.

BATH.

Although the Mayor of Bath was unable to attend the Reception, the "send-off" meeting for Bath Bahá'í Week, he agreed to accept a book, and arranged for the Bahá'ís to meet him in his parlour. However, the highlight of the "week" was the appearance on television, "live" of the secretary of the Bath Bahá'í Group, in the programme, "Points West." The results from this are still coming in with enquiries from places throughout the south and south-west, and interest was shown by people helping to produce

the programme, and even by camera men.

This wonderful publicity for the Faith helped in no small measure to ensure the success of Bahá'í Week in Bath, and all meetings were well attended, the numbers being as high as 60 non-Bahá'ís to a slide show, 20 to a public meeting, 30 to a coffee evening, and this non-Bahá'í attendance was maintained throughout the week.

The Unity Feast was held in a local Unitarian church, with the minister present, who afterwards remarked that "God had surely been there in the church" and that "only good could come from the Bahá'í Faith."

Some of the "Welsh" Youth helped by coming to Bath with their music group, and entertained with Bahá'í songs and this was greatly appreciated by both Bahá'ís and non-Bahá'ís alike, for the sight of such young people, especially in Bath, must be a source of encouragement to everyone.

Public Meetings, fireside meetings, slide shows, coffee evenings, all these took place in Bath as in all the goal towns, and what more can one say than read the numbers of enquirers attending all meetings, to realise the success in this town.

There were 2 declarations.

BEDFORD.

Those studying the programme of events will have noticed that these were carefully chosen to be held in varying places throughout the town, to encourage "every strata of society" to seek the Faith. The "week" was launched by the Mayor of Bedford, who attended the Reception and Presentation and at which he gave a good account of the Faith in his address. The local M.P. was invited, and although he was unable to be present, sent a letter of good wishes, told of his visits both to the Temple at Wilmette and to the Shrine of the Báb on Mount Carmel, and of his knowledge of the good work being done by the Bahá'ís. 45 people were present at the Reception, 25 of whom were non-Bahá'ís, many of these being important people of the Town.

"The atmosphere was perfect, expressing the Bahá'í spirit of love and fellowship. Bahá'ís mingled in complete informality, really enjoying themselves in a natural way. There was no need to mention the Faith artificially, there was a natural interest in it," reported the Bedford Group.

Throughout the week attendance at all meetings was good, with a good percentage of non-Bahá'ís at each

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meeting, and there were two declarations one from a friend within the town.

There were two shop window displays, one of which was "manned" by Bahá'ís. Both these shops attracted a great deal of attention, and a constant stream of people stopped to read the display material, and each day some ventured inside to investigate further. Several hundred leaflets were taken from the rack outside the shop.

N.B.—The Bedford friends have been allowed the use of one of the shops indefinitely for display purposes, until such time as it is rented.

Publicity in Bedford was excellent, with a picture of the presentation to the Mayor with a good account, appearing in the Bedfordshire Times.

There are now contacts studying the Faith and attending firesides which have been increased to twice weekly, and there can be hardly a person in Bedford who has not heard of the Bahá'í Faith, and who does not know where to turn for further information.

We are indebted to friends from Peterborough, Cambridge, Ipswich, Birmingham, Watford, Aylesbury and many others for their wonderful help and support during this exciting week.

IPSWICH.

The Bahá'í Week was launched by a Reception and Presentation to the Mayor and at which 42 people were present, including a team of Television cameramen who took films of the occasion, but which have not yet been shown. However, an excellent photograph appeared in the local press of the event.

Meetings were not so well attended as those held in Bedford, nevertheless, there were 15 non-Bahá'ís present at the final public meeting, and during the week there was one youth declaration. We feel we can do no better than quote from the following report sent in by the Ipswich Bahá'í Group:

Outcome of Bahá'í Week.

1. The Heads of most of the departments concerned in running the town know about the Faith.
2. The leaders of various clubs and societies also have been advised, by receiving invitations to the Receptions.
3. The press reception led to a very pleasing article about the Faith.
4. Press attitudes are good, no doubt through extensive advertising. Free advertising includes:—
 - (a) Very attractive picture of Reception
 - (b) Article as a result of the Reception
 - (c) Letter sent by a Bahá'í expressing Bahá'í Teachings on the Oneness of Mankind.
 - (d) Letter by Ipswich secretary on Eternal Life.
5. Pamphlets to Education Officers concerned in booking civic college.
6. Request to supply speaker at Y.M.C.A. on April 23rd.

7. Approach by Civic College to advertise in Rag magazine, which brought a visit from a student.

8. Throughout the week approximately 50 people associated with a fairly large group of Bahá'ís for periods of some hours and all appeared to have been given a favourable impression.

9. Last but certainly not least, one Youth declaration has been received and it is hoped that the parents of this youth will follow suit.

POOLE.

The Mayor of Poole was unable to attend the Reception and Presentation, but agreed to accept the book, *All Things Made New*, and this was passed to him via his secretary, and he has invited the Bahá'ís to meet him later in March. The presence of the Mayor at such gatherings undoubtedly affects the attendance of local dignitaries—no Mayor, no dignitaries—however, the Reception provided a wonderful rallying point for the Bahá'ís, and thus the week got off to a good start.

Attendance at meetings varied from 24 to 37, about 25 of whom throughout the week were non-Bahá'ís and of which 10 came along through advertisements in the newspapers.

£18 14s. 0d. worth of books were sold during the week.

The Poole friends were fortunate in getting a local printer to let them hire his shop window for a display of books, posters and pictures.

The week after Poole Bahá'í Week, the friends were invited by the local U.N.A. Youth Group to send a speaker, and there was a small but receptive audience.

STAFFORD.

This Bahá'í Week got off to a wonderful start with a Reception and Presentation to the Mayor of the book, *All Things Made New*. It had been arranged that Auxiliary Board member, Mr. Ernest Gregory should make the presentation, but Hand of the Cause of God, Dr. Adelbert Muhlschlegel arrived unexpectedly in Stafford, and he agreed to make the presentation, reinforced by Counsellor Mrs. Dorothy Ferraby and Board Members Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Gregory. The Mayor and Mayoress, who was presented with flowers, were obviously very happy, and the Mayor who had studied the Faith prior to the occasion gave the Bahá'ís a good account, and said that the sooner humanity realised that they were one big family, the better things would be.

