



BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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THE PRICE OF VICTORY

Victory, full and complete, with the satisfaction it brings and the capacity it develops for even greater results in the future, now lies within our grasp. Perhaps never before in its relatively long history has the British Bahá'í Community stood so close to the fulfilment of those thrilling promises made for it both by the Master and by Shoghi Effendi.

The 'rapid increase in the number of its avowed supporters', so often called for by the beloved Guardian, has now begun. The achievement of all the goals is at last possible. The opportunity to enter into full participation in the work on the continent of Europe is rapidly approaching. The 'essential prelude to the effective proclamation of the Faith to the masses' mentioned by the Guardian as long ago as October 1947 is now within sight.

This is indeed a glorious day in our history; how tragic it will be if we fail.

Two things and two things only stand between us and victory. Both are urgently needed; both are vital to success.

As it is the wish of the National Spiritual Assembly that all the believers in the British Isles should be made aware of the facts, this statement is being written, is being given prominence in the 'Bahá'í Journal' and will, we hope, be presented for consultation by all communities and committees.

THE FIRST BARRIER

With the flow of new believers rapidly increasing — almost a fourfold increase so far this year, who can doubt that the time is ripe, that the people are ready and that the capacity for witnessing the 'entry by troops' has been developed?

Only the 'life blood' is in short supply.

Literature must be available; teachers must travel; visitors must rush to support the places of growth; the whole community must be geared for success; the National Office and its staff must be ready and equipped to serve the friends; pioneers must be assisted to settle and the committee structure must be so well arranged that the whole of the administration of the Faith can serve and co-ordinate efficiently without in any way impeding the flow of the spirit.

And all this needs funds.

Today the National Fund is in dire need and unless drastic action is taken and the friends rush to support it, the work will grind to a halt. This is a hard, unpalatable fact.

It must not be left to the few who give generously and frequently; it is the universal participation of all the friends that is the key; we cannot share in the victory without sharing the cost.

From the donations of the believers and the local spiritual assemblies, our National Treasurer must have £500 per week regularly. How this figure has been estimated and for what it will be used will now be shown.

The National Budget

The National Spiritual Assembly first examines the administrative structure; studies what was spent last year; sees what effect the many increases in cost of living, travelling, postal charges, materials and services have had on the overall expenditure; estimates what is needed to achieve the goals and tries to assess what new demands there will be this year from the growing community. They then estimate the amount to be expected from known sources — interest, covenants, etc., and this leaves an amount which must be raised from donations. Each item is then scrutinised and an effort is made to scale down the budget to a total which can be reasonably reached with sacrifice and by the co-operative effort of all the Bahá'ís. This is then announced as the Budget for the year and the committees are advised accordingly.

For 1971/72 the Budget is as follows:

1 The vital teaching work, committees, conferences, schools, free literature, communication and other major allocations such as Overseas Goals — £4,000; National and Regional Teaching — £3,400; Pioneering — £2,950; National and Regional Youth — £2,150; Proclamation — £1,500;total:	£14,930
2 Donations, sent on your behalf to international funds:	£ 2,550
3 The National Office, the running of the National Assembly itself, staff, travel, meetings, stationery, Convention, postage, legal, audit, 'Bahá'í Journal', Annual Report, etc.:	£11,770
4 Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds (two), Memoranda, Extraordinary:	£ 4,350
These give a total Budget larger than ever before presented:	£33,600
How will it be raised?	
A Investments, Interest, Rent:	£ 935
B Covenants — Tax return:—	£ 5,000
C Earmarked Pioneer Fund	£ 2,000
D Donations (£500 per week):	£25,665
	£33,600

In addition to setting up the Budget, the National Spiritual Assembly has taken the following actions:—

- a) It has established a highly qualified Finance Subcommittee to keep the whole subject under review;
- b) It has called on all committees to exercise the utmost care in planning and to budget carefully for all their activities; they will be allowed to make no capital expenditure;
- c) It has instructed the National Treasurer only to pay on receipt of properly authorised bills or projects; no committee can hold a float;
- d) It has opened a Giro account to facilitate the making of smaller donations direct to the National Fund;
- e) It has appealed to all local assemblies to review their expenditure to enable them to give more generously to the Fund. It is sad to note that only 75% of the local assemblies and about 25% of the believers contribute directly to the National Fund. Names of assemblies which have contributed to the Fund during the first three months after Naw Ruz are listed later in this article;
- f) It will report the Fund situation in each issue of the 'Journal'.

The National Spiritual Assembly now earnestly, urgently, even desperately, appeals to all the friends to try to enjoy the bounty of universal participation in the National Fund. Bahá'u'lláh knows the work has to be done and it is only through individual Bahá'ís that He can make money available to do that work. That makes each of us a custodian; the money we receive comes in a very real way from God and what we give to the Cause we are giving back to God. In a sense, money which flows through a Bahá'í into the Cause is purified. It is being taken out of the old world of power, luxury and profit and put into the new world, into building the Kingdom of God. To be deprived of participating is serious enough; to have to face the possibility of stopping teaching, as did the National Spiritual Assembly at its recent meeting, is even worse; but to be within reach of victory and fail only through lack of funds is, today, the frightful possibility.

What is the position today?

In the past three months of this Bahá'í year, when the last payments to achieve the Ridván goals were made and before the new administrative structure was functioning, the income/expenditure account was:—

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
A Interest, etc.	£ 70	1 Teaching, committees, etc.,	£2,717
B Tax refunds, etc.,	£3,021	2 International donations	—
C Earmarked Fund	—	3 National Assembly & National Office	£3,081
D Donations (Nett)	£5,550	4 Hazíratu'l-Quds, etc.	£ 973
		5 Repayment of loan	£1,000
	£8,641		£8,641

That looked healthy enough, but by 23 July, the contributions were nearly £1,000 below the pro rata need and there was less than one week's cash needs at the bank!! For a number of years it has been possible to utilise reserve funds when such emergencies arose, but as reported at Convention, today there are no such reserves.

