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INSPIRATION FROM THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Toma Aviata pioneers to his homeland again

After the announcement of our goal this year to find 15 overseas pioneers by 9th July, one of the very first answers to this call came from Toma Aviata, who offered to return to Tokelau Island. Toma had already pioneered to this difficult goal but had been forced to leave due to ill health. His letter to us is undoubtedly an inspiration to us all and gives us some idea of the true pioneering spirit.

RETURN TO SAMOA.

Mr. Toma Aviata, pioneer to the Tokelau Islands and the only member of his race who is a Bahá'í, returned to American Samoa on Wednesday, March 5th, 1969, after almost three years pioneering in the Tokelau Islands. He was welcomed home by members of the Continental Board of Counsellors, Mr. Howard Harwood and Mr. Suhayl Ala'i, Auxiliary Board Member, Mr. Niu Tuataga and Mrs. Lilian Ala'i. The remoteness of these islands or atolls is indicated by mention of the fact that physical communication with the outside world consists of a chartered vessel calling there for approximately one day every four months. The following is a report of Mr. Aviata's experiences in the Tokelau Islands as translated by Auxiliary Board Member, Mr. Niu Tuataga.

"First of all I would like to give thanks for the opportunity God gave me to have met Suhayl and Lilian and that I was able to offer to pioneer to my own homeland. I thought a lot about this and decided that it was the only way that I could show what a great thing (the Faith) I had received.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED.

I thought that to go pioneering would be very simple, but when I finally got to my homeland at Fakaofu (Tokelau Is.) I discovered that being a pioneer was a very difficult thing, especially with the difficulties from my family and relatives. I was told that I was not to speak, not to teach and not even to think. It was like being a diver; the more I was pushed below the more I asked Bahá'u'lláh to give me strength to continue.

AGE NO DETERRENT.

When I offered to go pioneering I was already an old man and I did not know much about the Faith, but I wanted to bring to my own people the best gift that I had and I wanted to give them Life. When I finally got there they just laughed at me. But in spite of this some of the people asked me what was Bahá'í. I tried to explain to them, but they said to me: 'Toma, you know there is only Catholic and L.M.S. (London Missionary Society—largest Christian denomination in the South Pacific) here and we will never allow Bahá'í. This is the law.' I told them that I did not believe this, but that I would return again to them so that they would realise what I have brought them. They told me that I was not to give out books and that I was not permitted to teach anyone. But although this caused me much sadness, I knew that I was to give them the name of Bahá'u'lláh.

NO ONE ELSE COULD GO.

Now it was in my heart to go to the Tokelau Islands because I knew that it is impossible for anyone else to go there as they will be thrown out immediately. I could go and could speak a little and they couldn't throw me out so soon. My own family kept putting pressure on me as they were afraid that they too would be sent away if I spoke about the Faith, but I found that some people in the village were happy to hear of the Faith.

Although my years there were not without endurance and patience, the door is now open about the Faith for either myself or someone else and the next time it will be easier. Coming together with you again after such a long time, I find it very difficult to find words.

HOSPITAL VISITS.

One of the ways I used to teach the Faith was to visit the patients in the hospital. It is only a very small hospital. As I approached each one of them I would say: 'If you will accept me I will talk a few moments with you. I am a Bahá'í and I will say a healing prayer for you.' They often agreed and I visited the hospital regularly. It seems that this was one of my effective ways of

teaching and I was never rejected. Quite often, after I had visited them once or twice, many regained their health. I found that this was a way that I could teach the Cause and not be rejected.

I was not able to give out any books. Sometimes people came to me but I did not give them any books, because I knew the law, and I felt that perhaps they just wanted to take the books and destroy them and cause trouble. So I did not give out books, but the people came and spoke with me and so I was able to tell them a little about Bahá'u'lláh. Sometimes after we had talked a little while, I would get up and go outside for a while leaving a book on my mat. They always picked up the book and read some of it or looked at it.

ANCESTORS OPPOSED CHRISTIANITY.

On my island of Fakaofu there are only Catholics and L.M.S. and it is the largest of the three atolls.

My ancestors are the Tui Tokelau (the Kings or Rulers of the Tokelau).

When the L.M.S. arrived at Fakaofu my ancestors opposed Christianity and so the L.M.S. went to Atafu atoll and was accepted. When my ancestor Toma, who was the father of my forefather Aviata, heard this, he took some warriors and went to clear out Christianity from Atafu. They did not return to our atoll but many years later we learned that an island in the Ellice Group had been settled by Toma. My ancestor Toma went out to stop Christianity, but to-day his descendant returned to his ancient homeland to bring the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

FRIENDS ENQUIRE.

When the boat left Fakaofu we visited the other two atolls and at each place the people came to me and said: 'Toma, we have heard that you are a Bahá'í, is this true. Tell us.' So now the people know the word Bahá'í and it will be easier the next time.

FURTHER SETBACKS.

Well, finally with your help I was able to return to American Samoa, but in

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Western Samoa, when I tried to get on the "Aoniui," the Tongans would not let me board because they said that I did not have a permit and that if I did go on board they would throw me in the sea before the boat reached American Samoa. So this is why I am late coming, but thanks to Bahá'u'lláh and your help I was able to get another boat and come back.

LEAVES FAMILY TO RETURN.

Although I have returned to American Samoa to my family here, I am willing to go back again to the Tokelaus to serve the Cause if you want me to do so. I want to thank you all for all the things that you did for me while I was there, for the food, the clothing and especially for your love and spiritual encouragement."

Toma Aviata

Transcribed by Mrs. Lilian Ala'i,
Pago Pago, American Samoa.

Tokelau Islands.

