



BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

K. Hornell

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HISTORIC EUROPEAN YOUTH CONFERENCE IN SWITZERLAND



The launching of 1,200 balloons during opening days of European Youth Conference in Fiesch, Switzerland. Eighty persons who later found balloons in countries as far as Austria, Italy and Yugoslavia, have requested information about the Faith by returning a reply card attached to each of the balloons.

From July 31 to August 11, 1971, 1,200 youth from 50 countries, representing all continents, gathered in the mountain village of Fiesch, Valais, for the first European Youth Conference. Speakers included the Hands of the Cause 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánúm, Dr. Adelbert Mühlischiegel, South American Counsellor Donald Witzel and European Counsellors Betty Reed, Erik Blumenthal and Anneliese Bopp. eed, Erik

Enthusiastic youth packed the vast auditorium, sat on the floor, stood in doorways and clustered on window ledges to listen to the beloved Rúhíyyih Khánúm. Speaking from the heart, with conviction, in a language adapted to youth, not without wit and humour, she tirelessly answered questions posed by a demanding audience, drawing on her unequalled experiences of Bahá'í life, in sessions lasting up to four hours. Above all, she instilled in the heart of her listeners the great love for the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh, reflected through qualities of loyalty, submissiveness, obedience, reverence, prayer, action and fire which characterized the beloved Guardian's life.

One day of the conference was devoted to actual teaching of the masses in the field. One thousand believers went out on foot, by train, by car or by bus to canvas the mountain valleys and villages of Valais (Valley of Rhone). Thousands of people heard of the Message of Baha'u'llah for the first time on that day and following days. The project, prepared by prayer, meditation and consultation, was brought to a climax at a public meeting in Fiesch. Fifteen hundred people packed the big hall. Young and old, mountaineers, Italian and Spanish workers, tourists and villagers gathered where the President of the Parliament of Valais brought a thunder of applause when he greeted the audience with these words: "The French writer Georges Bernanos said, 'When the youth is freezing, the teeth of the whole world chatter'. Tonight, the world should feel warm with the fire of your love." Following a programme of prayers, slide shows and talks in different languages, an appeal was made to those who wanted to join the Faith. A first hand shyly went up, steadily followed by more and more. Soon, cries of "Cartoline, per favore!", "Une carte ici!", "Noch eine Karte!" and "Please, a declaration card!" were heard throughout the hall. Eyes were wet with tears as the Spirit prompted spontaneous declarations. Fifty-two persons accepted the Faith on that night, twenty-four more during the same day, a total of 199 from seventeen countries during the entire conference. The time of the wide embrace of humanity had at long last come to the old continent.

DEDICATION OF THE PANAMA TEMPLE

We are delighted to tell you that the beloved Hand of the Cause 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánúm will represent the Universal House of Justice at the dedication ceremonies of the new Mashriqu'l-Adhkar in Panama.

These ceremonies will include the Bahá'í dedication on Saturday, April 29, 1972; the public dedication on Sunday, April 30; a public meeting in Panama City on Saturday, April 29; a banquet for notabilities on Sunday, April 30 and a Bahá'í Conference during May 1 and 2. National Spiritual Assemblies in the Western Hemisphere, particularly those in Latin America, are urged to send representatives to the dedication ceremonies and if necessary to hold their Conventions at another time during the Ridván period.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,
The Universal House of Justice.

NOTE: After the two dedication ceremonies in the House of Worship there will be a public meeting and the Conference in the Olympic Gymnasium and a banquet in the El Panama Hotel. Hotel and reservation forms are available at the National Office.

National Spiritual Assembly

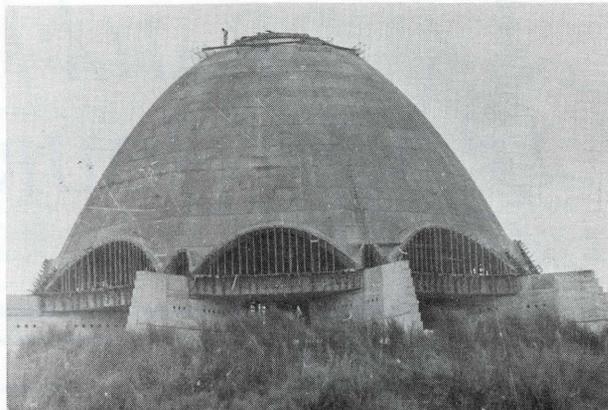


Hand of the Cause of God, Musa Banani.

The Hand of the Cause Musa Banani passed to the Abhá Kingdom at noon on Saturday, September 4. The following cable was sent by the Universal House of Justice:

BAHÁ'Í FAITH UGANDA
PROFOUNDLY MOURN PASSING DEARLY LOVED HAND
CAUSE MUSA BANANI RECALL WITH DEEP AFFECTION
HIS SELFLESS UNASSUMING PROLONGED SERVICES
CRADLE FAITH HIS EXEMPLARY PIONEERING UGANDA
CULMINATING HIS APPOINTMENT AS HAND CAUSE
AFRICA AND PRAISE BELOVED GUARDIAN AS SPIRITUAL
CONQUEROR THAT CONTINENT STOP INTERMENT HIS
REMAINS AFRICAN SOIL UNDER SHADOW MOTHER
TEMPLE ENHANCES SPIRITUAL LUSTRE THAT BLESSED
SPOT STOP FERVENTLY PRAYING SHRINES PROGRESS
HIS NOBLE SOUL STOP MAY AFRICA NOW ROBBED
STAUNCH VENERABLE PROMOTER DEFENDER FAITH
FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE CHEER HIS HEART ABHÁ KING-
DOM STOP CONVEY FAMILY MOST TENDER SYMPATHIES
ADVISE HOLD MEMORIAL MEETINGS ALL COMMUNITIES
BAHÁ'Í WORLD BEFITTING GATHERINGS MOTHER TEM-
PLES. With loving Bahá'í greetings

The Universal House of Justice.



The latest stage in the development of the Panama Temple.

Musa Banani was an heroic soul by any standards; his dedication to the beloved Guardian was complete; his services to the Faith both in Persia and throughout the African continent have earned for him a permanent place in Bahá'í history and his elevation to the rank of the Hand of the Cause has enshrined him amongst the immortals of the early Formative Age. At the call of the Guardian he and his family moved for a short while to England to prepare to pioneer in Africa during the British Two Year Plan and, with his wife Samiyyih Khánúm, his daughter Violette Nakhjavani, his son-in-law, Ali Nakhjavani, his grand daughter Bahiyyih Nakhjavani and British pioneer, Philip Hainsworth, reached the borders of Uganda at 10.30 am, 2nd August, 1951.

When the Guardian allowed pilgrimages to start again in December, 1951, his fellow pioneers encouraged Musa Banani to take immediate advantage of this blessing and to pray in the Shrines for the work in Uganda at a time they would be holding a special meeting for their contacts. At that special meeting the first Etesote to become a Bahá'í accepted the Faith and later became the first African Hand of the Cause, Enoch Olinga. At that pilgrimage the beloved Guardian acquainted Musa Banani with his decision to make him a Hand of the Cause.

For many years Mr Banani had suffered from diabetes but he threw himself into his new tasks as a Hand, travelling all over the African Continent, meeting all the National and many local Assemblies, sending out regular Newsletters and continually exhorting the friends to arise to achieve the Crusade goals. Gradually his condition grew worse and one after the other, blows began to fall — a stroke with paralysis; the fracturing of a thighbone; the inability of the bone to heal necessitating pinning which gave continual pain to the end of his life; gangrene in his "good" leg which resulted in amputation and eventually permanent confinement to bed in absolute helplessness. For hours and hours he would lie awake, asking for news of the Faith and in prayer to Bahá'u'lláh. On many occasions before he was completely bedridden, when he was visited or when he visited Haifa, he was begged to stay in Israel or go to Persia where perhaps his lot would have been easier or more comfortable, but no, the Guardian had sent him to Africa and it was to Africa he must return and it was in its red soil that he must eventually be laid to rest. This wish was fulfilled on Thursday, 9 September, 1971.

