



# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

K. Honell

Published by  
The National Spiritual Assembly  
of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles,  
27 Rutland Gate, London S.W.7.

For circulation among Bahá'ís only.

No. 210

'Ala' 128

March 1972

THE OBELISK MARKING THE SITE OF THE FUTURE MASHRIQU'L-ADHKÁR ON MT. CARMEL



The obelisk marking the site of the future Mashriqu'l-Adhkár on Mount Carmel was recently erected after many years of difficult negotiations for a permit. The obelisk, which was manufactured in Italy in 1954, is 10.856 metres in height and contains more than twenty tons of marble. Inside one of the facings of the foundation stone is an inscription prepared by the beloved Guardian stating that this stone is placed in dedication of the site. A small formal garden is being developed around the base of the obelisk.

"JOYOUSLY ANNOUNCE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WORLD CENTRE.  
AFTER MANY YEARS DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS ERECTION OBELISK  
MARKING SITE FUTURE MASHRIQULADHKÁR MOUNT CARMEL COM-  
PLETED THUS FULFILLING PROJECT INITIATED BELOVED GUARDIAN  
EARLY YEARS CRUSADE. GARDENS BAHJÍ HAIFA EXTENDED BY  
DEVELOPMENT QUADRANT SOUTHEAST MANSION BAHÁULLÁH AND  
ESTABLISHMENT FORMAL GARDEN SOUTHWEST CORNER PROPERTY  
SURROUNDING SHRINE BÁB."

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



## ANOTHER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO BE FORMED

Happy announce decision add Rwanda list National Spiritual Assemblies to be formed next Ridván. Representatives House Justice first Conventions as follows:— Hands Cause 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum, Windward Islands; Ugo Giachery, Puerto Rico; 'Alí Akbar Furútan, Nepal; Shua'u'lláh Aláí, East Pakistan; Adelbert Mühlischlegel, Rwanda, Seychelles; Jalál Kháze, Singapore; Enoch Olinga, Iceland; William Sears, Ireland; Collis Featherstone, Northwest Pacific; Rahmat'u'lláh Muhájir, Malagasy Republic, Reunion; Counsellor Hádi Rahmani, Afghanistan.

Praying Shrines outstanding success these historic gatherings electing members new pillars House Justice, focal centres spiritual invigoration, illuminating newly emerging communities.

*The Universal House of Justice.*

---

---

National Spiritual Assembly of the  
Bahá'ís of the British Isles.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

### TWO PIONEERS FOR BRUNEI REQUIRED

The National Spiritual Assembly of Persia has been unable to locate believers to fill their pioneer goals in Brunei where, the National Spiritual Assembly of Brunei tells us, it is extremely difficult for persons of Persian nationality to obtain visas.

Both the National Spiritual Assembly of Brunei and the Continental Board of Counsellors in Southeastern Asia have stated on a number of occasions that believers from the British Isles would most readily be granted permission to settle there. Following is an extract from a letter dated September 12, 1971 from the National Spiritual Assembly of Brunei:

"Brunei is a British protectorate, British nationals are well respected and preferred by the Brunei government. (They even get an 'inducement allowance' to induce them to work in the government). They can apply in England for jobs in Brunei, get interviewed there, and straight away get appointments without going through the local Public Service Commission. (The local P.S.C. may take nearly two years for an appointment).

"British pioneers would be most useful in promoting and protecting the interests of the Cause in Brunei. Initially this was suggested by the Continental Board of Counsellor Dr. Chellie Sundram when he visited Brunei in April-May 1970. At that time too we had requested for British pioneers."

In view of the above information, we request your National Spiritual Assembly to exert every possible effort to assist the National Spiritual Assembly of Persia in filling the two outstanding goals in Brunei.

With loving Bahá'í greetings  
*The Universal House of Justice*

November 4, 1971.

## VISIT MADEIRA OR THE AZORES AND HELP THE PLAN.

National Spiritual Assembly of the  
Bahá'ís of the British Isles.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

The situation in Portugal vis-a-vis the teaching goals of the Nine Year Plan is acute and in the remaining fifteen months or so they have to establish ten Local Spiritual Assemblies on the mainland, two in Madeira Islands and one in Azores. If any members of the British community can make visits to Madeira or the Azores it could be extremely helpful in winning the goals there. If there are any such possibilities please ask the friends concerned to offer their services, either through you or directly, to the National Spiritual Assembly of Portugal.

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

5 January, 1972.

### OUTSTANDING GOALS

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

The progress reflected in your semi-annual report is indeed heartwarming and we congratulate you on the remarkable gains made in the last few months. We note particularly the wide spread of the Cause in Wales where you have doubled the number of groups since Ridván and the eager spirit which now seems to inform the believers as evidenced by their constant activity at week-ends, their conferences and continual enrolments of new believers ....

The main goals outstanding for accomplishment appear to be the formation of Local Spiritual Assemblies — four in England, two in Scotland, one in Wales, one in Northern Ireland, one in the Shetland Islands, one in the Isle of Wight, one in the Channel Islands, two in Cyprus, one in Malta and one in the Faroe Islands — and the opening of 73 more localities. We appreciate only too well the efforts you are making to accomplish these goals and have no doubt of the ability of the British Bahá'í community to achieve and far surpass them. It is also necessary to establish a group in the Isle of Man and we would be glad for specific information about your efforts in this direction.

Incorporation of twelve more Local Spiritual Assemblies does not, we understand, present any grave difficulties and we urge you to get this done as quickly as possible.

All over Europe there is an upsurge of Bahá'í activity and an increase in the size of the Bahá'í community. The leading position which the British community has occupied in that continent for so many years may shortly be challenged. This pleases us immensely as we know the response which the British friends will make to such a challenge and we are only too eager to see them make the greatest gains possible during these currently propitious circumstances.

We assure you and all the dear friends in your care of our ardent prayers at the Sacred Threshold for the Beloved to constantly shower His confirmations upon the British Bahá'í community, to enable them to win all their goals and to gain the allegiance of large numbers of their fellow countrymen to the Cause of God.

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

January 16, 1972.



## THE GREATEST NAME

The National Assembly wishes to draw the attention of the friends to the need to exercise the utmost reverence in the use of the symbol of the Greatest Name. The following are some appropriate quotations:—

"... there is no reason why the word 'Bahá'í' should not appear in the centre of a nine pointed star on the tombstone...., but the ringstone emblem should not be used, nor the Greatest Name".

"Shoghi Effendi feels it is better not to put the Greatest Name on Bahá'í graves. It is not forbidden to do so but inappropriate."

(from the beloved Guardian's letters).

"The ringstone emblem is one form of the Greatest Name. While the beloved Guardian has called attention to the sacredness of the Greatest Name, and has asked that it should always be placed in a dignified position, we do not find any instruction absolutely prohibiting the use of symbols of the Greatest Name on any particular item such as jewelry, books or pamphlets.

"We feel that the friends should exercise the greatest discrimination and good taste in its use."

(extract from a letter from the Universal House of Justice).

## DESIGNATION OF THE FAITH

There have been queries from various parts of the country about the use of the term "Bahá'í World Faith" and the following letter from the Universal House of Justice explains why this should not be used:—

"..... we realise that there are occasions on which the use of the term "Bahá'í World Faith" may be justified and useful. However, it is our hope that the friends will gradually lose the habit of using this term as widely as they do now. The designation "The Bahá'í Faith" is more dignified and is preferable. Any adjective added to this name tends to a diminution of its stature and might be taken to mean that there are other "Bahá'í Faiths".