A group of atolls lying at sea level with only three of the atolls inhabited. The islands or atolls became a part of New Zealand as at January 1, 1949. The people are Polynesian, British subjects and New Zealand citizens. They understand the Samoan Language as their own is similar. These islands are also known as the Union Group. There are approx. 1,800 inhabitants but New Zealand is endeavouring to remove as many as possible to New Zealand due to the lack of food, consisting mainly of seafoods and coconut, and over population. The atoll on which Toma Aviata lived, Fakaofo, is the largest and is approx. 4 miles long and 300-400 yards wide. There are no Europeans. The New Zealand High Commissioner resident in Western Samoa, working through a special administrator also resident in Western Samoa, is responsible for the Tokelau Islands.

PUBLISHING TRUST

The Trust will be closed during the entire month of August to enable the friends who carry out the work at Leicester and at Oakham to attend Summer Schools and have their holidays. Orders, payments and correspondence received after the 27th July will not be dealt with until September. Letters received by the Oakham Post Office during August for 2 South Street will not be delivered but will be held by the post office until the Longs return from the Harlech Summer School on September 4th.

Please help us by sending your orders etc. well before the 27th July if you want them dealt with before the August closure.

"ALL THINGS MADE NEW".

Please note that this book is now out of print and as the publishers, George Allen and Unwin Ltd., have informed us that they do not intend to reprint, would you delete this book from your catalogue.

National Spiritual Assembly's News Letter

9th JULY PROJECT.

We are indeed happy to repeat the news given to the friends in the 19-day Feast Newsletter, joyously reporting that at the date of the Commemoration of the Martyrdom of the Báb the goal of 15 overseas pioneers had been achieved. Those valiant souls who had arisen to serve are as follows:—Miss Diane Colley of Kensington and Chelsea, Mr. Golgasht Mossafai of Westminster, and Mr. Edie Whiteside and his bride, Marie Ferguson, are all going to Ghana in West Africa, and Di and Edie already have jobs there; Miss Valerie Jones of Hove, who successfully got her University degree in the recent examinations, has a job in Zambia; Miss Doreen Geary of Brighton is selling up her business and going to Trinidad; Mr. Peter and Mrs. Diana Morgan of Worthing, Nr. Burnley, are going to Uganda;

Mr. Richard Bury of Chester is going to Faroes; Mr. Jamshid Ardjomandi of Larne Rural District in N. Ireland is going to Guyana; Mr. Eric and Mrs. Margaret Hellicar are going to Cyprus; Mr. Toma Aviata is going back to Tokelau; Mr. Duval Beauge is going to Dahomey; and Mr. Vivian Bartlett of Newport is going to the Line Islands.

HAND OF THE CAUSE OF GOD JALAL KHAZEH.

At the time of writing this News Letter, the Hand of the Cause will be proceeding to Edinburgh, the pivotal centre for Scotland, where he will meet and consult with the Local Spiritual Assembly of Edinburgh and will be present at the Conference called, during the weekend July 19th-20th, which will be attended by the Friends in Scotland and the North and North-West of England, to consult upon "The Unfoldment of the Destiny of the Scottish Counties." His visit to Scotland and also to the Island of Orkney follows his attendance at a most memorable Summer School in Eire at which there was a record attendance and evidence of a tremendous response to the most recent call by the National Assembly to all the Friends to assist in the "new wave movement" of teaching throughout the length and breadth of the British Isles. A full report of the school will, no doubt, appear in another issue of the Journal, but we would like to share with you a snippet. Many friends travelled hundreds of miles to support activities in Cork and Eire, and during this time, the sisters Beatrice, Flo and Mary Newman had a most wonderful experience of phrasing a chime of bells to "Alláh'u'Abhá" which rang out over the city of Cork and later, as they left the building, they heard the chimes ringing out again as someone who had followed them replayed the same call.

Mr. Khazéh, after his return to London for the weekend July 25th-26th, when he will be consulting with the National Assembly, will leave to attend the International Bahá'í Youth Summer School in Holland which

already, from the news we have received, has indications of being most successful with over 250 bookings having already been received.

We joyously announce that there have been two declarations in Scotland to count towards the nine new believers in Scotland which the Friends have been asked to find by November 12th, the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh.

DECLARATIONS.

We are delighted to welcome to the Faith Mr. Stephen Ross (Youth), Peterborough; Mr. Philip Gillibrand, Southport; Mr. Syed Wali Ahmad, Hammersmith; Mr. Arthur White and Mr. Allan MacInnes, both of Burnley; Mrs. Jeannie McCubbin, Inverness; Mr. John Millar, Bangor, N. Ireland; Dr. Christopher and Mrs. Sylvia Wheatley, Sheffield; Mrs. Elizabeth Howells, Ipswich; Mr. Stanley Packer, Blackpool; Mr. Derek Waldoock (Youth) Nottingham; Mr. John Hunter (Youth), Amlwch, Anglesey; Mrs. Crimelina White, Scarisbrook, Southport; Miss Sarah McGuinness, Londonderry; Mr. Augustus English, Wortmanville, Guyana; Mrs. Sibil Doris and Mr. Errol Doris (Youth), both of East La. Penitence, Guyana; Miss Pamela Layne (Youth), Mackenzie, Guyana; Miss Denise Savory (Youth), Shelter Belt, Guyana; Mr. Hazrat Ali and Mr. Nagashan Shama, both of Kitty, Guyana.

THOUGHTS AT THE RESTING PLACE OF SHOGHI EFFENDI.

(Address to Convention 27th April 1969)

I have been travelling since the 12th of July, 1968 when I flew from Auckland to Brisbane and last night as I knelt on that blue mat so thoughtfully and lovingly placed there on the right hand side of Shoghi Effendi's last resting place and as I mingled among the dear Bahá'í friends all drawn there by a great love I had a foretaste of heaven and knew that this was my quest for I was standing on Holy Ground and at last comprehended the meaning of Bahá'u'lláh's "One Soul in many bodies". "See how these Bahá'is love each other" said a reporter and eye witness at the time of the Centenary Celebrations, and last night as we paid our tribute to the Beloved Guardian under the branches of His guardian trees burgeoning with spring, the love of God welled up in our hearts and overflowed to each other.