Meetings throughout the week were well attended, and non-Bahá'ís usually outnumbered the Bahá'ís.

The greatest spiritual bounty for this town was the presence of Dr. Muhlschlegel who was so interested to get first-hand information about the "working" of a Bahá'í Week that he asked to stay on in the town for a greater part of the week, and supported the small com-

munity in many special ways, both spiritually, by supporting all the meetings, taking a turn at "manning" the Bahá'í shop, and rendering first aid to one member of the community who went down with influenza.

The two main successes of the "week" were the whole page advert of the programme in the local paper, which was offered to the Bahá'ís at half-price, and the shop window display. It is no exaggeration to say, that hardly a soul missed hearing the word Bahá'í in this town, and it was the talking-point, and will be for some time to come.

Support from other communities was excellent, and those who gave of their time to help to teach the Cause, by manning the shop, and being on hand to speak to the steady stream of enquirers, all said how much they had enjoyed being in Stafford. Friends came from Birmingham, Croydon, Liverpool, Eccles, Sheffield, Sutton Coldfield, Aylesbury and Macclesfield to assist with manning the shop. Many other communities supported the public meetings and firesides.

Booklands agreed to make a display of Bahá'í books, and sell them. A whole section of this shop window was given over to Bahá'í books, with suitable captions. This window was directly opposite to the entrance to the covered market, and attracted a lot of attention, and about two-thirds of the books were sold, including several large books such as "Gleanings."

General Remarks. The posters inside the town buses, which were there for several weeks, and are still inside some Stafford buses, and the large 17ft 6 ins. posters outside the buses were an overwhelming success, seemingly everywhere. Most people seem to have been aware of them.

The smaller double crown posters giving the details of events were not so good, and were difficult to find in some towns, and consideration will be given to the use of one large hoarding in a prominent position for future "weeks". Where there were shop window displays, these were a great success, and the means and manner of obtaining windows is being carefully investigated by the committee. Where book shops could be persuaded to display and sell books, this made a big impression in the town, and was cheap publicity, and the committee are at the moment negotiating with W. H. Smith Ltd.'s head office for permission to sell books in their shops anywhere in the British Isles.

It was found that the existing arrangements for the supply of books for special Bahá'í gatherings were not entirely satisfactory, or adequate, and the committee hope to make their own arrangements for future occasions, but we are very grateful for the help given by the Book Agency and the Publishing Trust.

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HIGHLIGHTS.

The Committee feel that when the goal towns read the reports of the other towns where Bahá'í Weeks were held, they should not feel that any one town stands out over the others. All shone in some particular way.

Towns are very individual places, and what is done in one town achieves different results in another, and this should always be borne in mind. Poole "shone" for the number of folks attending from advertisements, Bath for its television success, with the following results. Ipswich held a wonderful reception, as did Stafford, and Bedford were specially successful with shop windows.

Playing as a great orchestral background to each of the "solos" being played by the 5 goal towns was the heavenly music of the prayers of the entire British Community, for success in these towns, and for the "100 new believers" campaign. Everywhere the friends rallied to our call for help, and it helped everyone to realise that we are indeed "the heavenly Army," and that the small band of pioneers are never really alone. Where else in these days of strife could one become aware of such love, joy and steadfastness?

OTHER GOALS.

Teaching proceeds steadily everywhere, and the numbers in Durham and Lincoln are steadily increasing, so that by the time this Journal is printed, it may well be that other towns will have reached Assembly status in addition to the 5 "prime" goals.

LAPSED ASSEMBLY GROUPS.

At the time of writing we can joyfully announce that Ealing, Bradford, Winchester and Chester are assured of being re-established at Ridván.

May we end by quoting these stirring words of the Beloved Master

"The full measure of your success is as yet unrevealed, its significance still unapprehended. Ere long, ye will, with your own eyes, witness how brilliantly every one of you, even as a shining star, will radiate, in the firmament of your country, the light of Divine Guidance, and will bestow upon its people the glory of an everlasting life . . . The range of your future achievements still remains undisclosed. I fervently hope that in the near future the whole earth may be stirred and shaken by the results of your achievements."

NATIONAL PUBLICITY IN 1969

The Publicity Committee now has the task of gradually presenting the Faith to the public through the national news media. As Proclamation gains impetus as more friends accept Bahá'u'lláh, as the Exhibition starts drawing enquirers, so we will start emerging from obscurity. But this means we need to support our publicity in four main ways:

1. Producing results that are really news.
2. Increasing the level of local publicity.
3. Watching for opportunities for mention of the Faith.
4. Keeping the Publicity Committee up to date with our news.

Local communities should now be gaining their own regular publicity for meetings, visitors, presentations, Holy Days, local Bahá'ís in the news and local Bahá'ís going to major Bahá'í events. Once the Faith is seen regularly in the local press, the national press will start to print our National releases. This will apply especially to regular mentions of Bahá'í Holy Days and to important travel teachers. All communities are urged to take every opportunity of mentioning Bahá'í—and then to send us *all* your successes. This year a visual graph is being made of every press cutting we receive, and we will publish the results next year of how many inches of publicity each community achieved in 1968. Send all your cuttings to the secretary, Miss Judy Ingham, Nevilles Cross College, Durham. Also send us any ideas you have for the national publicity which we will be seeking with the aid of a team of press representatives that will soon be appointed by the National Assembly. Further read the request of our sub-committee below about helping with features and letters.

THE CORRESPONDENCE AND FEATURE ADVISORY SERVICE.

An Appeal and an Explanation.

We are a sub-committee of the Publicity Service appointed to fulfil two main functions. You will find that some of these details continue the work begun last year by the Bahá'í Correspondence Bureau. Firstly we are to conduct a survey of newspapers and periodicals to see what type of articles they accept. Many of the more general newspapers and periodicals have the widest circulation figures, so if you read for example 'The Woman' the 'Mirror' or the 'Mail' we would be particularly glad of your help, in fact we cannot function without the assistance of those of you who follow the newspapers or magazines regularly.

