

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY'S NEWS LETTER

200

New Believers Project

This exciting new project was launched by the National Spiritual Assembly in session at the Harlech Summer School on August 31st. It will run from September 1st to Ridván (April 21st) 1970, with a half-way point at Teaching Conference, and a half-way goal, "100 New Believers by January 3rd". The first of the 200 was Miss Veronica Bearman of Seven Kings, who declared at the Summer School on the first day of the project; the second was Mr. Martin McGarry of Lisburn Rural District, who declared that same day in Northern Ireland, and the third Miss Helen Shields of Carrick Fergusson, also in Northern Ireland. Only 197 to go. The watchword is, "PRAY, TRAVEL AND SEARCH". Bahá'u'lláh said, "By the righteousness of the one true God:—If one speck of a jewel be lost and buried beneath a mountain of stones, and lie hidden beyond the seven seas, the Hand of Omnipotence will assuredly reveal it in this day, pure and cleansed from dross". That is what we are searching for, the jewels of hearts who are waiting to hear of Bahá'u'lláh. When you pray, pray to be guided to the waiting soul who is ready to hear Bahá'u'lláh's Message that very day; and when you travel, take a non-Bahá'í along to meet the Bahá'ís over there, whether it's in the next street, the next town, or 'over the border' as you surge about in the 'wave movement' that is taking the spirit of the Cause over the length and breadth of the British Isles and over to the islands around our shores. The National Assembly will report the progress of the "200 New Believers Project" in every 19 Day Feast News Letter.

DECLARATIONS. We are delighted to welcome to the Faith Miss Alison Hardie (Youth), Dun Laoghaire; Mrs. Olive Hansard, Belfast; Mr. Vafa Khavari (Youth), Cambridge; Mr. Trevor Peters, Kensington and Chelsea; Mr. Naim Golmohamad (Youth) and Mr. Nabil Golmohamad (Youth), both of Stafford; Mr. William McCubbin and Mr. Hamish Cummings, both of Inverness; Mrs. Irene Randell, Ascot, Berks.; Mrs. Mary Gavin, Mr. James and Mrs. Sarah May, Mr. Peter Shields and Mr. James Hoy, all of Kirkby; Mr. Denis Battman, Lincoln; Miss Hazel Baller, Birmingham; Mr. Robert Birmingham, Westminster; Mr. William Lee, Liverpool; Mrs. Irene House, Pontypridd; Miss Janice Ogilvie (Youth), Ipswich; Miss Shirley Williams and Mrs. Ina and Mr. Augustus Allen, all of Craig Village; E. Bank Demerara, Guyana. We happily welcome the following youth who have claimed their voting rights: Miss Mary Woodthorpe, Manchester; Mr. Farhad Firoozmand, Islington; Miss Jennifer Earl, Norwich; Mr. Kevin Beint, Bangor, North Wales.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE GUARDIAN'S RESTING PLACE TAKEN BEFORE THE ERECTION OF THE COLUMN

The Universal House of Justice has asked the National Assembly for black-and-white or colour pictures of the beloved Guardian's Resting Place taken after the funeral or in the early months before the Grave was walled and the column with the eagle erected. Would anyone who has such photographs and is willing to let the Universal House of Justice have them, please send them to the National Spiritual Assembly, 27, Rutland Gate, London, S.W.7. Please be sure to send the photographs with a suitable piece of cardboard or other protection in the envelope so that they do not get damaged in the mail, and include a note of your own name and address so that we know from whom they came.

VISITS TO ISRAEL AND/OR IRAN

Would everyone please note that no Bahá'í may visit Israel for any purpose whatsoever without permission from the

Universal House of Justice. Persian Bahá'ís do not need permission to go to Iran, but everyone else needs permission from the Universal House of Justice before going to Iran, even if married to a Persian.

INACCURACIES IN REFERENCE BOOKS OR ENCYCLOPAEDIAS

If anyone notices inaccuracies in such books or encyclopaedias please send to the National Office full details of the name of the book and the name of the publisher, the year of publication (if known), the page number and the actual quotation. Steps will then be taken to contact the publisher and to try to get the error corrected in the next edition.

"BAHA'I NEWS" CORRESPONDENT

We are happy to announce that Ted Cardell is now our "Bahá'í News" Correspondent. Would Local Assemblies, Goal Towns and Groups send to Ted news items worthy of appearing in this world-wide publication, typing the item carefully in double spacing and illustrating it wherever possible by a black-and-white, glossy photograph of extremely sharp definition. Ted's address is: Manor Farm, Gt. Paxton, St. Neots, Hunts.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO ISOLATED BELIEVERS AS WELL AS ALL THOSE IN COMMUNITIES AND GOAL TOWNS TO ATTEND THE 19 DAY FEAST

So many exciting things are happening now in the Bahá'í World and in the British Community, and one of the best ways to keep in touch with all the news is to be sure not to miss a 19 Day Feast. Local Assemblies and Goal Towns are asked again to be sure to invite nearby isolated believers to attend their 19 Day Feasts, and those Friends who are isolated are encouraged themselves to contact the nearest Assembly or Goal Town and find out when and where the next 19 Day Feast will be held.

When Hand of the Cause Hasan Balyuzi wrote about the 19 Day Feast in February, 1963, he said, "The institution of the Nineteen-Day Feast is unique and peerless amongst all the gatherings and the communal efforts of mankind. Its quality and the mode

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of its functioning show the health and virility of a Bahá'í Community. From it can flow an incalculable and illimitable measure of spiritual power. The beloved Master once said that should the Bahá'ís make full use of the potentialities of the Nineteen-Day Feast, they could thereby change the destinies of their town. He also said that He would be there in this gathering with the Bahá'ís".

