

# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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## Things are Happening in Scotland!

The meetings of the Scottish Goals Committee now regularly begin with what you could almost call a dance of joy—there is such a feeling of excitement at what is happening in Scotland.

### Stornoway Bulletin

First, STORNOWAY—and good news. 19 people have managed to visit the Outer Hebrides so far this summer, and the pioneers there have been delighted to welcome them. Doreen and Roderick are now settling into their new jobs (despite initial difficulties) and they and Anneliese are enthusiastically making plans for teaching the Faith during the autumn and winter. At least 10 more friends are planning to visit Stornoway in the next few months, and we hope that many, many people are planning a trip there next Easter. Are you? Remember, Kirkwall had 100 visitors last year. One request, though—the Scottish Goals Committee specially asks all the Friends who are planning to visit Stornoway to let the Committee know in good time (write to Betty Shepherd, 42, Island Bank Road, Inverness) so that their visits can be co-ordinated as far as possible to provide a constant flow of travel-teachers, and their efforts put to the best possible use. The committee can then also offer prospective visitors its services in advising on the best methods of reaching Stornoway, and informing them of the special characteristics of the people living in the Outer Hebrides.

Two more young people are considering the possibility of pioneering to Stornoway. Jobs are limited, but some, labouring, for instance—are available. If you feel any desire to serve the Faith in these peaceful and important islands, please consider it prayerfully. Both the Pioneer Committee and the Scottish Goals Committee will be delighted to help you explore the possibilities.

P.S. At least two families are considering a combined caravan holiday in Stornoway next summer—interested?

### For Bahá'u'lláh's Birthday

The first IRANIAN FAMILY has arrived in Scotland, Mr. and Mrs. Shirinzadeh and their two daughters have come to DUMBARTON from Teheran, have bought a house, and are settling in to schools and Adult Education courses. Jan Gustke from America is working in Dumbarton, and with the Davidsons

and the Foxes, Dumbarton now has 7 adult Bahá'ís—with lots of interested contacts as well.

The second Iranian family, the Tahsibs from Leamington Spa, will be moving into GLASGOW this month. They, and the Ramsroops, who have moved from Motherwell, will firmly re-establish the lapsed Assembly of Glasgow, so already this project is bearing wonderful fruit.

### Dundee

Two friends from the Goal town of DUNDEE consulted with the Southern Panel of the Scottish Goals Committee at their recent meeting, and an exciting plan was drawn up for future activities in Dundee. The Fothergills are already well established in the town, with a reputation for dentistry, cricket and hospitality—both to visiting Bahá'ís, of whom there has been an impressive stream, and to local contacts. The cricketing season being over, Peter is joining a keep-fit class. There are now four students at Dundee—Carol Moorhouse, Ronnie Taherzadeh, Catherine Villiers-Stuart and Mahsoud Tahsib, and they plan to take the University and Technical College by storm. Watch out for startling developments in Dundee—or better still, go and see for yourselves.

### Teaching through Prayer

Inverness is now extension-teaching in DINGWALL, the new Goal Town, where Mel Harding is based. They are initiating a method of teaching which the Scottish Goals Committee feels has enormous potential: they are hiring a suitable hotel room once a month in Dingwall and holding a really well-planned devotional there, to pray for the town. It will be advertised in the local paper and non-Bahá'ís will be most welcome, but the primary aim will be one of prayer and supplication for Dingwall and its inhabitants. The Scottish Goals Committee is asking the other L.S.A.'s of Scotland to try to arrange similar devotionals in their nearby Goal Towns, and feels that other communities may like to take this idea up as well.

### More Islands

KIRKWALL is continuing its wonderful teaching work, extending its activities to Stromness, and they and the LERWICK (Shetland) Bahá'ís are exchanging visits as often as they are able.

Jeremy and Denise Fox on MULL are also making the Faith known.

### Hamilton and North Berwick

Back to the south—and HAMILTON, aided by Motherwell, and NORTH BERWICK (now, with Dingwall, the Goal Towns most in need of pioneers) are working steadily and valiantly in the face of many difficulties. The Southern Panel of the Scottish Goals Committee hopes to consult with Bahá'ís from these towns during the PERTH WEEKEND CONFERENCE to be held in Perth on Saturday—Sunday, 25—26th October. This should be a most exciting weekend, giving the Scottish Community a chance to meet its new pioneers as well as friends travelling up from England. The Scottish Goals Committee is launching an entirely new type of programme at this Conference, so look out for the report in the next Journal.

### September Spearhead

One major part of the Scottish Teaching programme for this year has already been most triumphantly completed. Richard St. Barbe Baker made a highly successful tour of Scotland, speaking to a wide variety of audiences, from scholars to school-children, in Glasgow, Mull, Stornoway, Inverness, Dundee and Edinburgh, and holding Firesides, visiting Bahá'ís and non-Bahá'ís, many of them very influential, in numerous other places en route. This tour has stirred up considerable interest in, and friendship and publicity for, the Faith all round Scotland, and will provide contacts for many firesides in the months to come.

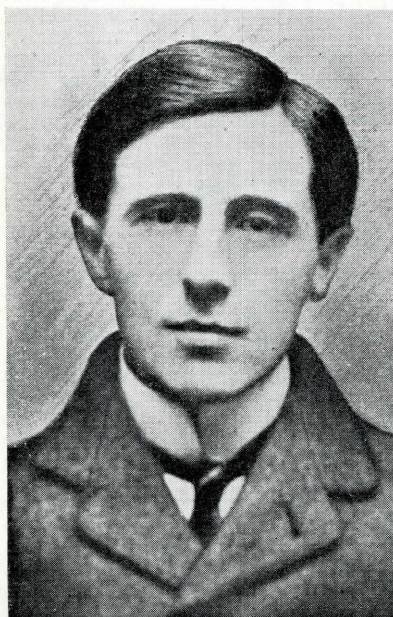
### Pray, Pray, Pray

You will see now why the meetings of the Scottish Goals Committee are so joyous. Things really ARE happening in Scotland. There is still plenty to do, and a lot more help is needed. There have not, for instance, been any more declarations lately and we still need 6 to complete our target of "9 new believers for Bahá'u'lláh's birthday"; but there is movement and activity on quite a new scale, and we are sure that all this effort and enthusiasm will bear fruit in abundance in the coming months. Please PRAY, TRAVEL AND SEARCH with us in Scotland if you possibly can, and if you can't travel here yourself, PRAY PRAY, PRAY. The souls are here waiting; please help us to find them.