Secondly, features and specimen letters are to be collected which can be used for either local or national pub-

licity. We want these to be informative, lively and topical. In this field therefore we need any of you who can help with the writing of articles. Our Committee is for co-ordinating material and information you send. We will not ourselves be writing the actual articles.

Specifically, therefore, please contact us if:

- (a) You read regularly any newspaper or periodical.
- (b) You feel able to write articles or paragraphs for articles on subjects likely to enter National or Local Press.
- (c) You have specialised knowledge or experience in any field and could help with (b), e.g. anything from pop-groups to biochemistry.

We will be sending a questionnaire to those who are able to assist with the survey. This will give the points we want you to watch for. We will help also in any other way possible. Here are samples of a few popular magazines and their circulation figures. Please help us to enter into this wide field of Proclamation.

Daily Mirror—5,034,236.

Sunday Times—1,460,994.

Woman—3,219,362.

Times Educational Supplement—103,097

Here are samples of some subjects likely to go in as features:

- (1) Bahá'í and Education (Educational Magazine).
- (2) Personalities of interest, e.g., Martha Roote (Women's magazine.)
- (3) An introduction to the Bahá'í Faith (your local paper).

For a long time now many friends have been asking when we are going to enter the wider field of National periodicals. We ask you therefore to help us in these first exploratory steps and to assist in the building up of a collection of interesting, well planned and illustrated features—yes, we also want topical photographs if we have experts in that field. Perhaps any of the isolated believers unable to contribute in other ways could help with this, but we do appeal to all the community.

So far this letter has been stressing the National periodicals but of course, items prepared can be for local press too, and to help wherever the need arises. We hope to be able to send any L.S.A., group or individual, samples of features for adapting if they invite us.

Please send all information, suggestions for articles and queries to: Miss. M. J. Lord, 96 Plas Dinas, Blaenau, Chester.

National Spiritual Assembly's News Letter

DECLARATIONS.

We are delighted to welcome to the Faith Mr. M. Tirandaz, Norwich (Youth); Mr. Stephen Jones (Youth), Miss Patricia Hewitt (Youth), Miss Anne Evans and Mrs. Anne Hesketh all of Chester; Mrs. Josephine Woodthorpe, Berkhamsted, Herts; Miss Sheila Verth (Youth), Berwick-on-Tweed; Mr. Verdun Wake, Houghton-le-Spring; Co. Durham; Mr. Christopher Smith, Bedford; Miss Moira MacLeod and Mr. Ian Macleod (Youth), both of Kirkwall, Orkney; Mr. Roy Bown, Newport (Mon); Miss Alison Mitchell (Youth) Ipswich and Mr. Nigel West (Youth), Nacton, Nr. Ipswich; Mrs. Kari-Anna Christopherson and Mr. Oliver Christopherson, Durham; Mrs. Ivy Barker and Mr. Roger Hill of Bath; Miss Ivy Golledge of Batheaston, Nr. Bath; Mrs. Molly Zaprzalski, South Oxhey, Herts; Mrs. Elaine Parsons and Mr. Roy Parsons of Pontypridd; Miss Wendy Bartlett (Youth), Cardiff; Mr. Albert Saunders, Portsmouth; Miss Zohreh Zahra'i (Youth), Miss Irene Momtaz (Youth) and Mr. Rodney Charters all of Kensington and Chelsea; Mr. Neil Robinson (Youth), Nelson; Mr. Godfrey Mackay, Inverness; Mr. Ankah J. Umaru Edoka, and Miss Margaret Raue (Youth) both of Cardiff; Mr. Humphrey Cheetham, Camden; Mrs. Sheila Lee, Exeter; Mr. Michael Kavanagh, Richmond; Mr. Gordon Grant, Jnr. and Mr. David Grant (Youth) both of Manchester; Miss Shohreh Youssefian (Youth), Westminster; Miss Christine King (Youth), Oxford; Mr. John Lester, Worcester; Miss Rosemary Magill (Youth), Dun Laoghaire; Miss Heather Magowan (Youth), Mr. Albert Strachan and Miss Monica Gilfillan, all of Londonderry; Mr. Ivor Ferguson, Ealing; Mr. Joseph Skeaping, Islington; and Mr. Ronald Tomlinson, Folkestone. We are also happy to announce that the following Bahá'í Youth have claimed their voting rights: Mrs. Susan Grimshaw of Burnley; Mr. Peter Smith of Bristol; Mr. Barney Leith of Exeter; Miss Carol Moorhouse of Leeds.

HANDS OF THE CAUSE.

We were very happy that Dr. Adelbert Muhlschlegel, who attended Teaching Conference in Blackpool returned to the British Isles after a visit to Iceland. He stayed here almost a week in mid-January, attending to some important matters for the Institution of the Hands, and during that time was able to visit Friends in Birmingham, Watford and the London Borough of Westminster, as well as to take part in the Bahá'í Week in Stafford, where he presented the book, "All Things Made New" to the Mayor. Dr. Muhlschlegel was delighted with the Bahá'í Weeks

held in the five goal towns in England, and said he would share the news of those activities with the Friends on the Continent.

The news of the Hand of the Cause Jalal Khazéh is a mixture of joy and sadness: the joyous news is that, as part of the new function of the Hands to travel intercontinentally, Mr. Khazéh with the approval of the Universal House of Justice will visit Europe for two months this summer, going to several different places. Sadly, we have learned from the Hand that for health reasons he and Mrs. Khazéh must leave South America and return to Iran; they will make this move at the end of March or the beginning of April. The friends in Guyana will be especially sad, for the Hand has showered his love on them, and with his guidance the Institution of the Hands of the Cause in the South American Zone supported all their efforts in the fields of expansion, consolidation and proclamation. Mr. Khazéh has been like a wise and loving father to the whole South American Continent. The British N.S.A. greatly valued his active collaboration with us in every aspect of the winning of the goals of the Guianas, and one of our dearest hopes is that he will return to Guyana—which he has visited twice already—for the launching of that new National Assembly whenever it is formed.

