# BAHA'I JOURNAL

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# THREE AND A HALF YEARS TO

Report of the English Goals Committee

At a recent committee meeting, the English Goals Committee were fortunate to be able to consult with members of the National Assembly, and to review with them the position of the Home Front Goals, especially those in England, because of the important role the English Section of the British community must play in the remaining years of the 9 Year Plan. Because of its numerical strength, England must be the main reservoir for both fulfilling the Home Front needs, and that of course includes Scotland, Wales and Ireland, and for meeting the overseas pioneer needs.

At the beginning of the 9 Year Plan, certain Assemblies were asked by the National Assembly to be responsible for specific Goal Towns, and the efforts of these friends is warmly appreciated. Some of the goals have already been won. Now it is felt that there should be a change of impetus in the teaching work, both in the Goal towns and the lapsed Assembly Groups, and that this impetus should come from within the goal town. But this does not mean that the nearby Assemblies, Groups and isolated friends will have any less work to do, because more and more their help will be needed in the towns where it is essential that an Assembly be formed, and this means at the time of writing, no less than 21 Assemblies in three and a half years, in England alone.

The friends in the goal towns and in the lapsed Assembly towns are being asked to meet together straight away and review the capabilities of each member of their Group, and then make teaching plans for three months based upon what each member is able to do in his or her sphere. Committee members are travelling to the towns to help the Groups with this scheme. When the blans are drawn up they will be designed to draw in the help from as many Friends as possible from "outside"; individuals will be invited to carry out individuals will be invited to carry out certain tasks; support will be asked from certain Assemblies; the Groups will be encouraged to notify the friends from "outside" of all events in the goal towns so that there will be a great build-up of the "wave movement" from St. Austell to Carlisle and Durham. In turn the friends in the goal towns will In turn the friends in the goal towns will

support activities in the Assembly areas, and in this way the "waves" will flow in the great spiritual ocean of the Faith. Move, move, move.

## GOALS TO BE ACHIEVED BY RIDVAN 1970 Assembly Status

	present	
	position	needed
Aylesbury	5	4
Bath	7	2
Bedford	4	5
Durham	10	
St. Austell	5	4
Canterbury	8	1
Epsom	7	2
Nottingham	7	2
York		7
Salisbury	9	
Kendal	5	4

## Numerical goals to be achieved by both declaration and pioneer moves.

present

	prosent	
	position	goal
Carlisle	5	7
Chelmsford		5
Lincoln	5	1
Ryde	1	3
Hereford	4	goal
	100	achieved.
Kidderminster	2	5
Shrewsbury	0	5
THE RESERVE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY.	(needs re	opening)
Derby	1	3
Oakham	2	6
St. Helier	2	5
Bangor		goal
CATALOGICAL DATABASE		achieved.

To be opened. Isle of Man, Guernsey. Victories.

Durham and Salisbury seem assured of achieving Assembly status. Pioneer, pioneer, pioneer!!

If you want in your innermost heart to pioneer, even if everything seems against such a move, consult with the PIONEER COMMITTEE, who will try and seek ways of sending you to Scotland. If you cannot go to Scotland, then you may be able to fill one of the vital goals in Ireland, Wales or England.

News of Northeanton

News of Northampton .

On Sunday, 30th November, friends from Stafford, Sheffield, Barnet, Oxford, Birmingham, Leamington, Bristol, Bromsgrove, and Ipswich, met together in

Northampton to consult on ways of helping to establish the Faith once again in this town. For the months up to Ridván 1970, friends from Barnet and Oxford plan to visit the town on Sundays, every three weeks, when they will visit hospitals, old people's homes, and such places, and serve the population of Northampton by kindness and good fellowship, and thereby try and establish contact with a number of people.

At the same time, an attempt will be made to contact the very numerous societies in the town, by offering speakers. After that a further review will be made of the results from this project and if considered to be worthwhile, a public meeting will be arranged.

During the day, the friends who were able to be present in Northampton despite the blizzards raging around, spent the time between the consultation periods in prayer, in love and fellowship amongst themselves, in the hope that some of the joy and Divine fragrances generated on this happy occasion would be released into the atmosphere of Northampton, and quicken the hearts of seekers. We were very happy to welcome Mrs. Ethelreda Nutt to the meeting in the afternoon.

Teach, teach, teach.

If you do not hear from the goal town which is near to you, do not sit down and wait! Visit the Bahá'is, write to them and find out what is going on! Act Now!

The Committee looks forward with joy to seeing as many of the Friends as possible in the Goal Towns as we visit there ourselves.

> With deepest love, ENGLISH GOALS COMMITTEE.

## Draw nigh unto Bahá'u'lláh.

I implore Thee, O Thou who causest the dawn to appear, by Thy Lamp which Thou didst light with the fire of Thy love before all that are in heaven and on earth, and whose flame Thou feedest with the fuel of Thy wisdom in the kingdom of Thy creation, to make me to be of those who have soared in Thine atmosphere, and surrendered their will to Thy decree.

Bahá'u'lláh.

# FROM THE WORLD CENTRE

## Letters from the Universal House of Justice

To: All European National Spiritual Assemblies

26th September, 1969

Re: Summer Schools—Curricula
Dear Bahá'í Friends,

The reports we have received on summer school sessions held in Europe this year indicate that some of them spend undue time on philosophic and esoteric subjects and insufficient emphasis on the Bahá'í Faith and its Teachings.

The beloved Guardian stressed that one of the most important purposes of Bahá'í summer schools is to deepen the knowledge of the believers in the history and Teachings of the Faith so that they can become better teachers. To this end he emphasised the study of Islám and Qu'rán so that the friends would have a background against which to study the Bahá'í Writings, and he urged study of the principles of Bahá'í Administration.

In addition he stated that summer schools should become high occasions for teaching the Message. To an individual believer he wrote:

"Through daily association with the believers, non-Bahá'ís will come to see the Cause functioning as an active and living community entirely dedicated to the service of what is best and highest in the world. The lectures will familiarize them with the principles underlying the New World Order, while their participation in the social life of the believers will enable them to see the way in which these very same principles are put into operation."