TODAY WE MUST LIVE ON INCOME

This too is good, but if the income is not forthcoming the work must stop. And what do we stop? Where do we begin to cut down? Do we arrange an overdraft? Dismiss staff? Stop the 'Newsletter' and the 'Bahá'í Journal'? Bring the all-important teaching work to a halt? This is a really frightening decision which the National Assembly must soon make unless the situation changes.

'Entry by troops' in Europe could begin in Britain; the signs are all around us; victory is in sight. Can we, dare we, say to all those believers around the world who, themselves deprived of the freedom to teach, are eagerly awaiting the news of our victory, that we failed because we had many friends who did not give to the Cause that which was worth so little in real values? Nothing from this material world can go with us to the next, yet the victory within our grasp can bring eternal blessings. Is the price of victory really so high that we can afford either to deprive ourselves of the blessings of giving, or our fellow men the joy of Bahá'u'lláh's love?

Your National Assembly believes that once the friends around Britain know the seriousness of the situation they will not hesitate to send, at once, a contribution to the National Fund.

THE SECOND BARRIER

Whilst it is indeed thrilling to witness entry by troops, attention must be directed to those goals which must be won by settlement, where teaching can only begin when there is a core of devoted believers. This means pioneers. It is patently clear that even if thousands of new souls accept the Faith in Britain we would have failed our part in the world-wide Plan of the Universal House of Justice if we did not achieve every one of our goals, at home and overseas. Pioneers must still arise and in greater numbers than ever before. One of the important factors contributing to the new spirit of enquiry being witnessed today is, without doubt, the effect of the upsurge of pioneering in recent years. Bahá'u'lláh himself testifies to the effect the movement from place to place for the sake of God has on the people. This must not stop now that we are so near to victory. At home and overseas, pioneers are more urgently needed than ever before. Here are the places where pioneers must settle: take your pick and make your offer at once to the National Spiritual Assembly; just to arise and offer is the important step; the details can be worked out in consultation.

Overseas: Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Cyprus, Malta, Dahomey, The Gambia, Ghana, South West Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, Tanzania, Hong Kong, India, Pakistan, Tokelau Islands, Trinidad, Faroes, Fiji.

Homefront: Jersey, Lerwick, Derby, Bangor (North Wales), Kidderminster, Dingwall, N. Berwick, Craigavon, Llanelli.

All are urgent and vital to the plan.

Beloved Friends,

As we jointly face these two great obstacles which are now between us and total victory, let us ponder on the tremendous significance of the situation. In past years we have always been able to say, "Oh if only the people would listen", or, "If there only was some response", and like phrases. Today there are people who will listen, thousands are waiting to respond; the issue is now squarely in our hands. A mere three dozen souls to arise and settle in new places, a small extra contribution from every believer, and there undoubtedly will be the upsurge in response which will, in the words of Shoghi Effendi in his last letter to us written only two months before he passed away in our midst, "yield such a harvest as will astonish the entire Bahá'í world, and give the signal for the inauguration...of a blissful era designed to carry the chief builders of Bahá'u'lláh's embryonic World Order...to still greater heights of achievement in the service and for the glory of His Faith."

We do not believe that it is mere coincidence that this crucial point has come now, when on the one hand our youth are arising to serve as never before and on the other, we are rapidly approaching that most significant commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Master's passing and the sixtieth anniversary of His first visit to our shores.

We do believe that the response of the British Bahá'í Community will indeed "astonish the entire Bahá'í world", the alternative could not be tolerated.

In His Name.

National Spiritual Assembly.

"VIE YE WITH EACH OTHER"

Local Spiritual Assemblies and Groups contributing to the Fund
21st March 1971 – 15th June 1971.

(The number beside each place indicates the number of times contributions have been made)

1 Aylesbury	1 Cheadle & Gatley	1 Kirkwall	3 Oxford
1 Bangor, N. Ireland	2 Chester	3 Lambeth	1 Poole
1 Bangor, Wales	1 Cork	1 Larne R.D.	2 Portsmouth
2 Bath	2 Croydon	4 Leeds	1 Richmond
1 Barnet	4 Dublin	1 Leicester	2 Scarisbrick
1 Bedford	4 Dumbarton	2 Limerick	1 Sheffield
2 Belfast	2 Dundee	2 Lincoln	1 Southport
2 Birmingham	3 Dun Laoghaire	1 Lisburn	6 Stafford
4 Blackpool	2 Ealing	3 Liverpool	1 Stornoway
1 Bournemouth	5 Eccles	5 Londonderry	1 Sutton Coldfield
1 Bradford	4 Edinburgh	2 Malta	1 Swansea
4 Brent	2 Exeter	2 Manchester	1 Swinton
5 Bristol	2 Haringay	2 Motherwell	1 Torbay
3 Cambridge	2 Havering	2 Nelson	5 Wandsworth
3 Camden	2 Hove	1 Newcastle	2 Watford
1 Canterbury	1 Jersey	1 Newport	1 Westminster
1 Carlisle	1 Kendal	3 Norwich	2 Winchester
2 Castlereagh R.D.	1 Kirkby	1 Nottingham	3 Wokingham R.D.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



India

Among the goals assigned to India in the Nine Year Plan were those of opening to the Cause 20,000 localities and raising to Assembly status 4,000 of these. In January, 1971 India reported 16,800 localities opened to the Faith.

"...42nd Annual Convention presence Hand Cause Muhajir, Counsellors Payman, Vasudevan, Boman, sixty-six delegates... Happy inform...expect completion Assembly formation goal this year..."