Yes God is Love and we Bahá'is have proved it to ourselves and the world. The more love we reflect and show with one another, the greater will be the supply available for it grows at compound interest—indeed the Love of God is infinite—boundless, never failing and eternal. When we all realise this we will create Heaven on Earth and the Lords Prayer will be answered, God's Kingdom will have come.

It is on its way and every devoted Bahá'í is helping to bring this about.

May God speed the Day

Richard St. Barbe Baker.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

BANGOR, N. WALES.

A Public Meeting will be held in the Music Room, Students Union, Deinolen Road, Bangor, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 26th, 1969. Your support will be warmly appreciated.

BLACKPOOL.

Starting on an especially happy note, we welcome to the Faith our latest declaration, Mr. Stanley Packer.

Jackie Tadman, our pioneer to Kitwe in Zambia, tells us that she was able to help re-form the lapsed Assembly of Kitwe, last Ridván, and is now the L.S.A. Secretary—and the only woman on the Assembly.

We are delighted that Mrs. Ada Hilton, from neighbouring St. Annes-on-Sea, will shortly be going on an extended teaching project, for up to 3 months, to the Isle of Wight. This is a wonderful effort and we wish her every success.

Mrs. Ciss Lee, also from St. Annes, is now on a visit to Uganda, staying at the home of Irene Bennett. In a long letter to us she says her first night was spent with Hassan and Isobel Sabri, and she has attended a Sunday morning service at the Kampala Temple, where she gave a reading. Her letter is full of the beauty of Africa, and we know she will be taking lots of photographs of her journey, which we look forward to seeing on her return.

Our monthly Sunday meetings are proving a great success. We have been fortunate to get excellent speakers, their talks provoking a lot of discussion afterwards. We hope to continue these meetings until our weekend school which will be held on 31st October to 2nd November—details to be given in a later edition of the Journal.

DURHAM.

On the way
to Stornoway

Why not stop off at Durham?

Please come to Durham Bahá'í Week,
August 16-23rd.

Details from 48, Western Hill.

LINCOLN.

In accordance with the N.S.A.'s request that we should visit goal towns the Bahá'ís of Lincoln invite you to a social weekend for all Bahá'ís and their friends on August 2/3 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Battman, 1 Woodfield Avenue, Birchwood, Lincoln. A half-hourly bus service runs from St. Marks Bus Station, near Railway Station.

Proclamation Pamphlets

These are now available from Pat Green, 1534, Stratford Road, Hall Green, Birmingham 28.

The Charges are:—

Quantities up to 99: 3d. each plus 2/- postage and packing.

100 plus: 2d. each plus 2/6d. per 100 postage and packing.

Cash with Order please.

We can provide limited accommodation for Bahá'ís with sleeping bags. Please bring food, we can supply liquid refreshment. Phone No. Lincoln 22537.

ORKNEY ISLANDS.

Since the joyful formation of the first Kirkwall L.S.A. we have been given many opportunities to teach the Faith in Orkney. The L.S.A. photograph was printed in the local paper—and the editor said he could not understand it but that edition of the paper completely sold out and such a thing had never happened before.

Further publicity was achieved in the form of a loving letter to the Orcadians written by Hand of the Cause Dr. Muhlschlegel who, together with his wife, Board Member Ursula Muhlschlegel, came to Orkney in June.

The 31st May saw the happy occasion of our first Bahá'í wedding, between Shelagh King and George Smith. This was also fully reported in the local paper with a photograph, and also in the Aberdeen and Glasgow papers, and gave rise to many comments. The photographer commented that it was one of the nicest weddings he had been to—which was a valued remark as he is the main photographer in Kirkwall.

We are to be blessed by another visit from a Hand of the Cause, Jalal Khazéh, who will spend three days with us, accompanied by Betty Reed, at the end of July. During this visit Betty will be giving a public talk, sharing the platform with a local minister who intends writing an article in the local paper on the Bahá'í Faith which might be our first real encounter with opposition.

We have already had a number of fleeting visitors from "sooth" and are waiting to warmly welcome many more before the end of the summer.

SHREWSBURY.

Firesides are being held in this goal town at the home of the Pioneer, Bahiyeh Rashidpour, Flat A, 4 Market Street, commencing at 8 p.m. on each Friday.

Your support will be welcome.

SUTTON COLDFIELD.

Several non-Bahá'ís attended an informal public meeting to "Meet the Bahá'ís" held here recently. They really enjoyed the afternoon as they talked, and watched an excellent introductory programme of slides presented by our Stafford neighbour Mrs. Betty Goode.

On Tuesday, June 3rd, two members of the Sutton Coldfield community accompanied Mrs. Meherangiz Munsiff to the B.B.C. Television studios in Birmingham, where she had been invited to appear on a programme for Indian and Pakistani viewers.

Mrs. Munsiff took part in a discussion in which she was able to put forward arguments in favour of comparative religion being taught in the schools. She was also able to mention the Bahá'í Faith on two or three occasions.

The interview lasted for 11 minutes and the producer stated that the programme, which is shown on B.B.C.1 on Sunday mornings, captures approximately 85-90% of the immigrant viewing population throughout the country.

The First Spiritual Assembly of Dunlaoghaire



Front Row Left to Right: Mahin Sefidvash, Rustim Sefidvash, May Bowers, Vivien Watson.
Back Row Left to Right: Adib Taherzadeh Malmiri, Margaret Magill, Joe Watson, Roberta Strain, Andrew Wortley.

Scottish Goals

Ahoy, There Stornoway

Stornoway was one of the places most talked about at the Edinburgh Conference held on July 19th-20th to inaugurate the "Conquer Scotland" campaign. Friends from many parts of the British Isles gathered to meet the dear Hand of the Cause Jalal Khazéh and discuss the plans of the Scottish Goals Committee for the coming year.