It is requested that National Assemblies review summer school and winter school curricula in light of these important principles. At this time, when the prosecution of the Nine Year Plan to final victory is of supreme importance, it is also urged that during summer school sessions opportunities be provided to impress upon the believers the urgent need for pioneering and teaching.

We pray that summer schools may become increasingly effective in educating the friends so that they in turn may become useful channels for the diffusion of the Divine fragrances.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

To: The Continental Boards of Counsellors and National Spiritual Assemblies

1st October, 1969.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

A number of questions have been raised concerning the work of the Counsellors and Auxiliary Board members, and it has been suggested that Auxiliary Board members be permitted

to work regularly with National Spiritual Assemblies and national committees. We have carefully considered again the various factors involved and have decided that we must uphold the principle that such direct consultations should be exceptional rather than the rule.

It is the responsibility of Spiritual Assemblies, assisted by their committees, to organise and direct the teaching work, and in doing so they must, naturally, also do all they can to stimulate and inspire the friends. It is, however, inevitable that the Assemblies and committees, being burdened with the administration of the teaching work as well as with all the other aspects of Bahá'í community life, will be unable to spend as much time as they would wish on stimulating the believers.

Authority and direction flow from the Assemblies, whereas the power to accomplish the tasks resides primarily in the entire body of the believers. It is the principal task of the Auxiliary Boards to assist in arousing and releasing this power. This is a vital activity, and if they are to be able to perform it adequately they must avoid becoming involved in the work of administration. For example, when Auxiliary Board members arouse believers to pioneer, any believer who expresses his desire to do so should be referred to the appropriate committee which will then organise the project. Counsellors and Auxiliary Board members should not. themselves, organise pioneering or travel teaching projects. Thus it is seen that the Auxiliary Boards should work closely with the grass roots of the community: the individual believers, groups and Local Spiritual Assemblies, advising, stimulating and assisting them. The Counsellors are responsible for stimulating, counselling and assisting National Spiritual Assemblies, and also work with individuals, groups and Local Assemblies.

It is always possible, of course, for Counsellors to depute an Auxiliary Board member to meet with a National Spiritual Assembly for a particular purpose, but this should not become a regular practice. Similarly, if the National Spiritual Assembly agrees, it may be advisable for an Auxiliary Board member to meet occasionally with a national committee to clarify the situation in the area and share information and ideas thoroughly. But this also should not become regular. Were it to do so there would be grave danger of inhibiting the proper working of these two institutions, vitiating and undermining the collaboration that must essentially exist between the Continental Boards of Counsellors and National Spiritual Assemblies. It would diffuse the energies and time of the

Auxiliary Board members through their becoming involved in the administration of teaching. It could lead to the Auxiliary Board member's gradually taking over the direction of the national committee, usurping the function of the National Assembly, or to his becoming merely a travelling teacher sent hither and thither at the direction of the committee or National Assembly.

It is, of course, vital that information be shared fully and promptly, as has been explained in the compilation on the work of Auxiliary Board members that was circulated on March 25, 1969. The ways of ensuring this should be worked out by the Counsellors and National Spiritual Assemblies, and methods may vary from area to area.

Reports and recommendations for action, however, are quite different. Auxiliary Board members should send theirs to the Counsellors and not to National Assemblies or national committees directly. It is possible that the Counsellors may reject or modify the recommendation; or, if they accept it and pass it on to the National Spiritual Assembly, the National Assembly may decide to refuse it. For an Auxiliary Board member to make recommendations directly to a national committee would lose the benefit of knowledge and experience in a wider field than that of which the Auxiliary Board member is aware, and would short-circuit and undermine the authority of both the Counsellors and the National Assembly.

Similarly, although an Auxiliary Board member can and should receive information from the National Assemblies and national committees, his primary source of information about the community should be his own direct contacts with Local Spiritual Assemblies, groups and individual believers. In this way the Counsellors as well as the National Spiritual Assemblies have the benefit of two independent sources of information about the community: through the Auxiliary Board members on the one hand, and through the national committees on the other.

Assemblies sometimes misunderstand what is meant by the statement that Counsellors and Auxiliary Board members are concerned with the teaching work and not with administration. It is taken to mean that they may not give advice on administrative matters. This is quite wrong. One of the things that Counsellors and Auxiliary Board members should watch and report on is the proper working of administrative institutions. The statement that they do not have anything to do with administration means, simply, that they do not administer. They do not direct or organise the teaching work nor do they adjudicate in matters of personal con-

flict or personal problems. All these activities fall within the sphere of responsibility of the Spiritual Assemblies. But if an Auxiliary Board member finds a Local Spiritual Assembly functioning incorrectly he should call its attention to the appropriate Texts; likewise if, in his work with the community, an Auxiliary Board member finds that the teaching work is being held up by inefficiency of national committees, he should report this in detail to the Counsellors who will then decide whether to refer it to the National Spiritual Assembly concerned. Similarly, if the Counsellors find that a National Spiritual Assembly is not functioning properly, they should not hesitate to consult with the National Spiritual Assembly about this in a frank and loving way.

It is the Spiritual Assemblies who plan and direct the work, but these plans should be well known to the Counsellors and Auxiliary Board members, because one of the ways in which they can assist the Assemblies is by urging the believers continually to support the plans of the Assemblies. If a National Spiritual Assembly has adopted one goal as preeminent in a year, the Auxiliary Board members should bear this in mind in all their contacts with the believers and should direct their attention to the plans of the National Assembly, and stimulate them to enthusiastically support them.

The Counsellors in each continental zone have wide latitude in the carrying out of their work. Likewise they should give to each Auxiliary Board member considerable freedom of action within his own allocated area. Although the Counsellors should regularly direct the work of the Auxiliary Board members, the latter should realise that they need not wait for direction; the nature of their work is such that they should be continually engaged in it according to their own best judgement, even if they are given no specific tasks to perform. Above all the Auxiliary Board members should build up a warm and loving relationship between themselves and the believers in their area so that the Local Spiritual Assemblies will spontaneously turn to them for advice and assistance.

We assure you all of our fervent prayers in the Holy Shrines for the blessings of Bahá'u'lláh upon the strenuous and highly meritorious services that you are performing with such devotion in His path.