TEACHING CONFERENCE

A "NEW LOOK" CONFERENCE THIS YEAR

"An Unprecedented increase in the number of new believers"

These words from the beloved Guardian have inspired the programme for an entirely different type of Teaching Conference.

Once again the Midland Hotel, New Street, Birmingham 2 will be the venue for the main sessions. Specially reduced rates are offered to those booking early and mentioning "Bahá'í Teaching Conference" when booking.

7 / 8 January, 1971.

(Details of the Irish Conference to be held a week later are not yet available)

"Mass Teaching"; "A Happening"; Bahá'í Folksong Groups; new dramatic ways of presenting reports from Regional Committees; a sung devotional and much more in the "new Look" Teaching Conference of 1972.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AUSTRALIA — Reports that a beginning in mass teaching has been made with great success. The Australian NSA cabled to three American travelling teachers whilst they were still in Australia. "Whacko! It works!"

One community doubled itself in one day; twenty new believers in a new area in three hours; seventy declarations in Sydney in six days, and so it goes on.

BOLIVIA — Nine Year Plan Goal — recognition of Bahá'í Holy Days now achieved.

HAWAII — One hundred and fifty four declarations in Big Island assured all goals that island in first six days of a four-week campaign.

BARBADOS — Initial phase teaching project produced four hundred and fifty declarations.

KENYA

The National Spiritual Assembly of Kenya was recently asked to join delegations from other religious and charitable organisations in sponsoring Kenya's new 'self-help' programme.

Seven members of the National Spiritual Assembly took this opportunity to call on President Mzee Jomo Kenyatta at his residence. As the Bahá'í delegation read their programmes they realised that the Bahá'í Faith was placed last on the calendar of events. Shortly before His Excellency arrived the Provincial Commissioner advised the members of the National Spiritual Assembly that they would be the first to be presented to the President.

The Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly met His Excellency and introduced each of the other members of the delegation. The Chairman then told the President that while the Bahá'ís of Kenya had sent a copy of *The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh* to the State House that they also wished him to have a copy for his residence and presented him with another copy. After greeting the other delegations, the President was seen scanning the book with interest.

On Sunday, 4 April, announcements about the various delegations and the presentation of *The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh* were broadcast over the radio six times in English, Swahili and several vernacular languages. One of the leading newspapers also carried an account of the visit.

KOREA

"First all Korean Assembly elected eighth convention. Delegates responded...tasks facing Korean Bahá'í Community with vigorous...determination complete goals Nine Year Plan near future..."

LAOS

Eighteen souls embraced the Faith in Nakhon Phanom, on the Thai border facing the town of Thakkek. This achievement is notable as this is the first town along the Mekong River strip to be opened to the Cause by the efforts of the Bahá'ís who have been participating in the Thai Border Teaching Project. Plans are now under way to increase the expansion of the Faith in this area and consolidate the gains until many Local Spiritual Assemblies are formed throughout the region.

LEEWARD, WINDWARD AND VIRGIN ISLANDS

Among the goals assigned this National Spiritual Assembly was the opening of the Ile des Saintes.

"Rejoicing Virgin Island goal Ile des Saintes opened. Declarations two families through teaching efforts Lea Nys. Grateful blessing Bahá'u'lláh."

LIBERIA — Prayers read at a service for the late President Tubman, attended by Heads of States, foreign representatives and religious organisations, deeply impressed the audience, as did also the "Hidden Words" when read on a televised tribute a few days later.

MALAYSIA

Six youthful Bahá'ís trekked across the Peral Jungles, crossed the Main Range to contact a jungle people who had never heard of the Faith. The head of the village where they stayed was most receptive, accepted the Faith, told all the villagers and the entire 'kampong' became Bahá'ís.

NEW CALEDONIA AND LOYALTY ISLANDS

The 'Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh' has been presented to all the chiefs of the Loyalties.

NEW ZEALAND

Many Maori people and several Elders attended a Summer School. There were six declarations and a new Assembly will be formed as a direct result of the School.

NORWAY

An important Goal has been won with the re-opening of Spitzbergen. Gunnar and Edel Lange-Nielson of Trondheim have formed a Group there and received good press coverage.

PANAMA

The Cuna Indians who reside on the San Blas Islands, off the coast of Panama, have a prophetic heritage which includes a promise that God will send people to them from the outside world with a new Book, a new Message and a new Name and that the Message will teach them to live in harmony with all the people of the world. The Cuna word for God is Bahá.

Nine years ago the Bahá'ís from Panama travelled throughout the islands and, at that time, over 2,000 Cunas accepted the Cause.

Recently a teaching team visited the island of Ustupo, spending four days with the Cunas. During this time the Sahilas (chiefs) of the island accepted the Cause, as did the Voceros (Spokesmen). That the Sahilas embraced the Faith is highly significant, as they have previously treated any visitors who spoke of religion with courtesy but have refused to align themselves with any religion.

SWAZILAND

Swaziland reports the dedication of their newly built Teaching Institute, a project which accomplishes a goal of the Nine Year Plan.

His Majesty, King Sobhuza II sent his Representative who assured the Bahá'ís of the high esteem in which His Majesty holds the Bahá'í Faith. He also brought a message from His Majesty commending the Bahá'ís on the building of this important Institute in Swaziland and offering any assistance they might call for from the Royal House.

Princess Gainaphi was also present and ceremoniously planted a tree with a graciousness which delighted all present. During this ceremony 'Blessed is the Spot' was read and numerous photographs taken.

Two members of the Continental Board of Counsellors were present at the Institute, as well as three Auxiliary Board Members who all lent great spirit to the sessions.



Presentation of the "Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh" to the Mayor of Kyoto by Mr. Bernard Leach during his recent visit to Japan, accompanied by Mr and Mrs Mogbel and other Bahá'ís. Mr Leach gave a subsequent lecture in a public hall in Kyoto which was attended by over two hundred people and evoked much discussion.

PASSING OF 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ

Summary of Plans

The full details of the preparation and programmes for the week-end of 26, 27, 28 November have been circulated by the Regional Teaching Committees but here is a summary:

During October and early November all communities, either singly or on an area basis, should be holding special meetings for the study of the Life of the Master, the Covenant and the Formative Age. Materials for this study are provided.

On Friday, 26 October it is hoped that every community will hold a special gathering to have a devotional and readings dedicated to the theme of the Covenant.

On Saturday afternoon, either singly or on an area basis, communities should have a session devoted to the life and works of the Master.

On Saturday night, at 11 pm. it is hoped that every believer will make a special effort to join the Universal House of Justice during these "watches of the night" (*Shab-i-Ahýa*) in prayers to "renew their pledge to Bahá'u'lláh and to rededicate themselves to the accomplishment of the as yet unfulfilled goals of the Nine Year Plan". At the hour of the passing the Tablet of Visitation will be said and the meeting will end about 2 am.

On Sunday morning, from about 10 until 12 noon there will be meetings, again singly or on an area basis to read the selections made by the Universal House of Justice on the Formative Age.

On Sunday afternoon at about 4 pm there will be large meetings in the towns in which the Master spoke and it is hoped that these will be supported by all the friends of these regions, London, Edinburgh, Bristol, Oxford and Liverpool. These special meetings will feature one or more speakers on the Master, the significance of His life and of His visits to Britain, and close friends or others sympathetic to the Faith should be invited.