All of us present gained much inspiration from Colonel Khazéh's presence, his news of victories in other parts of the world, and his wonderful stories of the early believers, and were greatly moved and enriched by his account of events from the time of the passing of the Guardian to the establishment of the Universal House of Justice.

The Scottish Goals Committee had prepared an enormous map, drawn to scale, which vividly illustrated what vast distances have to be covered in order to reach the outposts of the Faith in Scotland. The Chairman of the Scottish Goals Committee explained the position of the Scottish Communities, and the enormous challenge the goals present—13 Assemblies (including the Islands) where there are now 6 (one of these at present lapsed)—and virtually no manpower within the present community available for pioneering. A great challenge but one that is already being taken up. The lapsed Assembly of Glasgow is holding numerous public meetings and firesides, and welcomes all visitors and Dumbar-ton's numbers have been doubled by the arrival of Stan and Joyce Fox. The Conference gave a special welcome to the Fothergills, who are now settled in Dundee and await that 'constant stream of travel-teachers' from England. The first wave arrived on Sunday. More happy news is that Carol Moorhouse, from Leeds and Burnley is taking a teacher-training course in Dundee.

And so to Stornoway, where Doreen Holdsworth and Roderick Grant will be moving in August to support Anneliese Haug, who has been the lone pioneer there for the last 10 years, preparing the way for this momentous year. Now is the time—now is the time to do for Stornoway what we did for Kirkwall last year—visit it, visit it, and visit it again. 100 Bahá'ís came to Kirkwall last year, and it now has an Assembly. Can we do the same for Stornoway? It is not an easy journey—but neither was that to Kirkwall. Let us, if at all possible, make the sacrifice and travel up there. A spare week of holiday in the autumn? Try Stornoway. Easter holidays to plan? Where better than Stornoway? Summer holidays fallen through? Why not Stornoway? Passages by land, sea or air. The Bahá'í Travel Agency (Scotland) (alias Betty Shepherd) 42 Island Bank Road, Inverness, can send you all the details.

ENGLISH GOALS COMMITTEE

With the new "wave pattern of movement" launched by the National Assembly uppermost in its thoughts, and with the realization that a heavy responsibility rests on the English section of the Home Front, the committee at its last meeting reviewed the situation in all the English goal towns and drew up plans, which it is hoped will encourage the Assemblies, the Groups and all the isolated believers to, not only continue in their support of goal towns, but in so doing, take part in the wonderful "wave-pattern" and help "the ocean of the Cause" move across the whole of the British Isles. **Believers in the London Area and the South of England** who have been invited by the National Assembly to turn towards the Midlands and the West of England right down into Cornwall and to the Isle of Wight and the Channel Isles, have now been given two specific events to which they can lend their support.

GOAL TOWN OF BATH.

Bahá'í Day—August 3rd, at Century House, Pierpoint Street, commencing at 10.30 a.m.

Weekend School. November 1st/2nd. Century House, commencing at 3 p.m.

GOAL TOWN OF ST. AUSTELL.

Bahá'í Days—16th/17th August commencing Saturday, August 16th at 3 p.m., finishing Sunday afternoon. Operatic Society Rooms, Fore Street, St. Austell.

Bahá'í Stand—Trades Fair, St. Austell. 4th-11th October inclusive.

OTHER GOAL TOWN DAYS are arranged as follows:—

Aylesbury—September 28th—details later.

Nottingham—27th July—details from Brigitte Ferraby, 17 St. Catherines, Lincoln.

Salisbury—14th or 21st September—details later.

Derby—14th September, at Clarendon Hotel, Derby, commencing 10.30 a.m.

Believers in the North and North West of England who have been invited by the National Assembly to go Northwards to Scotland are being encouraged to support the WEEK OF INTENSIVE ACTIVITY in the goal town of Durham from 16th-23rd August and thus get the feel of moving Northwards towards Scotland.

Goal Town Days.

Goal Town Days such as mentioned above are being planned for all the goal towns and lapsed Assembly towns, and will be occasions when Assemblies, Groups and isolated friends will meet together in the goal towns in love and fellowship and during the day consult together on practical ways of achieving the goal and individual offers of help will be made.

Spiritual Adoption by London Borough Assemblies.

Nearly every one of the London Borough Assemblies has been invited to "spiritually adopt" certain goal towns. This means saying special prayers at 19 Day Feasts and other gatherings with the goal town in mind, and the encouragement of every single Bahá'í within the Borough to remember the goal town in their private prayers.

We joyously announce that the Assemblies of Westminster and Hammersmith have adopted the goal towns of Carlisle and Ryde, Isle of Wight respectively. The committee looks forward to hearing from the other London Borough Assemblies soon.

Spiritual Reservoir of Power.

In its Ridván 1966 message to the Bahá'ís of the World, the Universal House of Justice said—"The constant progress of the Cause of God is a source of joy to us all and a stimulus to further action. But not ordinary action. Heroic deeds are now called for such as are performed only by divinely sustained and detached souls."

In its Ridván 1967 message to the Bahá'í world the Universal House of Justice said—"Mindful of the countless expressions of Divine love found in our Scriptures and aware of the extraordinary nature of the crisis facing humanity, we call the friends to a new realization of the very great things which are expected from us in this Day." We recall that the Blessed Beauty, Bahá'u'lláh, as well as His "Best Beloved" before Him and 'Abdu'l-Bahá after Him bore their sufferings in this world in order that mankind might be freed from material fetters and 'attain unto true liberty', 'might prosper and flourish', 'attain unto abiding joy, and be filled with gladness', and we pray that the endeavours of the friends may be the means by which this glory and felicity will speedily come to pass.