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

To the Bahá'is of the World

November 16, 1969.

Dear Friends.

In the worsening world situation, fraught with pain of war, violence and the sudden uprooting of long-established institutions, can be seen the fulfillment of the prophecies of Bahá'u'lláh and the oft-repeated warnings of the Master and the beloved Guardian about the inevitable fate of a lamentably defective social system, an unenlightened leader-

ship and a rebellious and unbelieving humanity. Governments and peoples of both the developed and developing nations, and other human institutions, secular and religious, finding themselves helpless to reverse the trend of the catastrophic events of the day, stand bewildered and overpowered by the magnitude and complexity of the problems facing them. At this fateful hour in human history many, unfortunately, seem content to stand aside and wring their hands in despair or else join in the babel of shouting and protestation which loudly objects, but offers no solution to the woes and afflictions plaguing our age.

Nevertheless a greater and greater number of thoughtful and fair-minded men and women are recognising in the clamour of contention, grief and destruction, now reaching such horrendous proportions, the evidences of Divine chastisement, and turning their faces towards God are becoming Doubtless the present circumstances, though tragic and awful in their immediate consequences, are serving to sharpen the focus on the indispensability of the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh to the needs of the present age, and will provide many opportunities to reach countless waiting souls, hungry and thirsty for Divine guidance.

It is these opportunities which we must sieze before it is too late. What is needed now is the awakening of all believers to the immediacy of the challenge so that each may assume his share of the responsibility for taking the Teachings to all humanity. Universal participation, a salient objective of the Nine Year Plan, must be pressed toward attainment in every continent, country and island of the globe. Every Bahá'í, however humble or inarticulate, must become intent on fulfilling his role as a bearer of the Divine Message. Indeed, how can a true believer remain silent while around us men cry out in anguish for truth, love and unity to descend upon this world?

We all know how often the Master and the beloved Guardian called upon the friends to consciously strive to be more loving, more united, more dedicated and prayerful than ever before in order to overcome the atmosphere of present-day society which is unloving, disunited, careless of right and wrong and heedless of God. "When we see the increasing darkness in the world today," the Guardian's secretary wrote on his behalf, "we can fully realize that unless the Message of Bahá'u'lláh reaches into the hearts of men and transforms them, there can be no peace and no spiritual progress in the future."

The Nine Year Plan is the current stage in the achievement of that sublime objective. It is now imperative for every Bahá'í to set for himself individual teaching goals. The admonition of 'Abdu'l-Bahá to lead at least one new soul into the Faith each year and the exhortation of Shoghi Effendi to hold a Bahá'í fireside in one's home every

Bahá'í month are examples of individual goals. Many have capacities to do even more, but this alone will assure final and complete victory for the Plan.

We call upon the friends to join with us in prayer during the Feast of Sultán that we will all become so imbued with zeal, courage and enthusiasm that from this day to the end of the Nine Year Plan nothing will be able to stay the victorious onward march of the followers of the Most Great Name. May our efforts be worthy of the blessings and confirmations of Bahá'u'lláh.

With loving Bahá'i greetings,

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

To: National Spiritual Assemblies

November 18, 1969

Dear Bahá'í Friends.

After several years of protracted negotiations with agencies of the Israel Government both in Jerusalem and Haifa, an important property adjacent to Bahji and embracing the Master's tea house has been acquired. On November 17th we cabled the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States as follows:—

"WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS ANNOUNCE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION NEGOTIATIONS INITIATED NEARLY TWO DECADES AGO BY BELOVED GUARDIAN WITH AUTHORITIES STATE ISRAEL RESULT-OWNERSHIP VITALLY PROPERTY SURROUNDING ABDULBAHAS
TEAHOUSE IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD MOST HOLY TOMB FOUNDER FAITH STOP ACQUISITION MUCH DESIRED LAND EX-TENDING GARDENS BAHJI FACILITATED EXCHANGE DEDICATED SOME THIRTYSIX YEARS AGO TO HOLY TOMB BAHAULLAH BY DEVOTED SERVANT CAUSE HAJI ALI YAZDI (SIGNED) UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

The successful conclusion of these negotiations initiated during the lifetime of the beloved Guardian was made possible through the acceptance by the Government, as even exchange, of an endowment property given to the Faith in 1933 by the late Háji 'Ali Yazd.. The significance of the specific piece of land donated by this venerable soul becomes apparent when reading the following quotation from the IN MEMORIAM article about him in THE BAHA'I WORLD, Volume IX:

"He will forever be remembered, amongst other things, as the establisher of Bahá'í endowments in the vicinity of 'Akká through his gift of a tract of land dedicated to Bahá'u'lláh's Holy Tomb in Bahíí...."

It is a glowing tribute to the memory of this devoted servant of the Blessed Beauty that his gift should play such an important part in securing this valuable additional safeguard for the Most Holy Tomb.

Please also convey the news of this victory to the friends With loving Bahá'í greetings,

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

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## NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY'S NEWS LETTER

DECLARATIONS. We are delighted to welcome Miss Anne Perry, Cardiff; Mrs. Sylvia Miley, Southport; Miss Mary Mackintosh (Youth) Kirkwall; Mr. Mehran Nakhjavani (Youth), Winchester; Miss Mardi Pagano, Richmond-on-Thames; Mr. Firus Poostchi (Youth), Haringey; Mrs. Christine Lyon (Youth), Ellesmere Port; Mrs. Gail Hughes (Youth) and Mrs. Veronica Williams, both of Kirkby; Mr. William White, Scarisbrick; Mr. Charles and Mr. Mark Hellaby (both Youth) of Kendal; and the following Youth who have claimed their voting rights: Mr. Philip Rosen and Miss Helene Momtaz, both of Kensington & Chelsea; Mr. Tahmaseb Dowlatshahi, Exeter; Miss Rosa Pirouz, Reading; Miss Minerva Farhoumand, Hounslow; Mr. Ian MacLeod, Kirkwall; and Mr. Andrew Gray, Bristol.

