

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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THE YEAR 125

Supplementary Report of the N.S.A.

The year 125 was one of the most exciting and productive years on the British Home Front, and it marked a turning point in the history of the Faith in Guyana.

RIDVÁN VICTORIES.

In the last month of the administrative year, from March 21st to April 21st, tremendous victories were won: the first Local Spiritual Assembly was formed in the Northern Islands, in Kirkwall, Orkney; the first new Assembly of the Nine Year Plan was formed in Eire, in Dun Laoghaire; the first new Assemblies of the Plan were formed in England, in Ipswich, Poole and Stafford; and Northern Ireland excelled their already excellent record by forming the new Assembly of Larne Rural District a year ahead of time. Also in England four lapsed Assemblies were re-established, Bradford, Chester, Ealing (London Borough) and Winchester.

In Guyana—where Auxiliary Board Member Margot Worley from Brazil made a welcome teaching visit and remained for Ridván—three new Assemblies were formed, in Campbellville, Kitty and McDoom Village, which brought the total number to five and so exceeded the Nine Year Plan goal of four L.S.A.'s, a victory which is worthy of the role the Guyanese Community will play in the establishment of the new National Spiritual Assembly of the Guianas at Ridván 1970, as announced by the Universal House of Justice in their Ridván Message to the Bahá'ís of the World.

On April 21st we sent the following cable to the Universal House of Justice, "JOYOUSLY REPORT GUYANA EXCEEDED GOALS FORMED THREE NEW ASSEMBLIES STOP SIX NEW ASSEMBLIES BRITISH ISLES INCLUDING ORKNEYS DUNLAOGHAIRE HAPPY RIDVAN LOVE BAHÁ'Í LONDON".

OVERALL POSITION OF HOME FRONT:

There was one note of sadness in all this rejoicing, the goal towns of Bath and Bedford did not reach Assembly status, the Assemblies of Canterbury, Epsom, Nottingham and Salisbury lapsed, we were not able to re-establish the lapsed Assemblies of Glasgow, Northampton and York. But the overall position is a gain of six Assemblies on the Home Front, making a total of 63. The National

Assembly appreciated the strenuous efforts made by the friends in Durham and Lincoln to achieve their Assemblies this year, ahead of time, and we are sure that they will be successful on schedule next year.

New declarations were more than ever before, 184. Comparative figures for the five years of the Nine Year Plan are given below:

		Adult. Yth. Total.		
April 22 to April 21				
1964	1965	86	57	143
1965	1966	103	46	149
1966	1967	120	24	144
1967	1968	105	25	130
1968	1969	137	47	184

The "100 New Believers" campaign ended on March 21st with a total of 83, but it is interesting to know that from the launching of the campaign on November 27th to the First day of Ridván, April 21st, the number of declarations was 103, the largest recorded in the British Isles in five months. The number of declarations in the same period in Guyana was 13.

UPSURGE OF PIONEERING SPIRIT

The number of pioneer offers made on the Home Front in the last administrative year was 131, and the number of moves made was 75 (57%), another record for the Community for it was the highest number of pioneer movements. In the last month pioneer moves have opened Llanelly and reinforced the goal towns of Aylesbury, Durham, Kendal and Newport. Aberystwyth, Carlisle, Hereford and Kidderminster will all be strengthened by pioneer moves already planned which will come to fruition in the forthcoming year. The tremendous upsurge of the spirit of pioneering is one of the most outstanding features of the past year, and the National Assembly cannot refrain from commenting on it, it is truly wonderful. When Convention Delegates study and consult on the Ridván Message from the Universal House of Justice, they will see the emphasis placed in that Message on pioneering, and it is a vital factor in the success of all our work, both at home and overseas.

TRAVEL TEACHING.

The New Travel Teaching Committee, appointed in December 1968, has already been very active, it has received over 50 travel offers

from friends in the British Isles and has processed 31; and of the 10 international travel offers made by friends visiting the British Isles, 6 have been successfully processed. The Committee has made a visual aid, which is on display in the foyer of the Convention Hall, and is preparing "Travel-Teacher Kits" of slides, songs, records, tapes, etc., to assist travel teaching.

BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST.

To enable its accounts to be prepared in time for Convention the Publishing Trust has changed the end of its financial year to January 31st, so on this occasion the accounts circulated to delegates cover 45 weeks and not a full year.