The National Assembly has welcomed another wonderful letter from Hand of the Cause William Sears, which was sent individually to every believer on the eve of the Fast. Mr. Sears wrote to the N.S.A., "We have not missed a single morning with our prayers for the goals in the British Isles. Each day Marguerite and I sit looking out at the snow-capped mountains here in the desert thinking of that fertile green island, and knowing that it is beginning to blossom with the most beautiful fruits of all—100 new Bahá'ís."

INCORPORATION DOCUMENTS OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the National Spiritual Assembly have been amended in accordance with the guidance of the Universal House of Justice, bringing our incorporation documents as near as possible to the standard form used by N.S.A.s throughout the world. These new documents are, of course, subsequent to those published as an appendix to the book, "Principles of Bahá'í Administration", although the aims and objects as set down in that appendix remain the same. Local Spiritual Assemblies may write to the National Office for a copy of the new

documents if they would like to have one.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: PLEASE INFORM NATIONAL OFFICE.

The National Assembly was rather sad to find that some friends did not receive the letters sent by Hand of the Cause William Sears, nor the special letters sent by the N.S.A. to every believer; we know this because some envelopes were returned to us by the Post Office marked, "Gone Away". So we ask all isolated believers please to let the National Office know immediately if you change your address; and would the secretaries of Local Spiritual Assemblies, goal towns and groups please do the same thing for your communities, advising the National Office immediately of changes of addresses of friends in your communities, and also sending in right away the new addresses of anyone moving into or out of your community?

INFORMATION OF THE DEATH OF BELIEVERS.

We were also sad to find that we have not always heard of the passing of believers, which has meant that no reports of their deaths have been made in the "Bahá'í Journal", and friends have not been able to pray for the progress of their souls. Please let us have this information and the N.S.A. would welcome short accounts of the lives and services of such believers for publication in the Journal.

THE BAHÁ'Í FUNDS

The N.S.A.'s appeal made in December brought a splendid response and donations have been flowing in at double the usual rate. The sacrifices which the friends have made have so clearly contributed to the exciting increase in the enrolment of new believers. The targets are now within reach. The year ends on March 20th, so there are only a few days to go. There is still time for you to send one more donation. How wonderful if, at this critical hour, each and every one of the British Bahá'í community were to do this and achieve the "universal participation" which is to release such astonishing power.

Your donation should go to: Charles MacDonald, 25 Martello Park, Craigavad, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. If you want your donation to go to the special appeal for £3,000 for the International Fund then please mark it accordingly. This special appeal will link us directly with the World Centre of the Faith and will so release yet more forces to aid the spread of the Faith.

NEWS FROM IRELAND

The Irish Goals Committee has been concentrating on Travel Teachers, and visitors to assist the Firesides, and Goal Town activities during these last months. We have been very grateful for overseas visitors as well as those within our shores. Not only for the talks they can give, but for the act of visiting which provides so many opportunities for the Pioneers in their work. The I.G.C. is holding a Conference on March 15th in Dublin, and at that Conference, and at the sessions for which the Committee is responsible at the weekend school organised by Bangor on April 11th, will share with the friends, some of the decisions the committee has taken for the work in Ireland, and look forward to the consultations that will form a part of the Conference—the day has been arranged so that we shall break the Fast together. The Irish Goals Committee feel this will be a turning point in the work, and look ahead with happy assurance of achieving the goals, with Faith in Bahá'u'lláh.

World Religion Day was celebrated in Belfast, Dun Laoghaire, and in the pivotal centre of Dublin, where it was the opening meeting of the newly fledged Bahá'í Society in Trinity College. It was a good start, with a beautiful selection of readings, followed by a small reception. There have been meetings of the Society each week during the term, the last one was particularly interesting in that the Bahá'í Society Committee had invited members of four other University Societies, there was a speaker from each one including the Bahá'ís, on the subject of 'Religion, going, going, gone?' followed by discussion. It was an excellent evening, followed by further discussion over coffee with three or four who remained behind afterwards.

A talk was given on the Faith by invitation, by Mrs. Sefidvash, who, with her husband and children pioneered to Dun Laoghaire recently, to the English language class she is attending. Pamphlets were given to each member of the class, and the tutor was delighted and remarked 'now you are teaching us'.

A great deal of personal teaching direct and indirect is going on, and the pioneers are becoming well integrated into the life of their communities. This is for the pioneers a most vital part of the job confronting us. Gradually they are getting jobs, or entering University or school, and thus they become a natural part of the life of the community.

Zebbie Whitehead was invited to appear on the panel of the 'Late, Late Show' in Dublin—Philip O'Brien now established in theatre management, is as co-producer, in part responsible for

the production of an Irish play which has broken all records in the theatres it has played so far, and has given him an opportunity to travel and meet the friends, and their friends, during his work. John Morley has become accepted as a Drama Tutor, and was responsible for the production of two Shakespeare plays specially designed for schools recently, our pioneers in Limerick are widely known and appreciated for the work they are doing—Gillian is a member of the Itinerants Committee, which is doing so much good work there, and Lesley's contribution as a speech therapist is a valuable asset in a much needed service. In Cork, Roberta continues to make friends, and all three pioneers are busy with varied activity, including Shirin who was able to enter Architectural College, and in spite of being a late entry to her course, has done well in a strange country, overcoming many difficulties. Just now a card was received from Stephen Ader now on Pilgrimage who will be back to share some of it with us all at our Conference on March 15th, we confidently expect. Ali Zaini, a student at the Institute of Technology in Dublin, in spite of studies and a job has been able to make many friends, to whom he can now teach the Faith. All the Pioneer students and teachers—Sally Villiers Stuart, John Bohlig, Olive McKinley, Denis McKeown, Andrew Wortley are becoming well accepted, and contribute a great deal to the life of the community as a whole. Joe and Vivienne Watson have appeared on Television recently. We are happy to learn that Dr. Rustam Jamshidi has an appointment in Lugan Hospital, and will be moving back into the goal area of Craigavon very soon. Barry already working there, hopes to be established as a pioneer, by being resident within a few weeks.

The three new declarants in Derry, together with Ethel and Keith have now formed into a group and are working diligently towards the formation of an Assembly in Derry.