## NEW MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE TO THE BAHA'IS OF THE WORLD

The National Assembly felt that this message, which is printed on page 3 of this issue of the Journal, was so urgent and important that we hurried a duplicated copy to every believer in a despatch which left the National Office on December 1st. Those Friends living in places where there are Local Assemblies, goal towns or groups received your copies through your local secretaries, and isolated believers received theirs direct from the National Office. letter will be important to us for the rest of the Nine Year Plan. Please read it often and think about it. It shows clearly the role of every Bahá'í "however humble or inarticulate" in these daunting days when the fate of humanity hangs in the balance. The Bahá'is have the key to the future. Every one of us is a bearer of the Glad Tidings of Bahá'u'lláh

## "200 NEW BELIEVERS PROJECT"

We are far off the half-way target of 100 new believers by Teaching Conference, as less than 40 declarations have been received since this project was launched at the Harlech Summer School. But by answering the call of the Universal House of Justice to set individual teaching goals and for every believer to lead at least one new soul to the Faith each year, we should far exceed the 200 target by Ridván. So let us press on with renewed zeal and enthusiasm. There's the exciting Proclamation Project coming along too, that will help to open up new avenues of teaching.

## THE PROCLAMATION PROJECT

This is a project that every Local Assembly, goal town, group and isolated believer has been invited to join in. The long-awaited moment for the presentation of the Proclamation Book, "The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh", has come, and a new proclamation booklet, "The Call of Bahá'u'lláh" has been specially prepared for presentation too. In our letters to you all the National

Assembly has said that a special price has been set for the copies of the Book and the booklet that are to be used for presentation—£10-0-0 for 5 copies of the Book and 25 copies of the booklet, and £5-0-0 for 20 copies of the bookletand we can now let you know that the booklet will also be on sale in the ordinary way at a price of 10/-d. per copy. It is not a small booklet, it is very dignified and suitable for presentation to all sorts of people. It is called the "proclamation booklet" to distinguish it from the Proclamation Book. there will be two smaller booklets, which we hope will also be on sale at Teaching Conference, one with a royal purple cover called "These Things Shall , and the other with a royal blue cover called "And Did Those Feet . . . The first is that section of the proclamation booklet that deals with Bahá'u'lláh's Call to the kings and rulers of the world: the second is that section of the booklet that deals with the association of the British Isles with the Central Figures of the Faith. The cost of "These Things Shall Be" will be 1/6d., and that "And Did Those Feet?. So we shall have these useful booklets to add to our teaching literature at very modest price, as well as the beautifully produced "Call of Bahá'u'lláh" for presentation and for adding to your personal libraries.

It will be important to make sure that presentations locally of the Book and the booklet do not duplicate those made by the National Assembly, and this could happen if, for instance, a local Member of Parliament was also a Minister in the Government or held some other high office. You may also feel that you need some help so that you approach in a befitting way the people to whom you want to present the Book or the booklet. So the National Assembly has set up a Special Committee, whose secretary is Mrs. Chris Richards of Sutton Coldfield, to help in all these matters. Everyone, L.S.A.'s, goal towns, groups and isolated believers, should send your lists of people to whom you want to make your presentations, to Mrs. Richards, so that your lists can be checked for duplication and you can receive all the necessary help with your arrangements.

Where there is a local Bahá'í institution, a Local Assembly or an authorised Bahá'í Group (goal towns come into this category of "authorised groups" for this purpose), the presentations must be made through them and not by individuals, although any individual can give personally to people they know as many copies of the Proclamation Book or the booklet as they wish to buy, but those must be purchased at the full price. Where there is no local Bahá'í institution, isolated believers can take part in the Proclamation Project if they wish to do so. We are sure that anyone living in a community who knows

personally influential people will be only too happy to work closely with the Assembly or Group in connection with official presentations to those people.

There will be a special session at Teaching Conference for consultation about this Proclamation Project. It will be a joyous and exciting Project that we hope will be completed by Ridván 1970, so there will be four months to plan it all and carry it out.

When sending money to Mrs. Richards, be sure to do it by money order postal orders or cheque, made payable to BAHA'I PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION COMMITTEE and "crossed".

## CLARIFICATION OF THE TERM "NOT IN GOOD STANDING"

Several Assemblies have asked for clarification of this term: in oriental countries, especially in Persia, whole families are recognised as being "Bahá'í families", although all the children may not have been registered as Bahá'ís. When they leave Persia, some regularise the position and obtain credentials from the National Assembly of Iran, some do not regularise the position and never register as Bahá'ís but are still known as being of Bahá'í family. The National Assembly had the necessity recently, because of conduct which was detrimental to the good name of the Faith, to clarify the position regarding such a Persian, and it was announced that he was not a Bahá'í "in good standing". For practical purposes, the action of Bahá'ís should be the same to a person who is "not in good standing" as it is to those from whom voting rights have been removed.

## REMOVAL OF VOTING RIGHTS

The National Assembly wants again to make it clear what is involved when a believer's voting rights are removed, or withdrawn which is the same thing. Shoghi Effendi, through his secretary, wrote "Just as no-one should ever be deprived of his voting right lightly, it should, likewise ,be realised that to be deprived of it is a grave matter, and involving heavy penalties spiritually. People who have been so deprived should not be permitted to attend any meetings involving the administration of the Cause, such as an election or a Nineteen Day Feast. They can attend the Nine Holy Days however, they should not be married by Bahá'í Law, no money should be accepted from them, they should not be given credentials (which imply a member of the community in good standing) nor should they be used officially as teachers or speakers." It is a very serious matter, but a person whose voting right has been removed is not a Covenant-breaker, and they should not be shunned. Voting rights are removed following some very grave error, they can be restored when there is true repentance and the error is corrected. Only the National Assembly can withdraw or restore voting rights, neither can be done by a Local Assembly.

DECEMBER, 1969.

## RADIO AND TELEVISION PUBLICITY

The National Assembly was delighted by the three-minute interview which Mr. Gordon Grant had on Radio 4 North, on Sunday, November 23rd, as part of a magazine programme broadcast from 11.45 a.m. to 12.05 p.m. about different religions in Manchester; Gordon's answers were excellent. On Thursday, November 20th, Mr. Carl Card of Cardiff took part in a panel on B.B.C.'s national T.V. network, that discussed the religious implications of the moonshot; it coincided with the launching of Apollo 12, and Carl made wonderful use of the opportunities to put forward the Bahá'í view of scientific and technological development.