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

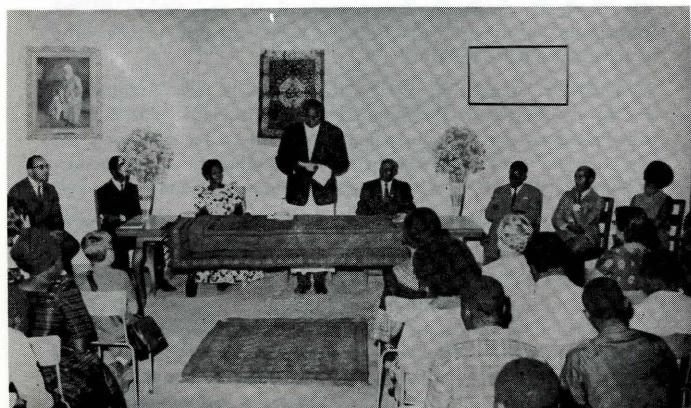


### UGANDA: OUTSTANDING RECOGNITION BY HEAD OF STATE.

Of particular interest to British Bahá'ís is the news from Uganda of a visit made by His Excellency the President of Uganda, General Idi Amin Dada to the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár in Kampala on the occasion of the celebration of the Birthday of Bāhá'u'lláh.

Uganda was a part of the NSA of Central and East Africa, the formation of which was part of the Ten Year Crusade assigned by the beloved Guardian to the British community. The first pioneers to Uganda were Mr and Mrs Banani, Mr and Mrs Nakhjavani and Philip Hainsworth, who arrived together in August 1951. The National Assembly was formed in 1956. In 1957, shortly before the passing of Shoghi Effendi, he granted to Uganda the "palm of victory", for it was here that mass conversion really started, with the enrolling of a thousand new believers in one year.

The Mashriqu'l-Adhkár, since it was completed in 1961, has always stood as a magnificent silent teacher and has been visited by many important people. But never before has there been such an occasion as this, when a Head of State has attended a celebration of the Birthday of Bāhá'u'lláh. General Amin was charming, kind and extremely humble. The Temple was packed to overflowing and the President's Press Secretary and Religious Affairs Secretary later commented that they had never before heard such wonderful words and asked for the books, which will be presented to them in due course.



General Amin reading his speech in the Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds.

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

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

## DISTRICT TEACHING COMMITTEES

We thank you for your letter of December 1st in reply to our cable of November 29th.

The circumstances which you relate as the background for your decision are indeed interesting and, we consider, justify your action which is both intelligent and timely.

It is to be hoped that the new conditions of group administration will be increasingly repeated in future, not only in your own country but in other parts of the world and it will be extremely interesting to see what administrative developments take place ....

We are delighted with all the news of the constant and increasing progress of the Faith in the British Isles and ask you to assure the friends that they are often in our prayers and thoughts.

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

26 December, 1971.



General Amin (centre) speaking with Hassan Sabri (Uganda NSA Treasurer). Enos Epyeru (Uganda NSA Chairman) on the right.

After the service, the President and his party were escorted by the Chairman and Secretary of the National Assembly, together with other Bahá'ís, to the Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds, which is nearby, and it was here that "The Proclamation of Bāhá'u'lláh" was presented to the President.

In his speech of thanks, General Amin spoke warmly of the Faith and of his pleasure in being at the ceremony. He went on to say:— "I am especially happy because members of the Bahá'í community in Uganda have not, to date, experienced the kind of misunderstandings or disputes within their organisation as is so evident within some other religious denominations in Uganda. The fact that there is so much peace and tranquility amongst the followers of Bāhá'u'lláh may mean one or more important things... It means that the Bahá'í followers in Uganda are sincere and match their actions to the commandments in the holy books... It means that they have resolved to render their services to God first, and then to the country, and lastly, to themselves. They are shining examples of what a believer in God should be and do." He then spoke of hatred and separatism within some other organisations and of "false leaders who seek to hide in sheep's clothing", and said: "They have a living example right here at this Temple, the Mother Temple of Africa of the Bahá'ís, where there is no tribalism, and where everything is run smoothly".



**ALASKA:** Alaska's seemingly most difficult goal, to open 105 localities to the Faith, including four in the Baranof Islands, three on Kodiak Island, and two in the Aleutian Islands, has been accomplished. During a recent proclamation effort in Bethel, an Eskimo village, many flooded refugees were in town. Thirty-nine souls declared their Faith during the proclamation programme and returned to their homes after the flood subsided, thereby opening to the Cause five additional localities.

**BRAZIL:** 'Abdu'l-Bahá wrote in *The Tablets of the Divine Plan*,... "Visit ye especially the city of Bahia, on the eastern shore of Brazil. Because in the past years this city was christened with the name, Bahia, there is no doubt that it has been through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit."

The believers in Brazil began to teach the masses in Bahia in October, 1970. At that time around 500 people declared their faith in Bahá'u'lláh. The number of believers multiplied rapidly after Mr and Mrs Gerrold Bagley moved to the area in March. The Family Bagley are veterans in the field of teaching the masses and moved to Brazil from Ecuador. Equally devoted and self-sacrificing are the services of a youth, not yet twentyone years old, named Jairo Cerqueira. It is he who recently reported to the National Spiritual Assembly of Brazil that since the beginning of July the number of believers in Bahia has grown from 2,100 to 4,000.

Sr. Alfredo Speranza, a native of Uruguay, who is now a resident of Italy, has recently toured Uruguay and Brazil teaching the Faith and playing at concerts sponsored by the Bahá'í communities he visited. His travels and services enabled the friends to reach a stratum of society which often appears indifferent to the Cause.

Sr. Speranza, who is renowned as one of the most highly qualified pianists of his generation, has appeared in Uruguay prior to this on a tour which was sponsored by the government.

**INDIA:** In Gujarat over 300 localities were opened to the Faith and 2,000 believers enrolled. In the Gwalior region over 10,000 new believers enrolled in the Faith. Approximately 900 localities were opened, seven of these full Bahá'í villages and four Local Ḥaḍiratu'l-Quds were donated by village friends. In Ujjain eighty-five full Bahá'í villages were brought into the Cause, over 9,000 embraced the Faith and two Local Ḥaḍiratu'l-Quds were acquired. In Rajasthan there are 4,500 new believers since November and over 525 localities were opened to the Faith.

Weeks ago the first announcements were sent out reading, "The First Historic Bahá'í Youth Conference for Western Asia. August 27 - 30, 1971. The National Bahá'í Youth Committee of India has chosen New Delhi, the capital city of India, as the venue for this great Conference to bring together the youth of IRAN, PAKISTAN, CEYLON, INDIA, MALAYSIA, NEPAL, SIKKIM, BHUTAN, ARABIA, TURKEY, BURMA AND AFGHANISTAN"

A letter received from the Continental Board of Counsellors in Western Asia, dated 23 August read, "The Youth Conference will commence on 26 August 1971 but about forty Youth have already arrived at New Delhi and are busy in Proclamation Work. They have formed a few groups and they are visiting Universities and Colleges of the capital and distributing literature... Every evening there is a public meeting at Bahá'í House to which new contacts are invited and given more information about the Faith"

A cable received shortly thereafter read, "Eve opening Conference entry... students nearing 750 into Faith crowning Conference with success before opening. Tremendous spirit released..."

A later message reads, "... Rejoice announce 350 Youth attendance first Bahá'í Youth Conference West Asia, Representative Supreme House, Counsellor Vasudevan, beloved Hand Cause Muhájir... eleven countries represented. Conference crowned success. Eight hundred youth declarants. Forty-two volunteers pioneer. Seven volunteered full time continuous nineteen month university travel teaching team in India to achieve nineteen thousand university students. Fifteen day Delhi university team achieve goal total 2000 believers result Conference. Wide television, radio, press coverage..."

In Delhi over 1500 college students have accepted the Faith, over 300 in Rewari, about 125 in Agra and 65 in Mathura.

**ITALY:** Reports from the National Spiritual Assembly are thrilling. One reads, in part, "Something new is happening in Italy. If until lately this country... seemed to be spiritually indifferent, now it is gaining a new consciousness. The Bahá'í community, rapidly growing in native adherents is animated with a fresh spirit to teach the Cause of God at every level."

"Happy announce seventy-two declarations received 12/26 August. Val D'Aosta region, Alto Adige region opened to the Faith. Local Spiritual Assemblies Alessandria, Livorno, Bolzano already assured..Teaching campaign just started." A later report mentions two declarations in San Marino.