In August 1968, to the Bahá'ís gathered in Palermo, the Universal House of Justice wrote—

"Our task is to build the Order of Bahá'u'lláh. Undeflected by the desperate expedients of those who seek to subdue the storm convulsing human life by political, economic, social or educational programmes, let us, with a single minded devotion and concentrating all our efforts on our objective, raise His Divine System and sheltered within its impregnable stronghold, safe from the darts of doubtfulness, demonstrate the Bahá'í way of life."

Travelling in the evenings to teach the Faith in another town, travelling at weekends to teach the Faith in another county or country, of course this calls for devotion and sacrifice, and both physical and spiritual strength. But there is no one else to carry out these tasks to which the followers of Bahá'u'lláh are committed. It is the earnest prayer of the committee that the friends will ponder in their hearts the wonderful inspiring words of the Universal House of Justice in their message at Ridván 1969,

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when they give us the "key" which will unlock the "spiritual reservoir" of power without which we cannot expect victories, and upon which the fate of the world so largely depends.

"Beloved Friends, the Nine Year Plan is well advanced, our work is blessed by the never-ceasing confirmations of Bahá'u'lláh, and the entire Bahá'í World Community is committed to complete victory. That happy consummation, now faintly discernible on the far horizon, will be reached through hard work, realistic planning, sacrificial deeds, intensification of the teaching work and, above all, through constant endeavour on the part of every single Bahá'í to conform his inner life to that glorious ideal set for mankind by Bahá'u'lláh and exemplified by 'Abdu'l-Bahá. In contemplating the Master's divine example we may well reflect that His life and deeds were not acted to a pattern of expediency, but were the inevitable and spontaneous expression of His inner self. We, likewise shall act according to His example, only as our inward spirits, growing and maturing through the disciplines of prayer and practise of the Teachings, become the well-springs of our attitudes and actions. This will promote the accomplishment of God's purpose, this will ensure the triumph of His Faith and enable us to build up the present motion of the Cause into a grand momentum whose force will carry the community of the Most Great Name to glorious victory in 1973 and onwards to the as yet unapprehended vistas of the Most Great Peace."

PROGRESS REPORT

Town	No.	E.G.C. Members	Activities planned or in progress
L.S.A. by 1970.	Bahá'ís	Co-ordinating.	
Aylesbury	6	Derek Cockshut	Bahá'í Day, 28th September.
Bedford	5	Derek Cockshut	
Northampton	6	Derek Cockshut	
Bath	6	Alma Gregory	Bahá'í Day, 3rd August.
St. Austell	4	Alma Gregory	Weekend School, 1/2nd November.
			Bahá'í Days, 16th/17th August.
			Bahá'í Stand (Trades Fair) 4th-11th October.
Durham	6	Philip Hainsworth	Week of Intensive Activity 16th-23rd August.
York	7	Philip Hainsworth	Public Meeting, 1st January, 1970.,
Canterbury	7	Ron. Bates,	Weekend School, 15/16th November.
		Thelma Halbert.	
Epsom	8	Ron Bates	
		Thelma Halbert	
Salisbury	8	Ron Bates	Bahá'í Day 14th or 21st September.
		Thelma Halbert	Bahá'í Day, 27th July.
Nottingham	6	Brigitte Ferraby	
L.S.A. by 1971.			
Kendal	5	Philip Hainsworth	
Carlisle	4	Philip Hainsworth	
Chelmsford	2	Derek Cockshut	
Lincoln	6	Brigitte Ferraby	Bahá'í Day, 9th August.
Kidderminster	2	Betty Goode	
Ryde, I.o.W.	1	Anne Thorne	
		Alma Gregory.	
L.S.A. by 1972.			
Shrewsbury	1	Betty Goode	Bahá'í Day, 20th July.
Hereford	1	Betty Goode	
Derby	1	Betty Goode	Bahá'í Day, 14th September.
Bangor	1	Betty Goode	Public meeting, 26th October.
Oakham	2	Brigitte Ferraby	
St. Helier C.I.	1	Anne Thorne	
To Re-open.			
Guernsey		Anne Thorne	
Isle of Man		Betty Goode	

CANTERBURY.

Firesides to be held from October 1969 to Ridván 1970.

	1st Friday	2nd & 4th Saturdays	3rd & 5th Fridays
	Public Meeting	Mrs. Giddings,	Mr. & Mrs. Weinberg
	Friends Meeting House	14 St. Lawrence,	5 Rhodaus Close
	The Friars	Forstal	
October	3rd	11th	17th
		25th	
November	7th	29th	21st
December	5th	13th	19th
January	2nd	10th	16th
		24th	30th
February	6th	14th	20th
		28th	
March	6th	14th	20th
		28th	(Naw Ruz)
April	3rd	11th	17th
Weekend School—15th-16th November.			

NEWS FROM WALES

The Welsh Community has had a great uplift since the visit of the Hand of the Cause, William Sears, last September. There has been constant movement from place to place and the friends have felt closer together than before.

The Goal Town of Llanelli was eventually opened last April by Margaret Metcalfe, who has been teaching the Faith fervently ever since she arrived there. Public Meetings are being arranged in this Goal Town and intensive plans for travel teaching are in hand. The W.G.C. is still hopeful that another pioneer will join Margaret to help her in her wonderful teaching work.

Carmarthen. Margaret Evans, an isolated Bahá'í in Carmarthen, held her first fireside in that town on July 5th. The fireside went well and was held at Margaret's flat. Among the 16 present were 7 non-Bahá'ís and Neal Evans gave an introductory talk. The Sweet family who have pioneered from Salisbury to Pembs. were there and their company was a great pleasure to all of us. May we all wish Margaret every success in her work in Carmarthen. **Newport.** The Newport group have intensified their already praiseworthy efforts in order that they may attain their goal of the formation of an L.S.A. by Ridván 1970. Apart from their regular firesides, Public Meetings and private teaching, they have planned a week of intensive teaching activities in September. All the nearby and surrounding communities in England and Wales will be asked to support Newport in their efforts.