# A PRECIOUS GIFT

by A. Q. Faizi



THOMAS BREAKWELL

God in his inscrutable wisdom desired that the Sign of God on earth be entrusted to the soil of England and by doing so He made it sacred and the Treasure House of His souvenirs. One must follow His example and each one of us offer our share to make the spiritual soil more fertile and the trees more fruitful.

I personally have great admiration and hope for the youth in these Islands. In their faces, I see the signs of the Empire builders of old; consecrating their lives for the beloved Faith, they can definitely conquer many lands in the name of Bahá'u'lláh. Whenever I visit England, I send an article to the Editors of the Bahá'í Journal who, out of their love, publish the same and thus they convey my love, prayers and aspirations to all the friends, specially to those whom I have not had the honour to meet.

This time, I have a precious gift for them. It is about the first English believer, Thomas Breakwell. One part of his dear and sacred life which is not yet known to many of the friends is his deep spiritual ties with our beloved Master.

In the History of the Cause we come across the life-stories of many believers who have had tender and inexplicable spiritual relations with Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, but none is so touching and so unusual.

There are some who in the realm of love attain such an exalted height that they find words and expressions void of power. At such moments the tongue

does not utter a word, but thousands of thoughts and feelings are mysteriously transmuted. When the lovers receive such soul-stirring messages, the whole world will find them in an ecstasy beyond words to describe. Though in pain and suffering they swim in oceans of ease and joy because they abide under the glances of the merciful.

Today such deep spiritual intoxications are for those dauntless pioneers who alone uphold the standard of the Faith and hold it fast and firm against all the gales and tempests of tests and trials.

In the days when 'Abdu'l-Bahá was incarcerated in the city of 'Akká, he called a very respected Persian physician to settle there and serve as His secretary. This famous Persian physician by the name of Dr. Youness Afroukhteh remained in His presence for about nine years. At the request of the beloved Guardian, this well known Bahá'í wrote his recollections of those memorable nine years in 'Akká. The following is taken from these memoirs and I offer it as a token of my ever-expanding love to all the beloved friends of the British Isles and hope to see as many of them as possible if not in England, in the Islands of the Pacific, in the distant countries of Africa or some of the other remote goals specified for them in the Nine Year Plan.

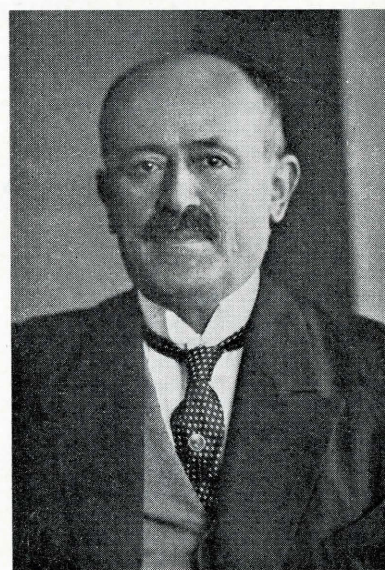
*The Extract referring to Thomas Breakwell, from Dr. Afroukhteh's Memoirs:—*

"Though the period of his pilgrimage was not of long duration, his ardour, enthusiasm and longing increased day by day. He attained such a degree of love that a mere contact with him would be conducive to an intensive feeling which changed hearts.

When he was in the presence of the Master, or anywhere near the sight of that incomparable Beauty, he was transported out of this world.

When the fatal moment arrived and he had to bid farewell to his Beloved, he manifested great gestures of love and visible behaviours of enthrallment. The beloved Master was absolutely silent on that day and said no words to him except at the moment of departure when He conveyed the following instructions: 'Remain always in Paris'.

I had my instructions from 'Abdu'l-Bahá to see him off in Haifa; therefore I accompanied him from 'Akká to Haifa where we resided in a friend's house, waiting for the departure of the steamer. We gathered in a room from the doors of which 'Akká could be seen. Every now and then he would stand up to face the City of the Beloved. Every time he faced 'Akká he whispered some words while tears flowed down his cheeks. All the friends present were touched to the depths of their souls and hearts. We were there for two hours after which we made for the steamer. Before going



DR. YOUNESS AFROUKHTEH

on board the ship, he asked me if he could have correspondence with me. He emphasised the fact that to receive answers to his brief notes would bring to him the fragrances of the illumined city of 'Akká. When he was saying goodbye to the friends, all were in tears.

The first letter I received from him was very brief. In it he expressed love and faithfulness to the Master and asked the following question: 'The Beloved instructed me to stay in Paris. Now I am in Paris and studying, but I would like to know, should there happen events of illness or death of one of my parents, would I be allowed to go to London for two or three days to see to the affairs mentioned above?' But immediately after that he writes: 'It is not necessary to trouble Him with the above question, because Jesus has already answered this enquiry—Let the dead bury the dead. Therefore do not mention this to Him, but whenever you are in His presence, remember me in your heart. This will be the source of my enchantment in this world and the world to come.'

In a very opportune moment I explained the contents of the above letter to His Holy presence. The Master smilingly answered: 'Write to him, today the living ones must bury the dead.'

Two weeks passed and I had another communication from him. This one was also brief, but I found its perusal not only touching, but also soul burning and heart melting. In this letter he thanks me for the letters I had written to him and says, 'Now every-

*continued on page three*



Continued from page two

thing is clear to me, but I still supplicate for sufferings. I desire none but an irremediable pain. My longing is to be constantly in pain. I desire to burn and melt and not to have ease and comfort—even for a single moment—so that I will never cease mentioning Him.’