COVENANT-BREAKERS

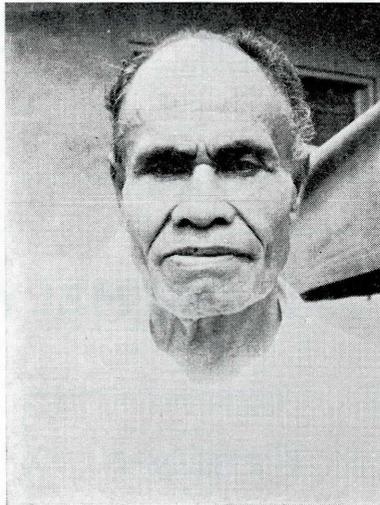
The National Assembly asks everyone to note that the four Chaudhary brothers who are living in High Wycombe have now all been denounced by the Hands of the Cause, with the approval of the Universal House of Justice, as Covenant-breakers. They are the one already denounced as a Covenant-breaker, Muhamed Amin Chaudhary, and the three others now so denounced Ashraf, Arshad and Khalid Chaudhary. These are the only Covenant-breakers known to be residing in the British Isles.

Announcement

The National Assembly announces the entry in the national records that Dr. Parvis Faridian is not a Bahá'í in good standing.

THE NATIONAL TREASURER, Mr. Charles Macdonald, wants to let everyone know that the huge volume of work now entailed in the Treasuryship makes it not possible for him to send individual letters to Local Assemblies and Friends when acknowledging donations. He will miss this personal contact with everybody, and would like still to receive news from you when you send your donations, in fact he looks forward to hearing from you regularly. It would help the Treasurer if you would include with your donations a stamped envelope addressed to yourself so that he can send your receipt back to you.

OBITUARY. We sadly announce the passing on Thursday, August 21st at noon of Miss Evelyn Baxter, Knight of Bahá'u'lláh to the Channel Islands. She was laid to rest in St. Helier on August 26th, when Mr. Patrick Green represented the National Assembly at the funeral. Miss Baxter declared on September 27th, 1939, almost thirty years ago. She was one of the tiny band of believers who dedicated themselves heart and soul to the winning of the Six Year Plan, and in those eventful years she pioneered first to Birmingham, then to Nottingham, Hove, Oxford and Cardiff. Her finest hour came in 1953, when she responded to the beloved Guardian's call at the beginning of the Ten Year Crusade and pioneered to the Channel Islands; she and Mr. Zia'ulláh Asgarzadeh, who died in Jersey in April, 1956, and is also buried there, were the two Knights of Bahá'u'lláh to those Islands, and their names are inscribed in the cirlet of beautifully painted flowers on the Scroll of Honour kept in the World Centre; in each small cirlet of flowers on that Scroll is the name of the virgin territory opened and the names of the Knights of Bahá'u'lláh who raised His



Mr. TOMA AVIATA. The first native Tokelau Bahá'í who recently returned to teach the Faith. See article in Journal 194.

FOR MEDITATION

"The more one is severed from the world, from desires, from human affairs, and conditions, the more impervious does one become to the tests of God. Tests are a means by which a soul is measured as to its fitness, and proven out by its own acts. God knows its fitness beforehand, and also its unpreparedness, but man, with an ego, would not believe himself unfit unless proof were given him. Consequently his susceptibility to evil is proven to him when he falls into the tests, and the tests are continued until the soul realizes its own unfitness, then remorse and regret tend to root out the weakness.

The same test comes again in greater degree, until it is shown that a former weakness has become a strength, and the power to overcome evil has been established".

'Abdu'l-Baha (Star of the West, vol. vi, p. 45)

Standard there.

We are also sad to announce the passing on Tuesday, August 19th, of dear Clifford Garner of Nelson, who had been a Bahá'í for seven years. Cliff's pure heart and radiant spirit glowed through his somewhat frail body, and his shining face was seen at many gatherings; he was especially happy to have attended the World Congress in London in 1963, soon after he declared. He pioneered to Southport to help to maintain the Assembly and remained there for three years, returning only last year to Nelson. His Bahá'í funeral was conducted on August 22nd, in the presence of Cliff's non-Bahá'í relatives and Friends from Nelson and Burnley, and was a very moving occasion.

The National Assembly asks you to remember both these dear Friends in your prayers.

REMOVAL OF VOTING RIGHTS

We announce the removal of the voting rights of Mr. Don Moody of Hove and Mrs. Monica McGilloway of Londonderry, each for failing to comply with the Bahá'í marriage laws.

From the UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

To: National Spiritual Assemblies

11th April, 1969.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Re: Pilgrimage

As stated in our Ridván Message, it is with great joy that we now find it possible to open the door of Pilgrimage to a much greater number of believers. We will be able to accommodate many more of the thousands of friends who have applied for Pilgrimage but whose invitation had to be deferred for many years because of the limited facilities at the World Centre.

In increasing the number of Pilgrims in each group from twenty to eighty the Pilgrim House will no longer be used for living accommodation. Therefore, it has been decided that beginning with the new season in October, 1969 all Pilgrims will arrange for their own lodging and meals. There are a number of hotels, pensions and hospices in the Haifa area; many are relatively inexpensive, and can be booked through travel agents.

During the Pilgrimage programme planned for the nine day period, transportation will be provided by the World Centre on the initial visits to the Bahá'í Holy Places outside the Haifa area. Full instructions will be given to the friends when they are invited to come to the Holy Land and assigned a date. Pilgrims will be permitted to remain a total of 38 days in the Holy Land instead of nineteen, as at present; this change allows them to take advantage of group flights. However, such additional time beyond the nine days on Pilgrimage, if used, must be spent outside Haifa, 'Akka and environs.