For these meetings a printed programme with all the references will be sent out with a Nineteen Day Newsletter nearer the time.

BAHÁ'Í INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Dr Victor de Araujo, Bahá'í representative to the United Nations has been elected Chairman of the Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organisations with the Office of Public Information for 1971 - 1972.

Dr Aziz Navidi has been designated official representative of the Bahá'í International Community in Africa.

DEADLINE DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:— 15 November 1971

Material to be sent to the Editor:—
Mrs. Lois Hainsworth,
"Treen", Allerton Park, Leeds LS7 4ND.

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.



Some of the friends who attended the European Youth Conference in Fiesch, Switzerland — July 31 to August 11, 1971. Hands of the Cause 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum and Dr. Adelbert Muhlschlegel appear in the foreground with Counsellors and other friends.



The Italian Summer School.

NINTH ANNUAL BAHÁ'Í SUMMER SCHOOL IN ITALY

by Barbara Lewis

The summer school, held at Valverde di Cesenatico on the Adriatic coast, opened on 4 September and was attended by Bahá'ís and their friends from sixteen different countries. Several people came direct from the Oceanic Conference in Iceland, bringing some of the spirit and excitement of that great occasion. Amongst the three hundred or so people present were pioneers just beginning their service in Messina and in San Marino; these steadfast souls ask for our prayers. There were many enquirers at the school — about sixty in all — from all parts of Italy and from neighbouring towns and villages, who had just heard of the Faith from activities connected with the Summer School. By the time we left at least twenty of these had become Bahá'ís, and ten or more were in the process of being registered.

The summer school was blessed by the presence of Hand of the Cause Mr. Faizi, at the beginning of the week and by Mr. Fatheazam, member of the Universal House of Justice, and Mrs. Fatheazam who were there for the first few days. Later Hand of the Cause Dr. Giachery, with Mrs. Giachery, joined us direct from an important United Nations Conference at Nice, where he had represented the Faith. Only six non-political groups had been invited to this Conference and the Bahá'ís felt very honoured to be there. Dr. Giachery said it was very interesting to see that as Bahá'ís we hold such a different view of problems throughout the world and Bahá'ís can always offer something that is pertinent. Many important political and governmental groups were represented; everyone knew about the Faith by the end of the Conference and invitations to many countries had been received.

While we were at the summer school we heard of the passing of Hand of the Cause Mr. Musa Banani, and several of the friends gave moving and loving tributes to this great servant of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh.

The seven of us from the British Isles were lucky in that the talks for the first couple of days were given in English, and it was indeed a great bounty to listen to Mr. Faizi, and Mr. Fatheazam, as they shared with us so many stories of their own experiences as Bahá'ís, and told us of their work and of the progress of the Faith throughout the world. The greater the progress, the greater their work, and they spoke with joy of the new movements and developments in the Faith as mass conversion became a reality. Both spoke of the first and foremost need to concentrate every effort on establishing the Cause, on its propagation throughout the world and its protection from infiltration of other ideas. Our Faith and its Institutions are very great; we are laying the foundations for the wonderful work of the future, dealing with the

Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh for thousands of years to come. Our job as Bahá'ís is to proclaim the Faith as an independent and universal religion — start with Bahá'u'lláh and be simple and direct in our approach, remembering that this Faith is for humanity in its entirety.

For two mornings we had wonderful talks on prayer and meditation and we were reminded of the beautiful prayer for teachers, beseeching confirmation and assistance. We heard again how the Master, on arrival in New York, wrote to the Greatest Holy Leaf, asking her to go to the Shrine of the Báb and read this prayer on His behalf.

Later in the week some talks were given in Italian and others in French, and the rapt attention of the believers was evidence of the interest and quality of these lectures.

The Italians are a very lively and enthusiastic community, and it would be impossible to speak about the success and joy of this school without mentioning the youth, who were very much involved in all the activity. The Dawnbreakers Group delighted us time and again by their singing and their presentation of the Faith which they took out to the people in the 'market place'. They had been touring and teaching in North Italy since the Fiesch Conference and set off from the summer school to continue this work in the South.

They had had much publicity and success and in North Italy two new local spiritual assemblies had been formed. One, in Bolzano, was in a community now numbering twenty five Bahá'ís. Before their visit to this town there had been no Bahá'í at all there!

We too felt their excitement and pleasure at the success of their dynamic and professional approach to taking the Faith to the people of Italy.

The Bahá'í children especially loved the performances of the Dawnbreakers, and at the end of the week put on their own version of an 'entertainment' — perhaps not quite so polished, but very enjoyable in its own way! Children's classes had been held throughout the week, guided by the British pioneer to Sardinia, Hazel Holmund (Aikman) who especially sent her loving greetings to all her friends here. Her husband, James Holmund was one of the five Auxiliary Board Members present. The Italian National Spiritual Assembly was well represented and it seemed apparent that, with the recent successes in Italy, they may now stop thinking about how they will achieve their goals but consider, instead, how far they will surpass them.

In Italy, as elsewhere in Europe and in the world, at last there is a new response, and everywhere, we can look forward, with the assistance of Bahá'u'lláh, to the time when the people listen as we say, with the Dawnbreakers "Arise! Arise! for the new day has come!"

MASS TEACHING or TEACHING THE MASSES?

"Can it happen here?", "Are we ready for it if it does?", "Is it only for youth?", "What is it all about?". These are only a few of the many questions we hear at every Bahá'í gathering. The following notes are not meant to be a comprehensive study of mass teaching but Hand of the Cause, William Sears, has recorded a wonderful tape giving some hours of enthralling listening; writers from many parts of the world have from time to time reported, commented and assessed the various "mass conversion" themes, and recent 'Journal' reports have indicated some of its early manifestations in Britain.

"Mass teaching" in its modern sense really began in Uganda almost twenty years ago and on many occasions since there has appeared to be a spontaneous upsurge of teaching in different corners of the globe, Bolivia, Mentawai, India, Viet Nam and more recently, in Canada and the United States. The details may differ but some common factors emerge:

a) Planning

Teachers have prepared themselves and their materials; conferences have been held and initial goals set. The response has always been underestimated, the fire has often been lit in unexpected places, the flames have burned away apparently impenetrable barriers and miracles have been witnessed, yet there was always the dedicated determination of the relative few who set out with the supreme confidence that souls would be won to the Cause.

b) Preparation

Not only material aids have been available — handouts, leaflets, declaration cards and the like, but fervent sustained and sincere prayer has been the key to victory.

c) Response

The call has not been made to the masses. There was no mass media employed on any large scale, it was always essentially a person to person approach, the setting on fire of waiting souls, the individual call to join the ranks of the lovers of Bahá'u'lláh. The large numbers who have responded have in general been the "pure in heart" who have "seen God". Occasionally there has been the insincere, the hypocrite, the weak one, and the imposter who has joined, but the Cause is protected and strengthened when dealing with the problems which inevitably arise when this happens. Even though the call has not been made to the masses, on some rare occasions the masses have responded — a whole village in a backward area; a whole congregation of a religious sect; a large group of friends, are some examples. It is too early to say in all cases if there has been mass "conversion". Miracles have certainly been seen; new believers have been "born again" and the old way of life discarded and the overall response has been most encouraging.

d) Movement

The movement itself from place to place for the sake of the Cause of God surely, as promised by Bahá'u'lláh Himself, played a tremendous part in this work. Wherever a campaign is launched, a project started and a few devoted souls begin to move, the fires are lit, the new believers themselves go and carry the torch, and soon the whole area is alive with eager moving souls. That is when the declarations begin to flow.

e) Simplicity

The message, the leaflets, the cards, the songs, the invitations are all characterised by their utter simplicity. It is not the "teachings", the "world order", the laws, the principles nor even the deeper aspects of progressive revelation which attract new souls. It is the basic simple concept that God is One, religions are One, mankind is one and the love of God brought today by Bahá'u'lláh will save humanity that starts off the process of acceptance. So often, in Africa, Asia, America and today in Britain we hear, "I believe in Bahá'u'lláh and accept Him, now you tell me what He says". A simple response to a simple message which is surely the foundation of true belief.