In recent months we have had stronger links with our dear friends in Bath and with Gloria Faizi in Hereford. Now, with the new "Wave Movement" introduced by the N.S.A., we are confident that we shall not only strengthen our bonds with Bath and the West country, but also we shall be able to create new ties with our friends across the Irish Sea.

Aberystwyth. The Group in Aberystwyth arranged a weekend of activities in May, and a Summer outing in July with the usual firesides in between. On May 10th the Youth of Wales organised an afternoon of talks and discussions and for the evening music, singing, a slide show and dancing which was enjoyed by everyone. On the following day a One Day School was held with Arnold Pitt, Carl Card, Cyrus Rowshan and Betty Goode as speakers. About 50 people came during the weekend. The Aberystwyth group would like to thank all those who came from far and wide to support the weekend and to help to make it the success that it was.

On July 5th a party of nearly 30 Bahá'ís, friends and children including some from Birmingham and Shrewsbury went on the narrow gauge railway line from Aberystwyth, up the beautiful Rheidol Valley to Devils Bridge and

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back again. At Devils Bridge they were able to enjoy the magnificent scenery, the high waterfall and ancient bridges. On arriving back at Aberystwyth, everyone including a friend who happened to have been collected on the way, converged at the Maude's house for tea and chat before going home.

Cardiff. A one day school was held on May 17th. This was a most enjoyable and inspiring day at the Welsh Empire Pool in Cardiff. Friends gathered from far and near and the programme was arranged as a Forum and intended to appeal especially to enquirers. The theme was introduced by Carl and followed on by Alf Morse, Felicity Earnshaw, Margaret Jenkerson and Gloria Faizi. The day ended with a slide show on the 1967 Inter-continental Conference with recorded commentary.

Swansea. This Community have held several meetings and have a few new contacts so the teaching work is progressing. Arnold Pitt addressed a meeting at which there were 4 non-Bahá'is and as well as the usual firesides and weekly study group, there have been additional teaching meetings wherever possible. Estelle Evans gave a talk to the Unitarian Church Women's Guild and Margaret Morse has been approached about giving a talk to the Swansea Soroptomists later in the year, on the Bahá'í Faith.

THE LIGHT

It's bright
This light that shines on me,
So I can see where I am going
And what I'm doing.
It guides me and tells me what to do
To you
The world.
There's only one luring beam,
Not five or ten or twenty,
But one, the Righteous One.
It tells me to travel the world afar
And spread the word of Bahá'u'lláh.
I must obey
Some day.
And now I pray the time will come
With gathering speed
And give me the lead which I can hold
Until I'm old;
And my job is done,
Thanks to that One.

David Grant.

Draw Nigh unto Bahá'u'lláh.

Man's station is great. Ere this, the following exalted words have flowed forth from the pen of Abhá, "This is a Day great and blessed. Whatsoever was hidden in man is today being revealed." The station of man is great, were he to cling to truth and righteousness and be firm and steadfast in the Cause. Before the God of Mercy, a true man appears like unto heaven. The sun and the moon of that heaven are his sight and hearing and its stars are his shining attributes. His Station is the highest and his signs are the educator of the world.

Bahá'u'lláh.

WORLD CHILDRENS' DAY



Ted and Alicia Cardell were the hosts, the Child Education Committee were the organisers and the seventy children who attended were the life of the World Childrens Day at Manor Farm, Gt. Paxton on Sunday, June 15th.

The celebration started with lunch, everyone relaxing on the lawns and sharing their food. The sessions began with a devotional prepared by the London Children's class after which the children were divided into three groups for discussions and talks. The adults discussed the education of children with a panel of speakers composed of Mrs. Shomais Afnan, Mr. Ezzart Cesaré and Mr. Farhang Jahanpur. Mr. Iraj Munsiff was in the chair. Although the children finished their sessions on time and were soon

romping in the hot sun the parents found so much to talk about that they continued their discussion for two and a half hours.

When all the sessions were over, games, informal chatting and walks around the farm were the order of the day. All the time the children were swarming everywhere, reminding us of what the day was all about. This event proved to be an excellent means of teaching as many non-Bahá'is participated.

The C.E.C. hopes that this day has helped to stress the importance of Child Education and the responsibility that rests on the parents and hopes to hold another meeting of this kind in the Autumn.

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH STUDY WEEKENDS.

The National Youth Committee has decided not to continue with the University Week in future. In order to study some deeper aspects of the faith, the Committee has decided to organise study weekends, and, as a pilot scheme, has chosen seven weekends in the year 1969-1970 on which to hold these.

The Committee has divided the British Isles into six regions and the weekends will be held in a town as central as possible for the Bahá'í youth of the area to travel.

These places are provisional:—

- Bristol**—for S. Wales and S. W. England.
- Dublin**—for Northern and Southern Ireland.
- Edinburgh**—for Scotland and N. E. England.
- Leicester**—for Midlands and N. E. Anglia.
- London**—for South and S. E. England.

Manchester—for North Wales and N. W. England.

The subjects for study are as follows:
'God, Manifestation of God and Man'.
'Book of Certitude'.
'The Guardian's Guidance for Youth'.
'The Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá'.
'The Bahá'í Standard'.
'Bahá'í Laws and Ordinances.'

We are asking Assemblies to arrange for their centres to be available for these study weekends.

Details will be sent to all L.S.A.'s and groups. Anyone else requiring information about these weekends please contact Miss E. Morley, 171 Alexandria Road, Peterborough., Northants.

WINTER SCHOOL.

The Youth Winter School will be held at the Youth Hostel in York from 28th December 1969 to 3rd January 1970. Further details to follow.