Believers wishing to make the Pilgrimage will, as in the past, apply in writing to the Universal House of Justice, and we will gladly invite them when their turn comes. Those who are presently on the waiting list will be in the first groups to be invited, and letters of invitation will be sent soon for the 1969—1970 Pilgrimage year which begins on October 27th, 1969. New groups will come during each two week period thereafter until the end of July, 1970.

Please share this information with the believers.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

BLIND SERVICES COMMITTEE

The friends are requested to send the names and addresses of any blind Bahá'ís or contacts to the joint secretaries, Oliver and Kari-Anna Christopherson, 48 Western Hill, Durham.

The committee are planning to send out a circular to these people regarding the possibility of ordering Braille books from America for their use, and possibly tapes as well.

It would be helpful if you would indicate whether the persons in question are familiar with Braille.

A LUMINARY OF THE FAITH

We share with you extracts from a letter written by Dr. J. E. Esslemont to Mr. J. C. Craven in February 1916. The Guardian referred to Dr. Esslemont as "one of the three luminaries shedding brilliant lustre annals Irish English Scottish Bahá'í Communities", Dr. Esslemont for Scotland, the late Thomas Breakwell for England, and the late Hand of the Cause of God George Townshend for Ireland. The Daniel Jenkyn referred to in the letter was an early believer who carried the Faith to the European Continent and in station has been likened to one of the disciples of Christ, his journeyings comparable to those of St. Paul. Mr. J. C. Craven, "Uncle John" as he was affectionately called, will be remembered by the older Bahá'ís. He and the late E. T. Hall were amongst the earliest believers in the British Isles, and the letter to Mr. Craven has been passed to us by Miss Lucy Hall who had found it amongst her father's papers.

Copy of letter from Dr. J. E. Esslemont to Mr. J. C. Craven:—

Allah'O'Abhá

Dear Friend

Daniel Jenkyn seems to have been a wonderful source of inspiration and help for the Bahá'í Movement. I wish I had known him, but we can each become like him if we make the "great surrender" of self and selfishness and become "willing channels" for the Divine Spirit. There is no limit to what the human spirit can achieve in the strength of Divine Inspiration. . . . The Hidden Words are constantly emphasising the great and exalted station of man—if he would only wake up and realise it. On page 71 of the Book of Ighan Bahá'u'lláh says "All the Divine Names and attributes are manifest and evident in human appearances in the most perfect and excellent manner. All of these names and attributes have reference to man. Therefore He hath said 'Man is my mystery and I am his mystery' . . . 'Whosoever hath known himself hath surely known his Lord.'" 'Abdu'l-Bahá says:—"In every one on whom I look, I see only the Father's face." The germ of the Divine nature is in every man only most of us are not manifesting it. Instead we are smothering it. It is like a plant that needs sun and rain for its growth—the sun and rain of the Divine Love and Bounty. We have the power either to open our hearts to that Love and Bounty, or to reject them. "Love Me, that I may love thee. If thou lovest Me not, My love can never reach thee." Only by turning our attention and interest away from the world and turning them to God can we grow in spirit. But turning our interest and attention away from the world does not mean losing interest either in Nature or in our fellow-men. It means attending to the reality and inner significance of things instead of to the outward appearance. It means

that our interest in and love for everything in all God's Universe should vastly increase, but that we should regard all outward appearances but as the garments of the inner realities—as dawning-places for the Glory of God. It is difficult for us to see the Glory of God in the carnage of the battle-field, in the oppression of the poor by the rich, in the ravages of tuberculosis, in lice and tapeworms, in wanton luxury or besotted drunkenness. But all these evils are due to men shutting their minds and hearts to the Grace and Love of God, and regarding material things—the husks and shells and clothes of life—as the realities, as the things worth striving for. Whenever men turn to God, and thus allow their spiritual natures to grow and develop, immediately they become centres for the diffusion of love, mutual aid, beauty and real prosperity. The fault of the selfish man is not that he loves himself. Christ never told us not to love ourselves. What He said was to love our neighbours as our selves. The selfish man does not understand and appreciate himself. He is wholly blind to his own spiritual possibilities. Did he know himself, he would know God. "Whosoever hath known himself hath surely known his Lord". He mistakes his animal nature or his intellectual and aesthetic appreciation of material things for his real self. He does not understand that "Man is not called man until he be imbued with the attributes of the Merciful. He is not man because of wealth and adornment, learning and refinement."

Consequently his love of self is a poor inadequate, misguided love, and must always remain so until he learns that he is not a separate individual who can flourish at the expense of his fellows, but that he is a little, an infinitesimally small, part of a great unity, that he is bound up in the bundle of life with his fellows, and that only in unity, love and co-operation with them and with God, the giver of all good, can his own life reach a full and harmonious development. He must learn the greatest of all truths that we are all "leaves of One Tree, fruits of One Branch, sons and daughters of One Father whose name is Love."