Compared with the same 45 weeks of the previous year there was a 30% increase on 'home' sales—indeed these exceeded those of the full 52 weeks—but a fall in 'overseas' sales of 12%, so that the combined increase was only 4%. This is not such a spectacular trading result as that for 1967/68, but total sales of almost £5,750 were still surprisingly good for this shortened year.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS.

Early on the morning of April 21st a telegram of loyal and joyous greetings was sent to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth for her birthday, and a cordial acknowledgement was sent by Her Majesty's Private Secretary on the Queen's behalf.

A UNITED EFFORT.

The facts and figures given in this Supplementary Report briefly summarise the victories won by the Community this year. The National Assembly is deeply conscious of the devoted service of the Committees, the Local Spiritual Assemblies and all the individual Bahá'ís, it has been a wonderful united effort, richly blessed by Bahá'u'lláh. We are very happy to share with you all the cable received from the Universal House of Justice:

"DELIGHTED SUCCESSES GUYANA HOME-FRONT IRELAND EXTEND LOVING CONGRATULATIONS ENTIRE BRITISH COMMUNITY ASSURE ARDENT PRAYERS HOLY SHRINES EVER INCREASING CONFIRMATIONS DEDICATED LABOURS UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE".

and the cable received from the Hands in the Holy Land:

"DEEPLY APPRECIATE LOVING RIDVAN MESSAGE ASSURE ARDENT PRAYERS DIVINE ASSISTANCE ENABLE EXEMPLARY BRITISH COMMUNITY ACHIEVE RAPID PROGRESS ATTAINMENT VITAL GOALS HOMEFRONT OVERSEAS HANDSFAITH".

A Joyous Visit to Guyana .

by JEANETTE ROBBIN

As the plane landed in Atkinson Field outside Georgetown on Thursday night, January 2, 1969, my heart leaped with excitement—here was Guyana. From the first meeting with the dear friends who came to welcome me, I knew this was home. During the next twelve days we all saw an amazing demonstration of the unfailing assistance of Bahá'u'lláh. Whether we were walking on the sunny streets searching for a drop car and finding instead a friend willing to take us wherever we wanted to go, or whether we were relaxing a few moments and finding seekers coming to the home and the moments of relaxation turned into joyous moments of meeting new faces and sharing the Message of Bahá'u'lláh—every moment was used by Him for teaching His Cause.

The highlights of the trip included a visit to Mackenzie—the bauxite mining town where Bob and Chris Hallam had pioneered, public meetings held in the goal towns of Kitty and Campbellville—in the home of seekers, and a large public meeting at the Georgetown Bahá'í Centre. In addition to the informal fireside in Mackenzie, we visited Coomaka nearby and met with a young couple who are studying the Faith. The Mackenzie Bahá'ís make regular trips to this area to visit these friends; that day we spent over an hour in their home which is also used as a school in the area.

Indeed, many of the waiting souls we met were in the field of education. During a visit to East La Penitance Primary School in Georgetown I invited one of the teachers to attend the public meeting to be held at the Centre. She gladly came and brought her five children, aged 7 to 16. After the meeting we continued discussing the Faith until the late hour caused them to return home, the mother riding a motorbike with two children balanced on the handlebars and back seat, and three other children walking behind.

At Queens College, several staff members became quite interested in the Faith. Through the headmaster's kind invitation I attended a comparative religion class. In this school it is compulsory to take comparative religion in forms 1 through 4, to help the children appreciate each other's background in their multi-racial, multi-religious society. The teacher was interested to know about the Faith as it was not included in the syllabus. Another Christian teacher at the school became so excited during our discussion that the next morning she took me to her home and asked me to tell her and her Hindu husband more about the Faith. After a while they drove me to the home of some friends who questioned me intensely for another stimulating hour.

A most moving experience was our visit to the family of a superintendent of schools in Port Maurant in Berbice County where the only Bahá'í had left

for further studies in Canada. Three years ago, the non-Bahá'í superintendent, on a trip to the United States, visited the House of Worship in Wilmette and met some Bahá'ís in Washington, D.C. These Bahá'ís had tried unsuccessfully to send him a Bahá'í book and then gave it to me to deliver personally. In Guyana when we learned that he had died fourteen months ago, several of us made the trip to Port Maurant to give the book to his family. They were quite moved by the visit of Bahá'ís travelling a great distance specially to see them. And we were deeply impressed at the wondrous way in which Bahá'u'lláh brought the Faith again to this family.