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BOTTLE ACROSS THE OCEAN—

At Frankfurt Conference in 1967 Ted Cardell was talking with Peggy True—she told him how she had sometimes put the Bahá'í Message in bottles and sent them across the ocean and said she had replies. He must have looked sceptical, for she then offered to throw one in for him.

Sometime later he received a letter from Puerto Rico. A lady had picked up the bottle which Peggy threw in and wanted to know all about Bahá'u'lláh, Ted replied—this time by air mail.

Below is the letter from the lady exactly as she wrote it.

March 10, 1969.

Mr. Ted Cardell,
r Farm
axton, St. Neats
Huntingdonshire,
England.

Mr. Ted Cardell:

I found the bottle you threw into the sea which was dated 22-6-68. The exact place is a fishing port, called La Pitahaya of the city of Cabo Rojo, in the South-western part of Puerto Rico.

The story:

I found the bottle the 9th of March 1969. I was fishing and suddenly I saw the bottle with the message; I got interested and I picked it up. In order to take out the message I had to break the bottle. I hit it against the boat but the message fell back into the water, and as you could all ready imagin it broke into pieces. With this incident I lost part of the address so it was a little difficult for me to guess where you lived. I had to look up in different maps and books to find a place like that in England.

I made some photostatic copies and I am enclosing one for you so imagin the trouble I had. I found something about the Baha'u'llah but I would like to recive a letter from you explaining me what you tried to say with in your message. Bahá'u'lláh—splendor of God—The spiritual unity of mankind. Why do you say the message is of great importance? Why did you send the message threw the sea and in a bottle? Si sabes hablar y escribir espanol, escribeme en espanol que será más facil para mi.

yours truly
Evelyn Alicea

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ASSISTANCE WITH JOB FINDING.

Any Youth who is considering pioneering to the Goal Town of Hereford can be helped to find a job in that town. Regular information about jobs that are advertised can be forwarded to any one interested, until a suitable job is found.

Contact Mrs. Gloria Faizi, 26 John Venn Buildings, Bath Street, Hereford.

THANK YOU

The National Youth Committee deeply appreciates the poster designs from the Cardiff and Newport youth and are now eagerly awaiting Peterborough's contribution.

CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS and BAHÁ'Í TEACHINGS

By RICHARD BACKWELL.

To compare the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh with the teachings of Jesus is to compare light with light. The identity of their source, pivot, motive power and goal is far more important and far greater than any difference. The identity is of God; the difference is of man. The teachings of Jesus comprised all that man could receive at that time and for the ensuing epoch. The teachings of Bahá'u'lláh comprise all that man can receive at this time, and for a further thousand or thousands of years.

Over 1900 years have elapsed since the Crucifixion of Jesus. The whole surface of the planet has come to be explored. The paths of truth in other parts of the earth, unknown then, have become widely known. The religion of the Arabian Prophet Muhammad has arisen, reached its zenith and passed into decline. Great scientific and technological discoveries have been made, and in particular the truth of evolution has become established.

Many of the selfishnesses and shortcomings of man are similar today to those of the first century, but now also the emergence and interaction of whole peoples and nations has added a new range of defective conditions and intractable problems to the ailing body of mankind. The prescription of the Great Physician therefore, though it contains many common ingredients, has fresh potencies, proportions and components today.

The declared purpose of Bahá'u'lláh is the same as that of Jesus. Where Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (Jn. 10:10), Bahá'u'lláh wrote, "*The waters of everlasting life have, in their fulness, been proffered unto men. Every single cup hath been borne round by the hand of the Well-Beloved. Draw near, and tarry not, though it be for one moment*" (GWB 34). Bahá'u'lláh also wrote, "*Verily He (Jesus) said: 'Come ye after Me, and I will make you to become fishers of men'. In this day, however, we say: 'Come ye after Me, that We may make you to become the quickeners of mankind'*" (PDC 124).

Jesus said to the apostles, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15), but He also said, "My Kingdom is not of this world" (Jn. 18:36). Although He made a change in the laws of divorce and of the Sabbath, and, through Peter, lifted restrictions on certain foods, for the most part He made no change in the laws of Moses and reiterated the chief commandments more than once. He left one new commandment, "That ye love one another; as I love you, that you also love one another" (Jn. 13-36 and 15:12). How fervently He prayed, "that they may be one even as we are one" (Jn. 17:21-23).

Most of the teachings and precepts of Jesus were given in parable form, or

in the form of hortative statements such as the beatitudes, or in the attitude and manner of His own life and actions. He 'focussed attention primarily on the redemption of the individual and the moulding of his conduct and stressed the necessity of inculcating a high standard of morality and discipline into man, as the fundamental unit in human society'. (PDC 124).

Jesus came to recall the people to God, to restate, strengthen and enhance the great truths of Moses, to establish love, unity and peace in the hearts of men, to convince that those who followed and obeyed Him would, through sacrificing themselves for one another, find the Kingdom of God within them. Let His followers but carry out His injunctions to draw near ('eat') and partake ('drink') of His perfections remembering His days during their days, keeping ever before them the qualities and deeds essential to qualify for admittance to the Kingdom, and they would then be ready, with the oil of faith brimful in their hearts, when the Spirit of Truth, the Lord of the Vineyard, came to take charge of His own and to establish the Kingdom of God on earth as in heaven for which they were to pray continually. He even gave them the signs of that coming: (i) His gospel was to have been preached in all the world for a witness (Matt. 24:13-14) (ii) the time of the Gentiles shall have been fulfilled, i.e. when the Jews returned to their homeland (Luke 21:4-7) (iii) the prophecy of Daniel regarding 'the Abomination of Desolation' shall also have been fulfilled (Matt. 24:15 and Dan. 8:13-15).