It seems to me that Christ in His day was like a man of keen vision walking among a world of blind people. He was always telling them "Eyes have ye, but ye see not, ears, but ye hear not". He could see the spiritual realities of life while they saw but the material husks. And it seems to me that Bahá'u'lláh was as far in advance of the other teachers, preachers and doctors of his day, as Christ was in advance of the scribes and pharisees and scholars 1900 years ago. Other teachers are short-sighted and materially minded. He is the Seer and Knower. The accepted authorities and leaders are blind leaders of the blind—hence all the conflict and

strife of sects, parties, nations and races. The Leaders have partial and inadequate views. They can neither diagnose the world's sickness aright nor prescribe effective remedies. Each has some pet nostrum which he thinks will put things right and each has a following of people whose prejudices are similar to his own. Bahá'u'lláh is the Great Physician, who knows the laws of spiritual health and the constitution of the world, and whose instructions, if followed, will surely cure the world's sickness. Until I came across Bahá'ism I never felt about any system of teaching although I studied the teachings of various churches, of socialism, spiritualism, theosophy—that it was just what the world needed, and that it was equal to the task of bringing about Unity, Harmony and Spiritual Health in the world. But that is what I feel about Bahá'ism, and feel more convinced of, the more I study this wonderful message. I feel that I have found the real Physician, the real Educator, the real Saviour of the world, and that I must leave all and follow Him, and in leaving all to follow Him, I know I shall find all, and that everything will have a new value when I can see all things as manifestations of His Glory. The martyrs are not to be pitied—rather is their portion one to be desired, for they have found the Treasure compared with which all earthly treasures are but dross, and earthly sufferings as trifles of no account. In the moment of supreme trial their realisation of spiritual joy makes them oblivious to the torments of the lower self as a victorious fighter is careless of torn garments or dishevelled hair. Their faith is tried, and triumphant over the worst that the opposers can do. Only through trial can we taste the joys of triumph—therefore let us accept with joy whatever trials beset us in the Father's Path. "The sincere lover longs for suffering as the rebel craves forgiveness, and the sinner prays for mercy" "My calamity is My Providence. In appearance it is fire and vengeance; in reality it is Light and Mercy. Therefore approach it, that thou mayest become an Eternal Light and an Immortal Spirit". If only we can trust God utterly and be ready to give our all for Him everything will be easy and nothing will dismay or depress us. We shall be radiantly acquiescent to His Will under all circumstances and become sharers of His Divine Life. Having become "good, pure and enlightened" ourselves we shall be able to diffuse these qualities in the world around us as the leaven leavens the lump of dough and as the lamp radiates light. Only thus will the world be quickened into spiritual life. Acts of Parliament are not sufficient. Victories in war are not sufficient. Spiritual life is the essential—that we may have life and have it more abundantly. And that, only the Holy Spirit can give, and only the pure and humble in heart receive. Oh! May people

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News from the Communities

BARNET

A One Day School will be held on 12th October at Gordon Hall, Huntly Drive, West Finchley, London, N3, commencing at 9.45 a.m.

The theme will be "Prescription for living—NOW" and the School will end at 5 p.m.

BATH

A Week-End School will be held on 1st/2nd November, at Century House, Pierpoint Street, commencing at 2.30 p.m. on the Saturday and ending with a Public Meeting from 4—6 p.m. on Sunday.

Further details from the Secretary, Miss Susan Riches, 4, Alpine Gardens, Walcot, Bath, or Norman Burroughs, telephone Bath 26725.

BIRMINGHAM

The Community organised an extremely successful "Weekend in Birmingham" on 19th—20th July. A balance was maintained between deepening and proclamation: deepening through a talk on "The Covenant" and "The Centre of the Covenant" and a Community Development Committee session on "Laws and Ordinances of the World Order"; proclamation through advert-

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all over the world soon turn to God, as revealed in Bahá'u'lláh, with humble and contrite hearts, begging for His Forgiveness and Blessing, and imploring His Mercy and Bounty. Then shall His Kingdom come in men's hearts and homes, and the whole world become one home and all mankind one family. That seems such a far off consummation but it may be nearer than we think. The prophecies all point to the millennium and the signs of its coming are abundantly evident.

The bud is long in forming and maturing, but it bursts open quickly. The egg takes weeks to incubate but the chick hatches out in a few minutes. The babe is concealed for months in its mother's womb, but is born within a few hours of travail. So the world has been long preparing for the Coming of the Kingdom, but at the end the Coming may be quick. The old era is in the pains of travail and the new era is being born. The old heaven and earth are passing away under our eyes, and the new heaven and earth are beginning to be manifest. Let us play our part in this great world crisis, and be heralds and helpers of our Lord's Coming, let us be faithful servants that we may enter into the joy of our Lord and help our fellows to enter in too.

With kindest greetings to you and yours,

Yours sincerely,
in His Service,

J. E. Esslemont.

ising and by means of a Public Meeting, attended by over a hundred people, and consisting of two talks on "The Human Dilemma", one by well-known Political Scientist, Professor H. Ferns, of Birmingham University, the other by Farhang Jahanpur. The form of the Public Meeting contributed greatly to its success.

In addition, over fifty people were entertained at a social evening on Saturday; and on Sunday cooked and cold lunches were provided for one hundred people.

The Birmingham Community warmly thanks everyone who attended the "Week-end" and offer special thanks to the friends from Leamington for their direction and assistance in preparing and cooking the meals.

BLACKPOOL

The Blackpool Week-End School on October 31st/1st/2nd November, 1969, will be held in the Crescent Hotel, North Shore, where Teaching Conference was held at the beginning of the year. The management of the hotel offer an inclusive price of £6 per head for anyone staying at the Crescent from Friday evening to Sunday. This includes Friday evening dinner, bed and breakfast, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner, bed and breakfast, morning tea, and lunch on Sunday.

Separate prices are 45/-, bed and breakfast, lunch 12/6d., dinner 15/-.

Will anyone wishing to stay at the Crescent please book *directly* with the hotel, indicating that you are attending the Bahá'í conference (which is what the hotel staff call it). Please do not write to any of the Blackpool friends asking them to make bookings for you. A programme of the School will be sent to each community, with names and addresses of other suitable hotels and boarding houses in Blackpool. For any other information you may require contact Secretary, Mrs. Jean Gash, 233 St. Annes Road, Blackpool, FY4 2BL. Tel: 46686.