During one of the three radio interviews which took place in these days, a music conductor entered the studio, listened attentively, and afterwards asked me to tell him more about the Faith. Agreeing with everything he heard, he exclaimed joyously, "This is what Guyana needs—spiritual guidance." At this urgent invitation, I went to his friends' home a few days later to share this Message. One of his friends spoke from such a Bahá'í attitude that I prayed deeply for guidance in how to mention the Faith and finally said that he sounded as if he had read from 'Abdu'l-Bahá. To my astonishment he replied that several years ago someone had told him the same thing. As he still did not know who 'Abdu'l-Bahá was, I told him briefly and gave him a copy of "Paris Talks" which pleased him greatly.

In addition to the breathtaking teaching experiences of the trip we were deeply moved by the class of Bahá'í and non-Bahá'í children. They were thrilled to hear a recording of the London children's class and gladly recorded on tape their own greetings and songs.

It is difficult to put in words the all-embracing love of the friends in Guyana whose hearts reach out and enfold every soul who comes in their midst. At our last gathering in the Georgetown Centre prior to my departure for Surinam, the Guyana friends conveyed on tape their love in word and song to the friends across the border. In Paramaribo the next night these thrilling greetings were shared, as were slides of the British Isles. Soon the gay Surinam friends were recording their greetings in Dutch and English to the Bahá'ís of the world. A well-advertised public meeting was held the following night under Nosrat Rabbani's home; it was well-attended including many neighbourhood children who earlier in the afternoon had generously brought chairs from their homes for the meeting. The next day a radio interview was broadcast and a visit made to the public library. At the Health Centre where Dr. Rabbani works we discussed the Faith with several of her co-workers.

After these two-and-a-half exhilarat-

ing days, time beckoned to fly on to Trinidad for another eventful twenty-four hours. Without prior arrangement we obtained a press interview and radio interview. The radio announcer, though apologizing that equipment and personnel to record the interview were unavailable, and despite the fact that it was his day off, brought out his own portable tape recorder; the interview was broadcast three days later. Joyous Unity Feasts were held in the Port-of-Spain and Arauco Communities; seeing the British pioneers to Trinidad—Nikoo Raofian, Maryam Shaker, and Shamsi Sedghat—increased our happiness.

And so ended sixteen beautiful days with hearts knit closer and horizons widened. What a blessing to be able to make this memorable trip and to meet in Guyana, Surinam, and Trinidad the dedicated, radiant souls who are carrying the torch of Bahá'u'lláh, shedding illumination upon these gardens of humanity.

EPSOM—"THE NEW AGE" EXHIBITION.

It was announced in the April issue of the Journal that this exhibition would be coming to Epsom from June 9th to 14th.

We give below details of evening activities commencing at 8 p.m.

Monday, June 9th. Reception.

Tuesday, June 10th. "Unity and the needs of Mankind". Speakers from United Nations, OXFAM and the Bahá'í Faith.

Wednesday, June 11th. Music recital by Viol Octet with Joseph Skeaping and family.

Thursday, June 12th. Unity Meeting on theme of "The Oneness of Mankind" with speakers from different religions.

Friday, June 13th. "Holy Land of Four Faiths". Ted Cardell with slides and commentary.

Saturday, June 14th. "Social Evening". Music, song and humour from many lands.

For details of venues, and offers of help in manning this exhibition, please contact Geertrui Bates, 25 St. James Avenue, Ewell, Surrey. Tel. 01-393-2668.

APPEAL FOR HELP

Liverpool Community ask for any possible help to man the Exhibition which is to be held at the Liverpool Building and Design Centre, Hope Street, Liverpool from Monday 23rd June to Friday 27th June from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday 28th June from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

If you could let us know it would be a help but if not please come just the same. ALL WARMLY WELCOME.

Following the Exhibition there will be a Week End School. Address to be supplied later.

ENGLISH GOALS COMMITTEE

NUMBER OF BELIEVERS IN THE GOAL TOWNS AND ISLANDS.

17th APRIL, 1969.