Mass teaching results, in any land and from amongst any people, when dedicated, devoted souls arise to carry out a project, prepare their material with care and themselves with prayer and move to their destination with "trust in God as the best provision for their journey" and then teach with audacity and the conviction that they will find waiting souls in abundance.

Who is accepted?

The Universal House of Justice wrote in 1964, "...Those who declare themselves Bahá'ís should become enchanted with the beauty of the Teachings and be touched by the love of Bahá'u'lláh ...they must, in addition to catching the spark of faith, become basically informed about the Central Figures of the Faith, as

well as the existence of laws they must follow and an administration they must obey..." The British National Spiritual Assembly has therefore prepared a simplified declaration card and a guidance sheet for those who teach to be informed of the basic essentials which every Bahá'í should know. Declaration cards may then be given to anyone who, when touched by the fire of God's love and having heard of these essentials, wishes to join the "ranks of the faithful". If he is below the age of thirteen he is registered as a Bahá'í child; if over thirteen as a Bahá'í Youth but is advised of his need to re-affirm his belief at fifteen and claim his voting rights at twenty-one. Below the age of eighteen the NSA must, before accepting his declaration, be assured that there is no parental objection. The National Teaching Committee has been instructed to arrange with its Regional Teaching Committees to set up classes to ensure that all those engaged in teaching (and that really should include each and every believer) are aware of the basic requirements for acceptance of a new believer. Evidence of the study and understanding of the Master's Will is no longer required. Every declaration card must, however, be supported, and there is a place on the card for the signature of either the secretary of a local assembly or group or of a known Bahá'í. On receipt of the signed card, the teacher who has witnessed the declaration will see that the new declarant receives a leaflet setting out the basis of Bahá'í belief and those laws which he must learn to obey; he thus has his own record of the tenets he has accepted and the obligations he has assumed.

Deepening

There is really no separate process. The more one prays, plans, moves and teaches, the deeper one becomes. As the desire to teach is instilled into the new declarant, he in turn wants to know "all the answers"; he is eager to gain more knowledge; he longs to deepen in the Faith. Assemblies, groups and teaching committees should make facilities available. Thirty-three years ago the beloved Guardian wrote; "Let him not be content until he has infused into his spiritual child so deep a longing as to impel him to arise independently, in his turn, and devote his energies to the quickening of other souls, and the upholding of the laws and principles laid down by his newly-adopted Faith".

What is a "Happening"?

For a number of years, a growing number of Bahá'í youth in Britain have been attending schools, conferences and particularly youth winter schools and in so doing have developed a wonderful sense of unity and dynamic enthusiasm to teach. This eventually blossomed into a planned "event" in Peterborough where well over a hundred youth went through the streets praying and rejoicing and calling on youth to attend a show. The show was rehearsed and the spirit of love and unity seen was so great that over forty souls responded to the invitation to join the believers. Later, in St. Neots; St. Austell; Oakham; Watford and Henley, "Happenings" following a similar pattern, but with varying numbers of Bahá'í youth, were launched. Love and a sincere interest in people, the longing to communicate their love, the simplicity of their approach and their prayerful preparation have won many victories. Older Bahá'ís have also been involved — hospitality, an "open door", a "listening ear", wise counsel, the solving of problems, continued follow-up, — all are indispensable to this new process. The pattern has emerged, it is a co-operative effort, it is neither a "youth project" nor a spontaneous emotional outburst. It is teaching in the fullest sense with all the ingredients of love, loyalty, enthusiasm, audacity, wisdom, devotion, dedication and prayer; with young and old in the Faith, as well as in years.

Teaching Conference this year will develop the theme of mass teaching and will bring about a more dynamic approach to the direction of the work throughout the United Kingdom. The National and Regional Youth committees have been disbanded and their members released either for other work or have been absorbed into the Teaching Committee structure. The National and Regional Teaching Committees will all have their own 'Youth Department' or section, which will specialise in youth work but

it will be fully integrated with the teaching work as a whole. Local Youth Committees will be encouraged to develop to their full but the whole community is now dedicated, not to 'Youth' projects or 'Happenings', but to total involvement of the young and the not-so-young in teaching the Cause as never before. It is not yet time to "Teach the Masses" in this country, but "mass teaching" in a personal way has indeed begun. The acceptance of new believers is now proceeding at a rate which is more than four times that of any previous year; we pray that "it is just the beginning".

Philip Hainsworth



**SCOTTISH SUMMER SCHOOL,
ST. ANDREWS, 31 JULY – 14 AUGUST**
by Carol Moorhouse

This year was significant in British Bahá'í history in that a summer school was held for the first time North of the Border. The Scottish Bahá'í Community, whose small numbers are now being swelled by pioneer moves and by local declarations, was extremely happy that at last they would have their own summer school. Despite the fact that there were few native-born Scottish Bahá'ís at the school, those who were there certainly made their presence felt — we even had the bagpipes.

The school was held in St. Andrews — a picturesque medieval city on the rocky east coast of Scotland. The friends were able to lounge on the beaches, make excursions into the wilds or just stroll around the town itself. St. Andrews is the home of one of the oldest universities in Britain and the school was held in the university; as someone said, little did the university staff realise the full significance, for St. Andrews, of the event that was taking place there.

Sadly we missed the presence of a Hand of the Cause at the School but we were blessed by the presence of Board Members Dick Backwell, Joan and Ernest Gregory.

Some wonderful and inspiring talks were given during the course of the school. A series of talks on the History of the Faith, in their depth and scholarly approach, gave a glimpse of what was meant when we were told that the summer schools are the future Bahá'í universities. Attention was focussed on some of the problems in Scotland and the friends from the islands gave us an idea of the difficult situations that the Bahá'ís face there.

During the School the youth, aided and guided by the older Bahá'ís, organised proclamation activities, swamping St. Andrews with Bahá'í posters and distributing leaflets to advertise the public meeting and the film evening, both events being well-attended by non-Bahá'ís.

The Entertainments Committee did a marvellous job keeping everyone entertained during the later hours. Various dances, dutch auctions, concerts, fancy dress and the inevitable barbeque all helped to show the love and unity among the friends, particularly to the staff of the school and to visitors from outside.

The children's classes were extremely well-organised; the three age groups followed a series of lessons prepared by the Child Education Committee. Both the lessons and the social side of the classes were thoroughly enjoyed by the children, and this was a memorable summer school for them also.

The Committee would like to thank Joe Foster for organising the classes so well and all who helped with them; thanks also to those who served on the Entertainments and Proclamation Committees and to all the many others who lent a hand so willingly.

For all of us the school was another wonderful opportunity for meeting our fellow Bahá'ís, renewing old friendships and making new ones, and living, for a short time at least, in a Bahá'í world.

**APPRECIATE LOVING SENTIMENTS ASSURE PRAYERS
HOLY SHRINES HISTORIC FIRST SUMMER SCHOOL SCOTLAND
WILL OPEN NEW CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT CAUSE
THAT LAND RESULTING RAPID ACCELERATION PROCESS
WINNING ENTHUSIASTIC DEDICATED ADHERENTS CAUSE
GOD LENGTH BREADTH MAINLAND THROUGHOUT ISLANDS
WEST AND NORTH REINFORCING GROWTH ENTIRE
BRITISH BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY.**

4 August 1971

*Universal House of Justice***NEWS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

It's happening here too!!