LEICESTER

The community joined with other Religions and Denominations in a service to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Gandhi on July 27th.

Included in the service were a reading from the "Gleanings" and two Bahá'í prayers.

On August 10th the friends gathered together and read prayers for nine hours for teaching in the British Isles, each hour being taken by one person; great spiritual bounty was gained from this day.

Dates for your diary:—

The Leicester friends will be holding a One-day School in Oakham on Sunday, December 7th, at the George Hotel—details later.

We hope to hold a series of "Bahá'í Open Meetings" on October 29th, 30th and 31st in the evenings, and on Sunday afternoon, November 2nd.

LIVERPOOL

The "New Age" Exhibition held in Liverpool, June 23rd—28th was undoubtedly a success. It attracted visitors representing a cross section of world citizens. Liverpool being a cosmopolitan port has a floating population and we had visitors from France, U.S.A., Canada, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium and Persia.

The Building and Design Centre was an ideal choice for displaying the Exhibition, as it is the last word in modern architecture, with very fine exhibition halls and the stands were shown off to great advantage.

Our advertising efforts resulted in visits from classes from Technical Colleges, Comprehensive Schools, Art Colleges and Universities, all of whom were highly interested. The posters outside the hall brought in many casual visitors, all of whom seemed to be impressed and the free literature was an added attraction.

Comments in the visitors book described the exhibition as — interesting, wonderful, thought-provoking, well-presented, excellent, stimulating, informative, etc. but there were also criticisms from Bahá'ís which might be noted for future displays:—

- Wonderful for Bahá'ís, but not clear enough for strangers to the Faith.
- There should be a panel stating the principles.
- There should be a panel showing World Unity.
- There should be a panel showing the number of World Centres.
- Where were the posters of the Shrines and Temples?
- Too much history.
- Postcards of the Shrines etc. would be useful.
- A guide is essential.

Some visitors had first met the Faith at the Cheshire Show and had come to Liverpool to learn more, proving the great potentiality of the Exhibition.

A Week-End School was held at the Y.W.C.A. immediately following Exhibition week. This was well attended by Bahá'ís from other Communities, with a good sprinkling of interested contacts. Zebbie Whitehead, Eric Hellicar, and Richard Bury deserve our special thanks for making the week-end such a success. May we also thank all the friends who helped our effort and send good wishes and 'Happy showing' to all future exhibitors.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

A walk-round exhibition held in a tent at the Tyneside Show, 5th—9th August, figured the central teachings of the Bahá'í Faith. Newcastle friends designed and assembled two five foot

tall blocks of large glass cubes, each embossed with a quotation or principle and containing a flower, book, Temple photograph or lighted slide of the World Centre. (Incidentally the sections can be dismantled and rearranged in a variety of ways to meet future requirements). A tumbling spider-plant softened the linear effect of this dignified and attractive display.

A fairly constant stream of people frequented the tent, took pamphlets and made enquiries about the Faith. Many stayed and talked earnestly for over half an hour to friends manning the exhibition. Helpers came from Durham, Dundee and Leeds. The harmonious and prayerful commitment of all these people and the entire Newcastle Community made the venture happy and fruitful. Regular Newcastle firesides will provide opportunity for interested visitors to deepen their understanding of the Faith.

HAVE YOU EVER LIVED IN NORTHAMPTON?

A Bahá'í Day is to be held in Northampton on Saturday, November 29th, details of which will be circulated amongst communities in the South and London Area, and to which all friends are invited.

It is hoped that as many friends as possible will endeavour to visit Northampton for this "day", and in a spirit of love, fellowship and harmony, consult together, bring ideas, and make fruitful offers to help to win the goal of the re-establishment of this wonderful "old" Assembly, which was "born" during the 6 Year Plan.

If you have ever lived in Northampton the English Goals Committee are in urgent need of your help. Please try and come to the Bahá'í Day, but even if you are unable to do this, we specially ask you to pray for this town, which your presence helped to give life to. Please pray for Northampton every day and direct your prayers that new souls may be stirred to search for Bahá'u'lláh.

Everyone, please come to Northampton on November 28th. Pray—travel and search for some of the 200 waiting souls

Any offer of help however small will be gratefully and joyously welcomed. Please write to Mrs. Betty Goode, Secretary, English Goals Committee, 8 Knowle Road, Stafford. Tel. Stafford 62157.

ORKNEY ISLANDS

During the summer we had a number of visitors, including Hand of the Cause Jalal Khazéh who spent three days with the Friends in Kirkwall at the end of July and deeply enriched our understanding of the infallibility of the Universal House of Justice. Betty Reed spoke at a Public Meeting together with a local minister which gave an opportunity for valuable publicity. The minister, who was greatly opposed to the Faith, has since written an article in the local paper, "The Orcadian", condemning the Bahá'í Faith and

warning the Orcadians to "Beware of their false teachings". The direct result was that the next day, instead of the usual one or two contacts attending our fireside, nine came. We eagerly await other developments from this first attempt at opposing the Faith in Orkney.

Four of the youth from Oxford came up to camp in the island and during their stay whitewashed and painted the Bahá'í Centre, which has greatly helped our teaching work as it is in a strategic position in the town and is a constant reminder to the islanders of the Faith. A young Bahá'í from Norway, on holiday with her sister, was amazed to find not only a Bahá'í Centre in such a remote corner of the world, but to see it alive with Bahá'ís painting, cleaning, making coffee and handing out leaflets. A number of visitors from the rest of Britain have, through seeing the Centre, enquired further about the Faith and we pray have contacted the Friends in their home towns on their return.