COUNTY	GOAL TOWN	NUMBER OF BELIEVERS.
Buckinghamshire	Aylesbury	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Somerset	Bath	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Bedfordshire	Bedford	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Caernarvon	Bangor	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Cumberland	Carlisle	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Essex	Chelmsford	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Derbyshire	Derby	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Co. Durham	Durham	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Herefordshire	Hereford	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Westmorland	Kendal	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Worcestershire	Kidderminster	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Lincolnshire	Lincoln	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Suffolk	Ipswich	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Rutland	Oakham	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Dorset	Poole	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Staffordshire	Stafford	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Cornwall	St. Austell	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Shropshire	Shrewsbury	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Islands.		
Isle of Wight		■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Jersey—Channel Islands		■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Comments. As we write this report we are praying that there are souls eager to arise and help to achieve the Ridván 1969 victories we are so longing for, and we are sure every single believer will be eagerly awaiting news that the "prime" goals of Bedford and Bath (Stafford and Ipswich and Poole are assured) are won and that even at this moment there are friends moving into these three towns. When you receive this copy of your Journal, how wonderful it will be if all our Ridván 1969 victories have been won.

NEWS FROM THE GOALS.

Encouraging and inspiring news reaches us every day from the goal towns and Islands—we hear of special teaching activities, of pioneers moving in and of declarations. All of those towns where "Bahá'í Weeks" were held have had wonderful victories both within the towns and from places nearby. Bath has been an outstanding example of this, with declarations both inside and outside the town.

It will be specially noted that even at the time of writing this report, just a few days from the wonderful Ridván period, Ipswich, Stafford and Poole are assured, Ipswich and Stafford have even surpassed their goal of 9 believers, and have Bahá'í youth as well, to swell the numbers of Bahá'ís in the town. And there are other goal towns which as we write are very near to achieving Assembly status and we have remembered specially, Lincoln and Durham in our prayers at the resting place of the beloved Guardian at this moving and poignant stage in the 9 Year Plan.

Everywhere the Army of God is on the move. Each one of us must make even greater efforts until it hurts, but we should never feel worried about what we should do or not do. Bahá'u-

lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the beloved Guardian have set clearly before us the formulas for success, and continually the Universal House of Justice reiterates and reminds us of these Formulas, whose messages in turn are relayed to us all by the National Assembly, who again channels this source of power and encouragement through the Local Spiritual Assemblies to every single believer. Over and over again we read of the power of the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh, and it is the individual soul which helps to make it so powerful in answering unconditionally the call to help win victories. We can but reflect at this precious time, just before Ridván when Bahá'í history is being made all over the world, that in all the goal towns the greatest cause of success has lain in the power of the Covenant; and in the unity and love amongst the believers.

We end by quoting from a letter from the Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'ís of the World

"The second challenge facing us is to raise the intensity of teaching to a pitch never before attained, in order to realize that "vast increase" called for in the Plan. Universal participation and constant action will win this goal. Every believer has a part to play, and is capable of playing it, for every soul meets others, and, as promised by Bahá'u'lláh, "Whosoever arises to aid our Cause, God will render him victorious . . ." The confusion of the world is not diminishing, rather does it increase with each passing day, and men and women are losing faith in human remedies. Realisation is at last dawning that "there is no place to flee to" save God. Now is the golden opportunity; people are willing, in many places eager, to listen to the divine remedy."

S.O.S.S.

(Save our Summer Schools)

The Summer School Standing Committee are anxious to find locations preferably in the South of England for future Summer Schools.

These should be able to accommodate the friends with children and have rooms suitable for Lectures and Children's activities, and some recreational facilities would be appreciated.

Near access to beach or an attractive country area would be desirable.

Any suggestions should be sent to the Secretary of this Committee,

Mrs. Elsie Bowers,
Shiraz,
Fairfield Crescent,
Liverpool, L68PH.
Telephone No. 051.228.9809.

TREE PRESENTATION IN SUTTON COLDFIELD.

On Saturday, 7th June at 3.30 p.m. it is hoped that in a small ceremony the Mayor will officially accept a tree, the gift of the Sutton friends to the Borough of Sutton Coldfield. This will be followed by a reception (with refreshments) in the lounge of the Fellowship Hall, South Parade. The ceremony will take place at the tree which has been planted in the grounds outside the hall. Please join us if you can.

OFFERS OF HELP

with the manning of an exhibition at Newcastle are urgently needed and will be greatly appreciated. This exhibition will be staged in a small tent at the Tyneside Summer Exhibition from 5th to 9th August, between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. daily.

We staged a similar exhibition at this event last year which had an attendance of 130 thousand.

Accommodation will be available and anyone willing to assist with this venture should contact the Secretary, Mrs. K. Coates, 45 Overfield Road, Fawdon, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3AJ or Mrs. M. Jameson, Telephone 30418 stating the days on which they are free to help.

