

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE BRITISH ISLES

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"Convey new pioneers deepest loving admiration"

· SHOGHI EFFENDI

No. 75

Bahá'í Year 106

NOVEMBER 1949

TEACHING CONFERENCE

DATE CHANGED TO ENABLE EVERY BELIEVER TO MEET MRS. AMELIA COLLINS
DECEMBER⁵ 3rd and 4th, IN MANCHESTER

'Dearly beloved distinguished co-worker Amelia Collins arriving London en route Poland show great consideration praying utmost benefit visit.'

In this way our Guardian advised us of the great bounty of a visit from Mrs. Collins. It is known that Shoghi Effendi has entrusted her with various missions, and as his cable indicates, *we* can derive great benefit from her visit. In order to obtain this, the N.S.A. believes that the opportunity should be given to every believer to meet Mrs. Collins. We therefore welcomed a recommendation from the N.T.C. to advance the date of Teaching Conference and invite Mrs. Collins to attend. We know she is sailing for America on December 7th and have sent her the following cable:

'Greatly desire your presence Teaching Conference.
In view Guardian's cable specially arranged December

3rd—4th, Manchester. Last national rally before termination Plan. Assure loving welcome.

In the meantime plans are going ahead for that date and the reply will be notified to the friends in the call to Conference.

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW

The N.S.A. believes that it is doubly fortunate that we should have Teaching Conference at this early date, as this is the last time we can all get together before the end of the Plan. It therefore gives us an extra month to benefit from the spiritual force which we can confidently expect to be released.

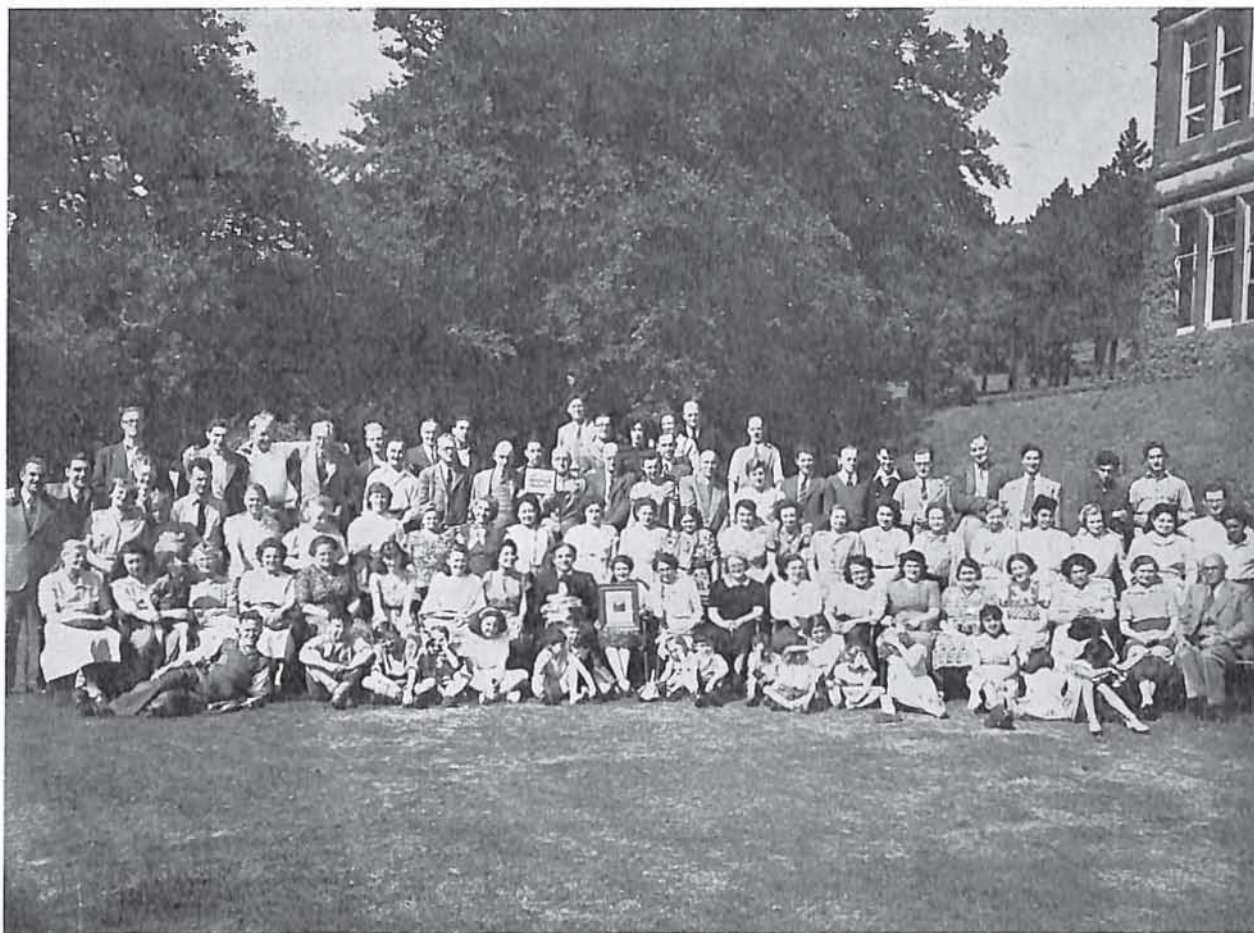
We can count on Manchester's well-known hospitality, and the N.T.C.'s ability and vigour to make this last rally, with the help of Mrs. Collins, the most memorable in the Plan. After that it will be Convention 1950!

ADDITIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

Since the last list appeared in *Bahá'í Journal*, registration cards have been received from the following:
Manoutchehre Anvar (From Iran), Newcastle
Miss Lily Quistgaard (Youth from Denmark), London
Robert Sloan, Belfast
Douglas Langford, Torquay

Miss Violet Baseley (Youth), Birmingham
John Shortland, Northampton
Cyrus Mansouri (Youth from Iran), London
Ehssanollah Amini (Youth from Iran), Birmingham
Miss Jane Campbell, Oxford
Mrs. Hannah Bridger, Nottingham

SUMMER SCHOOL, 1949



This year's Summer School was held once more at Eastwood Grange, Ashover, Derbyshire, from August 27th to September 17th, and it was a great success.

Attendance was much better than we at first anticipated and the School was full for the first two weeks. It emptied somewhat during the third week, though right to the end more than forty people were there. Altogether, counting even people who came over for a few hours from neighbouring towns, between 135 and 140 people were there, including about 20 non-Bahá'ís, and in addition 32 children. Visitors came from America, Australia, Sweden, Holland, and there were Persian friends from France and Switzerland. Amongst them we were specially glad to welcome Marion Little of the United States and Ethel Dawe from Australia, who have been giving us valuable teaching help during their stay here. Practically all local assemblies and groups were represented.

The theme of the School was 'The Destiny of Man' and this was developed in three weekly series of morning lectures, each week complete in itself but all presenting different aspects of the main subject. Some mornings there were straight lectures, sometimes there was a panel of speakers — all were very interesting and

were well attended. The two study courses on 'The Covenant' and 'Speaker Training' were also very popular.

The Assembly Development Committee held three successful consultation meetings with members of local assemblies. In the evenings there was a variety of features. Three scripts were given and there was a performance of Ruhiyyih Khanum's playlet 'How to Be and How not to Be.' The outstanding evening events however were four in number: first St. Barbe Baker's lecture with lantern slides, then the talks by Marion Little and Ethel Dawe on the work in Europe and the Brussels Teaching Conference; Dr. Lotfullah Hakim spoke of his memories of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Ethel Dawe following with recollections of her visit to the Guardian, and lastly on the closing evening there was a very moving Unity Feast and consultation on the long inspiring letter from the Guardian which had just been received.

Many judged the School to be the best we have had yet. Certainly there was a warmly loving and harmonious atmosphere all through and we truly felt ourselves to be a very happy Bahá'í family.