**KOREA:** "...Over 300 Korean Bahá'ís present plus 150 from twelve countries... Wonderful Post Sapporo Conference celebrating fiftieth year arrival Agnes Alexander Korea. 120 believers responded Mumtazi call for teachers. Plan for 5,000 new souls before Ridván..."

**LEEWARD, WINDWARD & VIRGIN ISLANDS:** A report from the National Spiritual Assembly reads in part, "About one dozen Bahá'ís made a vacant cane cutters' house their headquarters in Valley Lane, St. George's, Barbados... From there they spread out through the island, carrying the Word of Bahá'u'lláh to the pure hearts and souls ready to accept and become a part of the growing family working for those principles which will transform the world into 'Thy Kingdom Come on earth as it is in heaven.'

"The original teachers included a special team of four from the United States and eight from the islands of St. Thomas, St. Martin, St. Vincent, Grenada and Barbados. Soon some of the newly declared Bahá'ís joined the teaching team, eagerly enthusiastic about immediately bringing the Message to other souls. These included a fifteen year old girl and a forty year old man with impaired eyesight who went out day after day to teach."

Teaching and deepening took place from early morning until late at night with the teams dispersing each morning after breakfast and prayers. During the first week over 200 people came to the house every evening to hear more about the Cause. During the following weeks meetings were set up in other areas where the Message had been given during the day.

Publicity was extraordinary. Two believers were interviewed on a radio programme which lasted for half an hour.

Reports indicate that the newly enrolled have been immediately immersed in the teaching work, thus freeing some of the more experienced teachers to work in the field of consolidation. New believers are eagerly studying and undertaking tasks in the field of administration to develop their communities. Those who have been enrolled include one eleven year old lad who has brought into the Faith about thirty new believers, most of them older than he. The community has also been enriched by the enrollment of a lovely lady who is eighty-eight years old.

To date the valiant little band of teachers who began this project in August have established 167 localities, opened every parish on the island and reached 1,700 thirsting souls.

**RHODESIA:** A team of travelling teachers in Gokwe recently visited the village of Chief Nemangwe, who told them that he had been studying the Bahá'í Teachings and requested a declaration card. Upon enrolling, he became the third paramount chief to become a Bahá'í in Rhodesia and when he presented his declaration card he was given Bahá'í literature to the ceremonial clapping of his attendants. In the village of Roja there were so many waiting to declare that the team was hampered by having only one pen between them and a depletion in the number of declaration cards.

**SPAIN:** The National Spiritual Assembly of Spain reports, "...we have the joy of advising you that the Catholic priest, doctor of theology, Mr Jose Marques, has accepted the Bahá'í Faith today before the Local Spiritual Assembly of Madrid.

"Mr Marques, prior to this presented his resignation to the ecclesiastical authorities as a Catholic priest because he was going to accept the Bahá'í Faith."

**TANZANIA:** Appearing on the front page of *The Standard*, a leading newspaper in Tanzania was the following: "The Second Vice-President, Mr Kawawa, has signed an Order declaring the Hindu, Bahá'í and Sikh religions specified religions under the law of Marriage Act, 1971, which came into force last Saturday.

"Marriages performed according to the rites of these religions will be valid..."

**UNITED STATES:** A young believer offered his services to Panama, where he has volunteered to pioneer: "He has had experience with high altitudes, heat-cold extremes, rural living and limited food supply. He has been able to adjust to the warm and hot climate ...He is willing to undertake a physically and mentally strenuous project. This is especially interesting because he wears calipers and uses crutches."

Latest community figures show 4,445 localities, 483 groups with five and more, 160 of these with nine or more adults. Final count Assemblies shows 624..."





*Some of the friends assembled at the Teaching Conference for the Republic of Ireland, held in Limerick.*

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND  
NATIONAL CONVENTION

The first historic National Convention of the Republic of Ireland is to be held over the weekend April 22/23. Hand of the Cause William Sears will attend and Counsellor Louis Henuzet will represent the Board of Counsellors for Europe.

The National Assembly would like to suggest that some of the British friends might like to attend and support this first Irish Convention and, if so, they should write to:—

The Convention Arrangements Committee,  
41 Morehampton Road,  
Donnybrook,  
Dublin.

## PIONEER APPEAL

Time is short and there are still thirty five gaps' in the goal towns and in the lapsed assemblies.

Can you serve Bahá'u'lláh in the pioneering field, or help to re-establish the lapsed assemblies?!

If so, please contact the pioneering committee secretary:  
Mrs. Roohieh Afnan, 1 Wykeham Hill, Wembley Park, Mddx.  
Telephone 01 - 904 7355.

**GOAL TOWNS:**

Craigavon	..	..	..	■	■	■	■	■	
Bangor	..	..	..	■	■	■	■		
Jersey	..	..	..	■	■	■			
Kidderminster	..	..	..	■	■	■	■	■	■
Lerwick	..	..	..	■					
Llanelli	..	..	..	■	■	■	■	■	■
North Berwick	..	..	..	■	■	■			
St. Andrews	..	..	..	■	■	■	■	■	
				= Total : 35					

Assemblies below number:

Chelmsford	..	..	..	■	■		
Shrewsbury	..	..	..	■	■		
Swinton	..	..	..	■	■	■	■
York	..	..	..	■	■		
Larne Rural District		..	..	■			
Stornaway	..	..	..	■			
Inverness	..	..	..	■			
Castlereagh	..	..	..	■			
Wokingham	..	..	..	■	■		
				= Total : 16			

## PANAMA HOUSE OF WORSHIP

'Amatu'l-Bahā Rūhīyyih Khānum will represent the Universal House of Justice at the dedication of the Mashriqu'l-Adhḡār in Panama, which will take place between 28 April and 2 May, 1972. It is hoped that other Hands of the Cause and members of the Continental Board of Counsellors for America will also be attending, but these details are not yet available.

### Schedule of Events

Friday 28 April	8 pm	Unity Feast at House of Worship
Saturday 29 April	8 am to Noon	Dedication ceremonies
	2 pm to 5 pm	Dedication ceremonies
	8 pm	Public Meeting, Olympic Gymnasium
Sunday 30 April	2 pm to 4 pm	Dedication for general public and dignitaries
	7 pm	Banquet for dignitaries, Bella Vista Room, E1 Panama Hotel.
Monday 1 May		
Tuesday 2 May		Conference.

## CHANT

A column of sound  
reaching to the outer realms  
of faith;  
a flame of many hues  
blending to ever more unearthly shades,  
manifesting the spectrum  
of God's love.  
A hand — many hands —  
portraying, as in an Indian dance,  
the essence  
of this great Revelation.  
An emotion  
like the perfume of incense.  
And a stillness upon the heart.

Jacki James.

DEADLINE DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE  
OF THE JOURNAL:— 30 March 1972.

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



**COMMEMORATION OF THE  
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
PASSING OF 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ:  
NOVEMBER 28, 1971.**

Communities all over the British Isles commemorated the Passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and special meetings were held in the five cities which He blessed by His visits.

#### BRISTOL

Beautiful meetings were held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and after one of these meetings the Bahá'ís went to the house where 'Abdu'l-Bahá had stayed and prayed outside it.

Three American friends, the singing duo England Dan and John Ford Coley with their manager, attended the meeting before their performance on Sunday and mentioned the Faith to the capacity audience.

#### EDINBURGH

As a fitting conclusion to the weekend of events commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Edinburgh held a special meeting at which some forty-five Bahá'ís from all over Scotland gathered to hear Lameh Fananapazir, a Persian who is studying at Edinburgh University, give an inspiring talk on the Master at the University's Societies' Centre. On display were two of the Edinburgh community's most treasured possessions, a signed photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and a tablet from Him to Mr Graham Pole of the Scottish Theosophical Society. Both of these He had presented to the Theosophical Society, to whom He gave a talk on His visit to Edinburgh in 1913, and they later were kind enough to present to them to the Edinburgh Local Assembly.

#### LIVERPOOL

Liverpool and Kirkby shared the hours of study and devotion in Kirkby on Friday evening and Saturday preceding the eventful day of November 28, 1971.