We are coming into a new phase of proclamation activity, and the more Bahá'ís who are prepared for the challenge of radio and television publicity the better. With the introduction of more local radio stations we can look forward to much more radio publicity, so the National Assembly asks everyone to take very seriously the need to read something from the Writings every day, this is the best preparation for the challenge of teaching, the challenge of publicity and the challenge of living the Bahá'í life.

## THE YOUTH STUDY WEEK-ENDS

We know that there has been rather a varied response to these Study Week-Ends, but some of them have been excellent, attended by ten, twelve or fifteen young Bahá'is who have undertaken "study in depth" of the special subject. The National Assembly keenly appreciates the enthusiasm of the Bahá'i Youth and is delighted that this series of Study Week-Ends is meeting with a large measure of success. If you haven't yet attended one of them, don't miss the next one in your area.

## PIONEER NEEDS

The National Assembly repeats its appeal sent to everyone in the letter of 28th November, for pioneers for Cork, Limerick, Dingwall, Hamilton, North Berwick, Stornoway, Llanelly, Aylesbury, Nottingham (needs a Bahá'í family), York, Northampton and to reopen Shrewsbury. Come and consult with the Pioneer Committee, they meet every Thursday evening in the Hazirat'ul-Quds, 27 Rutland Gate, London, S.W.7., or contact their secretary, Mrs. M. Appa, 14a Northumberland Road, New Barnet, Herts. (Phone BAR 4232).

In addition to pioneers, people are needed who can visit Cork or Limerick for one, two or three months, so possible visitors should get in touch with the Irish Goals Committee, Miss Lesley Gibson, 6 Alphonsus Terrace, Quin Street, Limerick, The Republic of Ireland.

## OVERSEAS PIONEER GOALS

Nineteen pioneers are needed overseas, the most urgent need being in Gambia, where a male pioneer or a family is needed as quickly as ever possible. The other eighteen are needed in India (2), Pakistan (2), Thailand (2), Hong Kong (2), Line Islands (1), Uganda (2), Tanzania (2), Ghana (2), S.W. Africa (1) and Malta (2). The needs of Hong Kong are also urgent. Doctors, nurses, engineers of all sorts, teachers, other qualified people and retired persons or others who have enough capital to live on and be self-supporting could serve the Faith in these areas overseas. If you would like to consult about this get in touch with the Overseas Goals Committee. Write to that Committee at 27 Rutland Gate, London, S.W.7.

## BAHA'I NEWS

The American "Bahá'í News" is available in the British Isles on payment of £1-0-0 for twelve monthly copies (including postage). Local Spiritual Assemblies, or individuals, requiring copies of this very interesting and informative publication, should send their subscriptions directly to Mr. Edward Richards, 26 Cartwright Road, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

Assemblies and individuals wishing to renew their subscriptions will no doubt do so. New subscribers should note that we have been informed by the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States that any changes in the number sent to us may be made effective with the January and July issues only. New subscribers will have their first issue in July next year.

### STRIKES

In view of the number of queries raised by friends, the National Assembly wrote to the Universal House of Justice in regard to the participation of Bahá'ís in strikes, and the following is the reply we received:

"Regarding the participation of Bahá'ís in strikes, the beloved Guardian, in his letter to your National Spiritual Assembly, dated 11th July, 1956, expressed approval of your understanding of this matter. As you know, 'Abdu'l-Bahá in general disapproved of strikes. Briefly stated, the Bahá'í attitude is that when the law recognises strikes as legal, as when called by a properly constituted authority such as a trade union, the Bahá'í teaching neither requires nor forbids an individual to participate in the strike but leaves him free to decide for himself what is the proper course of action in the particular circumstances.

This ruling, we feel, applies by its nature only to so-called official strikes and when Bahá'ís are members of a trade union. However, as essentially this question is a matter of conscience your Assembly should be very careful, in the words written on behalf of the Guardian in the above-mentioned letter to your Assembly, to "avoid becoming rigid and laying down any more rules and regulations of conduct."

## TRANSPLANTS

Several enquiries have been made concerning organ transplants and Bahá'ís acting as donors for parts of the

body. In referring this to the Universal House of Justice, they have reminded us of the words of the Guardian, through his secretary, in a passage from a letter dated September 6th, 1946, as follows: "There is nothing in the Teachings which would forbid a Bahá'í to bequeath his eyes to another person or for a hospital, on the contrary, it seems a noble thing to do." The House of Justice does not wish at the present time to give further elucidation.

# PERTH WEEK-END CONFERENCE

Well, we said it would be exciting—and it WAS. Thirty doubtful faces frowned over the programme of projects at 3.00 p.m. on Saturday; thirty diligent heads bent over books, maps, paper and pens at 6.00 p.m.; thirty tired brains reluctantly stopped work at 10.00 p.m. and thirty enthusiastic voices said "Let's have another one—soon" at 12.00 on Sunday. To summarise, in spite of initial doubts the 'project-weekend' was generally acclaimed as a great success and very worthwhile.

What happened? After the opening Devotional and welcome, the friends were asked to divide into teams of two or three and were given a particular topic, such as 'the major events in the life of the Báb', 'Bahá'u'lláh in Iran' and 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Europe'. A fairly large library of books had been amassed from the National Library and the friends' own bookshelves and, using the books and paper, pens and maps, each team had to produce a concise, illustrated account of their subject. Some really exciting visual aids were made, and everyone learned a lot during the 'reporting back' session. After lunch on Sunday, Dorothy Bruce gave us an interesting and amusing talk entitled "The Bahá'í Ship" illustrated with some most entertaining drawings.

## Some comments:

The projects allowed each group to learn a lot about their particular topic. The subjects were too big for really detailed study—more limited subjects, perhaps revolving round one central theme to give a greater degree of unity to the work, would allow groups to investigate the topics more deeply.

A "deadline" should be agreed on and adhered to—some enthusiastic groups found they had had no time to meet and talk to the other friends.

The visual aids were a great help to concentration during the lecturettes on Sunday morning.

A plea for more table-space was made by one group, stiff from an evening spent kneeling on the floor making their visual aid.