All aspects of the life of Jesus were perfect. Many of them were unique, though a startlingly large number can be precisely paralleled in the life of the saintly Báb. Every divine religion enshrines a mystery: in Christianity it is the mystery of His fatherlessness, of the Virgin Birth. In the Bahá'í Faith the mystery is the Master, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Centre of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant, in Whom were blended and harmonised the incompatible characteristics of a human nature and superhuman knowledge and perfection.

In certain respects the teachings and life of Jesus were incomplete however. Having nowhere Himself to lay His head, He never married. Because of the relatively immature stage in the development of human society, His emphasis was on the quality of individual life and conduct, encouraging to love and unity through focus upon Himself and in some measure upon Peter, the chief of the disciples, after His passing. Nowhere did He advise how mundane affairs were to be organised or administered, nowhere how problems between groups and nations were to be resolved.

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The teachings of Bahá'u'lláh comprise spiritual, social and administrative dimensions of human life as befit One Who comes not only as the Lord of the vineyard, the Spirit of Truth but also the Prince of this world, the Prince of Peace in fulfilment of Isaiah 9:6-7 and II:1-9. Where Jesus was permissive and hortatory Bahá'u'lláh is imperative. Where Jesus spoke in parables and in veiled language, Bahá'u'lláh wrote in clearest terms. Where Jesus' chief appeal is to the heart and soul, Bahá'u'lláh appeals to heart, soul, and mind, to the whole man and to all mankind.

The oneness and wholeness of the entire human race is the pivotal Bahá'í teaching, to which the message of Bahá'u'lláh is wholly directed. This, the consummation of the promises and prophecies of all the prophets, is the goal for which He establishes His Covenant with man, a covenant of response to God, to Himself, to 'Abdu'l-Bahá (and later to Shoghi Effendi and the Universal House of Justice), of obedience to and faith in their injunctions and guidance. He calls for acknowledgement of the fundamental truths of all the divine religions, for humble relations of love and fellowship with all people, as individuals, as groups, as nations. Collective security He urges upon governments; justice He sets up as 'the best loved of all things in His sight'; moderation in all things He enjoins; consultation is a basic and mandatory principle; knowledge and skills of practical kind exalt man and should be sought; service in love for mankind is raised to the level of worship and even unity with God; science and religion both derive from a rational God; woman is entitled to equality of rights with man; a universal language and script are necessary; world government of a federal type must come into being.

'Abdu'l-Bahá said (PUP 4), "To be a real Christian, is to be a servant in His Cause and kingdom, to go forth under His banner of peace and love toward all mankind, to be self-sacrificing and obedient, to become quickened by the breaths of the Holy Spirit, to be mirrors reflecting the radiance of the divinity of Christ, to be fruitful trees in the garden of His planting, to refresh the world by the water of life of His teachings; in all things to be like Him and filled with the spirit of His love."

He also said, (PUP 448-449), to Bahá'ís, "You must manifest complete love and affection toward all mankind. Do not exalt yourselves above others but consider all as your equals, recognising them as the servants of one God. Know that God is compassionate toward all; therefore love all from the depths of your hearts, prefer all religionists before yourselves, be filled with love for every race and be kind toward the people of all nationalities. Never speak disparagingly of others but praise without distinction. Pollute not your tongues by speaking evil of another. Recognise your enemies as friends and

First Spiritual Assembly of Kitty Guyana



Front Row, Left to Right: Celest Motayne, Esther Seley, Christine Williams.
Back Row, Left to Right: Jacob Moe, Abdool Hamaid Ali, Ricbford Ali, Abdool Hai, Nagashwar Sharma, James Frederick Toney.

consider those who wish you evil as the wishers of good. You must not see evil as evil and then compromise with your opinion, for to treat in a smooth and kindly way one whom you consider evil or an enemy, is hypocrisy and this is not worthy or allowable. You must consider your enemies as your friends, look upon your evil-wishers as your well-wishers and treat them accordingly. Act in such a way that your heart may be free from hatred. Let not your heart be offended with anyone. If some one commit an error and wrong toward you, you must instantly forgive him. Do not complain of others. Refrain from reprimanding them, and if you wish to give admonition or advice let it be offered in such a way that it will not burden the bearer. Turn all your thoughts toward bringing joy to hearts. Beware! Beware! lest you offend any heart. Assist the world of humanity as much as possible. Be the source of consolation to every sad one, assist every weak one, be helpful to every indigent one, care for every sick one, be the cause of glorification to every lowly one and shelter those who are overshadowed by fear.

"In brief, let each one of you be as a lamp shining forth with the light of the virtues of the world of humanity. Be trustworthy, sincere, affectionate, and replete with chastity. Be illumined, be spiritual, be divine, be glorious, be quickened of God. Be a Bahá'í."

Surely one who walks along a road in the dark should take guidance from the light of the nearby street lamp and not rely on the distant light from a street lamp down the road behind him.

FOR MEDITATION

"God, the Maker of the worlds, hath created the realm of humanity to be the Paradise of Eden (or the Garden of Paradise) if the edifice of Peace, Reconciliation, Love and Faithfulness is founded on a solid and firm basis; nay, rather, He hath willed it to become the mirror, reflecting the Delectable Paradise. Then, and not until then, will all the divine bounties become manifold; happiness and well-being infinite; the virtues of the world of humanity revealed and resplendent; and the rays of the Sun of Reality visible from every direction.

Consider that his holiness Adam and others were living in Paradise. But as soon as strife became known between him and Satan, every one was driven away from Eden, so that the children of humanity might learn a lesson and realize that quarrels and strife, even though with Satan, are conducive to deprivation.

Therefore, in this radiant century, according to the heavenly teachings, altercation and dispute are not allowable even though assailed by Satan himself." 'Abdu'l-Bahá, ("Star of the West", Vol IV, No. 1)

DEADLINE :—

Material for the next issue of the Journal to be in by 8th Sept., 1969, to— Mr. J. Coates, Editor, 45 Overfield Rd., Fawdon, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3AJ