Larne R.D. has been asked by the N.S.A. to form its L.S.A. this Ridván. They have a good teaching programme, and have now consulted with the I.G.C. on plans for intensified teaching between now and Ridván.

The formation of an L.S.A. in Larne, and one in Dun Laoghaire is the spear point of our work at the moment. All thoughts and prayers direct our energy towards the achievement of these goals.

We look forward to some International travellers going to and from Haifa this month—these visits bring a real blessing to the community in Ireland in so many ways, and we are

grateful to the European Goals Committee for their assistance.

We said farewell regretfully to Reggie Newport, who returned home a short time ago, during the months he had been here he was a stimulating, and most valued member of the Bahá'í community.

Among us again is dear 'Auntie May' our pioneer from Liverpool, who contributes so much in so many ways.

We welcome to Northern Ireland Tony and Anne McCarthy, and their young babe, with loving greetings.

UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

In **Southampton** a Bahá'í has been asked to organise a series of talks on comparative religion, including a talk on the Bahá'í Faith. Up to 100 students attend these lectures, which are all given by Bahá'ís. In **Durham** University the last of a series of lectures on Science and Belief in the Seventies was on the Bahá'í Faith. Despite the fact that previous lecturers were authors, professors etc., the organisers wrote to say that the Bahá'í talk was by far the best. Another college meeting has been arranged arising from this lecture. In **Edinburgh** the three members of the University Group have proved a regiment in their proclaiming of the Faith to the students. Thousands of duplicated and printed leaflets have been handed out and so much interest was aroused that the Christian Union, in the midst of a major mission, had to issue a four page leaflet about the claims of Bahá'u'lláh. It was itself an excellent Proclamation of the Faith with only a few errors, and it clearly showed the relevance of the "appealing teachings of Bahá'u'lláh". Bahá'í meetings since then have been busy. In **Sheffield** the University paper has printed an excellent article on the Faith and a crowded room of students attended a talk on Bahá'í organised by the Christian societies. The Bahá'ís of **Leeds** and **Dublin** have both recently formed teaching groups in these Universities.

Draw Nigh unto Bahá'u'lláh.

Unlock, O people, the gates of the hearts of men with the keys of the remembrance of Him Who is the Remembrance of God and the Source of wisdom amongst you. He hath chosen out of the whole world the hearts of His servants, and made them each a seat for the revelation of His glory. Wherefore sanctify them from every defilement, that the things for which they were created may be engraven upon them. This indeed is a token of God's bountiful favour.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

BIRMINGHAM.

The Birmingham community recently held a very successful Intercalary Days party to which they invited a number of contacts and also Bahá'ís from neighbouring communities. Over fifty people attended, representing the communities of Cardiff, Coventry, Ealing, Kidderminster, Leamington Spa, Newport (Mon), Pontypridd, Stafford and Sutton Coldfield. Visiting Bahá'ís also brought some of their contacts along.

Earl Cameron provided a wonderful start to the evening with a short talk on 'The History of the Negro in the Theatre' and shortly after the questions session was drawn to a close we were all very pleasantly surprised by the arrival of some of the believers from the 'Land of Song' who, true to Welsh tradition, provided us with a wonderful programme of Bahá'í songs and music from many lands, (something of a travelling Eisteddfod). Their number included two new Bahá'ís who were products of the '100 New Believers Campaign'.

The spirit which was generated amongst the group must surely have had a wonderful effect upon our non-Bahá'í guests and the demonstration of the love and unity between the representatives of some nine different nationalities will have given them a glimpse of that New World which is being slowly but surely established by the community of The Most Great Name.

BLACKPOOL.

The Blackpool community have been stimulated and encouraged by the holding of Teaching Conference in their town. The fine exhibition on display at the hotel attracted several local enquirers who have been invited to firesides and other meetings. World Religion Day was celebrated at the home of Andrew and Jean Gash, at which Philip Hainsworth gave an inspiring talk; twenty-four people came to this meeting, including nine non-Bahá'ís (six of whom were attending for the first time). Tea was provided afterwards, and it was altogether a very enjoyable and successful gathering.

Thanks to a most generous contribution to the local fund by one of the community, the friends from the Blackpool area were able to make five separate visits to Stafford to support the Bahá'í Week there, taking several contacts with them.

As the journey is almost exactly a hundred miles each way the Blackpool Bahá'ís are proud to have travelled a thousand miles in one week to help teach the Faith, and would like to issue a friendly challenge to any community to better their record.

The secretary of the Assembly, Miss Jackie Tadman, leaves at the end of February for Zambia, taking with her the best wishes of all the friends. Abdul Noah is returning to Blackpool, after working outside Aylesbury for over a year, and will once more provide welcome strength to the community.

Firesides are now held regularly every Wednesday evening at the home of Andrew and Jean Gash, 233 St. Anne's Road, Blackpool, Telephone 46686.

NEWCASTLE.

Despite the wintry weather a recent weekend school was attended by people from as far afield as Chester, Bangor, Cambridge, Sheffield and Nottingham. In all there were 19 people from other communities at the school including 2 non-Bahá'ís and several recently declared Bahá'ís.

The talks, which proved to be both very enjoyable and informative, were on the subjects of "Teaching and Pioneering", "The Harmony of Religion and Science," and "The Basic Bahá'í Principles"; all of which prompted lively discussion.

On the Saturday evening there was a very pleasant social, at which two young non-Bahá'í friends kindly came along to entertain with folk-songs.

Altogether it was a successful school with an excellent atmosphere throughout, and everyone benefited from the happy spirit.

ORKNEY ISLANDS.

The Kirkwall Group has been blessed by two more declarations—Moir and Ian MacLeod (brother and sister) thus making the number of native believers four. In January, pioneer Adele Senior arrived from Swinton and in February Rita Bridge from Cardiff rejoined the friends here.

Visitors have not been so frequent during the cold weather but a party of youth braved the snow in early January to come up for a few days and greatly assisted in making contact with the young people here, making themselves known in the town, and offering many valuable suggestions for teaching.

An intensive proclamation campaign is under way and has already led to some enquiries.