"...Thrilling prospects Nepal having reportedly 12 Local Spiritual Assemblies. West Bengal over 4,000 believers, 51 Assemblies. Nation-wide youth travel teaching initiated Convention...New Plan aimed completion all goals by anniversary passing Master..."

Over 8,000 government officials have now received Bahá'í literature in India. The response has been highly gratifying. One recipient wrote, "...Now I'd like to know how I can help in this great Cause. Please be specific and frank."

Another typical reply reads, "...I have gone through the booklet and found it very interesting as well as inspiring. I would like to join a large number of Bahá'ís."

Indian Ocean

Among the Nine Year Plan goals assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Indian Ocean was to establish a Local Spiritual Assembly in Comoro Islands and to raise 40 Local Assemblies in Mauritius.

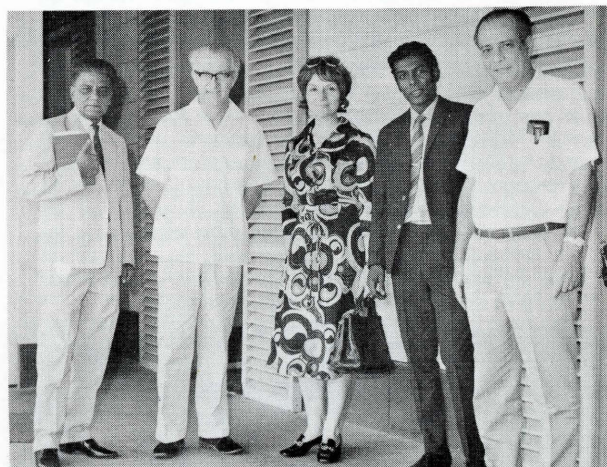
"...8th National Convention heartfelt gratitude inspiring message resulting fruitful consultation. Pledge fervent dedication surpass goals Nine Year Plan. Joyfully announce accomplishment Comoro Islands Local Spiritual Assembly goal and election eight Local Spiritual Assemblies Reunion, Madagascar, Seychelles respectively and 54 Mauritius..."

Italy

"...Italian Community encouraged successes Year 127 among which two more Assemblies, sixty new believers, re-opening Elba. Decided to fulfill all goals Nine Year Plan this year..."

"National Youth School Pisa, Ninth Twelfth April 200 participants (from) 4 countries 23 Italian town 8 declarations, 3 pioneers, 20 volunteers...youth project..."

Padre Mariano, a Catholic Monk who acts as Master of Ceremonies on a religious television programme shown throughout Italy, recently read, for the third time, *The Prayer for All Mankind* by 'Abdu'l-Bahá. A viewer had requested a prayer for all religions and was rewarded with this prayer while a photograph of the Master was shown on the screen. The Monk stated that this was one of the most beautiful prayers he had ever encountered.



Outside the Chief Justice's Chambers after the presentation of the Book of Proclamation. From left to right: A. Rahman, Secretary, N.T.C., Puisne Judge Andre Sauzier, Mrs. Shamsi Navidi, Bernadin Renaud, Recording Secretary, N.T.C., and Chief Justice Sir Louis George Souyave.

Seychelles

Tremendous Proclamation victories have been achieved recently in these Islands, coinciding with a 'meteoric' visit made by Knight of Bahá'u'lláh and member of the National Spiritual Assembly in the Indian Ocean, Mrs Shamsi Navidi. Proclamation books were given to the Governor, the Chief Justice, the Director of Education, the Attorney General and other Ministers; the Head of the Anglican Church and the French Consul. She addressed various schools and many Bahá'í gatherings. Many events of historic significance took place during her 7-day visit at the end of June.

THREE SPECIAL DAYS

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

We have noted with deep satisfaction that some National Spiritual Assemblies have already initiated plans to befittingly commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the inception of the Formative Age of the Bahá'í Dispensation.

We feel it would be highly fitting for the three days, November 26 to 28, during which the Day of the Covenant and the Anniversary of the Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá occur, to be set aside this year by all National Spiritual Assemblies for specially arranged gatherings and conferences, convened either nationally or locally or both, on the three following main themes: The Bahá'í Covenant, The Formative Age, and The Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

We hope that these gatherings will serve to intensify the consecration of the workers in the Divine Vineyard in every land, and provide them with the opportunity, especially in the watches of the night of that Ascension, when they will be commemorating the passing hour of our Beloved Master, to renew their pledge to Bahá'u'lláh and to re-dedicate themselves to the accomplishment of the as yet unfulfilled goals of the Nine Year Plan.

The Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land, the members of the Universal House of Justice, and all resident and visiting believers at the World Centre will, on that memory-laden night, visit the Shrine of that Mystery of God on behalf of the entire Community of the Blessed Beauty and will supplicate for the stalwart champions of the Faith labouring in the forefront of so many fields of service and winning fresh triumphs in His Name, for the self-sacrificing believers without whose support and sustained assistance most of these victories could not be achieved, and for those who will be inspired to join the ranks of the active and dedicated promoters of His glorious Cause at this crucial stage in the development of the Plan, that we may all meet our obligations and discharge our sacred trust, thus making it possible in the latter months of the Plan for our entire resources to be devoted to an even greater expansion of the Faith in its onward march towards the spiritual conquest of the planet.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

The Universal House of Justice

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes every community to read the above letter, both at Feasts and in Assembly meetings and consult on its implications. It should be realised that in many parts of the world communities organise meetings every year to commemorate the Holy Days at the correct times, opening an hour or more before the actual time approved by the Guardian to enable them to read appropriate passages and, on the special occasion of the Martyrdom of the Báb, the Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh and the Passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the appropriate Tablet of Visitation is read. The National Teaching Committees of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland will be planning the programmes for these three special days for the Fiftieth Anniversary and we hope that appropriate meetings will be called throughout Britain to enable the friends to share in this world-wide commemoration.