One day as the beloved Master was walking, I presented the above supplication to Him. The beloved did not utter a word in answer.

Two weeks again passed and I received another letter from him. In it he says: ‘My parents are forcing me to go to London and I tell them that His blessed instruction to me is that I should stay in Paris. Alas My parents are old and have not yet recognised this Supreme Cause of God. I hope to be able to teach them. I long to reach this exalted aim. But where will I be if you do not remember me in His Holy Presence?’

When I had a suitable moment I offered Him the translation of the above letter to which He briefly said: ‘Say to him that he will be confirmed to teach’.

In the letter which was sent to me two weeks after that he says: ‘My parents came to Paris and their intention was to take me back with them to London. Meanwhile I taught my father. His letter of supplication is enclosed. My mother is very kind. I desire nothing but suffering even torture so that I can be nearer to my God. Had I been a Persian, I would have longed for martyrdom. Pray for me. I will never abandon Paris.’

The beloved Master received the translation of the two letters sent by father and son, but he did not even utter a word of instruction.

After some days, He gave me a Tablet which he had revealed in the honour of the father, but nothing to the son.

Within two weeks, I had my regular mail from him, but a very strange letter. It was both strange and extremely perturbing. He says: ‘I am bed-ridden in the tuberculosis Hospital, convulsed with fever and burnt with the fire of love. Now I am happy. Supplicate the Lord that he will not grudge me more pain.’

After receiving the translation of this letter, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá resumed His silence and this continued for a long time.

Now each two weeks I used to receive his letters which were written on green pieces of paper and each letter of two or three pages. Some were very concise in which he asked me to convey his regards and deep love to the Master. I made a collection of them and whenever I read selections of them to groups of friends they were invariably changed and deeply touched.

Whenever the Master would not utter even a word about the letters He had, I would know that the mysterious relationship of the Beloved and the one who adored Him was so delicate and yet strong that words were never worthy, sufficient and enough to contain them.

In the next letter he said: ‘I am intoxicated with the wine of suffering and

ready to attain the greatest of all bounties. The pain is so severe and the sufferings are so numerous that I feel much closer to my Beloved. If I longed for longer life, it would be because I desire to receive more pain... But no... The only thing I ever desire is His pleasure and contentment. Remember me in His presence.’

Two weeks passed and I received no news from him. Days passed and still no news. One day when the Master was walking towards His House, and I was accompanying Him, He suddenly turned to me and said, ‘Have you got the news?’ to which I replied ‘No’. He then said ‘Breakwell passed away. I became so sad that I wrote a long visitation prayer and I wrote it with such an intense feeling that twice I wept while writing it’.

I was bewildered. Who gave Him the news? if anyone had written or cabled from Europe in English or French, the communication would definitely have come to me for translation. Who then informed Him? It remained a mystery to me.

One year passed during which we had not had news from his parents. Then one day the Master summoned me to His presence where there were many letters for translation. As He was glancing through the envelopes, all of a sudden, He singled out one and said, ‘What a pleasant fragrance emanates from this envelope. Open this letter quickly and see where it is from. Be quick.’

As I was well experienced in these mysterious loving relations and had seen many times that he had preferred some letters because of their spiritual contents, I quickly opened the envelope. It contained a postcard and a letter. The postcard was of a very beautiful colour. Fixed onto it was a pansy flower. Under it, in golden ink, was inscribed, ‘He is not dead. He is alive in the Kingdom of Abhá’. At the bottom in usual ink was written, ‘This flower is from the grave of Breakwell.’

The enclosed letter said: ‘Praise be to the Lord that my son left this world for the next with the recognition and love of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.’

No sooner were the contents of the letter translated than the Master sprang up from His seat, took the postcard and put it on His forehead while tears flowed down His cheeks.”

## WELSH WEEKEND SCHOOL

December 6th and 7th, 1969  
(2.0 p.m. Saturday to 4.30 p.m. Sunday)

The W.G.C. is organising the School which will be held at:

Coleg y Fro,  
Rhoose, Near Cardiff.

For full details of the School and booking arrangements write to:

Mrs. Nora Maude,  
Talley, Penglais Road,  
Aberystwyth, Cards.

Accommodation will only be available for those who have made the proper booking arrangements in advance.

## Teaching Conference

JANUARY 3rd/4th, 1970

The City of Birmingham, conveniently placed for both the M.1 and M.6 Motorways, and all main-line trains, has been chosen to be the venue for Teaching Conference, this year, and the committee are making every effort to ensure the comfort and convenience of the friends, so that as many as possible will make the effort to attend, and make it the best Teaching Conference ever. It will be held in:

**The Midland Hotel,  
New Street, Birmingham, 2.**  
(Tel: 021-643 2601)

This is a First Class hotel (most rooms have private bathrooms) in the centre of the city, a few minutes walk from New Street Station, where all those coming by train will arrive, and where we are assured, that by January, there will be ample car-parking space for those coming by road.

Negotiations have been taking place with the hotel manager, who seems sympathetic towards the Faith, in an effort to fix an overall price for the Conference as last year, but this has not proved possible; however, because so many friends found it convenient, and a happy experience to “live together” under one roof for the whole of Teaching Conference, and in an effort to foster friendship and love between Bahá’is from all places in the British Isles, which may in turn lead to an even greater urge to join in the “wave movement”, the committee has happily succeeded in obtaining a 50% reduction for the price for Bed and Breakfast at the above hotel, and which will now be 35/- + 12% (normally 70/- + 12%). Meals can be obtained in the Grill from 10/6 on Saturday, and if there is a sufficient demand, the Grill which is normally closed on Sundays, will be specially opened for us for a mid-day meal. (This brings the cost very close to that of last year at Blackpool, but a very much nicer hotel. Friends wishing to eat outside can of course do so, but will probably not find it much cheaper).