From 31st March—6th April we are holding a "Bahá'í Week" and Weekend School. The programme includes a buffet to which local dignitaries have been invited, a youth panel which the deputy head master of the grammar school has agreed to chair, a public meeting with a local minister agreeing to speak together with a Bahá'í, plus discussions, deepening classes, and socials.

This will be an exciting time for the island as it includes participation by both the Bahá'ís and the local people. We warmly invite you to join us for these activities and earnestly ask your prayers for its success.

For those able to come, please contact The Secretary, Carmel, New Scapa Road, Kirkwall, Orkney Islands.

POOLE.

We in Poole wish to express our gratitude to all those dear Bahá'í friends who came to Poole during our Bahá'í Week January 23rd to February 1st. It was inspiring to see so many Bahá'ís at our public meetings and also to hear of the fine active publicity work which many of them undertook while they were in Poole.

It would be wrong to mention names, but clearly many Bahá'ís made considerable sacrifices and travelled long distances to be with us. The seeds that were sown in that memorable week will surely germinate and bear fruit in the months ahead, we pray, and ask all Bahá'ís to pray with us, that it may be so. Poole, Ya Bahá'ul'Abhá

WIGAN.

There was a large attendance at the World Religion Day celebrations which were given press coverage.

Among those present were the Bishop of Warrington who already knew about the Bahá'í Faith, and a local minister whose daughter is currently writing her Thesis about the Faith.

A talk was recently given to 50 members of the Rotary Club. There are now 4 adult Bahá'ís and 3 children in this town.

PUBLISHING TRUST

Book Display Unit.

The Publishing Trust will send to each L.S.A., lapsed L.S.A. or recognised group with their next order for at least £5 worth of books, a free display unit. Those of you who saw this unit at Teaching Conference will know how attractive it is and how useful it can be to display those books which you have on sale at both firesides and public meetings. In addition, the principles of the Faith are beautifully presented and surround a coloured photograph of the Shrine of the Báb. These units cost the Publishing Trust almost £1 each, thus this offer will only apply within the British Isles and no community will be able to receive more than one free issue. Those units which have not been claimed by the end of April will be sold at Convention at cost price. Send your order to the Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 2 South Street, Oakham, Rutland.

NUMBER OF ADULT BELIEVERS IN THE ENGLISH GOAL TOWNS AND ISLANDS—27th FEBRUARY 1969.

| COUNTY | GOAL TOWN | NUMBER OF BELIEVERS. | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Buckinghamshire | Aylesbury | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| Somerset | Bath | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | □ | □ |
| Caernarvonshire | Bangor | ■ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| 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 | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| Islands | | | | | | | | | | | |
| St. Helier, Jersey C.I. (3 believers outside) | | ■ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| Ryde, Isle of Wight | | ■ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| Isle of Man | | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| Guernsey C.I. | | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |

CONTINENTAL BOARD OF COUNSELLORS

The following are the names of the Board Members in the British Isles, and their areas. There is a new Protection Board Member and changes have been made in territory. The division between Northern and Southern England is by a line crossing the country along the southern counties of Shropshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire, Rutland and Lincolnshire.

Board Member

Mrs. Dorothy Ferraby

Territory.

British Isles, Holland, Scandinavia, Finland, Iceland, North Sea Islands.

Auxiliary Board Members for Protection.

Mrs. Joan Gregory

Northern England, Scotland, Scottish Islands, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Isle of Man.

Mrs. Mary Kouchezkadeh

Southern England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Eire.

Auxiliary Board Members for Teaching.

Mr. Richard Backwell

Northern Ireland, Eire, Scotland.

Mr. Ernest Gregory

Northern England, Scottish Islands, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Isle of Man.

Mr. David Lewis

Southern England, Wales, Channel Islands, Isle of Wight.

EUROPEAN SUMMER SCHOOLS 1969

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Austria | May 23rd-26th | Hotel Fadaí, St. Michael, Nr. Leoben, Styria |
| Belgium | Aug. 23rd-31st | Chateau d'Oteppe |
| British Isles | July 5th-16th | Hall School, Dun Laoghaire, Republic of Ireland. |
| | Aug. 9th-16th | Dalston Hall, Nr. Carlisle. |
| | Aug. 23rd-Sept. 2nd | Harlech, Wales |
| Finland | June 26th-July 2nd | Motel Harmala, Tampere |
| Italy | Sept. 26th-Oct. 5th | San Francisco la Rena (Catania), Sicily. |
| Norway | June 28th-July 5th | Fingsaker Folk High School, between Hamar and Lillehammer |
| (for Scandinavia) | | |
| Switzerland | Sept. 6th-14th | Chateau d'Oex |
| France | plans a school towards the end of the summer at Annecy, date not yet certain. | |
| Germany | August 2nd-10th | Trier |
| International Youth School | August 1st-10th | Ellecom, Nr. Arnhem, Holland. |

Visit of Hand of the Cause WILLIAM SEARS.

Immediately following the great September '68 Centenary Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Hand of the Cause, William Sears came to the British Isles and began what was probably the most extensive and exacting tour ever made by a Bahá'í throughout the length and breadth of these islands.

In little more than seven weeks, Bill Sears held nearly 40 meetings in places as far apart as the islands off the north of Scotland and the Channel Islands. He met believers from almost every community and group in the British Isles as well as many isolated Bahá'ís, and attended some large gatherings such as the Manchester Week-end School; the Scottish School in Perth; the Irish School in Dublin; the Teacher Training School in Birmingham and the final exciting week-end in London.

There is no doubt that something really happened to the British Community during Bill's historic visit. Not only did he raise to new heights the friends awareness of their destiny, but wherever he went he brought joy and laughter and love. As if this was not enough he wrote letters to all the friends collectively and to many individually and even after his departure he has kept closely in touch, assuring us all of his prayers for our success.

That there is a new spirit alive in Britain today, that the friends are serving the Cause with more zeal and confidence and that by far the greater proportion of them are now "Thinking Victory" is due in very large measure to the dedicated and never-to-be-forgotten visit of William Sears in Sept.-Oct 1968.

BAHA'I EXHIBITION

The Bahá'í Exhibition will be on route commencing on April 14th with a fortnight's display at Burnley.