These hours, spent together, sharing our knowledge on the Centre of the Covenant, brought a wealth of understanding and love for 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the beloved Servant of the Glory, and for each other. A bond of spiritual strength embraced us all, increased by the loving welcome and warm hospitality extended by the Kirkby friends.

On Sunday morning, Bahá'ís from Kirkby, Newcastle and Ellesmere Port began the day with the friends in Liverpool in the Bahá'í Centre.

At 3 pm. transport was arranged to take the Bahá'ís to Alder Hey Childrens Hospital. Although the weather was on the crisp side the sun shone on the happy gathering of friends thronging the driveway of the hospital grounds.

The ballroom in the hospital where the meeting took place had been prepared by some of the friends earlier; on the platform the photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá (as a young man) with an arrangement of nine pink roses in a vase beside it on the table. Various flowers including pink and yellow roses were displayed along the front of the platform and there were two more photographs of the Master on either side of the room.

The friends were welcomed with music and refreshments were served in the reception lounge until 4 pm, when the programme commenced with a devotional. The Chairman opening the session read from the Daily Post and Mercury an article written on the Master's visit in 1912; she then introduced Shahram Firoozmand who spoke on the life of the Master, telling each one of us this real life drama, as though from heart to heart, bringing the love of the Beloved Servant of the Glory to living reality.

The final session included readings relating to the Formative Age, the Centre of the Covenant, and the Life of the Master, with music between each section of readers.

One hundred and forty attended this wonderful event in Liverpool and as a final gesture each community present was asked to send a representative to come in turn to the front of the hall to accept with love, a rose on behalf of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

The following communities were present: Salford, Leeds, Chester, Stafford, Newcastle, Stretford, Manchester, Stockport, Shrewsbury, Burnley, Hale, Ellesmere Port, Blackpool, Kendal, Cheadle, Kirkby, Oldham, Bolton, Southport, and of course the hostess city, Liverpool.

A jewel in the crown of this wonderful day of love, was the declaration of Sara Garret of Newcastle.

#### LONDON

The special meeting in London was held on Sunday, 28 November at 4 pm in Brent Town Hall, Wembley. About 160 people attended, mainly Bahá'ís, but a few close contacts also came.

The programme consisted of carefully-selected readings relating to 'Abdu'l-Bahá, His standing in His own eyes and those of His illustrious Father. We had the Prayer of Visitation, and the Tablet addressed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá to the British believers. The readings were separated by short excerpts from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

The friends present heard the voice of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on record, rendering a short chant, and although the organising Committee had felt doubtful that it would be heard properly, it was a great joy to find that indeed His voice reached to all corners of the room.

The centrepiece of the programme was a most interesting talk about 'Abdu'l-Bahá by the National Secretary, Charles Macdonald. As he himself said, it was impossible to do justice to his subject in the time given to him, but we were certainly given a new insight into the significance of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, His travels, His life, His writings.

There was a suitable archives display and a display of books relevant to 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and it was felt that the whole meeting was a fitting culmination to the week-end's sessions and an appropriate commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Passing of this Holy Figure.

#### OXFORD

On Sunday, 28 November at 4 pm, about seventy people (mostly Bahá'ís) met in the Chapel of Manchester College, Oxford.

The meeting began with prayers and readings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, read by Mary Hardy, Howard Wills, Cyril Jenkerson, Marjorie Parker and Mr Dudley Richards (who is the senior tutor of Manchester College). Stephen Jenkerson chaired the meeting, and introduced Marion Hofman, speaker at the event. Marion gave a wonderful talk on 'Abdu'l-Bahá; she told how on board ship He had been invited by Professor Cheyne to speak in Manchester College in 1912.

After the talk Marion thanked Mr Dudley Richards for stepping in at short notice in place of Rev. Short, Principal of Manchester College. Marion then presented Mr Dudley Richards with a copy of the new book 'Abdu'l-Bahá, from the Oxford Local Assembly. Mr Dudley Richards said he had been asked to review the book so he was very pleased that he had been able to meet with the Bahá'ís, and find what the Faith was about. He then conducted us to the Carpenter Library in the same college, where many early books on the Bahá'í Faith are kept for reference. Dr Carpenter met 'Abdu'l-Bahá in the Manchester College Library in 1912, where as the then Principal of the College he chaired the meeting when 'Abdu'l-Bahá addressed a distinguished gathering there. We visited the college library, where He spoke, and which until recently the Oxford Bahá'ís had used for the annual World Religion Day meeting.

After the meeting we went on to Worcester College Oxford, for a social gathering. The special books for sale were displayed here, also a shawl that belonged to 'Abdu'l-Bahá, from the Oxford Archives.

We all derived a wonderful spiritual upliftment from that gathering, where 'Abdu'l-Bahá had been, and felt He was near us that day.



*A section of the assembled friends.*



## RADIANT TEACHING CONFERENCE

Midland Hotel, Birmingham,  
8/9 January, 1972.

Report by Lois Hainsworth

The National Teaching Committee had promised us a Teaching Conference with a difference and this promise was certainly upheld by a conference thrilling with love and joy, whose emphasis was on prayer and unity. It opened with singing and serious reports were interspersed with folk singing by groups from Scotland, Wales, Lancashire, the Midlands and Southern England — each with their own individual style, but all radiating and projecting a love of the Faith which circulated the conference room and some spark of which must surely have been left behind.

On behalf of the conference a telegram was sent to the Universal House of Justice and the following reply was received:—

**"DELIGHTED PRESENCE COUNSELLOR HENUZET LARGE ATTENDANCE WONDERFUL SPIRIT TEACHING CONFERENCE STOP ASSURE PRAYERS SACRED THRESHOLD BOUNTIFUL CONFIRMATIONS ENERGETIC DEVOTED SERVICES ONWARD MARCHING BRITISH BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY."**

*Universal House of Justice.*

Teaching Conference was this year opened by Charles Macdonald, National Secretary, as the Chairman of the National Assembly, John Long, was on the point of departure for Mexico. He explained that this year, following the wonderful increase in declarations, the emphasis would be on teaching. He then introduced Counsellor Louis Henuzet from Belgium, whose first visit this was to a teaching gathering in the United Kingdom, and the four Auxiliary Board Members present — Joan and Ernest Gregory, Mary Kouchekezadeh and David Lewis.

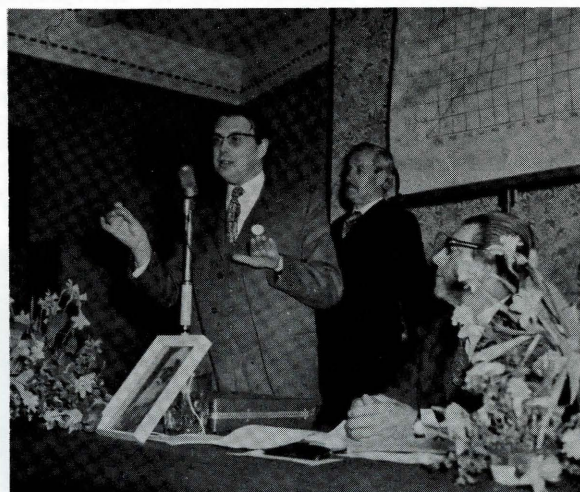


*The music group from Southern England.*

Reports were given by the Overseas Goals Committee and the Regional Teaching Committees — a particular ovation was given to Northern Ireland, where the friends are working in the midst of so much political upheaval and bloodshed. This committee thanked the friends for their prayers and assured us that the Bahá'ís had not suffered badly from the present situation. They had found, however, that the situation had deprived them of visitors and asked if anyone who had the time and means to visit Northern Ireland could do so.

At present there are thirty five gaps in goal towns, sixteen in lapsed assemblies and pioneers are needed for the British overseas goals in Cyprus, Malta, Faroes, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Pakistan, Ghana, Tanzania, SW Africa, Uganda, Swaziland, Gambia, Dahomey and Trinidad.