AN INVITATION TO ISOLATED FRIENDS

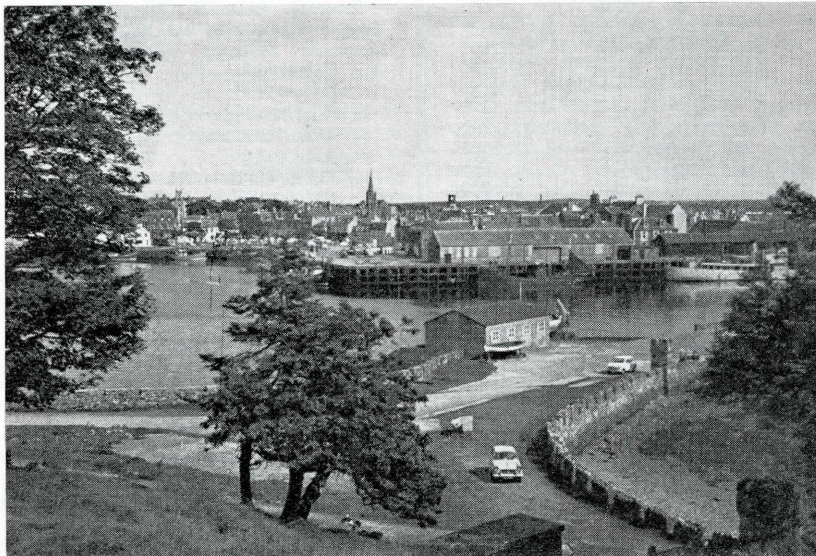
All of these friends who are living within the same civil limit as others, are invited to get together and form official Bahá'í Groups. For example, there may be two Bahá'í friends living in a town which is not a goal town why not join together and form a Group? The minimum number for a Group is 2.

If you think you are eligible to form a Group, and wish to do so, write to the Secretary of the English Goals Committee:—

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

and she will be pleased to take up the matter with you without delay.

Scottish Goals Committee



Stornaway, seen here from Lady Lever Park, Lewis, is the chief port of the Outer Hebrides, and has a fine situation with attractive, well-wooded surroundings. The excellent harbour serves the busy commercial life of the town.

Entering upon a new year, it may be well to have a review of the year past.

The development of the Northern Islands has been the primary task before this Committee. This was set in motion by the outgoing S.T.C. with Kirkwall in Orkney and the establishment of an L.S.A. there by Ridván 126 as the primary objective.

The call went out to the friends of the British Bahá'í Community to arise and fulfill that call which the Beloved Guardian expressed in his letter July 1956.

"Parallel with this highly vital and urgently needed exertion in foreign fields, a further intensification of effort is required on the home front, and particularly throughout the newly opened islands bordering the homeland itself, now standing in such **dire need of a flow of pioneers and a concentration of material resources** unexampled in British Bahá'í history. There is no reason to doubt that the phenomenal progress achieved within the span of a few years, amidst an alien people (Africa) and in such distant and backward territories, will be duplicated *nay surpassed*, among people of the same race, speaking the same language, of the same background, and living in such close proximity to the Administrative Centre in the British Isles, provided that a determination no less unyielding, and a dedication no less whole-hearted and complete, will be displayed by those who have already won such memorable victories in such far-off and inhospitable regions of the globe."

Aided by six travel teachers who agreed to stay for a minimum period of

three months, almost 100 friends visited Kirkwall during the year. The teaching programme concluded with Orkney Bahá'í Week. This wholehearted dedication, sacrifice and unyielding determination to present the Faith to the Orcadians must surely bring the result promised by the Guardian. Stornaway in the Outer Hebrides is our objective in the Islands for the coming year. A similar flow of travel teachers and pioneers, constant prayer and sacrificial effort can set on fire these Islands. Why not make this your holiday and enjoy the magnificent scenery of the Highlands and Islands whilst serving the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh.

Ya Bahá'u'l Abhá Stornaway

On the mainland of Scotland, travel teachers have been active throughout the year and have given impetus all round. The S.G.C. has tried to meet in turn with each group in the goal towns to consult with them, where this has not been possible individual members have visited for consultation. Little visual progress has been made but the spirit is high and the tempo of teaching is increasing notwithstanding the shortage of manpower and the geographical difficulties. Our goal for year 126 is 25 New Believers on the mainland of Scotland as well as an increase in numbers in all the goal towns.