The Exhibition Committee **must** know as soon as possible if you wish to have the Exhibition in **your** area.

Don't miss this opportunity, book it **now**; or let us know when you want it. Unless your application is in, the dates you want may be chosen by a prior applicant.

The following dates have already been booked:

Burnley—April 14-27.
Eccles—May 3-10
Chester—June 4-5
Epsom—June 9-14
Liverpool—June 16-25

Write now to Stephen Jenkerson, 96 Bulan Road, Heddington, Oxford, OX3 7HX.

Separate arrangements will be made for the London Boroughs.

WORLD WIDE NEWS OF OUR GROWING FAITH

Australia have launched a "Proclamation to Children" campaign, with Children's Camps, press advertising and pamphlets on Bahá'í Principles of Child Education being sent to School Headmasters.

In **Burma** six Buddhists visited the National Haziratu'l-Quds and after many hours they accepted the Message and immediately went back to their villages to prepare for Bahá'í teachers. They have already planned teaching trips to other villages.

In the **Cameroons** two new regions have been opened to the Faith, with the help of travel teachers from Chad and members of the new tribes of Bikele, Mbalmayo, Bene, Baya and Sara Gambaye have now joined the Faith. The NSA Secretary was invited to give a 15 minute broadcast on the National Radio for Human Rights, and she quoted from the writings of Bahá'u'lláh.

Chagos Archipelago has been opened by a believer gaining employment there—at five dollars a month plus food.

In response to the Universal House of Justice's call for International Travel Teachers, twelve Bahá'ís who work for an airline in **Africa** have offered to use all their free flights at weekends and in vacations for teaching.

In **Austria** an exhibition has now started touring and is attracting an average of about 30 people a day. In **Belize** a successful teaching Institute has been held. A group of five teachers visited a town to teach but found a local festival in progress—so they went to another town and left after three declarations and another contact. A pioneer from Togo visited **Ethiopia** and visiting with local teachers had twenty-two declarations in one village. Later in the same day they visited an isolated believer who gathered about twenty

contacts. Thirteen of them accepted the Faith. In **Guatemala** the Government has accepted the Bahá'í Marriage Certificate. In **Korea** the Bahá'ís of Sanchangli have built their local Haziratu'l-Quds, with their own hands. All the 300 inhabitants of the village seemed to be at the opening. A slide show had to be shown outside. More than half the village is Bahá'í, and they have set a goal for the whole village to accept Bahá'u'lláh. In **Liberia** a new believer had to be taught to write his own name. He was a driver of an earth moving truck but after three months he and another Bahá'í had so impressed their boss with their attitude to their work that he asked them to move into an office and spend their whole time teaching their Faith to the other workers. So now they go to work with brief cases full of Bahá'í literature. An elder of a Church in the **New Hebrides** listened to a travelling teacher for only 25 minutes before accepting the Faith and promising to teach it in the bush areas. Leaving the elder's house the teacher met another man and by evening he and his wife had also accepted the Faith. The National Assembly in **Nicaragua** has been incorporated. In **Thailand** 400 copies of "Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era" have been presented to the libraries of the country. In the **United States** a successful banquet for 500 attracted many dignitaries. The youth have launched their own 5 year plan at 22 regional conferences and 106 youth have offered to pioneer on the Home Front by 1973, 46 more to overseas goals. Bahá'í Holy Days are now recognised in two more states, bringing the total to 45 out of 49. Finally news of a Bahá'í who passed away aged 103, Dr. Nettie J. Asberry. She was the founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, and is believed to be one of the first women of her race to receive a doctor's degree.

RECEPTION AT CLOSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS YEAR

Seven Bahá'ís from Birmingham, London, Manchester and Salisbury, were amongst several hundred guests who attended a Reception held at Lancaster House, St. James's, London, on December 18th for those who had served on national or local Human Rights Year Committees to have the honour of meeting H.R.H. Prince Philip, the Royal Patron of the Year in the United Kingdom, as well as to greet one another and exchange experiences of Human Rights activities. All were agreed that, although the Year itself had come to an end, it was by no means the end of the task of working to establish throughout the world the recognition of human rights. At the close of Human Rights Year the National Assembly sent to all the national newspapers a letter setting out clearly the Bahá'í attitude and principles in relation to Human Obligations and Rights and Local Assemblies were encouraged to send similar letters to their local newspapers.

YOUTH NEWS

THE NATIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION will take place at 27, Rutland Gate from the 4th to 8th of April inclusive. This is the first time that the N.Y.C. of the British Isles has organized such an event at which youth representatives of different parts of England will be present. The friends should apply as soon as possible. They will obtain further details from their L.S.A's. "UNIVERSITY WEEK" will take place at the Manchester Bahá'í Centre from April 11th to 19th. This is a deepening school which everyone desiring to study the Faith intensively should attend. (Places limited to 29).

Bookings for these 2 events should be sent to Irene Jones, Bulmershe College of Education, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire, as soon as possible.

SUTTON COLDFIELD—Firesides

You are warmly invited to join us at our "firesides" held each Thursday evening at 8 o'clock at the homes listed below:—

First Thursday in the month.

9 Lyndon RoadHostess: Mrs. D. Brevitt.

Second Thursday in the Month

46 Hollyfield RoadHostess: Miss Emily Eastgate.

Telephone—SUTTON Coldfield 6791.

Third Thursday in the Month

26 Cartwright Road.Hosts: Mr. and Mrs. E. Richards.

Fourth Thursday in the month.

167 Hill Village RoadHosts: Mr. and Mrs. E. Amini

Telephone: FOUR Oaks 2634.

Fifth Thursday in Month (when this occurs)

135 Lichfield RoadHostess: Miss Ruth Riding.

Telephone: FOUR Oaks 0864

WEEKEND SCHOOLS

Aberystwyth, 10th-11th May at the Marine Hotel. For details write to Mrs. Nora Maude, Talley, Penglais Road, Aberystwyth, Cards.

Eccles, 31st May-1st June, at the local Friends meeting house. Facilities are available for children in another building and arrangements have been made to look after them. Further details will be sent out in good time.