A new word was coined during the report from the Midlands Committee:— since the visit of John Robarts and the new emphasis on prayer which he encouraged, in particular the circumambulation of towns saying "The Remover of Difficulties" prayer, a large number of Bahá'ís have tried this means with great success. Birmingham is far too large to circumambulate and so the friends there speak of "circumdrivulating"! During the Midlands report the "Happening" planned for the Saturday evening was explained and an account given of the preparation for it.



*Counsellor Louis Henuzet speaks at the Conference. Philip Hainsworth, (Conference Chairman) seated right; Charles Macdonald, (NSA Secretary) standing at rear.*

Counsellor Louis Henuzet then addressed the conference and spoke of the love and joy he felt permeating this gathering and of his happiness at being amongst the British community, which was "one of the exemplars of the Faith in Europe". He spoke of the growth of religion and its advance to the present time and for the preparing of mankind to receive Bahá'u'lláh; of the gift to humanity of a new society and a new structure which will enable people to live in harmony and of the responsibility of each believer to bring this understanding to everybody. Counsellor Henuzet's wisdom and loving personality will long be remembered.

Saturday evening was exciting! It began in the Midland Hotel at 7 pm with a play organised by Colin Black, one of the team looking after the children. A simple but very moving little play showing the change of heart of those who accept Bahá'u'lláh was beautifully performed by the children. Here it must be said that one of the outstanding features of this conference was the contribution made by the Child Education Committee, the expansion of whose work had been praised by Charles Macdonald in his opening address. Under Mrs Alicia Cardell, a team of dedicated Bahá'ís had been organised by the Child Education Committee to teach, tend and entertain the children — visits to the children's room always showed them to be happy and never once was the conference interrupted.

Saturday evening activities then moved to Samuel Johnson House, where coffee was available in a ground floor room; there was singing and talking and discussion, and excellent slide shows by Ted Cardell and Adam Thorne. In a large upstairs hall the film "Its Just the Beginning" and the play "The Dawn of Unity" were shown twice to packed houses. The film gave, as always, a wonderful feeling of unity and understanding and the enthusiasm of the young people who performed in the show was transmitted to the audience.



*The children's play.*



Sunday also began in a different way — firstly with singing by the Welsh Singers and then a sung devotional. We have sometimes heard prayers sung at a conference, but never before in England have we heard them performed as they were composed — in this instance settings of "The Sweet Scented Streams" and "Blessed is the Spot", sung by Lois Hainsworth and exquisitely accompanied by Sylvia Schulman (Benatar). These are compositions by Charles Woolcott, member of the Universal House of Justice, written many years ago. In addition, there was a most interesting and beautiful chant by Minou Cortazzi, accompanied by Enayat Rawhani on the violin — again a welcome innovation.



*Ursula Samandari (née Newman) speaks of her pioneering experiences, (Chairman: Ronald Taherzadeh).*

The sessions opened with two beautiful talks on prayer by Auxiliary Board Member David Lewis and Derek Cockshutt, who laid stress on the need for prayer and the help it gives in our daily lives and in teaching the Cause. Both stressed the difference between saying prayers and really PRAYING — turning to God with true spiritual devotion. The participation of the youth was very evident during Sunday morning's sessions, two of which were chaired by younger Bahá'ís — Ronald Taherzadeh and Tawfiq Rushdi.

Speaking to the theme "Send another in your stead", the National Treasurer, Betty Goode, spoke of how everything we do for the Faith we do for each other as well as for Bahá'u'lláh. She emphasised that if we could not pioneer ourselves then we should try and help someone else to go instead, by contributing to the Fund. She added that at this time the Fund was very low and that it was important to make sacrifices, if necessary, to keep those friends who had already pioneered in their posts, as well as helping others who wished to go.

"Tell your story" was a session which gave evidence of the sacrifice and joy of pioneering and the wonderful service of the British believers. The first to speak was Daryush Mehrabi who, although so badly injured that he is confined to a wheelchair, pioneered to the far North of Scotland — the Orkney Islands — and witnessed the formation in Kirkwall of the first spiritual assembly there. Ursula Samandari (née Newman), one of the first two British pioneers ever to arise, in 1944, told of her experiences in Somalia. Other radiant Bahá'ís came forward to share their experiences and to pass on a little of the pioneer spirit to those who had not yet been privileged to serve Bahá'u'lláh in this way and Kitty Glover, Betty Shepherd and John and Lou Turner made moving contributions.

National Assembly Secretary Charles Macdonald spoke on "Mass Teaching and Deepening" and combined this with "Literature for the Masses" on behalf of the Publishing Trust. He said that the basic requirements were prayer and reliance on Bahá'u'lláh and quoted 'Abdu'l-Bahá — "As ye have faith, so shall your bounties be". He mentioned that new teaching aids were being produced so that every Bahá'í would know what was required of him.

This was a conference which none who attended will ever forget — perhaps we shall look back upon it as a turning point, coming at a time when the impetus of new declarations had reached a hitherto unknown force and which we pray will grow into a positive torrent of new believers.

The success of a conference depends to a very large extent upon the guidance of the Chairman and this radiant conference owed much to the inspiration and control of Philip Hainsworth, Chairman of the National Teaching Committee of the United Kingdom.

## CHILD EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The following is the first part of a study course from the "A Parent's Notebook", reprinted from "The Child's Way", 1964, which is to be serialised in this and subsequent issues of the Bahá'í Journal, as the Child Education Committee is very conscious of the importance of education in the Bahá'í life.

### "The Bahá'í Faith in the Home", by Margaret Ruhe.

And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said, Speak to us of Children.

And he said:

Your children are not your children.

They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you,

And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,

For they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls,

For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.

For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.

The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He

bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far.

Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness.

For even as He loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is stable.

From "THE PROPHET" of Kahlil Gibran

## INTRODUCTION

'Abdu'l-Bahá was asked once, "What is the attitude of your belief toward the family?" He answered: According to the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, the family, being a human unit must be educated according to the rules of sanctity. All the virtues must be taught in the family. The integrity of the family bond must be constantly considered and the rights of the individual members must not be transgressed. The rights of the son, the father, the mother, none of them must be transgressed, none of them must be arbitrary. Just as the son has certain obligations to his father, the father likewise has certain obligations to his son. The mother, the sister and other members of the household have their certain prerogatives. All these rights and prerogatives must be conserved, yet the unity of the family must be sustained. The injury of one shall be considered the injury of all; the comfort of each the comfort of all; the honour of one the honour of all.



*A children's class at the Conference.*



## NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

**BEDFORD:** A commemorative meeting to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá was held at the Swan Hotel, Bedford, on 28 November at 8 pm, which was attended by some thirty people of whom ten were non-Bahá'ís. A programme of prayers and readings, interspersed with appropriate music was given and this was followed by a period of very lively discussion. At least three visitors have requested further information and literature.

Invitations had been sent to some 150 people, including several dignitaries and posters and press advertising helped in the proclamation of our beloved Faith.

**BRADFORD:** The links with the Unitarians were re-established when a joint service was held to celebrate World Religion Day.

The address was given by a Unitarian Minister who gave a short history of the Bahá'í Faith. This was quite accurate and well presented. Three readings from the "Gleanings" and "Paris Talks" and a prayer for unity were read by Bahá'ís. There were eleven Bahá'ís, five children, seven contacts and the Unitarian congregation. Tea was served afterwards and there were several interesting discussions.

**BRISTOL:** Between 5 February and 1 April a continuous teaching conference is planned in Bristol, at 23 Elmgrove Road, Redland, Bristol on alternate Friday evenings at 4 pm.

**CASTLEREAGH LSA:** acting on behalf of the Bahá'í Community of Northern Ireland, organised this year's World Religion Day. As well as the usual insertions in the local press, publicity was gained by releasing 600 balloons one week before the meeting. Each balloon carried an invitation card to the meeting with a quotation from Bahá'u'lláh's Writings calling for unity.

The celebration took place in Park Avenue Hotel in the form of readings from the Holy Books of all religions. This was very successful and provided one of the first examples of the public at large responding to our advertising. Well over a hundred people attended the meeting, which was chaired by Mrs. Shomais Afnan from England.

Finally, in the week following World Religion Day, there were five declarations in Northern Ireland.