"Blessed is the spot..... where mention of God hath been made"



NEW THOUGHTS ABOUT TEACHING

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

The first of the Regional Conferences for teachers referred to in the last Journal is called for 5-6 November, in *Blackpool*, when friends from that Goal Town, Liverpool, and the Manchester and Blackburn Communities will attend. On Saturday, the whole Agenda of the Conference will be dealt with in a 'nutshell' manner, when Isobel Locke and R. H. Backwell will team up to present the new teaching methods. R. H. Backwell will then conduct a special class for teachers on the Sunday, for those who can manage to stay overnight or who can return to Blackpool for the occasion. The Sunday sessions will be devoted to deep study on the course, 'The Changeless Faith of God,' which includes the sub-courses, 'The Eternal Covenant,' 'The Covenant Unfolds in the Kingdom of God,' and 'What it means to be a Bahá'í.'

Bulletins for the use of the conference participants will be available on the following subjects:—

- Teaching Bulletin No. 1. 'Making Contacts.'
" " " 2. 'Publicity and Advertising.'
" " " 3. 'Public Meetings.'
" " " 4. 'Literature.'
" " " 5. 'Confirmatory Fireside.'
" " " 6. 'Devotional Meetings.'
" " " 7. 'The New Teaching Plan.'
" " " 8. 'Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh.'
" " " 9. 'Confirmation.'

These are being produced in enough quantities for all teachers, and more are being drawn up. They contain new material, and are necessary additions to the Teaching Manual, and should be in the hands of every teacher who wishes to keep up with current thought.

RESPONDING TO THE GUARDIAN'S CALL

Closely following Alma Gregory, *Miss Una Coward*, also of Northampton, has consulted with the Committee with a view to joining the pioneer ranks, and *Iraj Poostchi* and *Rustam Khorsandian* also consulted to see if they could pursue their studies in a town where they could also serve the Plan.

John Dixon was obliged to leave Brighton for personal reasons, and after receiving a letter from the Guardian, he consulted with the N.S.A. and offered to place himself entirely at their disposal. This fine offer was referred to the N.T.C., and we were happy to route him direct to *Bristol*, where he will help to make up their numbers, and add to the teaching strength of that region.

OPENING NEW CITIES

In two of the Goal Towns, special efforts have recently been made to attract new friends to the Faith and to bring the name, Bahá'í, before the general public. On October 20th, the Anniversary of the birth of the Bab, the *Oxford* Community held its first full-scale Public Meeting. Formal invitations, in black italic print on white card, were sent to the considerable number of people already interested in the Faith, and placards, 12 in. × 8 in. of light blue card with navy ink, and Blue Posters, 35 in. × 22½ in., were displayed throughout the city announcing the meeting which was held in a Committee room of the Oxford Town Hall. Marion Hofman spoke on 'World Order through World Religion.' David Hofman was in the chair. Sixty-three attended this great occasion, comprising 21 Baha'is, 42 contacts—13 of whom were from Northampton.

In *Brighton*, a similar large event will take place on November 1st, introducing *Miss Ethel Dawe*, guest Baha'í from Australia, at a Public Reception, with Philip Hainsworth in the chair. The meeting will be the occasion both for introducing the Faith to the people of Brighton and announcing a series of study-classes on the 'Eternal Covenant' which is to follow. Friends and contacts from Northampton and Birmingham supported the Oxford meeting, and *Miss Emily Eastgate*, travelling teacher from Birmingham, and the London Community are helping with the Brighton programme.

GOAL TOWN NEWS

Twice, to *Edinburgh*, recently, went Ada Williams, pioneer in *Glasgow*, and together the Scottish Assembly and its adopted sister Community consulted on ways whereby the Edinburgh friends can help the Glasgow Group to confirm those attracted to the Faith as a result of the teaching activities this summer and the recent visit of Mrs. Marion Little. Fortnightly Public Meetings, and weekly firesides are planned. There is a great need here for a resident pioneer or teacher, to follow up the grand work now being done.

In *Liverpool* too, the Adoption Plan was taking strides forward as the Manchester Adoption Committee and the Liverpoolians met to formulate a full winter teaching schedule to include week-end Public Meetings supported by speakers and audience from

Manchester, and study-classes and firesides to be carried on by the local friends during the week. Joe Lee and Alfred Sugar were the guest speakers at the October Public Meetings. John Hargraves, now recovered from his recent illness, is doing excellent teaching work.