First National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Trinidad and Tobago, elected Ridván, (24 April, 1971).

Standing: left to right; Joel G. Caverly, Shamsi Sedaghat (Pioneer from Britain), Nikou Amarsingh, Leopold Fraser.

Sitting: left to right; Ramkisson Ramdass, Gloreen Richards, Laciford Rocke, Alma Lyons, La Verne B. Johnson.

THE FUND

There are three ways to make contributions to the FUND

- 1 Directly to the National Treasurer:—

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

- 2 By Bank Giro, directly to the Bank, which is

The National Westminster Bank
186 Brompton Road,
London SW3

Our account no. is 18188443

- 3 By Post Office Giro. Our number is 43 301 4008.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- A All cheques and postal orders should be made payable to 'NSA of the Bahá'ís'; please **NOT** to 'Betty Goode'.
- B They should be crossed.
- C It is not wise to send paper money or any money through the post unless it is registered.
- D Receipts are sent automatically for money sent directly to the National Treasurer, unless the donor specifically requests that one not be sent. With the increasing numbers of friends, it helps the Treasurer if a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed for the receipt. It really does save much work and is greatly appreciated. Receipts are not issued for Giro payments.

PAYMENTS BY COVENANT

These are handled by **Mr. John Morpew**
41 High Street,
Hoddeston,
Herts.

Please contact him directly.

FOR THE PERSIAN FRIENDS

Huqúq'u'lláh payments are handled by

Mr. John Long
2 South Street,
Oakham
Rutland.

EDITORIAL

For economic reasons, this issue has had to be limited to eight pages and a great deal of material has been omitted.

The next edition is scheduled to be sent out in October and the deadline date for material is

30 SEPTEMBER 1971

Please send articles, photographs and other items to the Editor:—

Mrs. Lois Hainsworth,
'Treen'
Allerton Park,
Leeds LS7 4ND.

URGENT CALL FOR PIONEERS

The Universal House of Justice has recently written to us telling us of the urgent needs of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands. They say: "Surely this is one of the most difficult areas of the whole of the Pacific"; and "these...must be won".

The British Isles have recently sent one pioneer to these beautiful South Pacific coral islands, Irene Jones, but we must find one more pioneer if we are to fill our goals of the Nine Year Plan.

Openings for pioneers are very few, but particularly we seek qualified, experienced teachers and engineers; doctors and nurses are also required from time to time. If you feel that you might possibly be able to pioneer to this vital goal please contact:—

Robin Maule,
31 Chatsworth Avenue,
Winnersh, Berks.
Tel. West Forest 5016

The Universal House of Justice assures us: "We shall offer ardent prayers at the Sacred Thresholds for the success of your efforts to supply the needed pioneers."

PIONEERS

"They that have forsaken their country for the purpose of teaching Our Cause — these shall the Faithful Spirit strengthen through its power By My life! No act however great, can compare with it, except such deeds as have been ordained by God, the All-Powerful, the Most Mighty. Such a service is indeed the prince of all goodly deeds, and the ornament of every goodly act."

Bahá'u'lláh: The Advent of Divine Justice.

The recent cable from the Universal House of Justice reads: "Exploit opportunities" in order to "win all outstanding goals" during the "next twelve months."

The fulfilment of the goals of the Nine Year Plan, we are assured by the Universal House of Justice, is the best preparation for the future and the means of developing new powers and capacities in the Bahá'í Community.

The formation of local spiritual assemblies is enjoined upon us by Bahá'u'lláh in the Most Holy Book, the Kitáb-i-Aqdas.

Pioneers are among those precious souls who help to establish these divinely ordained institutions.

When a local assembly is established there is a release of tremendous spiritual energy.

There are seventy gaps this year. Can you fill one of them and help to win fourteen local spiritual assemblies?

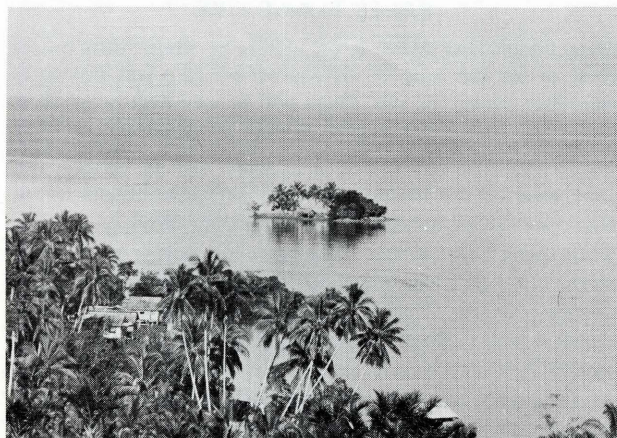
The followings are the outstanding goals which must be achieved by Ridván 1972, but it is clear and evident that early pioneer moves are essential in order to initiate more and more energetic teaching activities in these goal towns:

Blackpool — 2; Derby — 6; Kidderminster — 5; Northampton — 1; Oakham — 1; Ryde — 4; Dingwall — 8; North Berwick — 7; Lerwick — 5; Llanelly — 8; Craigavan — 7.

What could be a better way of serving Bahá'u'lláh than to arise and take His wonderful message to waiting souls? Everyone is earnestly asked to search his or her heart and consider the possibilities.

Friends should know that if they themselves are not able to pioneer, they can, where circumstances allow, deputise another person who is able to do so.

If you can help please contact 27 Rutland Gate, London, SW7. (Telephone 01-584-2566).



Typical Solomon Islands picture; cannot be very different in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands; who will be the next lucky pioneer from Britain?