The highlight of the year was the visit of Hand of the Cause Bill Sears who not only travelled to the Islands but was present at the Perth Conference attended by the largest number of Bahá'ís of Scotland to meet en masse. Here we were all spiritually recharged and took back inspiration to all parts of Scotland.

The New Faces

No, it's not another new pop group nor is it an advertisement for a beauty cream or a detergent; it's you.

The Travel Teaching Committee would like to clear up any misunderstanding about the function of travel teachers. To travel-teach you do not have to speak at public meetings, you do not have to conduct firesides, you do not have to be the centre of attention in the places you visit. All you have to do is to be a new face.

It matters little how long your trip lasts or how far you travel. A week-end to the next town, a week of your holidays spent in a goal town or a month spent travelling the British Isles. All are now great services to Bahá'u'lláh.

Next time you see your face in a mirror, stop and think. It may be dull and ordinary to you, but to others it could be the source of fresh hope and joy. Not everyone can speak publicly; not everyone is able to conduct study classes or hold a fireside; but everyone has a face. So let's all use them for Bahá'u'lláh.

If you like the idea write to Dr. A. Afnan, West Carr Road, Attleborough, Norfolk for a form to fill in which will tell us what you are prepared to do and will help us to co-ordinate all travelling.

Everywhere in the Teachings we read of the bounties showered upon those who move from place to place for the sake of the Faith. It is this movement that is so important.

"The movement itself from place to place, when undertaken for the sake of God hath always exerted, and can now exert, its influence in the world. In the Books of old the station of them that have voyaged far and near in order to guide the servants of God hath been set forth and written down."

Bahá'u'lláh.

"O that I could travel" 'Abdu'l-Bahá longingly revealed in one of His Tablets, "Even though on foot and in the utmost poverty, to these regions, and, raising the call of Ya-Bahá'u'l-Abhá in cities, villages, mountains, deserts and oceans promote the Divine Teachings. This I cannot do. How intensely I deplore it Please God, ye may achieve it . . ."

Will you be one of the new faces?

TRAVEL TEACHING COMMITTEE.

Draw Nigh unto Bahá'u'lláh.

Be not dismayed, O peoples of the world, when the day Star of my Beauty is set and the heaven of my tabernacle is concealed from your eyes. Arise to further My Cause, and to exalt My word amongst men. We are with you at all times and shall strengthen you through the power of truth. We are truly mighty. Whoso hath recognised Me, will arise and serve Me with such determination that the powers of earth and heaven shall be unable to defeat his purpose.
Bahá'u'lláh.

KIRK WALL BAHÁ'Í WEEK

The success of Kirkwall Bahá'í Week far exceeded all expectations. The week was preceded by an extensive publicity campaign, including adverts in the local paper, posted handbills throughout town, a large blow-up of the same handbill in the Bahá'í Centre window, and culminating in the distribution to Saturday shoppers of 200 daffodils to which were attached the same handbills announcing the weeks activities.

The "week" was inaugurated with a delicious buffet supper in the lovely setting of one of the local hotels. It began with a short presentation on the aim and purpose of Bahá'í Week, followed by supper, and concluded with a piano recital by Marjorie Parker who had flown up from Oxford especially for the occasion. Moira MacLeod presented Marjorie with a painting of Orkney by a local artist in appreciation of her delightful performance. The evening was characterized by a warm and friendly atmosphere as witnessed by the spontaneous and eloquent vote of thanks given by the widow of a local minister, "for the hospitality and interesting conversation generated by the Bahá'ís." The following night an introductory talk on the Faith was given at the Community Centre by Mike Monroe.

One feature of the week was the direct participation of non-Bahá'ís in the programme, as exemplified by the youth panel on Wednesday evening. Two Bahá'ís and four non-Bahá'ís sat on the panel which was chaired by the Deputy Headmaster of Kirkwall Grammar School, before an audience of over 50. Under discussion was "the future of religion" in which Fundamentalistic thought and Bahá'í ideas seldom met, but the differences spoke for themselves and afterwards some of the most fanatical in the audience came forward to hear more about the Faith.