In Limerick during the past week twelve people declared their belief in Bahá'u'lláh, bringing the numbers in that town to twenty eight. Believers old and new are radiant with love and excitement and teaching is continuing constantly.

During the past two months there have been nineteen new Bahá'ís in the Limerick area and eight in the Dublin/Dun Laoghaire area; we know that this is just the beginning! The great majority of these new believers are young people and are from Irish Catholic backgrounds.

Please pray for us that this wave of activity will continue and increase and spread throughout this country.

BAHÁ'Í NEWS

The American Bahá'í News is available in the British Isles at a subscription of £1.40 for twelve monthly copies, (including postage). Local Spiritual Assemblies, groups or individuals should send their subscription directly to Mr. E. L. Richards, 26 Cartwright Road, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks.

Please make cheques etc. payable to the above.

FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SOUTH AND WEST ENGLAND, 28 and 29 AUGUST, 1971.

Chippenham was the venue for this historic event which began and ended with declarations! Representatives of all eleven LSA's in the Region and both our goal towns told of their activities, plans, suggestions and problems. It all added up to an impressive amount of teaching activity.

Most exciting of all was the report by the St. Austell friends of the success of the recent youth project—fifty three new believers and the LSA achieved: the applause was deafening.

A large part of the second day was devoted to planning similar happenings in other parts of the region and this basic schedule was agreed:—

Ryde — Youth weekend, 24 and 25 September
Weekend event, 23 and 24 October.

Followed by two weeks' intensive teaching with the accent on youth. Many helpers are wanted: please contact Bill Barry, 25 Dover Street, Ryde, IOW., or phone Marion Klyne (Niton 458).

Torbay/Exeter — Christmas Holiday:
Co-ordinator: Mary Jahangiri, 63 Perinville Road, Babbacombe, Torquay, Devon (Tel. 39909).

Southampton — December 1971:
Co-ordinator: Fiona Dunn, 67 Bassett Green Close, Southampton SO2 3QR (Tel. 0703 - 68614).

Reading/Wokingham R.D. — Easter 1972:
Co-ordinator: Martin Cortazzi, 80 Orbit Close, Gorse Ride Estate, Finchampstead, Berks.

Bournemouth/Poole — late July 1972:
Co-ordinator: Jean Harper, 36 Coombe Gardens, Ensbury Park, Bournemouth (Tel. 59332).

Bristol/Bath/Chippenham — August 1972:
Co-ordinators: Peter Smith, 8 Southwood Drive, Bristol, BS9 2QZ and Terry Smith, 'The Gables', Sheldon Corner, Chippenham, Wilts.

The help of many "contact-makers" will be wanted at all these events. Details will be worked out in the coming weeks. The result will be a huge upsurge of new believers.

The Conference ended with a musical show in which our new young Bahá'í brothers and sisters from St. Austell played a large part. The efficacy of this method of teaching was demonstrated by the immediate declaration of a young Chippenham friend who had met the Faith for the first time that same afternoon.

Everyone left for home joyful and uplifted, and determined to work even harder in the Cause of God.

Regional Teaching Committee for South and West
Chairman, Peter Jenkins, 32, Lynford Ave.,
Winchester, Hampshire.

NEWS FROM WALES

WELSH NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

This year the Welsh National Eisteddfod was held in the grounds of Penrhyn Castle, Bangor, and thus afforded a wonderful opportunity for proclaiming the Faith in that goal town. The equipment for the Bahá'í stand was brought and erected by Derwent, Nora, and Roderick Maude. By a stroke of good luck the weather was fine, which resulted in the attraction of record crowds to the Eisteddfod Fields. The Bahá'í tent being situated favourably adjacent to the entrance must have been noticed by thousands and visited by hundreds during the week.

One of the greatest assets as far as our Exhibition was concerned was the new translations into Welsh of a collection of Bahá'í prayers and a new pamphlet. Many people admired the beauty of the words of Bahá'u'lláh in Welsh.

It was interesting to note that the Bahá'í stand this year was being regarded by the Welsh as a familiar sight, with many of the people visiting it being aware of the universal principles of this Cause.

Many people helped this project by attending the Eisteddfod and manning the stand and grateful thanks are extended to them all.



The Bahá'í Stand at the Bangor Eisteddfod.

TEACHING VISIT TO FRANCE

by Denise, Jeremy and Nicola Fox, July 1971.

Before our departure for France we received from their NSA a copy of a duplicated plan of campaign for mass teaching projects among various strata of society worked out by the French National Youth Committee. Each project was allotted a specific period of time and each had someone appointed to co-ordinate the work. They were to reach holiday-makers, students, farmers, industrial workers, slum-dwellers and gypsies.

Our visit to Paris, on our way down to Corsica, fell at the time the youth had their project among the gypsies, with which we were asked to co-operate during our two day stay. On the Friday evening, after taking a meeting in the National Centre, we were taken to stay with George Starcher, an American pioneer and NSA member, living in St. Cloud, just outside Paris. In his house, amongst others, were a Bahá'í from Mali, and Billie and Ruby, wives of the Seals and Crofts pop-singers, gradually making their way back from pilgrimage to the States via Fiesch and Iceland. With their experience of mass teaching in the Southern States, their vitality and warmth, they provided the key to the success of this particular project.

On Saturday afternoon we met together with another American couple — Albert and Joannie Lincoln, both good French speakers and Joannie a talented folk-singer. During the prayer and consultation we established that Ruby with another group had previously established contact with one gipsy group who had seemed quite welcoming and receptive. They had invited them to a meeting nearby to which they had not come. We decided to reconnoitre another area where there were thought to be gypsies, establish contact, and this time offer to take a programme to them, instead of asking them to come to us.

After a rather unsuccessful search and more prayers we agreed to try and contact the other group again somewhere on the far side of Le Bourget airport. This we did, turning off the road on to a rough dirt-track leading to a rubbish-dump in the centre of which were a few caravans.

Ruby, the American Negro girl who had already been there led the way and was warmly welcomed. A man, Albert Ivanovitch, came out with his wife to greet us. We were already surrounded by a group of children, full of curiosity and rather ready to beg, which we firmly refused. After introductions we asked them if they were really interested to hear more of the Faith. Would they like us to bring them a programme the following evening? They were delighted and agreed for 9 o'clock.

Next evening, having been joined by Claire Honigmann, NSA secretary, with our seven-year old daughter, Nicola, we set off again, but got lost. When we had almost given up all hope of finding them we found the spot. It was 10.00 p.m. and dark when we reached them, their bonfire — only source of warmth and light — was nearly out. They had decided we were not coming and had returned to their caravans for the night. Albert roused as many as he could and the fire was got going with boxes from the dump.

After they had welcomed us, and the particularly vicious-looking chimpanzee had stopped biting a dog, Joannie sang them a Bahá'í song in French about unity and the coming of Bahá'u'lláh. Then Claire explained the same things to them in simple, loving language. Clearly moved they called on a young girl in her twenties to sing. She played the guitar and sang beautifully in fluent Spanish. It was only towards the end of the song that we realised it was an impromptu, improvised song, re-telling the theme of the unity of the family of man that she had just heard. She then sang a very sad song about the life of the gypsies and their rejection by the rest of society. Another man said that despite their difficulties they considered themselves rich because they were happy.

We then told them more of the life and sufferings of Bahá'u'lláh and of the spread of his message to embrace all peoples. They immediately compared him with Christ, and said how moved they were at our coming to visit them. After further talk and songs we asked them if they liked Bahá'u'lláh's message — did they believe him to be God's Messenger for today? When they said yes we invited them to register as Bahá'ís and join the world family. They agreed immediately. We emphasised that they should only do this if they believed, not to please us. Then six adults and six youth, the first twelve French gypsy Bahá'ís, signed their declaration cards. They said that they were quite often visited by various people but that this was the first time they had encountered genuine love from outside their own community. It was arranged that another group should visit them again in a few days time. This brief account does not convey the spiritual atmosphere in which they were several times moved to the point of tears.