**EDINBURGH:** During November Dennis McKeown spoke to an audience of about twenty-five at the University Student Christian Movement, supported by some of the Bahá'ís and contacts. An interesting discussion followed. Also planned are a Bahá'í Speaker for the Methodists and a possible joint meeting with the Jewish Society.

**HAMILTON:** On Thursday, December 9, 1971, a meeting was held at the Hamilton College of Education open to all its students. Dorothy Bruce and Judy Gibson were to speak, and Pam Sabit came to provide added support. Because of examinations, attendance was poor, and the talks originally scheduled were put aside in favour of a more informal approach — brief introduction to the history and principles of the Faith interspersed with discussion whenever a question was raised. The meeting went well beyond the allotted time, and in leaving one of the teachers in the Religious Education Department commented that it had been a very informative and stimulating session. Although the attendance was not as good as we had hoped we do feel that the posters advertising the talk proved an excellent medium for teaching the Faith.

#### GREATER MANCHESTER AREA Groups and Isolated Believers:

Within this area are a number of isolated believers who seldom have the opportunity of enjoying the inspiration which comes from fellowship with a larger number of fellow Bahá'ís. To deal with this kind of situation Jim and Ada Hufton invited such folk to their home for the celebration of the Nineteen Day Feast on January 18. The new venture was felt to be thoroughly worthwhile and it was decided to hold future Nineteen Day Feasts at one or other of the Bahá'í homes within the area and to discuss at the next Feast what form any further activity should take.

**OXFORD:** The Master of Balliol College was presented with the "Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh" in November and his warm welcome and genuine interest made the preliminary words easy to find. There was no doubt that he had looked up the record of the Guardian at the College and seemed familiar with the name of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. He was happy to receive the book. He was told that when at Balliol the Guardian had been completely absorbed in his study of the English language, the beauty of which he deeply appreciated and as a result of his studies had come wonderful

translations of the words revealed by the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá. The Proclamation book has subsequently been presented to the Balliol College Library and to the Lord Mayor of Oxford.

**ST. ANDREWS:** During the last seven weeks we have held three firesides with the support of the Motherwell and Dundee friends alternatively.

At the first fireside there were three enquirers, one of whom had met the Faith through a visit to that beautiful silent teacher, the Wilmette Temple.

After the second one, two enquirers who had been at the first declared their belief in Bahá'u'lláh and it was with the greatest joy that we sent their declaration cards to the National Assembly

The last fireside was somewhat like a "gathering of the clans" with friends from Motherwell, Dundee and Burnley and two girls who were on the staff during the Scottish Summer School. We were treated to a round-the-world slide show taking us to Wilmette, Frankfurt, Sidney, Kampala and Panama as well as to the Holy places, the Shrines of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh and the grave of the Guardian!

So the community has grown to five; including one Bahá'í household. There are now two adults and three youth, one of whom will be twenty-one before Ridván.

Regular prayer meetings are held on Sundays from 11.30 to 12.30.

The first experience of "mass teaching" in Scotland took place in St. Andrews last month, which resulted in two youth embracing the Faith. The town, which was the scene of the first Scottish Summer School last year, was "stormed" by young Bahá'ís eager to spread the word of Bahá'u'lláh to townspeople and students alike. As a result of "field work" done in the town, many non Bahá'ís came to the evening of entertainment and discussion, which included the wonderful film "It's Just the Beginning". It was after the showing of this film that an associate of the Bahá'ís of Glasgow declared that she wished to be counted with those who recognise the universal teachings of Bahá'u'lláh. After the film, which was shown twice by demand, entertainment was provided by "The Mac-Dawnbreakers" from Glasgow and Motherwell, who sang wonderful Bahá'í songs. The "Happening" in St. Andrews was blessed by the presence of Mr and Mrs Philip Hainsworth and their family who did much to help the weekend, with talks, singing and prayers as well as "taking to the streets" to help the Cause.

At the subsequent "open door" at the home of Mr and Mrs Tingle, the second declaration was made by a resident of the town which brought to a joyous conclusion what had been a truly uplifting spiritual experience.

**SEVENOAKS:** A most successful Inter-faith Meeting in celebration of World Religion Day was held at the Friends Meeting House on 16 January, when the local group were greatly assisted by Croydon and Epsom communities and two friends from Guildford. The room was full (about sixty to seventy people) and the Chaplain of Sevenoaks School, Rev. I. Ogilvie, brought three boys (Hindu, Jewish and Christian — the Moslem was unable to come) to speak for their faiths. Miss Backhouse spoke for the Quakers and there were readings from the Zoroastrian and Buddhist faiths. Phillip Hinton of the Epsom Community brought the Meeting to an end on behalf of the Bahá'í Faith by showing how all these faiths reached their consummation in the appearance and Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh. The theme was 'Rather light a candle than complain of the darkness' and as a visual illustration of this each speaker lit a candle from the same source on behalf of their faith to show the increase in light achieved by joining then together.

Most of the audience, which contained Quakers and Unitarians amongst others, stayed, after refreshments, to see the film 'It's Just the Beginning', which was favourably received. A good account of the Meeting appeared under 'Church News' (!) in the local paper, and one of the most welcome results was the establishment of a 'hot line' to the paper concerned — the young reporter being interested and most sympathetic.



Recognise this old friend?

Modified and revised  
for mass teaching.



Price £1 per hundred — Send money with order to:—

Mr. S. Kouckezadeh  
2 Hastoe Park  
Aylesbury, Bucks.  
Tel: 0296 - 84066

## YOUTH WINTER SCHOOL 1971

### ISLE OF WIGHT

Report by Farhad Firoozmand

From the very start it promised to be a Winter School with a difference. For the first time in several years we had broken from the traditional bonds of York Youth Hostel and had moved to the larger and better equipped Winchester House on the beautiful Isle of Wight. The theme of the School was "universal Participation" and during a general consultation at its beginning, the theme was put into practice by allocating various responsibilities for running the school to the youth present. As a whole about seventy people attended the school.

The programme was designed to deepen the participants in the major aspects of the Faith and at the same time utilise the manpower present for extensive teaching work. The mornings were taken up by deepening sessions and the combination of youth and adult speakers made very interesting contributions.

After an early consultation, plans were made for systematic teaching in the island. Every afternoon groups of youth equipped with maps and leaflets converged upon Ryde, Shanklin, Sandown and the surrounding villages and invited the general public to the three main teaching events of the week. These were to be a public meeting in Ryde Town Hall, a big show in the Ryde Pavilion and a show in a school in Shanklin. All these events passed successfully with a very good public talk and two excellent performances of the show, resulting in five mature youth becoming Bahá'ís. These declarations were very welcome, since the local Bahá'ís tell us that one declaration on the island is equivalent to fifty on the mainland. During the mass teaching effort, a total of about 5,000 handouts and posters giving information about the Faith were given out and the activities were supported by a twenty-four hour prayer rota. A cable was sent to and a reply received from the Universal House of Justice, which greatly encouraged everyone in their efforts.

Apart from those taken up by the public meeting and shows, the evenings were spent in informal deepening and social activities. Everyone was overjoyed when one evening two of the new Bahá'ís on the island who were married underwent a Bahá'í Marriage Ceremony.

During the whole of our enjoyable stay at Winchester House, the warden and his wife were extremely friendly and showed the utmost co-operation. We would like to thank them, our chairman and everyone who helped in any way to make the school the success that it was. Finally we would like to express our deep appreciation for the help and support which the local Isle of Wight Bahá'ís gave throughout the school.

## SALZBURG YOUTH CONFERENCE.

Report by Adam Thorne, December 1971.

Another exciting phase of the Two-Year Youth Campaign evolved with the second Youth Conference called by the Board of Counsellors for Europe. The city of Salzburg was the most attractive setting for this auspicious gathering. The Conference, rallying point for the Bahá'í Youth, was blessed by the presence of two Hands of the Cause of God, namely, Dr. Adelbert Mühlischlegel and Mr. Enoch Olinga. At least 600 Youth from over thirty countries attended the opening session when the Vice-Burgher-master of Salzburg spoke briefly. Even those who could not understand German shared his warm greetings.