THE NUMBER NINE

The Nine and Five-Pointed Stars

(These are some extracts from the letters of our beloved Guardian which were printed in American Bahá'í News, Nos. 61, 105, 228 for the information of believers):

"... We must avoid the impression of being all tied up with peculiar religious theories; on the other hand, the 9 sides of the Temple, and the 9-pointed star require an explanation, and he (the Guardian) feels that the best one is this

"Nine is the highest digit, hence it symbolizes comprehensiveness, culmination; also, the reason it is used in the Temple's form is because 9 has the exact numerical value of "Bahá" (in the numerology connected with the Arabic alphabet) and "Bahá" is the name of the Revealer of our Faith, Bahá'u'lláh. The 9 pointed star is not a part of the teachings of our Faith, but only used as an emblem representing '9'. In telling people of the nine religions of the world, that is, existing religions, we should not give this as the reason the Temple has nine sides. This may have been an idea of the architect, and a very pleasing idea, which can be mentioned in passing, but the Temple has 9 sides because of the association of nine with perfection, unity and "Bahá".

"The number nine, which in itself is the number of perfection, is considered by the Bahá'ís as sacred because it is symbolic of the perfection of the Bahá'í Revelation which constitutes the ninth in the line of existing religions the latest, and fullest Revelation which mankind has ever known. The eighth is the religion of the Báb, and the remaining seven are: Hinduism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and the religion of the Sabeans. These religions are not the only true religions that have appeared in the world but are the only ones still existing. There have always been divine Prophets and Messengers, to many of whom the Qur'an refers. But the only ones existing are those mentioned above."

"The Guardian feels that with intellectuals and students of religion the question of exactly which are the nine existing religions is controversial, and it would be better to avoid it. He does not want the friends to be rigid in these matters, but use their judgment and tact, sometimes one statement is exactly the right thing for one type of mind and the wrong thing for another."

"Strictly speaking the 5-pointed star is the symbol of our Faith, as used by the Báb and explained by Him. But the Guardian does not feel it is wise or necessary to complicate our explanations of the Temple by adding this."

"Concerning the number nine: The Bahá'í revered this for two reasons, first because it is considered by those who are interested in numbers as the sign of perfection. The second consideration, which is the more important one, is that it is the numerical value of the word 'Bahá'. (B equals 2, H equals 5, A equals 1, and there is an accent at the end of the word which also equals 1; the "a" after the "B" is not written in Persian so it does not count). In the Semitic languages, both Arabic and Hebrew, every letter of the alphabet has a numerical value, so instead of using figures to denote numbers they used letters and compounds of letters, thus every letter had both a literal meaning and also a numerical value. This practice is no more in use but during the time of Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb it was quite in vogue among the educated classes, and we find it very much used in the Bayan. As the word Bahá also stood for number nine it could be used interchangeably with it.

Besides these two significances the number nine has no other meaning. It is, however, enough to make the Bahá'ís use it when an arbitrary number is to be chosen."

NEWS FROM WALES

Travelling for His Cause

Over 1,250 passenger-miles to attend a Saturday evening Fireside. That was the record (?) established by Kevin (Bangor) Geoffrey and Ena (Dyffryn) and four friends from Cardiff when they met at the home of Derwent and Nora Maude at Aberystwyth on February 2nd.

The Joy of this most exciting reunion was only faintly clouded by the absence of enquirers who had been invited, but prayers were said on their behalf and for all the remaining Goals. The ten Bahá'ís present then settled down to listen to the recording of Ruhyyih Khanum's fascinating talk to

the 1963 World Congress.

Waiting Souls

With the party from Cardiff on that occasion was our newly-declared believer, John Edoka from Nigeria,—Carl, Joyce and Isobel making up the rest of the party—. In heart-warming manner, John told the company of his introduction to 'The Faith'; how he had come to Cardiff from London (where he had been investigating a number of 'Societies'); had visited a friend in Hospital: had seen there a young lady, (Isobel) with the words "Bath Bahá'í Week" pasted on her handbag and had asked her what it meant. A few meetings

EPSOM

"The New Age" Exhibition will be on display at the Ebbisham Hall, Ashley Road, Epsom from 9th-14th June. Open 10.00 a.m. until 10.00 p.m. with complementary activities every evening at 8 p.m.

The Epsom Community would appreciate help in manning the Exhibition and in distributing advertising handouts in advance. Please support this exciting proclamation event. Offers of help to Geertrui Bates, phone 01-393-2668 or write 25, St. James Avenue, Ewell, Surrey. Alternatively phone Christine Nicholas Mogador 2067.

BRADFORD UNIVERSITY

The Publishing Trust would like to take this opportunity to commend the fine spirit of the Students Union of Bradford University who have recently purchased £39 worth of our books.

Are there any other student bodies able to match this worthwhile effort or to better it?

DEADLINE:—

Material for the next issue of the Journal to be in by 17th April, 1969, to—Mr. J. Coates, Editor, 45 Overfield Rd., Fawdon, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3AJ

continued from previous column

with some of the Bahá'í youth, a reading of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Will and Testament and the acceptance of his declaration by the Local Assembly on a Sunday night. And when did John first hear the Name of Bahá'í? On the previous Wednesday.

The Cardiff contingent to this wonderful fireside were privileged to remain overnight and to join in a very special service on the Sunday morning, when, at the invitation of the Aberystwyth Unitarian Minister, the Bahá'ís were to conduct the whole of the morning service.

The Hymns, readings and prayers—some from the Bahá'í scriptures—had all been chosen and arranged by the Aberystwyth group and the service was most ably conducted by Dr. Maude. The 25 minute address was given by Rdl.

Our Unitarian brothers and sisters had specifically requested that the address should be about the Bahá'í Faith and Carl was therefore privileged to declare freely and openly the Glad Tidings of the Advent of Bahá'u'lláh, of His mission and His message to mankind.

Our departure from Aberystwyth was hastened somewhat by the onset of the February blizzard, and with visions of being stranded in the midst of the Welsh mountains we set off for home full of the most joyful memories and with out trust centred on His Mercy. It was an exciting but, we are glad to say, trouble-free journey home.