The undercurrent of understanding and unity which had been developing during the week, blossomed on Thursday evening when Rev. Parkinson, a local minister, and Eric Hellicar spoke on "Religion in this Atomic Age". In the discussion that followed the talks, the shaky foundations of Christian dogma became apparent without being attacked. The Bahá'í answers to long accepted mysteries and misconceptions in Christian dogma were listened to with sincere and thoughtful interest by Rev. Parkinson and members of the church. The success of that evening might be indicated by the fact that the talks concluded at 10.15, Rev. Parkinson left at 12.15 and it was 2 a.m. before the discussion finally ended.

An informal fireside for those few who might have become attracted during the course of the week was planned for Friday night. Instead, the Bahá'ís were overwhelmed when 40

came to listen to a talk on Bahá'u'lláh given by Roderick Grant. The atmosphere was electric and must have sent out waves all over the islands. Halfway through the evening, a man from Glasgow, in a state of great excitement, came in. He had found "Wine of Astonishment" in the seat pocket of the plane coming up to Kirkwall, had read it, had sought out the Bahá'ís, and declared this to be exactly what he had long been looking for.

Each of the five weeknight meetings was different from the next. Each was well attended, one to absolute capacity and at another, Bahá'ís had to leave when standing room was no longer available. Each meeting was followed by spirited conversations which continued in homes all over Kirkwall.

The Deepening School began on Saturday afternoon following a blissful morning's rest. That evening the spirit generated in Kirkwall was carried by an exodus of Bahá'ís to Stromness, the other major town in the island, where Jeremy Fox gave a talk on "Religion in this Atomic Age." 8 p.m. came and went and no contacts arrived. Then, suddenly, nine young people, who had been on their way to a dance, walked through the door. Most of them left after the talk but two of the young men stayed to ask animated questions. A very weary, but blissfully happy group of Bahá'ís wandered into the second session of the deepening school on Sunday, which was concluded in the evening with a film on the music and dance of India.

During the weekdays, a voluntary daytime programme was provided for the benefit of those Bahá'ís who had travelled from the south in support of Bahá'í Week. The highlight of that programme was a tour of the island which was conducted by the parents of Kirkwall's newest Bahá'ís.

It should be mentioned that:

1. Over 60 non-Bahá'ís attended meetings during the week and most of them attended more than one meeting.
2. All non-Bahá'í participants in the programme were presented with either "Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era" or "All Things Made New", with one blind member of youth panel receiving a Braille copy of "The Hidden Words."
3. Over thirty additional books were given during the week.
4. Stromness and Kirkwall libraries were given additional books.
5. Two bookshops accepted copies of "Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era" on sale or return basis.

In such a small and relatively isolated community, there can be no doubt that the combination of publicity, Bahá'í visitors, varied and well attended

ELECTION OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY, RIDVÁN 126.

Seventy two of the seventy six delegates voted in the election of the National Spiritual Assembly. which this year consists of:—

Betty Reed
Charles Macdonald,
Adib Taherzadeh
John Long
Philip Hainsworth
Abbas Afnan
Joe Jameson
George Bowers
Patrick Green

The officers of the N.S.A. are:—

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

FOR MEDITATION.

"It is my desire that His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh shall be pleased with you; that you may follow His precepts and become worthy of His confirmation. The requirements are that your minds must be illumined, your souls must be rejoiced with the glad tidings of God, you must become imbued with spiritual moralities, your daily life must evidence faith and assurance, your hearts must be sanctified and pure, reflecting a high degree of love and attraction toward the Kingdom of Abhá.

You must become the lamps of Bahá'u'lláh so that you may shine with eternal light and be the proofs and evidences of His truth. Then will such signs of purity and chastity be witnessed in your deeds and actions that men will behold the heavenly radiance of your lives and say "Verily ye are the proofs of Bahá'u'lláh. Verily Bahá'u'lláh is the true one for He has trained such souls as these each one of whom is a proof himself." They will say to others "Come and witness the conduct of these souls; come and listen to their words, behold the illumination of their hearts, see the evidences of the love of God in them, consider their praiseworthy morals and discover the foundations of the oneness of humanity implanted within them. What greater proof can there be than these people that the message of Bahá'u'lláh is Truth and Reality?"

'Abdu'l-Bahá—Promulgation of Universal Peace.

meetings and the spirited enthusiasm they generated, has lifted the Faith from obscurity and brought it to the attention and stimulated the interest of a considerable portion of Kirkwall and island citizens.

In closing this report the Kirkwall Bahá'í Community would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to all those, who through their prayers or their presence, contributed in such large measure to the success of Kirkwall Bahá'í Week.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

BATH.