It was noticeable that the comments and criticisms were all constructive and valuable and made with a view to improving similar study weekends for the future. We left Perth, spiritually inspired and with a renewed determination to immerse ourselves in the ocean of the words of Bahá'u'lláh.

## **NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES**

## EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.

The University Bahá'í Group holds weekly informal discussions on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. at the International Centre. Buccleuch Place. More than 2,000 leaflets have been given out and a reasonable response has been gained in the way of attendance at meetings, book sales and book lending.

It can be said that most Edinburgh students now know at least that the faith exists and an encouraging number have been making enquiries.

### HEREFORD

A shop window, which was given for a display of Bahá'í books in Hereford for an indefinite period attracted a number of enquirers who were sent pamphlets and informed of firesides. None, however, contacted the Bahá'ís until David came along. He wrote for literature, came to firesides and declared in less than a month

A few days after David saw the book display the shop was required by the owners and the keys had to be returned. But David, who had first seen the word "Bahá'í' in the display, did not rest until he had found another shopwindow. We hope some of the other "waiting souls" will soon be passing by our new display.

A one-day school will be held in Hereford on Saturday 7th February 1970. The programme of the day is an introduction to the Faith. Please bring all your friends.

## LEICESTER

From October 28th to November 2nd the Bahá'í community of Leicester held a 'mini-week'. This epithet was not coined so that the Bahá'ís should be in vogue-the week was so called because expenses were being kept to a minimum. Miraculously, from the chaos of planning, the events of the week went with clockwork precision, though not always with good results. The theme of the week was 'unity' and the programme consisted of an international coffee evening, a slide show 'Blueprint for World Unity', a panel discussion 'Towards tomorrow', a coffee evening with a discussion on women's emerging role, a public meeting, and a unity feast at which readings from the world's scriptures were read. Five hundred invitations were sent to organisations and individuals and the meetings were advertised in the local paper.

The most successful meetings were (a) the slide show which Bill Prince gave with a commentary as an introduction to the Faith, (b) the panel with Pat Green as the Bahá'í speaker and which stimulated a lively discussion, and (c) the public meeting where Ted Cardell gave an inspiring talk on the Faith as a means to world unity. Few contacts attended the coffee evenings and none attended the unity feast. It is interesting to note that by far the great majority of non-Bahá'is who attended meetings

did so through personal contact. Altogether, despite those meetings which were poorly attended, there was generated a flow of new spirit at the meetings and within the community by the combined effort. It was wonderful to see those friends from outside the Leicester community who supported the week.

### STAFFORD.

One Day School—Sunday, February 22nd, 1970—

Theme: Building a New World.

The "school" will be held at 8 Knowle Road, Weeping Cross, Stafford. Knowle Road, Weeping Cross is off the main road from Stafford to Lichfield, second turning to the right proceeding towards Lichfield after the junction where the roads divide for Lichfield and Cannock (A.34).

Please bring a packed lunch. Hot soup will be provided, also tea and coffee. This is a programme which has been specially designed for both Bahá'ís and contacts whether close to the Faith or not

Bring your contacts with you, and join in the wave movement.

Further details if required from: Mrs. Betty Goode, 8 Knowle Road, Weeping Cross, Stafford.

### WINCHESTER

The New Age Exhibition was in Winchester from 3rd to 15th November in the foyer of the City Library. We distributed 2,000 leaflets to advertise it, had it announced on the B.B.C. Radio 4 programme "What's on in the South & South West", and advertised in the local press, who also published a very good report of the Exhibition. Moreover no visitor to the library (and there are many thousands each week) could fail to notice the exhibition, and we estimate that about 1,500 people looked at at least some part of it.

About 200 people studied the exhibition with real interest; we gave out two or three hundred pamphlets and nearly fifty books and had good discussions with about fifty people. Public meetings held concurrently with the exhibition had little response, but since then we have had a fireside with four new contacts—all resulting from the exhibition—and a number of enquiries.

In all, we are delighted with the interest that the exhibition has aroused, and look forward to doing some active teaching in the weeks ahead.

We are extremely grateful for all the offers of assistance we received, and extend warmest thanks to those who came to help us man the exhibition, often making a long journey to do so.

## **SUMMER SCHOOLS 1970**

will be held as follows:-

**Ireland.** The Hall School, Monkstown. 4th-18th July.

England. Dalston Hall, 8th-15th August. Wales. Coleg Harlech, 15th-29th August.

## 'Help dig the Paper Patch'

About 50 people have now offered to survey particular papers, and between them they have covered over 80 newspapers and periodicals. This is a wonderful response. If there are any communities who have not yet forwarded names of those who would like to help in this survey, we would still be very happy to hear from them.

A number of friends offered their services in writing articles, and have been asked initially to write a general article on the Faith, partly to give us some idea of their style of writing for future reference and partly to build up a stock of good articles that can be sent out to L.S.A.'s for local adaptation.

There may be other friends in the Community who would like to try writing articles, either of a general nature or on a particular topic, but who are not sure of their ability to do so. If you feel like this, please try writing something and send it to this committee Miss Margaret Lord, 96 Plas Dinas, Blacon, Chester), and we can give you our opinion as to its suitability. anyone has a particular interest in a specialised aspect of the Faith (e.g. Economics, universal government, or crime and punishment, education) and would like to do a really extensive article on it, we would be very interested as there are a number of periodicals which would probably be more interested in such a study than in a general survey.

Don't be disappointed if you fail to see the Faith splashed across the Sunday colour supplements just yet—we'll get there in the end. But a lot of spadework has to be done before we can expect that sort of publicity. We are digging at our end, trying to amass suitable material and experience for use when the time comes. Please dig at your end, by sending us your efforts but, even more important, by seizing every chance for local publicity that you can. We have just been looking at the three large scrap-books the Ealing friends have compiled of local publicity achieved. We asked them how they did it, and here is a summary of their main points.

Invite press to celebrations.

**Send** reports of celebrations and public meetings not attended by press.

Scan papers for articles that can be answered in a letter column.

Start a letter column, if there isn't one, by sending in letters persistently.

Use interest in local personalities by sending details of pioneers and visitors.