An interesting development has been an invitation from the Warden of the Community Centre for a Bahá'í to be represented at a meeting to discuss a programme for a "Sunday Night Club" for the young people of the island. On the suggested programme is listed "Comparative Religion".

Stromness, the only other town in Orkney, apart from Kirkwall, is gradually being opened to the Faith. Field work has already been done there and monthly meetings have now been arranged. Two of the Friends from Kirkwall are shortly moving there to live which will form a firm foundation for future development.

A note on which to end—if anyone thinks it is a long, long way up to the islands, two of the Friends left Knightsbridge at 6 p.m. one Sunday evening and reached Thurso (a mere 2½ hour boat journey from Orkney) at 10.30 a.m. on the Monday morning. And Stornoway (island goal for this year) is even closer

SOUTHPORT

We had been asking ourselves for some time, "What pocket of the Southport life has not yet had the chance of hearing the word Bahá'í," and at last decided to do something about the Homes for the Blind. It was as a result of this that Lou Turner and Margaret Shanks were blessed by a thrilling experience: hearing an old lady, blind since childhood, reading in a loud, fluent voice and with excellent understanding and expression, the first few verses of the Hidden Words, to a hushed room of smiling faces. "... see with thine own eyes and not with the eyes of others" had an added poignancy.

Southport L.S.A. had decided to present one of the Homes for the Blind in the town with a Braille copy of Hidden Words, together with the English copy for the Matron's personal use. The Matron was very friendly and sympathetic, and said how much it would be appreciated if some of us

could call in to chat with the residents, take them out, or arrange little talks. This particular Home has a number of residents, but also is used as a holiday centre for Blind people from other areas.

WINCHESTER

The One-Day School in Winchester on August 2nd was a success, with an attendance of over 70. We heard inspiring talks from Dorothy Ferraby, Betty Reed, and Ronald Bates, and in the morning session there was a very successful panel of 4 youth speakers, who each spoke for 20 minutes on various aspects of the Faith. Our thanks to all for their support on this occasion.

There is a Public Meeting in Winchester on the last Wednesday in every month, followed by a discussion group on the first Wednesday in each month. These meetings are all at the Winchester Centre, Parchment Street, at 8 p.m. and friends from other centres are always warmly welcomed. Reports of these meetings are printed regularly in the Hampshire Chronicle.

Recently, David Lewis was invited to address a meeting of the newly formed Winchester branch of the British Federation of University Women. His talk stimulated a certain amount of interest which we hope may yet deepen.

The Bahá'í Exhibition is to be held in the foyer of the Winchester Library during the first fortnight in November. We are most fortunate in securing this place for the exhibition, as, although not very large, it is a much frequented focal point—as well as being available to us free of charge. Any possible assistance in manning the exhibition would be most welcome.

IRISH GOALS COMMITTEE

The Committee is happy to share with you the news that a number of exciting projects have taken place in Cork. Florence, Beatrice and Mary Newman spent six weeks in that Goal Town where they made many friends and taught the Faith. A very successful Public Meeting was held during their stay there, attended by some 35 non-Bahá'ís. The Newman sisters played the tune of Alláh'u'Abhá on the bells of Shandon Church, which ring out over the city of Cork. The caretaker at the church was very interested and has subsequently met many Bahá'ís who have come to ring the bells; he now has a copy of the tune and has promised that he will ring it regularly.

A party of seven youth have also spent some time in Cork camping and seeking ways of teaching. Zebbie Whitehead has also stayed there and hopes to return at a later date. Zebbie writes that "The people in Cork seem particularly warm and kind" he reports meeting a number of people who showed great interest in the Faith.

Heather Moorfoot, Dorothy Behar from U.S.A. and John Bohlig have all spent time in this Goal Town during August. We feel confident that with all

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British Summer Schools

EIRE

The second Irish Summer School was held in the Hall School, Monkstown, Dun Laoghaire, from Saturday 5th July until Tuesday, 15th July.

During this most successful school upwards of 100 friends attended, indeed it seemed that an endless surge of Bahá'ís passed through the school, picking up the spirit as they paused. Day by day the spirit of 'one family' grew, enhanced by the presence of Hand of the Cause Jalal Khazéh once again. This immense unified spirit was so great that many were the signs that manifested it; one or two of the catering staff remarked, "We have never seen anything like it"; others described the spirit as so intense that "even the non-Bahá'ís wanted to pioneer". Further evidence was the lateness of the hour of retiring, which grew night by night until the end. At the finish no one wanted to leave.

If this is evidence of the spirit animating all the schools then we have

Continued from page five

this activity the teaching work in Cork will go forward with increased momentum.

We are happy to report that Ann Hooton has arrived from Morecambe to undertake a six weeks project in Limerick and that Albert Strachan will come to this town at the end of September for three months.

These projects are of invaluable assistance to the progress of the Faith in Ireland; as the nature of the teaching work here requires people who are able to spend some time in the Goal Towns and make friends gradually. We ask all Bahá'ís to please consider seriously whether they could give some time to come to Ireland and serve in this way in this important goal of the Nine Year Plan.

Ireland has had the great blessing of the Summer School held in the Goal Town of Dun Laoghaire, and attended by over 100 people. It was wonderful to welcome Hand of the Cause Mr. Jalal Khazéh there once again, and to have the bounty of his inspiration and spirit. We were most happy that Mr. Khazéh was able to visit Northern Ireland and meet the Bahá'ís there before going to Scotland.