What happened after this we do not yet know, as we left the area the next day. The ingredients for the success of this project seem to have been as follows:

1. Prayer followed by a consultation and action.
2. A clear, specific purpose.
3. A small, united group with at least one person with previous experience of this type of teaching.
4. Once contact was made they were immediately offered a Bahá'í programme.
5. They were given the simple essentials — the coming of Bahá'u'lláh and his message of unity.
6. Once receptivity was established they were invited to join. Declaration Cards were at hand.
7. A further meeting was arranged on the spot.

CALLING ALL YOUTH

TWO OUTSTANDING EVENTS FOR THE WINTER

Salzburg; Austria. 26 December to 1 January.

Accommodation already arranged for 1000 youth

Stoneyhurst College, near Burnley, Lancs.

18 to 28 December

The cost will be £1.20 per day and early bookings are required. A large deposit has to be paid to this school so a massive turn-out is looked for. Not only will there be some fine teachers present and exciting social activities planned but a large mass teaching event will be arranged for all to participate. Bookings now to

Margot Riddell,
159 Askern Chase,
Hunslet Grange, Leeds 10.

ST. AUSTELL SUMMER TEACHING PROJECT 1971

The suggestion that a teaching project should be held in St. Austell was first made in October 1970 by Terry Smith of Chippenham when visiting the friends in Cornwall. With the need to form an Assembly in 1972 this idea was enthusiastically welcomed, especially in view of the difficulties which had been encountered over the years in spreading the Faith in that part of the world.

From the very beginning the St. Austell Group, then consisting of five adults, co-operated actively with the National Youth Committee in making preparations. The Borough of St. Austell with Fowey stretches for about fifteen miles along the coast and extends inland for several miles, including many villages as well as the town of St. Austell itself. So that teaching could be carried out over as much of the borough as possible it was decided to split it into three areas — Par, Mevagissey and St. Austell — and concentrate all efforts in one area at a time. Caravan accommodation was considered the most suitable and a great deal of effort was expended before this was found — the holiday-makers had often got there first!

The project started at the beginning of July on the day the sun started shining after a very unpleasant June, and for three weeks there were fifteen to twenty Bahá'í Youth in caravans on Par Beach and teaching in the area. Not all were new to this type of exercise — we gained from the experience of a few from Oakham and more especially from the Americans who had been involved for a long period in teaching in the Southern States.

One of the St. Austell friends loaned a van to the project, to be used as a "Teachmobile" and this was decorated with two large signboards on the roof carrying the words "Bahá'í Faith". This van was invaluable for transporting the youth to various villages and for carrying around teaching materials. Many contacts were made by direct approach to people on the beaches, in cafes and on the streets, and discussions went on in the caravans most nights until the small hours. During the Par period we were able to hire a local youth club one night each week, where a show was put on including slides, prayers and songs, followed by discussion. A very successful barbecue to which about forty contacts were invited was held in a cove on the beach one night. Declarations were slow in coming at first, but after the first ten days they snowballed. By the time the project left Par, a very large number of people knew about the Faith and about twenty had declared their belief in Bahá'u'lláh. By now spirits were running very high, even if sleeping time was very low.

This was followed by a week at Mevagissey; here most of the contacts and the eight declarants were found living in tents in the woods. By this time the film "It's Just the Beginning" had been acquired, together with the free loan of a projector and this was shown a number of times at discussion groups.

At the end of the week in Mevagissey many of the visiting youth went to Fiesch, and only a very few remained, during which time preparations for improved teaching methods and for deepening the declarants were made. After this brief respite it was the turn of St. Austell itself to learn of the message of Bahá'u'lláh. Many contacts were made by small groups of two or three going around talking to people in the streets. A very successful show at the St. Austell Arts Theatre was organised to which all the contacts were invited; six declarations were made immediately it ended. The audience was then guided into the coffee bar, where the most enthusiastic singing of the project took place, accompanied by two more declarations.

By the end the last week, which was equally successful, the total number of declarations had risen to fifty-three, and it now stands at fifty-nine. Of these the large majority are in the fifteen to eighteen age group, just as had happened all over the world in the last year. We are pleased to report that the number of adults now stands at ten.

There can be few people in the Borough of St. Austell with Fowey who have not now heard of the Bahá'ís, with continuous teaching going on for so long, reports of the project in the local paper every week and the very obvious Teachmobile.

It was not always possible to say "Au revoir" to the visiting youth when they left St. Austell, and we would like to take this opportunity now of saying a very sincere "Thankyou" to all of you who came for all the hard work you put in and for the wonderful harvest of new Bahá'ís we now have. A special word of thanks should go to our American friend John Polgreen, now in the Sudan, who stayed for most of the project and put in so much effort.



Some Bahá'ís singing at an Arts Festival at the Technical College in Peterborough.

THE IRISH SUMMER SCHOOL

by Judy Gibson

This Faith is a faith of joy — of joy in our relationship to God and to each other and to the world in which we live. The joy flows through these relationships; in music, in prayer, in the beauty of the world around us and in the warmth of our fellowship. Certainly then, in Ireland, in this summer school, the cumulative over-riding effect has been this joy. It began with sunshine, the scent of roses from the gardens, and the pleasure and expectancy that comes of being together. We began with a talk on the Seven Valleys; we spoke of the Covenant and of the Worlds of God, of the Founders of our Faith and of its symbols; we plumbed the depths of some things and smiled at anecdotes about others. And with every question, with every story, we grew a little, deepened in the true sense of the word. We became more aware of ourselves as Bahá'ís.

Nor was this true solely of the sessions. Perhaps summer school is the one place in our time that we can, for a little while, live and share in a completely Bahá'í environment, and discern, almost imperceptibly, the promise the phrase holds, This was possibly the most valuable deepening experience to be had there; that despite the problems and the inconveniences that cropped up that left room for our very human and sometimes very uncharitable reactions, they were somehow a little less uncharitable, a little more loving.

The days seemed to run into each other; midnight swims; songs; games and skits that could have been corny but instead were the best kind of fun; and the traditional 'late-night' sessions; group prayers and 24-hour vigils; and the spirit grew and held.

There were people from Finland and Denmark and Belgium, from all over the British Isles; and there was room for them all. It seems that there is after all a strength in numbers; and the spirit and love of one Bahá'í reflecting and inter-acting with not five, or ten, but sixty and seventy others created a spirit that was almost tangible, a sense of fellowship that rather than diminishing as the days passed seemed to grow throughout the two weeks. Nor was it simply a Bahá'í euphoria, a Bahá'í reaction to other Bahá'ís. One man, not a Bahá'í, turned at one point and said that it seemed "a haven, a port in a storm" and he wished he could carry it with him.

By the beginning of the second week there were two declarations, and by the last day, five. On Tuesday evening a public meeting was held; for the first time in Dublin young Bahá'ís went out into the streets to talk to people; and the people came. "It's Just the Beginning" was shown, followed with songs by many of the youth, and then the meeting splintered into small discussion groups of three or four which went on for an hour or so, coupled with more music and a requested second showing of the film. And several of these contacts returned again during the remainder of the week to hear more at the evening sessions. For Ireland it was a step ahead, and for the summer school itself a tremendous spiritual impetus.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, speaking of the Unity Feast, has said, "Know verily of a certainty I am the Spirit of that gathering"; perhaps it can be said that, in small measure, He was also the Spirit of this gathering in Ireland.