In short, be adventurous—use every opportunity that occurs or that you can make. Getting your local paper to publish Bahá'í reports will bring us one step nearer to getting them into the nationals. Good luck, and good writing

From Correspondence and Feature Advisory Service.

### YOUTH NEWS

## 100 NEW YOUTH BELIEVERS BY RIDVAN

Since the launching of the '200 New Believers Project' by the National Spiritual Assembly, the National Youth Committee asks every Bahá'í Youth to Pray. Travel and Search for 100 New Youth Believers in this campaign.

'Abdu'l-Bahá has said:

"Be ye not seated and silent. Diffuse the glad-tidings of the Kingdom far and wide to the ears, promulgate the Word of God, and put into practice the advices and covenants of God; that is, arise ye with such qualities and attributes that ye may continually bestow life to the body of the world, and nurse the infants of the universe up to the station of maturity and perfection . . . . The time is short and the Divine Courser moves swiftly on; let us keep up and compete with each other and let us light a brilliant candle '

(Bahá'í World Faith, Pages 353-4).

## NATIONAL YOUTH STUDY **COURSES 1969-70**

Dear Friends, the National Youth Committee is pleased to share with you reports of the National Youth Study Courses, which have been held at centres all over the British Isles.

## PETERBOROUGH

Dr. Abbas Afnan led the first study weekend on the subject of "God, Manifestations of God, and Man". The youth present participated in the detailed discussion and later joined the Peterborough Community for the celebration of the 19 day feast.

The "Book of Certitude" was the subject for study for the second week-end and youth attended from Cambridge, Attleborough and Peterborough. In all some 27 young people, including many members of the U.N.A. enjoyed an evening of informal chatting and singing.

Youth attended from London, Reading, Oxford and Durham to study the Book of Certitude. Joe Jameson led the very interesting discussions and the youth were further stimulated by hearing a tape of Hand of the Cause Mr. Faizi speaking on the Book. All the youth were invited to a party on Saturday evening,

given by Colleen King as she was going to Kirkwall.

The Faith gained some publicity from this weekend as the local newspaper of the Borough of Brent printed news of the study course.

## MANCHESTER

Mr. and Mrs. Hellaby from Kendal had done a lot of research and study on the Book of Certitude and led a very instructive and inspiring study on the Book. Youth attended from Manchester, Cheadle, Gatley, Wigan and Kendal.

Towards the end of the weekend a non-Bahá'í friend of the Hellaby's joined in the study of such terms as 'resurrection', 'return', etc. as appears in the Holy Scriptures and as a result she is going to discuss it with her minister in Kendal.

### DUBLIN

Adib Taherzadeh led the first study weekend on the subject of the Book of Certitude. Thirteen Bahá'ís attended a most instructive weekend.

## NEWPORT

The subject for study was "God, Manifestations of God and Man," taken by Cyrus Rowshan. Those who attended came from Birmingham, Salisbury, Bangor, Cardiff and Newport. The Bahá'ís who took part were very tired after labouring during the week of concentrated activities in Newport. However all enjoyed themselves and learned a lot.

The second study weekend was spent in studying the Book of Certitude and youth came from Pontypridd, Exeter, Cardiff, Hereford, Llanelli and Newport. All enjoyed themselves and the crowning glory of the weekend was the declaration of Anne Perry, a Canadian Nurse working in Cardiff.

## POOL OF IDEAS

The N.Y.C. is still building up a 'Pool of Ideas' for teaching work in schools, colleges, universities, etc. Some contributions have been sent in by the friends, but more ideas are still needed. All ideas are valuable, so if you have any ideas for visual aids or posters etc., please send them to:

> Vivian Bartlett, 245 Heol Trelai,

Ely, Cardiff.

## YOUTH NEWS BULLETIN

Have all the Bahá'í Youth heard of the Youth News bulletin, which is printed after every N.Y.C. meeting? This is a direct news media between the Youth and the National Youth Committee. If there is any news you want to share or activities you want to advertise please mark "Youth News" at top of paper and contact:-

> 7 Dicey Avenue, London, N.W.2.

## **TEACHING CONFERENCE 1970**

at The Midland Hotel, New Street, Birmingham 2.

THEME: "This fateful hour in human history . . . . Opportunities we must seize before it is too late.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3RD.

Opening Devotional Programme (Birmingham 2.00 p.m. — 2.15 p.m Assembly). 2 15 p.m. — 2.30 p.m. Opening of Conference by Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly. The Nine Year Plan-2.30 p.m. — 4.00 p.m. Achievements Special Visual Remaining Goals Presentation 4.00 p.m. — 4.30 p.m. 4.30 p.m. — 4.50 p.m. Funds, with opportunity for Questions. 4.50 p.m. — 5.00 p.m. Bahá'í Books, the greatest aid to deepening and teaching.  $5.00 \, \text{pm} - 6.00 \, \text{pm}$ Proclamation Project: Plans for Presentation of the Proclamation Book and the Proclamation Booklet 600 p m — 7.30 p.m. DINNER BREAK 7.30 p.m. — 10.00 p.m. The new message to the Bahá'ís of the World from The Universal House of Justice . . . . The Call for Intensified Personal Teaching . . . . Universal

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4th

10.00 a.m. — 10.15 a.m. Devotional Programme (Stornoway Bahá'í Group). 10.15 a.m. — 11.15 a.m. The Evolving Role of the Local Spiritual Assemblies; their progressive assumption of responsibilities nieving the Remaining Goals of the Nine Year 11 30 a.m. — 1.00 p.m.

Participation.

Plan: Pioneers, Travel Teaching, etc. 1.00 p.m. — 2.30 p.m. LUNCH BREAK

2.30 p.m. — 3.15 p.m. 3.15 p.m. — 4.15 p.m. Hands of the Cause/Board of Counsellors

Continuation-Achieving the Remaining Goals of the Nine Year Plan.

Closing of Convention by the Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly.

4.15 p.m. — 4.30 p.m.