Thelma Batchelor writes:

"...Here in the Solomon Islands the people we are teaching cannot visualise anything outside of the Pacific...we are going into the villages on Guadalcanal and find it difficult teaching without visual aids.....Four of the Solomon Island Bahá'ís went to Fiji for the Oceanic Conference in May and have come back here very exhilarated with all they experienced. We have just had a letter from Irene Jones who has arrived in the Gilbert Islands and is happily settling in..."

A TEACHING TRIP TO GERMANY

A brief but wonderful teaching trip in Germany at the beginning of June was undertaken by Geoff Bridle, Pat Keeley, Ann Macleod, Minou Eshragh and David Hopper. That we had no fixed itinerary beforehand was no drawback, for the visits made to just a few places were very rewarding for both visitors and hosts. We visited Bahá'ís in Langenhain (attending the Temple service there), Hofheim, Florsheim, Frankfurt, Heidelberg, Hildesheim and we were able to help with a "Bahá'í Week" that was being held in Darmstadt. In the town centre we helped to hand out attractively designed leaflets advertising an exhibition and a series of three or four public talks and were very easily able to make friends with several young people whose interest was aroused by the exhibition.

We have since heard that there were 3 declarations in Darmstadt as a result of the Bahá'í Week. The advertising for the exhibition and other events was attractive and very trendy in its design and we were impressed by the considerable amount of work which the German Bahá'ís are doing to proclaim the Faith. We brought several fresh ideas home with us.

In the different places we were warmly entertained by the Bahá'ís who went out of their way to accommodate us all. If, on certain occasions, some of us had to sleep on a kitchen floor or with two on an airbed, the week ended in splendid luxury when we had the "Naturfreund Verein" hostel, in a woodland setting on the outskirts of Hildesheim, completely to ourselves and were able to enjoy first class cooking facilities, hot showers and comfortable beds for a very reasonable cost. In Hildesheim we were mostly taken care of by Sefatollah Biukaghahi (well known to the friends in Cambridge as "Bill" when he lived there) who excelled himself both as a host and as a translator between Persian, German and English.

Thriftily we picniced as we travelled, on cold meats and salads either inside the car, outside using the boot as a table or, in one case, on a park bench.

Navigation was often a problem. The first day we went miles into the Taunus hills to get to the wrong Langenhain, the one where the Temple is not being marked on our map.

Not the least hilarious of our adventures were our attempts to learn or improve our German. What we failed to communicate in language, we communicated in laughter.

In Langenhain we talked with a very interesting man (not a Bahá'í) who lives in sight of the Temple. He has made, for a garden ornament, an attractive wrought-iron model of the Temple, with an electric light inside it. He must surely have met many Bahá'í visitors whose attention has been attracted by this model.

In Hildesheim we met a non-Bahá'í youth who played for us two songs which he had composed in English. The themes were searching and essentially religious. We were struck by the overall similarity between youth in Germany and youth here in Britain. Almost certainly the kind of thoughts and feelings young people have must be basically the same the world over. Without doubt youth on the continent are just as much ready to listen to the message of Bahá'u'lláh as youth here in Britain.

To the various Bahá'í communities we met, we related how mass teaching had begun in England, in Peterborough and Oakham. In our conversations one point clearly emerged: it is necessary to demonstrate the Faith first and explain it later. The spirit of religion, as shown by the spontaneous love and unity of its members, will more readily attract the newcomer than intellectual discussions ever could.

The value of the teaching trip lay not so much in the communication of ideas as in the exchange of friendship and fun. Perhaps many more of the friends in England would like to respond to the call of the Universal House of Justice for travelling teachers to the continent. Much of the enjoyment and effectiveness of such trips will come from travelling in small groups of two or more. Language difficulty should be a minor consideration because the act of travelling and visiting can do much to demonstrate the international nature of Bahá'í friendship and unity and in that way "the divine fragrances" can be diffused.

BAHÁ'Í FAITH LETTERHEADS

The Universal House of Justice has pointed out that the notepaper sold by the Sales Committee, items No. 38, 39 and 40, carrying a Bahá'í emblem could be taken by non-Bahá'ís as an official communication from the Bahá'í Faith. They therefore request that these items should not be reprinted when the present stocks are exhausted.



A group of Bahá'ís at the Scottish Youth Conference.

FIRST SCOTTISH YOUTH CONFERENCE

The first Scottish Youth Conference, held in Dundee on 26/27 June 1971, may well prove to be an historic as well as a joyous occasion for the Scottish community. Organised by the Scottish Regional Youth Committee, in order to promote the Two Year Youth Teaching Campaign of the Counsellors in Scotland, the conference was indebted to Counsellor Betty Reed who shared with us the news of the beginnings of "entry by troops" in parts of Europe. She attached great importance to the campaign because of its tremendous potential and reminded us that the work of the youth "will revolutionise the progress of the Faith in Europe". Up till now "entry by troops" has been in the equatorial and arctic belts of the world. Nevertheless, the influence of the spiritual awakening in these regions would gradually exert more and more pressure and spread to the areas as yet unaffected. The Bahá'ís are in a race against time and there is a need for a greater realisation of the power of Bahá'u'lláh to reinforce the efforts of those who arise to serve him.

Carefully conceived plans with carefully stated objectives were called for, supported by a strong prayer programme. Certain points were noted from a letter addressed to the German National Assembly and were displayed on the walls of the room. There and then, the Scottish Regional Youth Committee and the youth present formulated plans and projects related to the points and appointed coordinators to supervise each plan. The plans were then displayed on the walls, the following being a brief resumé.

TO TAKE THE FAITH TO:

1. THE POOR AND UNEDUCATED IN THE GREAT CITIES

(a) Edinburgh Youth Childrens' Activities: Twelve youth offered to organise activities for underprivileged children, starting in September.