Anayat Ketirai, of Persia has moved from Edinburgh to Newcastle, where he will be studying medicine, as well as aiding to swell numbers in this Goal Town, now with five resident believers.

In *Sheffield*, Dorothy Ferraby is spending three weeks making contacts and following-up on the excellent initial Public Meeting held there in September. P. Hainsworth and A. Alai renewed acquaintance with Mr. and Mrs. Jones of Summer School when they attended the B.T.L. Youth Club. Three good contacts were made during this most enjoyable Youth Club evening.

IN OUR LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

In *Manchester* last month seventy-five people attended a special Bahá'í reunion, twenty-one Bahá'ís and 54 non-believers. Entertainment was provided by members of the Manchester International Club, Louis Ross-Enfield was responsible for arranging for the variety of talent present at the reunion. The music was provided by a number of West Indians in Calypso style and negro spirituals. Nationalities included at the meeting were Russian, French, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, German, Austrian and English. Refreshments were served by the Bahá'ís, and it was felt that the evening was very successful in making new friends for the Faith in Manchester.

A new publicity technique was tested in *Nottingham* recently. Some fifty posters were placed on the billboards throughout the city announcing a special Public Meeting. The posters were printed in navy ink on

light blue paper and contained the principles of the Faith, the meeting announcement, and a brief quotation from the Writings. The meeting itself featured a platform shared by *Mr. Hall-Todd*, Regional Organiser for the United Nations Association, and *Isobel Locke* for the Faith. They spoke on 'New Standards of World Justice.' Philip Hainsworth was in the chair. Such a publicity method is a herald of the techniques which will undoubtedly be used to carry the Faith to the masses of the people during successive teaching plans. *Mrs. Bridger* was warmly welcomed to the Faith in this town, which has contributed so much to the National work since its birth, and which is now actively consolidating by increasing its numbers so that it can release its Chairman.

In *Edinburgh*, too, the friends are making use of new methods of attracting seekers. They recently placed a large newspaper advertisement containing the principles and inviting all those interested in promulgating such principles to investigate further, in five local newspapers. They are also actively co-operating with the Crusade for World Government and the Esperantists, thanks to the fine spade work put in by Eric Manton.

Dr. Hakim visited *Norwich* for a fortnight after Summer School and with his stories of the Master brought fresh radiance and enthusiasm to this new Community.

PIONEER GRAVELY ILL

The Committee asks the prayers of all the friends for Mrs. Hainsworth, pioneer to Oxford, now seriously ill in the Radcliffe Infirmary.

WELCOME BACK!

The N.T.C. is happy to announce that *Marion Hofman* is once more active on the Committee after the birth of [REDACTED] in July.

THE FUND

How it is Supported

Thirty-nine individuals, so far, have made pledges under the scheme launched by the N.S.A. and supported by the Guardian, who pledged and sent £1,000. Those friends are located as follows:

London 14	Cardiff 5
Edinburgh 4	Norwich 2
Goal Towns 7	Isolated 2

One believer from each of the remaining towns: Bristol, Manchester, Northampton, Nottingham, Torquay.

Payments have been made on 36 of these pledges to date.

Ten Local Assemblies have made pledges.

Three contribute otherwise.

Payments have been made on all 10 pledges.

Birmingham is way ahead of all in its support of the Fund.

SEVEN-YEAR COVENANTS

A means has been found by which it is possible to pay the whole amount of a Seven-Year Covenant in a lump at the beginning and still to collect a refund of tax each year. Friends interested may obtain details from the National Treasurer.

MONOMARK ADDRESS

The National Assembly has adopted a monomark address that remains constant whatever moves the National Office may make. The address is:

BM/BAHAI
London, W.C.1

Letters addressed thus will be forwarded to the Secretary of the National Assembly by the British Monomark Company.

It is expected that the permanent address will be used chiefly for overseas correspondence, but it may be given whenever a Bahá'í address is needed that will not change with the years.

STOP PRESS

A declaration has been warmly accepted from Miss Elsie Turnbull of Liverpool.

Raschid Hakimian has cancelled his passage to India, and has taken up a pioneer post in Belfast.

Iraj Pootschi has moved to Nottingham as a pioneer.