Since our last news in the Journal we have had five declarations in Ireland. Four of these in the North, in Bangor, Londonderry and Belfast; and one in Dun Laoghaire in Southern Ireland.

Dr. Rustam Jamshidi has been able to move back to the Goal Town of Craigavon in Northern Ireland where he joins Barry Watson, to form a group.

We are sad to record the passing of Nessie Smith who had for so long served the Faith in Bangor. Nessie had been a Bahá'í for many years and will be remembered for her warmth, and willingness to assist those who needed her.

no doubt that here is the power of the Cause that will, in the words of the theme of the school, "Sweep away every obstacle from the onward march of the Cause of God".

The programme, although carefully planned months before, was frequently altered to mould with the requirements of the occasion, which made it all the more exciting. One did not really know what was going to happen, but when it did it was fabulous. The lectures on the central figures of the Faith were of high standard and were approached by some speakers from new angles. The idea of work-shops, now a firm favourite, was successfully pursued, inculcating participation by all. Other titles of talks were of very particular significance at this time and followed such paths as "The Vitality of man's belief in God is dying out in every land"; "Teach ye the Cause of God, heed not your own weaknesses and frailty"; and "Put your trust wholly in Him and be assured of ultimate victory".

Afternoons were free and people ventured into the countryside of Wicklow—"The Garden of Ireland", others made trips to the grave of George Townshend, Hand of the Cause, in Enniskerry, and on one day a coach-trip sallied forth to Glendalough, where we viewed the evidences of an Ireland of many centuries ago, in the time of Saints and Scholars, an Ireland which will live again in the Bahá'í Ireland of the future.

On another afternoon, 19 Bahá'ís through a link of Richard St. Barbe Baker, had afternoon tea with the owners of Powerscourt, one of the most beautiful of the stately homes and gardens in Ireland.

The evenings brought much fun and laughter, and much use of music was made. The youth with their boundless energy and enthusiasm held many dances, sing-songs and a barbecue.

Special mention must be made not only of the very well organised and successful children's classes but also of the late-night sessions on the history of the Faith which gave to us a most intimate picture of the early days of our Cause from a friend whose father attained the presence of Bahá'u'lláh.

Slides also brought those who had not yet visited the world Centre into closer contact with the hub of the Bahá'í world, while those who have had the bounty of pilgrimage were transported yet again on wings of spirit to those days of closeness to the Shrines.

Finally our thanks must go to the Universal House of Justice, for sending us Hand of the Cause, Jalal Khazéh, whose radiant humour and deep knowledge of the Cause inspired us constantly.

Copy of letter from the Universal House of Justice to the National Spiritual Assembly:—

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Would you please thank those who attended the Bahá'í summer school in

Ireland for the letter that they sent to us dated 17th of July. We were very happy indeed to hear of the success of the school and we have high hopes for the progress of the Cause throughout Ireland. Please assure the friends of our ardent prayers on their behalf in the Holy Shrines.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,
THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

DALSTON HALL

9th—16th AUGUST

Again Dalston Hall has had a successful Summer School. The spirit of love and unity, and enthusiastic participation helped to make the school a success.

Between 35 and 45 Bahá'ís, not including those who came for the day from nearby towns, attended the school which, this year, much to the disappointment of many, lasted for only one week. This was due to the number of other Summer Schools also being held this year.

The theme of the school was based on a verse from the Hidden Words—"O Son of Man wert thou to speed through the immensity of space and traverse the expanse of heaven, yet thou shouldst find no rest save in submission to Our command and humbleness before Our Face".

The mornings opened with a devotional before breakfast. Then the morning sessions followed with lively and invigorating talks and workshops, bringing out the importance of the laws, living the life accordingly and arising to teach the Faith. These were followed in the evening with a look into the major religions of the world. Finally, a youth panel, on behalf of the National Youth Committee, expressed how the youth can help to spread the Faith.

The social side of the school was not forgotten. Afternoons were free and trips to the lake district, and the beach at Silloth were arranged which were well supported and thoroughly enjoyed. Singing, dancing and table tennis tournaments followed evening sessions, and a concert arranged by the youth rounded off the school.

HARLECH

23RD AUGUST TO 4TH SEPTEMBER, 1969.

The theme of the Harlech Summer School, 'The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh is the sole refuge for a disintegrating and tottering civilization' was amply demonstrated throughout the precious and joyful twelve days when more than 130 friends of all ages and of several nationalities were gathered together as members of one united family. The School radiated the love and joyous fellowship which Bahá'u'lláh alone can bring, and we all thrilled to the reality of His Teaching, "ye are all the leaves of one tree and the fruits of one branch".

As the lectures were given and the theme was unfolded, there seemed a wonderful blending of thought and

UNDERSTANDING

Reprinted from

Bahá'í News, Oct. 1940.

O heedless ones Think not the secrets of hearts are hidden nay, know ye of a certainty that in clear characters they are engraved and stand manifest in the holy Presence. (*Hidden Words*.)

When do our children begin to have "secrets of the heart" which they believe are hidden? The new born babe brings his secret with him which even his parents cannot completely fathom. They feel, in his presence, as though they were before something sacred; something mysterious; something indescribably precious, a bit of heaven perhaps but this is not the kind of secret or secrets to which we refer. We mean, of course, conscious secrets. When does the child first hide from his parents some of his thoughts and his feelings? No one really knows. What we do know is that the type of child training that he has in the precious early years hastens or retards the desire for him to keep back his thoughts and feelings from others.

The young child is naturally frank and spontaneous. The amount of frankness and spontaneity will vary largely among individual children, but confidence and trust are characteristic of childhood. Gradually these qualities are modified; in some cases, alas, to be lost almost entirely while in other cases to become tempered with judgment.