Full details about Teaching Conference, with information about Birmingham, maps, etc., will be sent out later, but we hope as many friends as possible will decide to come to Teaching Conference and stay at the Midland Hotel. We urge you to:—

1. **Book Now!**
2. **Write directly to:—The Manager,  
The Midland Hotel, New Street,  
Birmingham, 2.**
3. **Print in capitals the word “Baha’i” in the top left-hand corner of your letter, so that you will be eligible for the 5% reduction.**
4. **Start to Pray now for the success of Teaching Conference.**
5. **Think about ways of winning our Goals in the 9 Year Plan, and come with these ideas to share with all the friends!**

ENGLISH GOALS COMMITTEE.



# NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY'S NEWS LETTER

## 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTHDAY OF THE BÁB

When the British Community victoriously finished the Six Year Plan at Ridván 1950, the year of the Centenary of the Martyrdom of the Báb, the beloved Guardian sent us a cable which began, "HEART FLOODED (with) JOY (at the) STRIKING EVIDENCE (of the) GRACE (of) BAHÁ'U'LLAH ENABLING (the) VALOROUS DEARLY LOVED BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY (of the) BRITISH ISLES TRIUMPHANTLY (to) CONCLUDE (the) FIRST HISTORIC PLAN (in) HALF (a) CENTURY (of) BRITISH BAHÁ'Í HISTORY. (The) HERALD (the Báb), (the) AUTHOR (of the) FAITH (Bahá'u'lláh), (the) CENTRE (of the) COVENANT ('Abdu'l-Bahá, and the) CONCOURSE ON HIGH ACCLAIM (this) SUPERB COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENT . . .". We were all astonished to feel such a close and direct link with the Central Figures of the Faith, that They had inspired our efforts we knew but that the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, as well as the Supreme Concourse actually acclaimed the victory, that astonished us.

We thought of it all again on October 20th, when the 150th Anniversary of the Birthday of the Báb was joyously celebrated throughout the length and breadth of the British Isles, and that Holy Day was also commemorated by the British Community as a National Day of Prayer for the winning of the 9 Year Plan Goals throughout the world, and especially for the success of the "200 New Believers" project and the development of the British Home Front, for all our work at home and overseas depends on expansion on the Home Front. That Day of Prayer brought us close once again to His Holiness the Báb and it linked together all our work in Northern Ireland, Eire, Scotland, England, Wales, the Islands round about our coasts, as well as the work of the pioneers and all our sister Communities overseas.

## "PRAY, TRAVEL AND SEARCH" in the "WAVE MOVEMENT" to ensure the success of the "200 NEW BELIEVERS PROJECT"

At the moment this News Letter is being written, the total number of new believers in the "200 New Believers" Project is seventeen. This means that we must all intensify our efforts, continue our search with renewed dedication and be more audacious in seeking those waiting souls. To help in this, the National Assembly shares with you again some of the words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá as He was leaving the United States in 1912/13; He said, "I say unto you that anyone who will rise up in the Cause of God at this time shall be filled with the spirit of God, and that He will send His hosts from heaven to help you, and that nothing shall be impossible to you if you have faith. And now I give you a commandment which shall be for a Covenant

*between you and me: that ye have faith that your faith be steadfast as a rock that no storms can move, that nothing can disturb, and that it endure through all things even to the end . . . for I am with you always, whether living or dead. I am with you to the end. As ye have faith so shall your powers and blessings be. This is the standard—this is the standard—this is the standard*".

And here is a prayer attributed to 'Abdu'l-Bahá which has just come to our notice and we share this with you too as it is particularly appropriate for our "PRAY, TRAVEL AND SEARCH" campaign, the first words are an invocation to be said at times of great urgency: "O Mustagath! O Lord! Open thou the door, provide the means, prepare the way, make safe the path, that we may be guided to those souls whose hearts Thou hast prepared for Thy Cause, and that they may be guided unto us". Remember, "Nothing shall be impossible to you if you have faith".

**DECLARATIONS.** We are delighted to welcome to the Faith, Miss Gloria Pilbeam of Ipswich; Mr. Stephen Lambden and Mr. Robert Parry (both Youth) of Reading; Miss Veronica Bearman, Redbridge; Mr. Martin McGarry, Lisburn R.D., Northern Ireland; Miss Ellen Shields, Carrickfergus; Mr. Graham Klyne (Youth), Nitor Undercliff, Isle of Wight; Mr. Anthony Lyon, Ellesmere Port; Miss Ellen Thomas, East Ruimveldt, Mr. Edwige and Mrs. Beryl Stephens, Eccleston Gardens, Miss Sheila Crossman, Mr. Allan Barker, Mr. Edward Fungkhee and Mrs. Enid Swaving of Ituni, Guyana; as well as the following Youth who have claimed voting rights, Miss Heather Magowan of Londonderry and Miss Dorothy Lumsden of Durham.

## SALES COMMITTEE

The N.S.A. announces the transfer of the Sales Committee from Leicester to Brighton, and the Bahá'í now to write to about Sales Committee material and to whom orders for that material should be sent is Mr. John Reeve, 44 Highbank, Brighton. The Sales Committee deals with all orders for post cards, pictures of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, ring stones, cards with the Healing Prayer, pictures of the Temples and, most important, the Greatest Name cards. Orders for this sort of material should therefore be sent to the Sales Committee and not to the Publishing Trust.

## KEEPING THE BAHÁ'Í MARRIAGE LAWS

Bahá'í marriage requirements are clearly set out on page 13 of "Principles of Bahá'í Administration", and it is important that every Bahá'í thinking of marrying reads those passages and carries out all the necessary steps. The consent of all living parents must be obtained well in advance of the date of

the proposed wedding. If the whereabouts of any parent are not known, strenuous efforts must be made to trace that parent; anyone in such a position should consult the National Assembly and find out what to do to set about this. It may take some time to trace a missing parent, so it is inadvisable to fix a date for the wedding until the necessary steps have been taken. All this applies whether the parents are Bahá'ís or not, and whether the marriage partner is a Bahá'í or not.