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEES

AYLESBURY: The Local Spiritual Assembly organised a social evening which included a fascinating slide show given by Robin Moore. He showed us pictures of inhabitants of various countries and their different religions, pointing out that the basis of all major religions is in reality one.

Bahá'í songs led by Minou and Martin Cortazi were sung after the refreshments. The seven non-Bahá'ís included four youth, who all expressed their gratitude for having been invited to "such a wonderful evening". One of the youth confessed that she had sung so many Bahá'í songs at home that the patience of her parents had been quite exhausted.

BRENT: In mid September the Brent Bahá'í community again took a Stand at the annual Brent Horticultural Show (said to be the largest of its kind in London). This is the fifth consecutive year we have taken part and our display consisted of posters depicting the basic facts of the Faith simply and clearly. We had an attractive vase of fresh gladioli and a white cardboard model of a nine-sided structure to represent the basic concept of a Bahá'í temple. We gave pamphlets to anyone interested, but not the least valuable aspect of this annual activity is the contact we have with members of other organisations who have taken Stands and whose aims are often compatible with those of the Faith. And of course we become better known year by year to the local authority officials and to the show visitors, who come to know more about us and what we stand for.

Earlier in the year, the Brent Assembly decided to help in fostering activity in the neighbouring Borough of Harrow with a view to bringing it to Assembly status. The first public meeting ever held in that Borough took place on the 20 July in the Vagabonds Hall, Pinner, and another public meeting in the same Hall has been arranged for the 1 October. A Proclamation Book has been presented to the Lady Mayor of Harrow, and one of the Harrow friends is holding regular fireside meetings and study classes in her home. Brent Assembly feels that if support with both finance and man-power can be given by an Assembly area to a nearby area where just one or two Bahá'ís reside, this can result in an upsurge of activity which would not otherwise have been possible. Very good publicity in the local paper has been achieved and so very many more Harrow residents must know about the Faith than did two months ago. The communities of both Brent and Harrow are very happy with the progress of this joint enterprise.

CHESTER: The recently held survey was most successful and the community would like to extend its grateful thanks to all who helped. We were able to gain publicity in local newspapers concerning the survey, and one newspaper even printed the results and asked for more information about the Bahá'í community. Saturday proved to be a good day for a survey of this kind as a good cross section of the people visit the town centre. The one day school, which was held on the next day, was equally successful, with excellent talks and a much appreciated slide show with a pre-recorded commentary. The day closed with a forum of speakers drawn from every walk of life who gave short talks on how the Faith had affected their lives.

EDINBURGH: By officially organising the one day school, held on 26 September through the University Bahá'í Group, we were able to hold it in the University's Chaplaincy Centre, a most pleasant hall with a lounge, kitchen, etc., adjoining, and in a central position in the city. The chaplain and his staff were most helpful, while the new international chaplain and his wife attended for part of the day.



First Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Hamilton.



First Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Kendal: Left to right, standing: Jim Walker, Joe Foster, Phoebe Brown, Lucy Hall, Madeleine Hellaby, Bill Hellaby; seated: Edith Walker, Vera Simons, Dorothy Foster.

The morning session was devoted to "Mysticism in the Bahá'í Faith", and was attended by some fifty Bahá'ís and contacts. In the afternoon we showed the film "It's just the Beginning", to an audience of approximately sixty, about one-third of them non-Bahá'ís. In the evening the Audio Visual Centre's slide programme of "Carmel — The Mountain of God" was shown.

The School was very well supported by Bahá'ís from neighbouring communities, and two of the non-Bahá'í members of the party from Motherwell declared before the day was over. Our own circle of contacts increased significantly and firesides will be the more interesting in future, while the excellent relations formed with the new University Chaplain bode well for the future Bahá'í activities within the University.

GUERNSEY: At last real contact has been made with Guernsey people, who are notably difficult to approach as they are very mixed and fight to preserve their identity. Talks and a slide show provided an excellent response and provoked questions of all sorts. The Senior family, pioneer family to Guernsey, and Prudence George, who pioneered there eight years ago, were thrilled by this new opening and have great hopes for future teaching work.

KIRKWALL: A very successful weekend school was held at the end of September and attended by visitors from far afield. A slide show was attended by a number of youth from the local youth hostel, who afterwards dispersed to several homes for further discussion. During July and August several youth from Dundee and London came to Orkney on a project and amongst other things helped to whitewash the centre! Two other youth spent three days on the island of Sanday trying to interest a group of young people in the Faith; a talk was also given at the local school. Eight ministers have now received Bahá'í books as a result of personal visits from Bahá'ís.

LEICESTER: The Leicester friends most regretfully announce the closing of their centre.

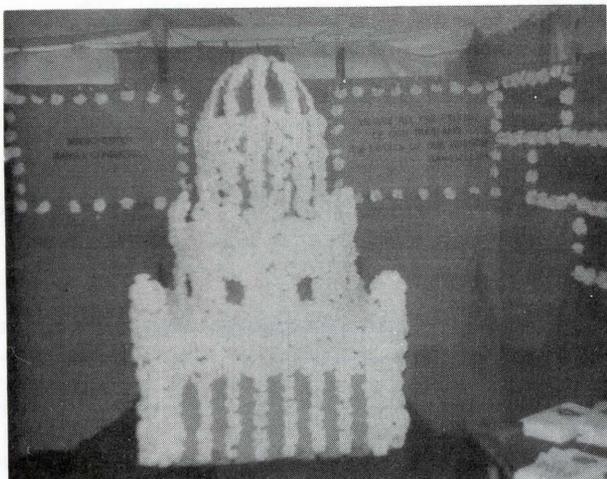
LIVERPOOL: The community has embarked upon an ambitious proclamation programme which began on 4 October and continues until the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh. It consists of talks, coffee evenings, films, slide shows, socials, musical evenings and a youth forum. During the course of this period, the Lord Mayor has agreed to accept the book "The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh".

MANCHESTER: The Bahá'í community participated in an exhibition at Platt-Field Park Flower Show. The Bahá'í community had their own stand for three days and exhibited a model of the Shrine of the Báb made of 1400 white carnations. On the back of the stand some of the Bahá'í principles were exhibited surrounded again by carnations.

It was a huge success, both in the presentation of the Faith to the public at large and from a publicity point of view. Some definite contacts were made and all together 1900 pamphlets and leaflets were given out to people who really stood still to admire the stand.

The Shrine itself and the principles displayed behind it was also the opportunity for most of the Bahá'í friends to start a conversation with the public and so introduce them to the Bahá'í Faith. It was noticed, for instance, that the mention of Mount Carmel aroused people's curiosity.

Interesting questions were asked varying from every-day life topics to the explanation of the oneness of religion.



The model of the Shrine of the Báb, made with carnations, displayed in Manchester.

The Manchester Bahá'í community offers all the material used in making this stand to those friends who wish to borrow it for teaching purposes. We are eagerly waiting for next year's opportunity to promote and introduce the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh to the public in such a dignified manner.

NORTH BERWICK: A youth project in the town has stimulated the teaching here and great efforts have been made by prayer, including the repeating five hundred times of the "Remover of Difficulties" and a walk around the outskirts of the town with three Edinburgh Bahá'ís saying this same prayer. From the St. Andrews summer school a number of families returned home through the town and were happily received by the Bahá'ís. Friends from Newcastle supported us by attending the Tartan Fair, where we had permission to display posters and attracted some notice when the fair was over by singing Bahá'í songs. As a result of this we were invited to attend a Christian prayer meeting that evening. The community has recently been reinforced by the arrival of a family of Persian pioneers, which is a great bounty. The community would be most grateful for visits from friends passing through.