2. THE FARMERS AND PEASANTS IN THE PLAINS AND MOUNTAINS

- (a) Farmers: Nine youth will join the Young Farmers' Association of Scotland.
- (b) Islands:
- (i) Orkneys: Groups organised from eight youth; projects beginning 15 August.
 - (ii) Outer Hebrides: Groups organised from seven youth; projects beginning 15 August.
 - (iii) Inner Hebrides — Iona: Groups organised from ten youth; projects began 8 July.
 - (iv) Inner Hebrides — Mull: Groups organised from nine youth; projects beginning in September.

3. YOUTH IN SCHOOLS

Eight youth to suggest to their local spiritual assemblies that:—

- (a) Children in their community organise "firesides" in the schools and hold discussions on such subjects as 'Science and Religion';
- (b) Books be presented in school libraries;
- (c) Bahá'í speakers be offered in schools;
- (d) World Children's Day be organised.

4. YOUTH IN UNIVERSITIES

Bahá'í Societies to be established in four Scottish universities (one is already in existence) making use of the National Youth Committee's awaited publication "Model Constitution for Bahá'í Societies in Universities". With a society formed, advantage would be gained in having the use of a notice-board, more publicity, better stalls at preterminals and literature could be disseminated to freshers.

5. YOUTH IN INDUSTRY

- (a) Consider organising Bahá'í entertainment groups in communities;
- (b) Playgroups for children;
- (c) Youth hostels — announce Bahá'í hospitality on notice-boards in youth hostels in six communities;
- (d) Youth entertain in hospitals, community centres and youth clubs;
- (e) Explore possibilities of teaching in public houses and report back at next conference in October.

6. DISSILLUSIONED YOUTH WHO HAVE REBELLED AGAINST SOCIETY

- (a) Youth in each community to inform Scottish Regional Youth Committee of "pop" festivals in their area: Bahá'í youth to sit on fringes of crowd and mix with the youth;
- (b) "Pop" Festival — Edinburgh: 1/5 July — twelve youth to attend.

OTHER PROJECTS

Goal Towns: North Berwick — one youth summer project;
Dingwall — one youth residential project.

Prayers: Each youth in Scotland to say prayer of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, "O Thou incomparable God", on rising each morning and also "The Remover of Difficulties" between 9 and 10 pm, linking up with the rest of Europe.

National Youth Plan Projects: To form local youth committees where there is a local assembly. At present there are ten local assemblies and five local youth committees. The Scottish Regional Youth Committee set a target of £100 as the Scottish contribution towards the National Youth goal of £500 for the International and National Funds.

Over 90% of the Scottish youth community attended the conference; a tremendous spirit of unity and love for each other evolved from this conference, bringing us much closer together as one family. It was a wonderful thought to realise that this family, numbering only five youth two years ago, had now increased eightfold! At the end of the conference, each turned his heart toward Bahá'u'lláh in prayer for guidance and assistance and, finally, all joined to sing "Alláh'u'Abhá" before parting.

SALES COMMITTEE

Great interest was shown in the picture of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on the cover of the last issue of the Journal and so it was decided to reproduce copies for sale. These will be very slightly lighter in colour and fractionally smaller, printed on lightweight card at a price of 3 pence each.

Tape cassettes are becoming popular and are very useful for teaching purposes and also for deepening the friends.

20-C-8009 HEAR THE SONG OF THE WIND

by the Southern California Bahá'í Chorus; similar in style to the "Victory Chorus" record; selections: Love Love Love, Freedom Sky, Come Walk with Me, Leaves of One Tree, Singing Wind, etc.: £1.40

20-C-8004 CAN'T YOU SEE THE NEW DAY, BAHÁ'ÍS IN THE SOUTH 1970; a collection of spontaneous recordings made during the early days of mass enrollment in the south; consists largely of songs composed and sung by Bahá'ís; conveys something of the spirit and atmosphere in which mass teaching was initially carried out: £1.40

20-C-2118 ENROLLING THE MASSES; a study course in two parts by Hand of the Cause William Sears; a penetrating study and discussion of the Bahá'í Writings concerning teaching the masses and their entry by troops; two cassette package: £2.40

All the above items may be ordered from the Sales Committee, 44 Highbank, Brighton BN1 5GB.

THE BASIS OF A BAHÁ'Í EDUCATION

Knowledge of God

A Bahá'í education can be thought of primarily in terms of man's relation to God, rather than in terms of man's relation to man or to the world, which are of secondary importance.

The 'Educator' is one of the Names of God and the Prophets of God are the first educators of mankind. They cause man's spiritual development and promote man's knowledge of God.

Knowledge of God is 'the beginning of all things'. We can think of it as the basis of a Bahá'í education. 'Education' means here a life-long process, begun in childhood. Knowledge is also, Bahá'u'lláh says: "...a veritable treasure for man...a source of glory, bounty, joy, exaltation, cheer and gladness unto him." To know God is in fact man's ultimate purpose. The main aim of education should be to help man towards this ultimate purpose.

In studying the various levels of creation — mineral, plant, animal and man — man is always led back to the knowledge of God if this study is carried out in the right spirit: "He hath entrusted every created thing with a sign of His knowledge."

Man's purpose is to know God, and the purpose of knowledge is knowledge of God. Yet even man's knowledge of God is created by God, according to His purpose: "Every utterance that seeketh to describe Thee, and every knowledge that attempteth to comprehend Thee, is but an expression of Thine own creating."

So there remains a great mystery. The highest point of knowledge attainable by man (and therefore the highest aim of education) is for man to know that he cannot know God! "The highest station which they who desire to know Thee can reach is the acknowledgement of their impotence to attain the retreats of Thy sublime knowledge."

Man cannot know God because he cannot transgress the bounds of this finite world. The created cannot know the Creator. Man's mind cannot grasp God; the nature of God is inconceivable. Bahá'u'lláh says that to recognise this in itself is the acme of human understanding.