As the Bahá'í marriage is not legally recognised in this country, there must be a legally recognised ceremony before the Bahá'í marriage ceremony, but both must be on the same day.

Where there is a Local Spiritual Assembly that L.S.A. is responsible for the conduct of Bahá'í marriages within its area of jurisdiction. Where there is no Local Assembly, the National Assembly must be consulted. Please be sure to consult the L.S.A. or the N.S.A. well ahead of time, so that everything is well planned and you do not run into any difficulties at the last moment.

Failure to carry out the Bahá'í marriage requirements can lead to the loss of one's voting rights, which is a very serious thing. There are two important paragraphs on pages 84 and 86 of "Principles of Bahá'í Administration" which explain fully what it means to be deprived of voting rights: one cannot attend a Nineteen Day Feast, nor serve on a Local or National Spiritual Assembly, nor act officially as a Bahá'í speaker or teacher, nor take any part in the administrative affairs of the Faith, nor contribute to any Bahá'í Fund, nor make the pilgrimage as a Bahá'í in good standing, or take part in any other Bahá'í activity that requires one to be a Bahá'í in good standing.

## "I AM A BAHÁ'Í" (Classes for Children at Teaching Conference—3/4th January, 1970—Birmingham).

The Child Education Committee are looking for ten Bahá'í friends to conduct half hour sessions for children at Teaching Conference. The theme of the sessions will be "I am a Bahá'í". Please let us know in good time if you are able to help us so that we can give you the subject, age group for which it is intended, and the time table.

We are also looking for persons who will be willing to give half-an-hour of their time during Teaching Conference to organise and conduct recreational activities of a Bahá'í nature.

"He who educates his son, or any other's children, it is as though he hath educated one of My children".

Bahá'u'lláh.

Kindly direct replies to these appeals to:—Mr. Peter Moore, 19 South Primrose Hill, Chelmsford, Essex.

CHILD EDUCATION COMMITTEE.



## From the Universal House of Justice

To: National Spiritual Assemblies

10th July, 1969.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

With great joy we announce that we have decided to increase the total number of members of the Continental Boards of Counsellors for the Protection and Propagation of the Faith to thirty-eight by adding John McHenry III to the Continental Board of Counsellors in North East Asia and Mas'ud Khamsi to the Continental Board of Counsellors in South America, raising the number of Counsellors on each Board to three and four, respectively.

We also rejoice to announce the appointment of Mrs. Shirin Boman to the Continental Board of Counsellors of Western Asia to fill a vacancy on that Board.

The devoted efforts of all eleven Continental Boards of Counsellors during the first year of their service to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh have been most exemplary and praiseworthy. We are deeply grateful for the loyalty, steadfastness and devotion which have characterized the activities of all members in reinforcing the vitally important work of the Hands of the Cause of God.

Please share these glad tidings with the friends.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

The following are answers received to questions asked concerning the keeping of the Fast in relation to sunrise and sun-set, and the time to celebrate the 19 Day Feast.

To: National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles

8th August, 1969

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

... It is true that Bahá'u'lláh has ordained in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas that in the high latitudes where the duration of days and nights varies considerably clocks should be relied upon rather than the rising and setting of the sun. However, we feel that Dublin is too far south for the application of this law. You should thus judge the end of each day by the actual sunset.

The Nineteen Day Feast should be held, preferably, on the first day of the Bahá'í month, that is to say the Bahá'í day, beginning at sunset. If this is not possible for some good reason, for example that it clashes with the regular day for a public meeting, then it may be held later, but it must fall within that same Bahá'í month and should be on the nearest possible date.

The hour of noon should, of course, be observed in accordance with the position of the sun, not in accordance with local time-standards. The short obligatory prayer may be said at any time between noon and sunset.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

To: All National Spiritual Assemblies

11th August, 1969

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

In the brief space of time following the announcement of the formation of six new National Spiritual Assemblies in Africa next Ridván, the succession of victories, resulting from the prodigious efforts exerted by the devoted friends, impels us to announce that a seventh National Spiritual Assembly will be formed in Africa at Ridván, 1970. The new National Spiritual Assembly including Congo (Brazzaville), Chad, Central African Republic and Gabon, will have its seat in Bangui. This will leave Uganda with its own separate National Spiritual Assembly.

Please share this joyous news with the believers. We know the friends throughout the world join us in our supplications for the continued, uninterrupted prosecution and speedy fulfillment of the goals, terminating in the ultimate triumph of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

To: National Spiritual Assemblies

14th September, 1969

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Bahá'í Pilgrimage.

A number of points seem to need clarification with regard to pilgrimage, and specifically with the new arrangements. Will you therefore advise the friends under your jurisdiction of the following:—

1. It is essential for all friends who have made application for pilgrimage to keep the World Centre advised of any change of address. Unless this is done invitations to pilgrimage may not reach some of the friends in time for them to come.
2. A number of believers are still proposing to take advantage of their pilgrimages to visit Arab countries. This, in some circumstances, can be impossible and in any case is highly inadvisable and the friends are asked to exercise restraint in this matter and not to plan journeys through these countries.
3. The new role of the Pilgrim House as a meeting place, registration centre and library renders it impossible of use as a guest house and the friends are now asked to make arrangements and pay for their own food and lodging. It must be made clear that the World Centre cannot undertake responsibility for any of these arrangements, neither should Bahá'ís serving at the World Centre be asked to do so. The heavy tourist trade in Israel makes it very important to have firm bookings for both travel and lodging, as last minute accommodation and return travel may be extremely difficult, or even impossible, to obtain.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