The first talk was devoted to the subject of Mass Teaching. Mr. Olinga stressed important points for those who would later go Mass Teaching in the area:

1. Our intention or motive must be pure.
2. Have complete trust and reliance on Bahá'u'lláh and be willing instruments for His service.
3. We must sacrifice our human qualities for more perfect Divine qualities.
4. We must allow our hearts to be the focal centre for the love of Bahá'u'lláh.

The Youth were arranged into mass teaching groups at registration with Bahá'ís speaking German, French, English and Italian working in unity in each group. Forty-five teams boldly set off to proclaim the healing Message of Bahá'u'lláh to "all who have ears to hear". By late afternoon, starry-eyed group leaders excitedly reported new enrolments and very favourable response. Many felt this long-dormant continent was stirring at last. Teams travelled to Germany and to villages in Austria by car or train. One German couple who expressed a keen interest offered a contribution. When it was explained only Bahá'ís may give, they enrolled, then gave their contribution! All were invited to the Proclamation Entertainment in the Congress Hall. This was serious business for the Bahá'ís, who wanted clearly to demonstrate that unity and love really did work. The Italian Dawn-breakers sang with such spontaneous joy and the Austrian Dawn-breakers' harmony and feeling touched many hearts.

At the Unity Feast, the Hands of the Cause spoke on the significance of the Feast and the importance of Youth participation. Mr. Enoch Olinga raised the spiritual temperature sky-high when he sang an African song and 'Alláh'u'Abhá'. He warmed the hearts of all present and showed that feeling of joy so much needed today. Each evening resulted in many enrolments. It was comforting to find a steady stream of new Bahá'ís who could then attend further sessions and start their spiritual deepening.

Recalling the Universal House of Justice's advice that "the more you understand the purpose of Bahá'u'lláh... the greater will be your success," Dr. Mühlischlegel gave a scholarly talk on the realisation of the Will of God in this age, the renewed love for God that must be shown and the World Order destined to manifest this love to the world. Counsellor Anneliese Bopp, whilst explaining the origin of the Two-Year Campaign, pointed out that the earlier Bahá'í Teaching was characterised by individuals, (e.g. Martha Root, Mother and Father Dunn, Effie Baker), now is the time to work in groups. The campaign has introduced a new teaching method into Europe. As the Universal House said in its message to the Youth at Fiesch: "That Bahá'í Youth are fully capable of meeting the challenge which evolution has placed before them has already been demonstrated". These heartening messages amid exciting reports of enrolments from various countries instilled an immense feeling of confidence, joy and thankfulness. There was the obvious question; "Where do we teach? Who do we teach?". We must teach the poor and working classes, the minority groups and those rebelling against society.

A most exciting moment came when Eileen Norman, secretary of the American International Goals Committee, told of the 100 - 150 American Youth who will come to Europe this summer to help achieve the goals. She so lovingly conveyed the sense of devotion and breadth of vision of the American Youth by saying: "We need you — because without the co-operation, the assistance and in many cases the leadership of the European Youth — we will not have the success we hope for".

The second message sent to the Universal House of Justice summed up the feeling at that time:

**TOTAL REGISTRATION 800 ENROLMENTS 111 DEPART DETERMINED WIN REMAINING GOALS DURING SUMMER.**

Through the guidance of the Hands and the Counsellors the Youth left Salzburg having gained a more profound sense of unity, a solid conviction in the power of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation and an unshakable determination to surge forward and complete, even surpass the goals of the Nine Year Plan.



Speakers at the World Religion Day meeting held in Edinburgh:— from left — John More Nesbett (Bahá'í), Rev. Gordon Simpson (Christian) and Rabbi J. Weinberg (Jewish).



## 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ. THE CENTRE OF THE COVENANT OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

By H. M. Balyuzi

### Review by Richard Backwell

A truly definitive biography of 'Abdu'l-Bahá will never be possible. Nobody can compass His full range of qualities, perfections and activities. He was unique, the Mystery of God, and will always be unique, and, as Mr. Balyuzi writes, "Every event in the life of the Son of Bahá'u'lláh carries a major accent."

Yet Mr. Balyuzi has achieved in his book the nearest approximation we are ever likely to get. Indeed, in some respects perhaps, he achieves more than a definitive biography, in that while quoting aptly and extensively from sources at present inaccessible to most readers, he does it in such a way as to imbue those readers with a thirst for more. His book thus becomes an organic addition to the range of Bahá'í literature. Furthermore, he provides numerous abbreviated accounts of stories of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in a way that makes us want to refresh our memories through turning back where we may to the books from which he derived them. His own relationship with the Martyr Herald of the Faith and connection, direct or through his father, with so many of the great figures of the Faith provide many unusual grace-notes and a sense of contact not open to many.

Few indeed too from Persia are so well qualified, not only by relationship and contact but by mastery of Persian, Arabic and English, to present an account of such a life in a way so balanced and so well suited to English speaking readers.

A book that has been over thirty years in the making is a book well founded and substantial, and of scholarly precision. That it has some 500 pages, several appendices, very useful notes and an excellent index is the fruit of that making. That there are upwards of 600 different people mentioned at least once, many of them on numerous occasions, indicates that the book teems with life. That there are sixty quotations many of them extensive, from "Promulgation of Universal Peace", several from "Abdu'l-Bahá in London", more again from "Abdu'l-Bahá in America", over twenty from the American periodical "Star of the West", and almost as many from M. M. Zaqani, the Persian secretary and diarist during 'Abdu'l-Bahá's tours of the West, indicates our author's generosity and thoughtfulness.

The book is written in three more or less equal parts, titled respectively: "Youth, Imprisonment and Freedom", "America from Coast to Coast", "Europe and the Closing Years."

The visits to the United States and Canada, and to a lesser extent Europe and Egypt fulfil the prophecy of Matt. 24: 27:—

"For as the lightning cometh out of the East, and shineth even unto the West; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be."

Both because of their importance and because the sources are both plentiful and reliable, Mr. Balyuzi treats these visits almost on a day to day basis, so that for the first time we are enabled to visualise to some degree the magnitude of the achievement. It was a stupendous effort for any person of whatever condition or rank. It involved an unforced and unstructured degree of success in the public relations field that could not have been matched even by present day sophisticated experts in public relations. For a man who had spent all but nine years of His life in exile and forty of his first sixty-seven years under sentence of incarceration even if not actually imprisoned for more than half that time — in the modern jargon "interned without trial" — and for one who suffered as He did when young from tuberculosis and the severe cold of the first exile from Tehran to Baghdad, not to mention the stresses and strains of antagonisms of even near relatives, both to His beloved Father while He was alive and to Himself as appointed Centre of the Covenant — the achievement deserves description as a miracle, perhaps the greatest miracle of this century.

Small wonder that His western travels occupy more than half the book even though they spanned only some four of the seventy-seven years of His life.

We are given insight into 'Abdu'l-Bahá's personal difficulties in a new way, we learn of His insomnia and not infrequent ill health in later years and we are told much of the desperate strain imposed by the intrigues and machinations of the Covenant Breakers. Yet we are left with a final satisfaction such as can only be given by a fully balanced life with all the positive attributes, not least the warmly human ones, markedly accentuated in their appropriate turn. We are left to feel that, as with His glorious Father, He had done all that could be done by one man in His allotted life span. Of how many people in history can this be truly said?