The child who becomes secretive is

inspiration by the speakers. Our understanding was deepened, our knowledge extended and our hearts were profoundly moved. Gradually drawing nearer to the Blessed Beauty in spirit, we were irresistibly drawn ever closer to one another as the days sped by. Workshops were held and lively discussion took place, in which everyone eagerly participated.

Children's classes were held every morning, thanks to the devotion and sacrifice of two young Bahá'í teachers who undertook this vital work so freely and lovingly. It was a bounty to have three Auxiliary Board members with us during the School and to profit from their mature experience. We were also happy to have the members of the National Spiritual Assembly in session at Coleg Harlech during the middle week-end. It was an additional excitement when they launched the Goal of 200 new believers by Ridván and our joy overflowed when the very first of these souls made her declaration at the School.

There was an excellent attendance at all lectures and formal sessions, but we did not forget 'Abdu'l-Bahá's injunction to "Be happy be happy". There was much laughter and fun in all our light-hearted social activities which included a hilarious "Woddnickle" party, musical entertainment, slide-shows, the Play by Rúhiyyih Khanum, a Fancy-dress Party and Dancing.

usually one who has lost confidence in those about him. This may have been brought about through a number of channels. The child's serious remarks may have been laughed at too often; he may have been ridiculed; or given a sense of insecurity or of failure or of shame. Perhaps the largest single factor in producing an undesirable form of secretiveness in children is a sense of guilt. He has done something, perhaps quite natural to childhood, yet he has been taught that the thing is bad; so when, inspired by his natural instinct, he again commits the act (it may be as harmless a thing as playing in water) he has a sense of guilt. This then becomes a secret thing which he must not reveal. It becomes hidden.

The building up in a child of a sense of guilt is poor child psychology. Bahá'í parents know that 'Abdu'l-Bahá has taught that, "Everything in existence is good and only the lack of goodness makes a thing evil. The being is created good but when the lack of good is to be seen in it, then it becomes bad. Evil is not created by God." (*Bahá'í Scriptures*, par. 963.) Since evil is not created by God why should we give little children a sense of guilt or evil, especially when this does not act as a deterrent but leads only to a feeling of necessity for keeping secret his thoughts, words and deeds?

This does not mean, of course, that a child should be left to do whatever his fancy dictates regardless of results. It means simply that we shall emphasize

So many friends gave loving service towards making the School a success. The younger Bahá'ís gave generously of both time and effort to provide towards our entertainment. This included a bigger and better Barbecue on Harlech's beautiful beach. The usual sand-covered sausages were replaced this year by the roasting of a whole sheep, which was also sand-covered . . . but it was great fun.

The new College was beyond all expectations with regard to modern facilities. Every bedroom had its own wash-basin and on every floor there were two two bathrooms with showers, a kitchen, laundry rooms and ironing rooms, both the Dining room and the Common room were large and spacious, and the food was good. We had an excellent Chairman who steered us through all our activities with the utmost patience and love.

The moment of parting came all too soon, for it had been a feast of loving, of sharing and of learning to know one another at a deeper level. But there is always NEXT year . . . and meanwhile there is a whole world waiting to receive the Message which has been entrusted to us, and there are waiting souls for all of us to go and find. Our purpose is clear before us . . . we must 'Pray, Travel and Search' until we gather again in beautiful Wales for a further taste of His Kingdom. Alláh'u'Abhá.

right behaviour. Our efforts will be to encourage such attributes as justice, kindness, obedience, love for others and many other such characteristics. Thus the child will grow up free from any devastating sense of guilt but rather he will have a sense of satisfaction when he lives up to these ideals (according to his age and understanding of these ideals) and he will have correspondingly a sense of disappointment rather than guilt if and when he fails.

Those children who already have shadowy secrets which they think they are hiding completely and which for the sake of their own spiritual development, should not be kept hidden, need to be taught that: "whatsoever ye have concealed within your hearts is to Us open and manifest as the day." (*Hidden Words*.) This thought should never be used to frighten the child as has been done so often in past generations. The child needs to think of Bahá'u'lláh as one who is ever present like a kind and tender father, who gives to the child comfort and security. He should never conceive Him as a sort of Ghostly Guard spying upon the child at all times. Such were the thoughts of the small boy who after pilfering an apple, hid under the porch to eat it, where, as he said, "God can't find me".

Briefly then, with our young children the matter of hiding guilty thoughts or deeds is a question of training through sympathy and understanding by the adults so as to eliminate any real or imagined necessity for such secrecy. With older children it becomes necessary to give them instructions directly from the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, thus helping them to realize the uselessness of trying to hide that which is impossible to hide from Them. Rebuild the child's confidence and broaden his conception of goodness. Encourage him to learn by heart the following prayer and meditate thereon: "Hold Thou my right arm, O God and dwell continually with me. Guide me to the fountain of Thy knowledge, and encircle me with Thy glory. Set Thine angels on my right hand, and open mine eyes to Thy splendour. Let mine ears harken to Thy melodious tone, and comfort me with Thy Presence. For Thou art the strength of my heart and the trust of my soul and I desire none other beside Thee".

Submitted by

The Child Education Committee.

Late Night Calls

Friends wishing to telephone Betty Goode, Secretary of the English Goals Committee, or Kenneth Goode, Overseas Goals Committee, both Stafford 62157, are requested to ring not later than 10.15 p.m., unless it is concerning a matter of extreme urgency, needing immediate attention that same night. Cheap rate calls are welcome between 6.0 p.m.—10.15 p.m. and 7 a.m.—8 a.m. and it is felt, should fulfill all needs.