## The Tablet of Purity

For many years the Friends have been reading the Tablet of Purity, which is on pp. 333-336 of "Bahá'í World Faith", and in it you will remember 'Abdu'l-Bahá's reference to smoking. He says, after referring to things which are absolutely forbidden by Bahá'u'lláh, "There are other forbidden things which do not cause an immediate evil and of which the pernicious effect is only gradually produced. They are also abhorred, blamed and rejected by God, but their prohibition is not recorded in an absolute way, although cleanliness and sanctity, spotlessness and purity, the preservation of health and independence are required by these interdictions. One of these last prohibitions is the smoking of tobacco, which is unclean, malodorous, disagreeable and vulgar and of which the gradual harmfulness is universally recognised. All clever physicians have judged, and have also shown by experiment, that one of the constituents of tobacco is a mortal poison and that smokers are exposed to different indispositions and maladies. That is why cleanly people have a marked aversion for its use . . . I wish to say that, in the sight of God, the smoking of tobacco is a thing which is blamed and condemned, very unclean, and of which the result is by degrees injurious. Besides it is a cause of expense and of loss of time and it is a harmful habit. So, for those who are firm in the Covenant, it is a thing reprobated by reason and by tradition, the renouncement of which giveth gradual repose and tranquility, permitteth one to have stainless hands and a clean mouth, and hair which is not pervaded by a bad odour . . .".

The National Assembly draws the attention of everyone to the Tablet of Purity, and asks everyone to refrain from smoking in Assembly meetings, throughout the whole of the three parts of the 19 Day Feasts, in Holy Day commemorations and other meetings of a devotional character.

## YORK WINTER SCHOOL

This school will be held in the Haverford Youth Hostel, Water End, Clifton, York, from 29th December, 1969 (arriving on evening of 28th) to Friday, 2nd January, 1970.

The theme of the school is "Devotion to the progress of the Faith of God", and the talks include such topics as "Station of a Manifestation of God", "Proclamation of the Cause of God", and "Dynamics of Prayer".

The cost of the school is 19/- per day, full board.

Those interested please write to David Jenkerson, 96 Bulan Road, Oxford, OX3 7HX, stating their name, address, age, sex and the date of arrival and departure, together with £1 deposit per person. Please book early.



# News from the Communities

## DURHAM

### A Report on the Teaching Week

We called the week simply "Bahá'í August 16th—23rd", trying to be as brief as possible and fix the dates in people's minds. But, sadly, one speaker still turned up on the 12th.

Our programme was photolithographed from our own master made with Letraset and an IBM typewriter, and 1,000 copies were printed.

We had a shop in a central position which we used to display the Newcastle exhibition and a selection of books and pamphlets. It was manned from 10.30 to 6.00 in two-hour stretches, usually by an adult and a child.

The visiting helpers stayed in one of the Bahá'í homes. There were fifteen of us here most of the time. We had study sessions in the mornings and vast communal meals round a large table.

The meetings were quite varied. The youth evening in the spacious kitchen at 48 Western Hill was packed to the doors and quite lively. Shomais Afnan's talk in the Institute of Education was relaxed. Betty Reed's public meeting in the town hall was particularly successful. At the reception on the first evening the mayor showed the guests round the town hall; there was a sort of Toytown atmosphere that is apparently the nearest the Durham Bahá'is can get to formality.

We had a policy of asking helpers to come for just a few days if they couldn't manage the whole week. This was fine as far as it went, but we wish now that we had asked for people who would stay for the latter part of the week if they possibly could, even if they couldn't come at the beginning. As it was, some of the community spirit tailed off towards the end and we never really had a chance to review what we had done.

We certainly gained some experience of running a teaching week which we are passing on to the Goals Committee. We did a lot of research for the reception guest list. We have got quite a file on the arrangements for visiting helpers to come and stay. There were rooms to book, speakers to arrange, food to prepare, programmes and invitations to distribute.

We had two good radio interviews and some reasonable coverage in the local press, though we hoped for more.

We had financial help from the Goals Committee and the Newcastle Assembly. This helped to pay the cost of the week (about £50).

Our experience shows that it is possible for a group of people, including families with young children, to come together to share a communal life and do a job of work at the same time. Your work force then consists of all the adults not occupied in looking after babies plus

all the children old enough to help. Any family who can contribute at least one person in either category is therefore an asset, provided there is room and that the proportion of children is not higher than about one for each available adult. It also shows that it is possible, with planning, to feed fifteen or sixteen people out of one ordinary kitchen. Note however that the house itself must not be too crowded—it would be no good, say, trying to have a study session at 9 o'clock in the room where people had been eating breakfast. We had two boys in a tent on the lawn and a family in a caravan at the back. This idea of caravans has possibilities for communities without a large house—possibly you could hire or borrow some to park outside and then quite a small house would do. If you don't have a large dining room try segregating children and adults—we did this for some meals and it worked well.

Here are some other things we did which haven't been mentioned; a panel discussion for church members with a non-Bahá'í chairman; books in local bookshops; firesides; a "Feast of Names" party; coffee mornings for mothers and children; a one-day school.

## NEWPORT

On September 13th, the Newport Group launched a week of concentrated activities for the purpose of teaching the faith to the public in that Goal Town.

For weeks before, the group had been preparing for the event, by having hoardings around the town, posters in the shop windows, and small adverts in the local paper. Individual invitations had been sent out to many people including some civic dignitaries, for the first meeting on Saturday night. In the afternoon the youth distributed hundreds of programmes and pamphlets to the public on the streets.

The first meeting was held at the Queen's Hotel where Mrs. Betty Reed gave an excellent introductory talk which was followed by a devotional programme interspersed with music. About ten non-Bahá'is attended this meeting but the room was filled with the Bahá'í friends who had come from Bath, Chippenham, Weston-Super-Mare, Salisbury, Cardiff, Pontypridd and Swansea.

The programme for the rest of the week included a talk by Mrs. Gloria Faizi, a slide show and a youth panel consisting of a Christian, a Jew, a Moslem, a Bahá'í and a Humanist.