Certain particular events stand out in the memory of the reviewer. The account (pp 26-7) of Bahá'u'lláh in Baghdad coffee shops and later 'Abdu'l-Bahá in coffee shops both in Baghdad and in Adrianople teaching the Cause to those who would listen gives a fresh flavour to one's own activities in similar environments; His perfect mastery of the situation when meeting the wealthy and distinguished guests invited to meet Him in New Hampshire where He told them how He and His family had survived the desperate plight of imprisonment in the Akka Barracks, through the daily therapeutic use of humour (pp 21 - 2); the deeply moving story of the response of Thomas Breakwell, the first English believer, and his extraordinarily close spiritual link with 'Abdu'l-Bahá, his pilgrimage, his painful passing and the Master's exceptional tribute (pp 74f); the account of 'Abdu'l-Bahá at long last laying the Báb to rest in the place specified by Bahá'u'lláh Himself on Mount Carmel (pp 127f); the perfection of His beautifully balanced yet brief and comprehensive address in the City Temple in London to His first public audience in the West (pp 140f); His foresight in encouraging grain harvests in Palestine during the war and safeguarding the food against dire need, for which he was accorded and accepted a K.B.E. from a "just king" (pp 418f); His utter calm both when threatened by the Turkish Commission of Enquiry (pp 117f) and while awaiting the arrival of General Allenby's army, though still under threat from Jamal Pasha of banishment or crucifixion (pp 425f); His funeral (p 452f) attended by 10,000 of all ranks and conditions of men. European and Middle Eastern, Jews, Christians, Arabs, Druzes etc., an event unparalleled before or since in the Holy Land.

Mr. Balyuzi has now acquired that invaluable ability, which few writers ever really master, to express himself in flexible language, always varied and always couched in short sentences. Consequently one reads his book eagerly and easily.

The whole account of that greatest of all human souls, like a meal from a good roast, leaves one with the feeling that one has eaten well but that there is plenty more where it came from and there are parts to which we each will frequently return.

This is a great book about the greatest figure of the twentieth century. It should be read by all Bahá'ís who are at home in the English language. It is so well written that many others, as yet ignorant of the Faith itself, would find it a more acceptable book to treat as a bedside companion or as a biography for making the acquaintance of One so wholly matchless in the annals of mankind.

### OBITUARY LIST

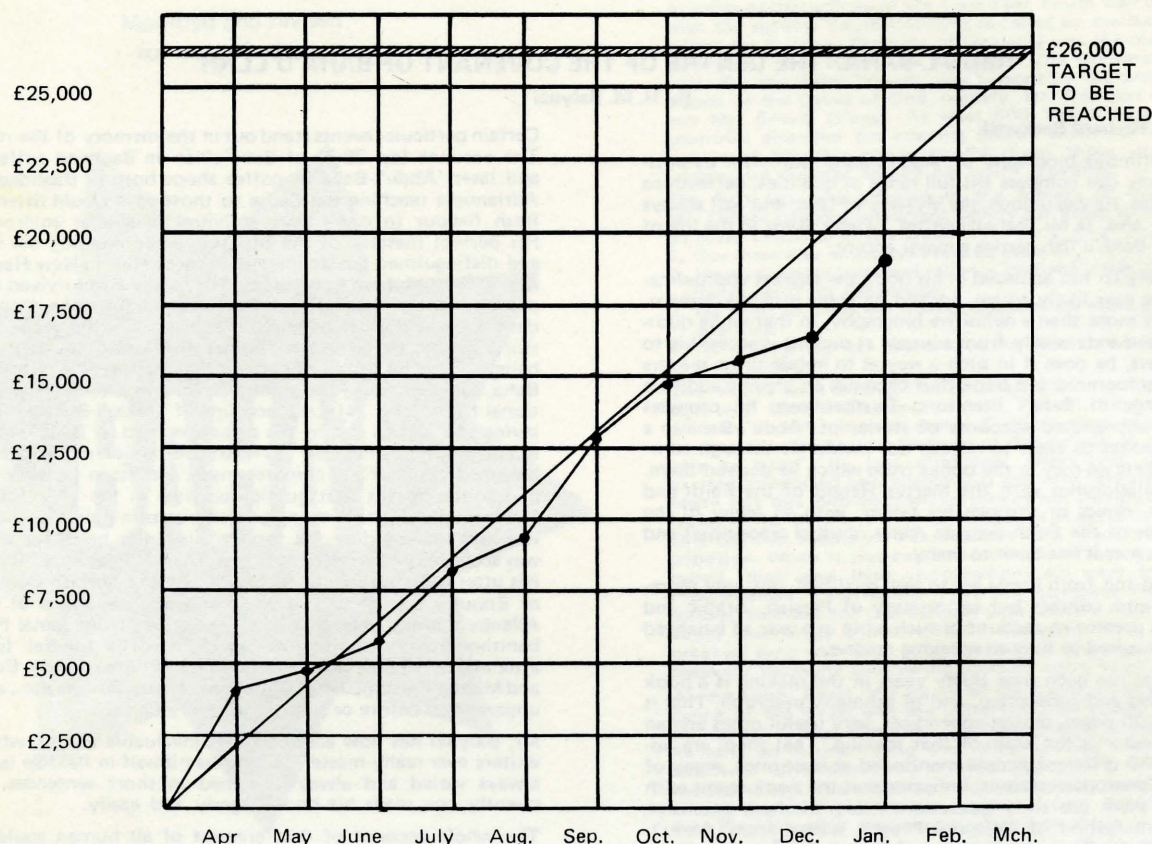
The following Bahá'ís are known to have passed away during the last two years:—

Mr. Louis Harrowell		December	1970
Mrs. Hetty Engelsman		Date not known	
Mr. Jack Pullen	5	September	1971
Dr. Rosey Poole	30	September	1971
Mrs. Lavinia Bennett	17	November	1971
Mr. Najat Kamranpour		November	1971
Mrs. Geraldine Cooper	9	November	1971
Miss Joy Savage	10	December	1971
Miss Mabel Joseph	30	December	1971
Mr. Jamshid Kouchekezadeh	30	December	1971
Mr. Len Lewis (Hong Kong)		January	1972
Mr. James Robertson	6	February	1972



## LIFEBLOOD OF THE CAUSE

## Rate of Contributions



## Another new teaching aid

The card reproduced in full size above, carrying on the reverse side some principles and a space for your address, has been printed in large quantities. The same "logo", or design, will be followed through in posters, bus advertisements etc so that wherever this design is seen it will link the public's mind with the name Bahá'í.

40p per 100, 4p for 10, Why not order them by the thousand?

## From the Sales Committee:—

Mr. John Reeve,  
44 Highbank,  
Westdene,  
Brighton.

## Spiritual Assemblies and Groups who have contributed to the Fund. 25 November — 25 January.

Aberdeen, Aberystwyth, Aylesbury, Aylesbury Youth, Bangor (N. Ireland), Bangor (Wales), Barnet, Belfast, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Bovington, Bradford, Brent, Burnley, Cambridge, Camden, Carlisle, Canterbury, Cardiff, Cheadle & Gately, Chelmsford, Chester, Cork, Croydon, Dublin, Dumbarton, Dundee, Dunlaoghaire, Durham, Ealing, Eccles, Edinburgh, Epsom, Exeter, Fleet, Hamilton, Haringay, Havant, Havering, Hereford, Hindley, Hove, Hounslow, Inverness, Jersey, Kendal, Kendal Youth, Kirkwall, Larne R.D., Leeds, Leicester, Lerwick, Limerick, Liverpool, Londonderry, Malta, Manchester, Motherwell, Newmarket, Norwich, Oakham, Oxford, Poole, Portsmouth, Reading, Richmond, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, Southport, Stafford, Stornoway, St. Andrews, St. Neots, Stretford, Swansea, Torbay, Wandsworth, Watford, Winchester, Wokingham R.D.

Great care is taken to keep a record of local assemblies and groups who send contributions and sometimes when a town is left out it is because the local treasurer has not made it clear that the donation was not a personal one.

It will be noted that since the end of December the "Lifeblood" has flowed more strongly again and the gap in the target for donations has lessened. Very warm thanks to every believer who has responded to this tremendous challenge and has sent increased donations. How wonderful it will be, if at Ridván we can joyfully announce that not only have we won the homefront goals one year ahead of time, but that we have met this high target for donations to the Fund.

With deepest love,

Betty Goode, National Treasurer  
8 Knowle Road, Stafford.

## VOTING RIGHTS

The voting rights of Mr Melvin Dean and Mr Shahram Tabibi have been restored.

With regret the National Assembly has withdrawn the voting rights of Mrs Doris Matsell for violation of the Bahá'í Marriage Law.