PAGE EIGHT DECEMBER, 1969

# An Urgent Need...

In a letter dated 5th November 1969 and addressed to the National Spiritual Assemblies of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles and the United States, the Universal House of Justice have written the following:

"We feel there is an urgent need for a devoted pioneer, preferably a woman, who would meet the qualifications set forth in the attached correspondence, to proceed as soon as possible to Uganda and assist Miss Gung in her worthy project. Both your National Spiritual Assemblies have pioneer assignments in Uganda, under the current phase of the Plan, and it is our hope that one of the pioneers you are responsible to locate in Uganda, would be able and willing to fill the need in Miss Gung's Kindergarten.

The British Bahá'í community has an additional moral responsibility towards Uganda, as well as towards Miss Gung, who was the first pioneer from the

British Bahá'í community to set out to Africa, under the British Two Year Plan.

As soon as you have located a suitable pioneer, please inform the National Spiritual Assembly of Uganda and Central Africa, who will act as the co-ordinating body to bring this project to an early conclusion."

The attached correspondence mentioned above is a letter from the N.S.A. of Uganda and Central Africa, an extract of which is reproduced below:

"Miss Claire Gung's situation is that she wants a suitable Bahá'í, preferably a woman aged between 30-40 years, who would come to assist her in running the Kindergarten which she erected recently. Glaire Gung will move to the new building in December and the building has cost her a lot of money and the kindergarten has been known by officials of the Uganda Government

including Ministers, Ambassadors as a Kindergarten run by the Bahá'í Faith. Therefore, we would like to see that the Kindergarten is running well so that it does not reflect badly the name of the Faith. As you can see from Claire Gung's letter, the building she is moving to was constructed on land which was offered to her on the recommendation of the Bishop of Namirembe and also on the recommendation of H.E. the President of Uganda. The building is nearly finished now and the building itself will attract people to take their children to the kindergarten for their education.

Claire Gung will be able to pay 800/-to 1,000/- per month with free accommodation for a volunteer who would offer herself to come and help with the administration and book-keeping work which is connected with the running of the Kindergarten. Such a person should be interested in children.

According to Claire Gung's letter, Amatu'l Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum visited the new building with her and some of the Bahá'í Friends who have been visiting Uganda—they all visited Claire Gung's old school and they have realised the tremendous work done by Claire in educating young African and Asian children whose parents have known Claire's Kindergarten as a Bahá'í Kindergarten.

Claire teaches children Bahá'í prayers, and tells them about some Bahá'í stories, and the Kindergarten is closed during the Bahá'í Holy Days. All those things done by Claire's Kindergarten are just a proclamation of the Faith to the public."

The other piece of correspondence is a moving letter by Claire Gung herself, in which she sets down the whole history of her Kindergarten, the tremendous sacrifices she has had to make and is still making to realise this scheme and the almost unsurmountable difficulties she has had to deal with in order to obtain permission for the building of this school.

If anyone is interested (the person does not need to have any qualifications for this task) please apply to Kianoush Kouchekzadeh at 3 Wentworth Close, Watford, Herts. Tel. Watford 20575. By way of clarification please note that each Uganda shilling is equivalent to approximately 1.2 U.K. Shilling, therefore a person can earn somewhere between £48 to £60 sterling, plus free accommodation. Additionally, the Overseas Goals Committee feels that the age bracket stated above need not necessarily apply and provided a person is suitable she can be outside those age limits.

## **NEWS FROM IRELAND**

### DECLARATIONS.

We are most happy to report that there have been two recent declarations in Ireland. We warmly welcome Alice Jack to the Dublin Community and Joyce Porte to the Belfast Community.

## DUBLIN/DUN LAOGHAIRE WEEK.

A week of special activity was held in the Dublin-Dun Laoghaire area from Friday 17.10.1969 to Saturday, 25.10.69. This period of intensive Teaching Activity was, we feel, a very successful venture, a wonderful spirit of love and friendship pervaded all the various functions and some non-Bahá'í faces appeared again and again during the week. We endeavoured to cater for all tastes through a varied programme of events. The week commenced with a visit to the Dublin Zoo for the Children, that evening a very successful Social in John and Val Morley's studio was well attended. There were firesides every night during the week, with speakers travelling as far as 110 miles for the evening. Coffee mornings and After-noon Teas attracted friends during the day, and Bahá'is were encouraged to go out during the day in teams of two or three to explore new ways of making contacts and teaching the Faith in the Area. A public Meeting was held in a Dublin Hotel mid-week, this took the form of a Slide Show of the Holy Land. A selection of slides were shown by a Jew, a Christian, and a Bahá'í. A Prayer Marathon preceded the week's events; this began on Thurday evening and led up to the time on Friday when a Prayer Meeting was held in the Dublin Haziratu'l-Ouds for the success of the coming events during this twenty-four hour period, all the Bahá'ís of Southern Ireland participated by praying for half

an hour at a time. A similar prayer Marathon was held by the Bahá'ís of Northern Ireland at the same time.

## GREENISLAND WEEK.

A similar week of activity was held in Greenisland in Northern Ireland from November 1st to the 9th. Events were well supported with 100 people attending a Halloween Party, and over 70 at a Folk night.

## BELFAST WEEK.

A week of intensive Teaching Activity commenced in Belfast on Saturday 29th November with a trip to the Museum with the children and a Pot Luck Supper in the evening.

## LIMERICK

This Goal Town in Southern Ireland has been greatly strengthened during the past six weeks by the presence of Albert Strachan from Northern Ireland, Albert has undertaken a Three Month Teaching Project. Not without personal sacrifice this wonderful Bahá'í has supported and assisted the Pioneers in Limerick and has made many friends for the Faith there.

United Nations Day. The Bahá'ís in Belfast held a meeting for U.N. Day at which Virginia Hardy Sec. of the U.N. Association in Belfast spoke; Beman Khosravinishad spoke on the Bahá'í attitude to the United Nations.

Ireland will soon be sending out three Pioneers to overseas posts. Martin Magarry and Jamshid Arjomandi to Guyana and Hazel Aikman to Sardinia. We wish all three every success in their new lives and in their work for the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

IRISH GOALS COMMITTEE.

## DEADLINE :-

Material for the next issue of the Journal to be in by 22nd Jan., 1970, to—Mr. J. Coates, Editor, 45 Overfield Rd., Fawdon, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3AJ