The week ended with a social evening at which the South Wales youth performed an entertaining programme of Bahá'í and Persian songs. An amusing group called "The Dublin", played some Irish tunes, and some enchanting music was provided by an Indian friend, with his fascinating instrument. The evening was compered

by Earl Cameron whom the friends had the pleasure of inviting from London.

Throughout the week the National Exhibition was on display at the "Little Theatre" in the centre of the Town. Thanks to the strenuous efforts of Stephen Jenkerson and some other Oxford youths who brought the Exhibition from Burnley and returned it. Also thanks to the wonderful work of the friends from Bangor, Salisbury, Sutton Coldfield, Hereford, Cardiff and Pontypridd who helped to man the Exhibition.

## SWINTON

Firesides are held on the second Monday in each month, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Hirst, 207 Manchester Road, Swinton, at 8 p.m.

Dr. Taeed spoke on Monday, 13th October, giving us a warm and intimate picture of Shoghi Effendi which we all enjoyed very much. 18 people attended.

Mr. Gordon Grant of Manchester and Mrs. Lou Turner from Southport are our speakers for November and December respectively.

On 29th October a joint meeting with the United Nations Association has been arranged in the Swinton Town Hall. Philip Hainsworth of Leeds will be in the chair.

Mr Ernest Gregory was a welcome guest at a special meeting arranged for him in October.

Mr. & Mrs. Worsley arranged a devotional programme, with music for the Birthday of the Báb at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Hirst, 207 Manchester Road.

All commemoration meetings and 19 day feasts have a 100% attendance in Swinton and are looked forward to with great enthusiasm as being occasions of great joy and radiance.

We are sorry that Dr. Bob Hallam has had to leave Swinton, but we wish him great success in his new post at Bradford University.

We are pleased that Angela Anderson has been able to join us recently as she is now residing in the nearby town of Bolton.

## WATFORD

The "New Age" exhibition was staged in Watford over the period 3rd to 10th October. The exhibition was officially opened by Mr. Earl Cameron and some press publicity was obtained as a result. On Saturday, 4th October a public meeting was held in which the platform was shared between Mr. David Lewis, Auxiliary Board Member and Rev. C. Evans a well known local Newspaper Columnist and president of Watford branch of Council of Churches. The previous evening, Rev. Evans, through the medium of his newspaper column, had given the exhibition, the public meeting and the Faith, wide publicity



## Watford—continued

and his speech was very sympathetic indeed.

On Sunday, 5th October Mrs. Gloria Faizi lectured to Watford friends at a One Day Seminar on the History of the Faith. It was a wonderful experience to hear Gloria talk and we hope to have her again to complete her talk on the ministries of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi.

In all, the exhibition, although not in a prominent place, attracted over 200 people most of whom took away leaflets and free books. Some showed a great deal of interest.

The main criticism of the exhibition was that the panels seemed at a cursory glance to lack continuity.

We wish the communities who are planning to stage this exhibition greater success.

## THE DAWNBREAKERS

*Below we print a report of the highly successful "Dawnbreakers" tour.*

*Taking part from the British Isles were Naysan Faizi, Mark Hofman, May Hofman, Barney Leith and John Jameson.*

Twenty-nine youth from Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, Holland,

Great Britain, United States and Canada took part in the first "Dawnbreakers Europe" project this summer. This was a new sort of teaching tour, during which the "Dawnbreakers" show, "A Plea for One World", was presented in fifteen different towns of Holland, Germany and Belgium.

We wanted to present the Faith in a way which would be immediately attractive, clear and easy to understand while at the same time the main issues of conflict in the world would stand out as problems to which we had the answer. It was to be a singing tour, the first time this had been tried in Europe, and of course there was a language problem. The use of a narrator was the obvious answer to this one; the action was done in mime, and the whole narrator's script could be translated without involving too many people. And we kept most of the songs in their original language (English) except the first, "A Plea for One World" from which the show took its name and theme, and the last "Toko Zani", where the original was in a language which nobody among us spoke anyway. The translations for the songs were in Dutch and German, so that by the end of the tour everyone seemed dazzlingly polyglot.

The theme was one of search, centred on a kind of "Everyman" character whom we called Mitty. Mitty looks at the world, experiences war, the humiliating aftermath of war conditions, famine, greed, hatred, prejudice, and finally despair and futility in a materialistic society where he is successful. But he has always been searching for some thing un-named, which is clarified as his desperation increases. The end of his search becomes apparent when he at last turns his attention to the "Night-gale of Paradise" which has been following him all along.

There were 29 of us taking part, and I think we would all agree that it was a wonderful and a difficult experience. During that month (July/August) together we came to know one another well, and experienced all kinds of things which would make a book full of anecdotes. Because we were a large group, there were often difficulties about accommodation, travelling, etc.—and we found a tight time schedule difficult to keep to, simply because a large group becomes unwieldy and you keep losing bits of it. But the good experiences more than offset the bad ones, and even the difficult times had a good effect, for by the end of the tour we were capable of dealing with problems, without batting an eyelid, which would have made us tremble if we'd had them earlier in the tour.

One of the best things was the warm and loving reception we were given by the Bahá'ís wherever we went. In some places the friends had really worked hard to make the show successful, and

*Continued on page eight*

### WIGAN

A public meeting, held on 11th October, was addressed by Dr. Derwent Maude from Aberystwyth and the Rev. R. Whitfield.

More than 60 people attended this most successful meeting.

We have been requested by Wigan Grammar School to give 3 talks about the Faith.

## THE FRENCH SUMMER SCHOOL AND CHILD EDUCATION



At one of the sessions of the wonderful 1969 French Summer School in Annecy, the question of child education was discussed. Mr. Giachery, Hand of the Cause, was present and he explained how we should be careful to differentiate between the mere acquisition of information and true education. He also had this to say about the way in which some Persian Bahá'í children learned of the Faith:

"As early as the first months, children are kept on adult laps during prayers in the morning and they hear the chanting every day. By the time they can speak, they themselves are able to chant the

prayers. This happened to Shoghi Effendi because he was always with the Master. The lack of schools was a blessing in disguise. The present tutoring system of education throughout the world is at best mediocre. Bahá'u'lláh has said that the important education is the education of the soul".