The Bath friends wish to thank all who helped with the Bahá'í Week, and all the friends who have supported us since that great venture. This has proved most fruitful, and the numbers of contacts attending firesides remain very encouraging. Interest is great, and further to the point, genuine. One result has been the invitation to the secretary to speak on the Bahá'í Faith at a meeting of the Bath Theosophist Society on June 15th. Also the local Unitarian Minister has spoken about the Bahá'í Faith at a Service at his church. One word of warning in this is that Bahá'is **Must** attend this sort of talk, as in this instance, the Minister, after giving an historically accurate account of the Faith, he then gave his personal opinion. This was not strictly accurate, and must have distorted some people's reaction and thoughts.

On Sunday, June 22, the Bath Community will be holding a picnic and we extend a warm welcome to all who would like to join in. Come to Bath, and meet us at 2.30 p.m. Details from the Bath Secretary.

LEICESTER.

The Leicester community has at last had the opportunity of mentioning the Faith on the air via Radio Leicester, if only for a brief minute or so. Having written requesting an announcement on this local radio's daily diary regard-

ing our celebration of Naw Rúz, the radio announcer rang up the Centre inviting the writer for an interview so that one had the chance of broadcasting that the Bahá'í Faith was an independent world religion with a brief description of Progressive Revelation, that Bahá'u'lláh was God's most recent Messenger, and that among His teachings a 'blue print' had been given to us for the ultimate formation of the Kingdom of God on earth.

This community has made its own exhibition of posters depicting respectively Progressive Revelation, outline of the History, the basic Principles, the Administrative Order in outline, life after death, Letters to the Kings and a world map indicating and illustrating the temples and shrines, in order to contact people of the housing estates of Leicester. So far three estates have accepted invitations and this exhibition along with plenty of leaflets has been to Thurnby Lodge, Braunstone and Stocking Farm Community centres.

WANDSWORTH.

On the first Wednesday in each month there is a public meeting at Dryburgh Hall, Upper Richmond Road, Putney, at 8 p.m., which always proves very successful with often as many as 40 people attending. On 2nd April there were two speakers talking about "Slavery Today".

Mrs. Mary Nuttall, a member of the Executive Committee, Anti-Slavery Society, spoke first, giving a very informative talk about the extent of slavery today.

Mr. Terence Luke, the Bahá'í speaker, then gave an account of how the solution to this problem is to be found within the principles of the Bahá'í Faith.

The Wandsworth community have found that by having a meeting of this kind, with a Bahá'í and a non-Bahá'í speaker, a large cross section of the public often attend, and much lively discussion follows after the talks.

WIGAN.

A public meeting held at Naw Rúz was attended by over 100 non-Bahá'is.

Following the talk given by a Bahá'í speaker the local Vicar spoke in glowing terms about the Faith.

Such was the interest shown that we had great difficulty in bringing the meeting to a close.

During the week preceding Naw Rúz there were 3 declarations and we feel that prayers coupled with action is the solution for future successes.

A ONE DAY SCHOOL.

Will be held at Winchester on Saturday 2nd August in the Banqueting Hall at the Guildhall. Please make a note of the date.

WELCOME TO HEREFORD.

Fruit picking during the summer months, and more permanent jobs are available in this goal town. Please write to Mrs. Faizi, 26 John Venn Building, Bath Street, Hereford.

If you cannot come to stay, join us in a week-end School at St. Owen's Boys' School, Symonds Street, Hereford, held May 24th/25th. This is a deepening School for Bahá'is and very close friends. We will be starting at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, and 10.00 a.m. on Sunday.

Firesides in Hereford are held every Monday at 7.30 p.m., at 26 John Venn Building, Bath Street.

FOUND AT CONVENTION.

The following articles were left behind.

2 photographs of 'Abdu'l-Bahá (black and white, 6 in. by 8 in.)

1 copy of the "Little Journal".

1 fountain pen.

Anyone who has lost these items can have them on application to Joe Jameson, 27 Rutland Gate, S.W.7.

DEADLINE :—

Material for the next issue of the Journal to be in by 22nd May, 1969, to—Mr. J. Coates, Editor, 45 Overfield Rd., Fawdon, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3AJ

Our Pioneer to Fiji



This delightful photograph shows our pioneer to Fiji, Bobby Leedham, with a group of the local inhabitants. The old man on Bobby's left is a Bahá'í who is almost blind, holding Bobby's right hand is a Fijian house-girl who is a member of the L.S.A.