RYDE: The young Bahá'ís of Poole and Bournemouth arranged a weekend in Ryde, which has grown from one weekend into the spearhead of two months intensive activity. Far from being discouraged at the fact that one of their speakers was unavoidably delayed and the other two had to cancel their talks, the youth went ahead and arranged a new programme so smoothly that only the "back-room boys" were aware that it was almost impromptu. They organised and took part in talks, slide shows, music, songs and other entertainment, and also went around the town to meet people. Their hard work resulted in a very happy weekend, and the I.o.W. Bahá'ís are delighted at this wonderful start to the winter programme which has already brought two declarations and four new seekers.

The host community organised a "soup kitchen", serving simple meals at cost price, which, judging by the turnover, were very welcome, and saved precious time searching for meals. We plan to do it again for the expected invasion of helpers, from October 23 to November 8, when we are to have mass teaching beginning with a week-end school.

Young people are urgently needed for teaching in this project and to help with the Dawnbreaker show. On November 12 there will be a party to celebrate the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh. Accommodation will be easily available and further details may be obtained from Bill Barry, 25 Dover Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

ST. NEOTS: Following the success of the picnics at Manor Farm, Great Paxton, the idea of an action camp was born. A tremendous spirit of happiness prevailed right through the camp, even when a gale force wind challenged the tents! There were 110 under canvas, drawn from many English communities and from overseas. Many others came daily from surrounding areas to attend the devotions, talks and deepening sessions. The annual carnival week at St. Neots provided opportunity for press and poster publicity for our activities. The community hall was booked for a twice daily showing of the film "Its just the beginning", followed by a mime and singing of Bahá'í songs with guitar accompaniment. Visitors were invited back to the camp to join us for a meal and a social evening in the huge barn which ingenuity and hard work had transformed into a meeting room where over 170 people were warmly received on one evening. For many present it was their first experience of the power of love at such a Bahá'í gathering. The weekend brought thirteen declarations. Heartfelt thanks go to Ted and Alicia Cardell for providing their farm as the base for this wonderful action camp. Follow-up activity includes children's classes after school, adult classes in the evening and deepening on Sundays – there have subsequently been two further declarations.

SHEFFIELD: A weekend school is arranged for October 29, 30 and 31 to be held at Vestry Hall, Cemetery Road. On Saturday evening there will be a film and colour slides shown and also dancing. The first twenty youth to arrive (with sleeping bags) will be given free accommodation. Please come and help to wake up the city!

SOUTHPORT: There is to be a Youth Weekend on October 30/31 at 9 Scarisbrick Street (off London Street opposite entrance to main railway station), starting on Saturday at 2.30 pm and on Sunday at 10.30 am to 5 pm. There will be a social and a showing of the film "Its just the beginning" on Saturday evening.

Limited floor space is available for those with sleeping bags. Please come and give us your support.

WINCHESTER: Weekly firesides, public meetings, advertisements and quotations in the daily press having brought no apparent results, it was decided to undertake extension teaching in neighbouring towns, including Southampton, still with no apparent result. It was then agreed to hold prayer meetings every Sunday. At the suggestion of Hand of the Cause, John Robarts, we undertook the repeating five hundred times of the "Remover of Difficulties". Since that time there have been thirteen declarations and we feel that this is a proof of the power of prayer.



One of the sessions at the Manor Farm Action Camp, held in a barn cleared of tractors for the purpose and decorated with posters from Israel and Iran. Peak attendance was 170.

TREASURER'S REPORT
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE No. 1 A/C.
June 16 – September 16 1971 (inclusive)

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Donations :-		National Spiritual Assembly	
LSA's and Groups	£ 2111.35		206.46
Individuals	4886.04	Office	1776.73
		Telephone and Cables	142.37
	6997.39	Post, Lit., Stationery	366.37
Less payments against covenants	407.57	Journal	397.00
	6589.82	Audit	166.50
		Extraordinary	166.97
Interest and Dividends	563.92	N. T. C.	232.03
		O. G. C.	1064.93
Other sources:-		Pioneer Committee	364.00
Sale of Photographs of 'Abdu'l Baha'	13.15	Proclamation Committee	180.53
		N. Y. C.	401.16
		N. T. C. R. I.	13.00
		N. Y. C. R. I.	— —
		Other Committees	16.46
		H. Q.	305.37
		H. Q. Dublin	— —
		Sundry	34.96
		Income over expenditure	1332.05
	£ 7166.89		£ 7166.89
DONATIONS	Budget	£ 25665.00	
	To date	£ 12139.82	

Local Spiritual Assemblies and Groups Contributing to the Fund

16 June – 16 September

Aberystwyth, Aylesbury Youth, Barnet, Bath, Bedford, Belfast, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Bradford, Brent, Bristol, Burnley, Cambridge, Camden, Carlisle, Canterbury, Cardiff, Castlereagh, Cheadle & Gately, Chelmsford, Chester, Cork, Craigavon, Croydon, Dublin, Dumbarton, Dundee, Durham, Ealing, Eccles, Edinburgh, Epsom & Ewell, Epsom & Ewell Children, Exeter, Famagusta, Glasgow, Hamilton, Hammersmith, Haringay, Hereford, Hove, Hounslow, Inverness, Ipswich, Jersey, Kendal, Kensington & Chelsea, Kirkwall, Lambeth, Leeds, Leicester, Limerick, Lincoln, Liverpool, Londonderry, Manchester, Motherwell, Nelson, Newport, Nottingham, Oakham, Oxford, Pontypridd, Poole, Portsmouth, Reading, Richmond, Ryde, Sheffield, Southport, St. Austell, St. Neots, Shrewsbury, Southampton, Stornoway, Stafford, Swinton, Richmond, Torbay, Wandsworth, Watford, Winchester, Wokingham R.D., York.

It is possible that other LSAs and Groups have made contributions, but if the treasurer of the community does not state clearly that it is not a personal donation it is not possible for the National Treasurer to know. This applies equally to all methods of donating.

Wonderful Response

There has been a truly wonderful response to the appeal for increased contributions to the Fund and it will be seen from the report above that donations totalled £6590. This means that this quarter we reached our target towards the budget set for this year (last quarter we were down by about £1000). Our very warm thanks to all the Spiritual Assemblies, groups, youth, children and the many individuals who sent precious donations and special thanks to the friends who sent contributions directly to the National Fund for the first time. There has been an increase in those friends who have made direct contributions — a step towards "universal participation". We send also, our special thanks to the response made by the friends at Regional Conferences, special gatherings and summer schools to the direct appeals made by the Treasurer.

The National Giro Account (despite the many rumours that it will close down) flourishes and so far since we started this in May it has yielded nearly £500. These contributions are mainly small ones and this goes to prove how the words of the Universal House of Justice are coming true when they told us how, when little drops of water come together, they form a mighty ocean. At present we have a fair sized lake; let us make it a really mighty ocean!

FIRESIDES AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARNET	Mr and Mrs Appa, 14a Northumberland Road, New Barnet	Fireside	Monday 8 p.m.
CARDIFF	Mr and Mrs Ramez Delpak, 24 Padarn Close, Lakeside CF26ER Telephone Cardiff 758180	Fireside	Tuesdays 8.30 p.m.
LEEDS	Leeds Council of Social Service, 186 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2	Public Meetings	Second and Fourth Thursdays 7.45 p.m.
	Firesides as before.		
NORTHAMPTON	Mr and Mrs Taghighi, 9 Thorpeville, Kettering Road North	Fireside	Fridays 8 p.m.
READING	85 Christchurch Road 84 Waverly Road	Fireside	Mondays 8 p.m.
		Fireside	Wednesdays 8 p.m.
STRETFORD	Mr and Mrs G. Grant, 39 Barkeley Avenue, (Telephone 061-865-1715)	Fireside	Monday 8 p.m.
YORK	Public meetings discontinued; firesides as before.		