Teaching in schools to-day aims at feeding information into the minds of children. We must remember therefore that the education of our children's souls thus rests squarely on the shoulders of the Bahá'ís.

*From: English friends at French Summer School.*



Continued from page seven

it always paid off. There was a marvellous feeling of enthusiasm and unity in these places where we could work with the local Bahá'is for an end result. In Essen, for example, the Bahá'is had permission from the police for us to sing in the Kennedyplatz the day before our show. This was a large square, traffic free, in the middle of the town. The press came, and so we had good publicity in the local newspaper on the morning of the show. Also, the Bahá'is had painted their Ford Transit van orange, with "Bahá'í Singing Group — Dawnbreakers of Europe" on the side, with details of the show, and this they parked in the middle of the square. While we were singing, hundreds of leaflets were given out, and only two of these were left behind afterwards. Result—the biggest audience we had, about 360, only 30 of whom were Bahá'is. A hundred stayed afterwards to listen to an impromptu talk which started out of discussion, and people were there several hours after the show ended. This sort of thing was a great morale booster. Audiences were usually about 100—200, and the proportion of Bahá'is was usually not more than 50%, and more often 30—40%, except at the Summer Schools in Arnhem, Trier and Oteppe.

We are very grateful for the support of the National Spiritual Assemblies of Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, and of the Continental Pioneer Committee for Europe, as well as that of so many individuals who gave us their constant and loving support.

Now that we know that this method of proclamation can be used to good effect in Europe, plans are on the way for next year.

(Anyone interested should contact the Continental Pioneer Committee for Europe).

## NATIONAL EXHIBITION

Will the friends please note that the Secretary of the National Exhibition is now Miss Anne Eilso of 4 Marian Drive, Great Boughton, Chester and that all enquiries and correspondence should be addressed to her.

## National Youth Study Course 1969-70

Since our last report the plan for this course has been finalised, and as you know the first few of these week-ends have been held successfully. But just to refresh your memory here are the six centres chosen: Dublin, Peterborough, London, Manchester, Newport and Dundee.

All the L.S.A.'s and Groups have been sent a copy of the time table, so please contact your Assembly for further information. Isolated believers and anyone requiring a copy of their own, contact, Elizabeth Morley, 171 Alexandra Road, Peterborough.

# ROYAL EISTEDDFOD AT FLINT

AUGUST 4TH—9TH

The Flint Eisteddfod which this year attracted a record attendance of about 200,000 was a wonderful opportunity for the Bahá'is who held a stall, to proclaim the Faith to the public.

During the week hundreds of people visited the Bahá'í Stand which had been adorned with the available Welsh Posters, the National Exhibition panels and Bahá'í books and pamphlets. The majority of people who visited our tent were given free pamphlets with a list of further Public Meetings in Wales and Chester. Some bought Bahá'í literature and others were given free Bahá'í booklets. A large number of people who came along had already heard about the Faith. Some had previously seen a Bahá'í Temple or the Shrines in the Holy Land. One lady from Aberystwyth had lived in Haifa in the 1950's and had met Shoghi Effendi, whom she described as "a stately character".

One of the high-lights of the week was the visit of His Highness The Prince of Wales, whose arrival brought bigger crowds to the Eisteddfod field.

Although this year we did not have a

television interview, the Bahá'í Stand was mentioned on the television, heading a list of stands worth visiting.

It was delightful to see the Bahá'is from Chester, Ellesmere Port and Stafford, visiting the stand during the week. On Wednesday night the gathered friends held a Unity Feast in the tent and shared some prayers in which two non-Bahá'í friends also took part.

As the name of the Faith is becoming established at the Eisteddfod, we are gaining a number of friends from amongst the different Stands. This year we had the pleasure of associating with the Unitarian and especially the student Christian Movement people who became very impressed by the Bahá'í youth manning the Stand. The music provided by the youth proved an added attraction.

## DEADLINE:—

Material for the next issue of the Journal to be in by 1st Dec., 1969, to—Mr. J. Coates, Editor, 45 Overfield Rd., Fawdon, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3AJ

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE No. 1 ACCOUNT.

21.6.1969 to 20.9.69 (inclusive)

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Donations:—			N.S.A.		
L.S.A.'s and Groups .....	765	9 3	Travel .....	142	19 6
Individuals .....	1,350	2 2	Office .....	1,359	7 6
			Telephone and Cables ...	107	18 1
	2,115	11 5	Post and Stationery ....	126	0 7
Less Payments against Covenants	224	8 10	Journal .....	224	0 10
			Extraordinary .....	121	5 7
	1,891	2 7	Auditors .....	143	10 0
Interest and Dividends .....	82	5 11	O.G.C. ....	332	0 9
Aileen Beale Bequest .....	300	0 0	E.G.C. ....	150	0 0
			C.D.C. ....	10	4 0
Excess expenditure over income	1,006	13 8	Other Goals Committees	297	15 7
	£3,280	2 2	Pioneer Committee .....	130	0 0
			Youth Committee .....	82	10 9
			Sundry .....	52	9 0
				£3,280	2 2
DONATIONS:—					
Budget .....	£5,500				
To date .....	£4,740				
GAP .....	£760		Bank Balance.....	Nil.	

## APPEAL FROM NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Dear friends, you will see from this financial statement, which takes us up to the half-way point, that over the past three months outgoings have been £1,000 more than income, while donations have fallen behind target by nearly £800. To keep out of "the red" the N.S.A. has had to sell some of our share holdings, acquired by way of bequests, and reserves are very thin. Donations for the International Fund are also far behind the pledged target. The need is urgent and the N.S.A. is confident that the friends will respond to it quickly and generously. Please send your donations to the National Treasurer, Charles Macdonald, 25 Martello Park, Craigavad, Co. Down (with stamped/addressed envelope for receipt please).