Since we cannot understand God directly, the Manifestation remains the greatest source of the knowledge of God.

Therefore the purpose of education is to recognise the Manifestation of God and His Revelation. From the knowledge of the Manifestation the knowledge of God is directly revealed.

In the light of progressive revelation Bahá'í education under the influence of the latest Manifestation must bring about an 'explosion' of knowledge, both in depth and breadth, both spiritual and material. The extent of Bahá'u'lláh's revelation is greater than any previous one, and so man's knowledge of God resulting from this revelation will be greater than ever before. This burst of knowledge is centred around the knowledge of God, "the beginning of all things", brought by Bahá'u'lláh.

Learning and Understanding

Another concept at the heart of education is 'learning': "The first attribute of perfection is learning and the cultural attainments of the mind."

In Bahá'í education learning is directed primarily to the knowledge of God: "The source of all learning is the knowledge of God, exalted be His Glory, and this cannot be attained save through the knowledge of His Divine Manifestation."

Hand in hand with learning go memory and understanding, both of which are seen in divine rather than in human terms, exalting God rather than man: "True remembrance is to make mention of the Lord, the All-Praised." "God's greatest gift to man is that of the intellect, or understanding." "...His purpose in conferring such a gift is none other than to enable His creatures to know and to recognise the one true God — exalted be His Glory."

Learning is made a duty and in no uncertain terms: "Teaching and learning, according to the decisive texts of the Blessed Beauty, is a duty. Whosoever is indifferent therein depriveth himself of great bounty. Beware! Beware! that ye fail not in this matter..."

by Martin Cortazzi.

But the spirit in which this learning is carried out is crucial: "With the love of God all sciences are accepted and beloved, but without it are fruitless; nay, rather, the cause of insanity."

'Abdu'l-Bahá has also said that to acquire sciences and to perfect the arts are considered acts of worship. In this sense, and in relation to the purpose of man's creation, knowledge and love are complementary — an important idea for education. Consider the short obligatory prayer, for example, or this: "Love is the cause of unfoldment, to a searching mind, of the secrets deposited in the universe by the Infinite!"

One cannot consider education without considering morality, a subject much stressed in the Bahá'í Scriptures. Morality and nobility of character enable man to mirror divine perfections. They are very important at the beginning of an education, since their pattern is largely laid down in childhood. The reader can probably recall many passages in the Writings on this subject.

Morality or good deeds are an essential complement to knowledge and understanding: "Use your knowledge always for the benefit of others." "I hope that you will use your understanding to promote the unity and tranquility of mankind, to give enlightenment and civilization of the people, to produce love in all around you, and to bring about the universal peace."

Curriculum

Bahá'u'lláh says education must be both universal and compulsory. The responsibility for education rests with parents or with local spiritual assemblies.

"They (local spiritual assemblies) must promote by every means in their power the material, as well as the spiritual enlightenment of youth, the means for the education of children, institute, whenever possible, Bahá'í educational institutions, organize and supervise their work, and provide the best means for their progress and development."

It is well known that 'Abdu'l-Bahá stressed the importance of training children, especially their daughters — the mothers of the future. The first trainer of the child is the mother.

The curriculum of any Bahá'í educational institution would clearly depend to some extent on local conditions, on the needs and demands, ages and abilities of the children or students involved. 'Abdu'l-Bahá indicates the tone of the curriculum: "As to thy question concerning training children: it is incumbent upon thee to nurture them from the breast of the love of God, and to acquire good manners, best characteristics and praiseworthy virtues and qualities in the world of humanity, and to study sciences with the utmost diligence."

Clearly a Bahá'í curriculum would function within the scope of Bahá'í principles and ordinances and would instil the Bahá'í laws, teaching, for example, the oneness of God, the oneness of mankind, and the obligation to engage in some occupation.

Many recent developments in the field of education seem to be along the lines indicated by Bahá'u'lláh. For example, children are encouraged more often to investigate knowledge independently. The fundamental attitude to children has changed. Instead of treating children as empty buckets to be filled with facts, they are regarded as individuals with their own talents and qualities to be developed. Bahá'u'lláh says: "Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures and enable mankind to benefit therefrom."

In view of the importance of education, teachers have a great station, as is, perhaps, indicated by their enumeration among the inheritors in the will Bahá'u'lláh laid down for intestate estates. And Bahá'u'lláh says: "He who educates his sons, or any other's children, it is as though he had educated one of My children."

FIRESIDES AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

BRADFORD	Chris and Bob Hallam, Moor House, Moor Farm, Allerton Road,	Fireside	Thursdays 8.00 pm
HOUNSLOW	68 Sutton Court Road, London W.4.	Fireside	Tuesdays 7.30 pm
LEEDS	Philip and Lois Hainsworth, 'Treen', Allerton Park, Bijan Katirai, 5 Grove Court, Grove Road, YMCA, Albion Place,	Fireside	Tuesdays 8.00 pm
		Fireside	Thursdays 8.00 pm
		Public Meeting	Last Monday each month 7.45 pm
PORTSMOUTH	Mr. and Mrs. Haywood,, 58 St. Augustine Road, Southsea	Fireside	Fridays 7.30 pm
YORK	Mrs. Muriel Evans, 6 Whitby Road, Stockton Lane	Fireside	Thursdays 8.00 pm (except second Thursday)
		Public Meeting	Second Thursday each month 8.00 pm
	Friends Meeting House, Clifford Street		

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

CHESTER. There will be two events in Chester over the August Bank Holiday and we should welcome any support nearby friends are able to give.

28 August: Survey in Chester. It is hoped to gather statistical information to help the Local Spiritual Assembly in its teaching programme.

29 August: One Day School. Northgate Hall, Chester College. 10 am–6 pm Slides, talks, music, a play and a forum with a difference.

EDINBURGH. Much contact has been made recently with young people who have immersed themselves in esoteric and mystical groups. Many of them have seen so clearly the faults of the existing world order as to reject it entirely and we are trying to show them that it is in the message of Bahá'u'lláh that they will find the "Something better" for which they search. A Bahá'í speaker was recently requested by a Sufi group in Edinburgh and was well received, and an impressively painted Bahá'í poster hung as part of the decoration at a three-day "pop" festival held at one of the leading theatres of the city. At the same time, the Faith in Edinburgh continues to progress in more conventional circles, as shown by the sizeable weekly children's class, attended by a significant number of children from non-Bahá'í families. The number of firesides held regularly in the city has had to be increased from two per week to three, as we were getting overcrowded with people wanting to talk about the Faith!

HAVERING. A weekend of intensive activity is planned for October 2–3, and in order to make it a success we should be grateful for the support of as many friends as possible. The local shopping area, which includes a large market, attracts many people, therefore a "meet the people" gesture, talking to people and handing out pamphlets, should be very successful. During the evening a social is planned. On Sunday a programme of talks, slides and discussions will take place. Information leaflets will be available at a later date.

KIRKBY. The Kirkby Bahá'ís would like to thank all the friends who supported their very first weekend school. Non-Bahá'ís who attended were very impressed with the spirit that prevailed and found it hard to believe the distance that some of the friends had travelled to attend. We don't know whether any declarations will result, but even if there are none, we shall feel it was a great success because those who attended went home far richer in spirit and knowledge.

KIRKWALL. A weekend school is being arranged for 23–26 September and we would like to appeal to young Bahá'í musicians to help us awaken the Orkney youth to the Call of Bahá'u'lláh. For information please write to Verdun Wake, 6 Warrenfield Crescent, Kirkwall, Orkney. A talk was given to the Kirkwall Roman Catholic congregation at the request of the priest, who is now a firm friend of the Bahá'ís. During the next few weeks, Proclamation books will be presented to all the Ministers on the Orkney mainland. As all planes to Shetland call at Kirkwall Airport, we should be grateful if pioneers and visitors to Lerwick could stop off and pay us a visit. We continue to say the "Remover of Difficulties" prayer five hundred times each Bahá'í month.

PORTSMOUTH. There will be a public meeting on 26 September at 3 pm, at the Labour Hall, 84 Kingston Crescent, North End, Portsmouth. Tea and biscuits will be provided. We should be grateful for the support of nearby friends.

St. NEOTS. We believe it was four girls from St. Neots who were the first of the forty to declare at Peterborough!! Since that day we have had regular meetings with them and their friends and the group is expanding every week. We now meet them at the school gates every Tuesday after school and they come to the farm for a fireside — last time there were thirteen. The two farm picnics on June 6 and July 4 were a great success, with about a hundred present at the first and 130 at the second. No doubt the tractor and trailer rides had something to do with it — even though the last load on July 4 did have to walk back to the farm because of a burst tyre. Anyone for a ride on August 1 or September 5?? The Action Camp on August 27–30 should also be a big new "first" of its kind for young and old.

Mrs. Janet Ward is with us for some months.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward are known to a great many Bahá'ís through their ten years' service at Bahji where it was their job to look after that Holy Spot and the many pilgrims who visited it.

AUDIO VISUAL COMMITTEE

We need tapes, slides and any number of bright ideas and suggestions.

We would like to gather together, for copying, a selection of interesting tapes of special occasions or talks and slides of the various Temples, including Panama.

CAN YOU HELP?

If you can, please send the tapes or slides, carefully labelled as to content and name and address etc., to the secretary, Mrs M. Appa, 14a Northumberland Road, New Barnet, Herts. Once copied these will be returned.

We also need ideas, suggestions and designs for effective, efficient and inexpensive exhibition stands and material.

Finally we are happy to announce that the film 'It's just the beginning' will be available from August from this committee.

SEVENOAKS. On 22 June and 1 July, Proclamation books were presented to the Chairmen of Sevenoaks Rural and Urban District Councils respectively — both Chairmen happen to be ladies this year. In both cases we were very courteously received and many pertinent questions were asked with genuine interest. In the case of the Urban Council, the Deputy Clerk was also present. The Urban Council Chairman was most pleased to learn that the first Sevenoaks member had discovered the Faith from a book in Sevenoaks Library, and appeared to consider that this was a cause of congratulation to the Library! This interview ended with some refreshment. A small paragraph under "This Week — News in Brief" mentioning the presentations and explaining what the book was, appeared in one local newspaper.

SHREWSBURY. On July 3–4 the youth of Shrewsbury held a weekend school, beginning with an attendance of about fifty, which increased to a hundred and fifty, Bahá'ís and non-Bahá'ís, at the variety show. The atmosphere throughout the weekend was one of unity and joy and the programme included talks, slide shows and discussions. After the social evening broke up, two firesides were held in two homes in the Shrewsbury area. There was one declaration during the weekend — a youth from Stafford. Our community is most grateful to all who participated and wishes to thank all those who helped to make the weekend a success.

STORNOWAY. With great joy and excitement the first Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Stornoway was achieved. In His Tablets of the Divine Plan, addressed to North America, 'Abdu'l-Bahá mentioned the Hebrides and urged pioneers to move to these islands after the first world war.

The beloved Guardian and the Universal House of Justice also stressed the importance of these islands and the formation of the LSA is a great historical achievement.



The first Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Stornoway: Mr. Enayat'u'llah Rawhani, Mrs. Pixie Rawhani, Mr. Roderick Grant, Miss Minoo Rawhani, Mr. Calum Grant, Mrs. Elaine Grant, Miss Zarrin Jahanpur, Mrs. Hakimeh Rawhani, Mrs. Alma Gregory.