

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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Bahá'í Year 107

DECEMBER 1950

'THIS PROPITIOUS HOUR'

Teaching Conference, 1951

The National Assembly believes that this year is the most difficult of its experience and feels the need of frank consultation with all the believers. We believe, too, that there is need in the Community for clarification of our position, the state of our progress and the tasks to be accomplished.

Come and consult, so that we can finish the year with the prizes of the Six Year Plan preserved, and with 'steam up' for the Two Year Plan.

Manchester Bahá'í Centre,
39 High Street, Manchester 4

6-7th January, 1951

Send your booking to: Reg Coulson,
37 Westbury Road, Manchester 8.

Two major problems face the British Bahá'í Community at this time. Firstly we must safeguard, consolidate and expand the 24 Assemblies — those bases from which will be launched the Two Year, and subsequent, Plans, and secondly it is essential for us to build up the spiritual, the material and the manpower resources necessary for the successful prosecution of the historic Africa Campaign.

Seven months of the 'respite' year have slipped by, and though great progress has been made, much still remains to be done. There has been an 8% increase in the Community since Convention by declarations alone, but 9 out of the 24 Assemblies are now below Assembly strength. Two new pioneers have arisen to serve and some more are coming from India and Persia, but 5 of the 46 pioneers of the last year of the Plan are still finding it extremely difficult to obtain employment in the towns where they are living and where they must stay in the interests of the new Assemblies. They are having to make great sacrifices because of the precarious state of the National Fund.

When a majority of the Assemblies asked for Teaching Conference to be held as usual, it was decided to make it, more than ever before, a consultation conference open to all the friends with the maximum amount of consulting time. Approximately 6 hours out of a total of 10 hours will be for general consultation. Together we will explore the many and varied aspects of our work, with an emphasis on the 'Home Front Campaign.'

Details of booking, of programmes, etc., will be handled by your Regional Committee, to cut down the expenses to a minimum. Actual Programmes will be duplicated, and will only be available for those attending the Conference. The broad outline of the Conference is as follows:

Saturday

THIS PROPITIOUS HOUR

- 2.30 Devotional Programme and Music.
- 2.50 Conference Opening. Chairman: Philip Hainsworth.
- 3.0 'A Far Broader Foundation.' Rapid reports from every Region.
- 3.30 'The Community Consults.' Consultations by the whole Conference on important problems facing the Cause in Great Britain.
- 4.30 TEA
- 5.0 Open consultation with the National Spiritual Assembly on national questions.
- 6.30 SUPPER
- 8.0 The Africa Project — conducted by the Africa Committee.
- 9.0 The Shrine of the Báb, with the latest films.

Sunday

a.m.

10.0

'The Home Front Campaign.' Chairman: R. H. Backwell. Open consultation on all teaching questions with a special period devoted to the particular teaching problems of the Virgin Territories.

p.m.

12.30

LUNCH

2.0

'The Sacredness of its Mission.' Chairman: Dorothy Ferraby. 'The Bahá'í Way of Life,' Professor Z. N. Zeine. 'Faith in Action,' David Hofman. 'Infant Institutions,' Hasan Balyuzi.

3.30

Closing Devotional Meeting:
'Undelected in its purpose and undimmed in its vision.'

Once again the Manchester Bahá'ís extend their warm and generous welcome. The programme is full, concentrated, exciting. New ideas will be presented, new faces seen. New material will be available and the whole Conference will be of the utmost interest and benefit to old and new believers alike.

We are hoping for a record attendance.

CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE

FROM THE GUARDIAN

The Fund

The Guardian has cabled on November 22nd:

'Urge utmost economy appeal entire Community endeavour reduce deficit Fund contributing five hundred pounds.'

Lotfullah Hakim

On November 14th the Guardian cabled:

'Kindly arrange departure Lotfullah Hakim Haifa for necessary service.'

We are all delighted that our much loved Bahá'í brother should be honoured with this call to help the Guardian. Dr. Hakim asks us to convey to the entire British Bahá'í Community his deepest love and sincere good wishes.

Letters to Individuals

The following is taken from a letter to Philip Hainsworth, dated October 20th, 1950:

'He feels that in as far as possible the African pioneers should seek to get a job which will take them to one of the countries chosen and ensure employment for them there. It does not seem wise or necessary for a Bahá'í to stress the fact he or she is going there to teach. A person's religion is their own business, and they can talk about it privately as much as they like without neglecting their employer's work.'

'Also, he feels no rules can be laid down about how to teach. Usually one teaches those receptive souls one finds. The same should apply to the beginning of the work in Africa. Any direct teaching work with the more primitive tribes would have to be done after finding out the best and most tactful way of doing it. The first step is to get to Africa, and, in view of the cost involved, and the state of the Fund, the pioneers should make every effort to get sent out there or at least get employment after arriving, thus relieving the Bahá'í Fund as much as possible. If this fails, then of course all the expense will have to be paid by the Fund.'

Badi'u'llah

We print below two cables from the Guardian to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States about the death of Badi'u'llah, the Covenant Breaking son of Bahá'u'lláh. The second cable was in reply to one from the American National Assembly asking permission to publicise the first one to counteract an erroneous story put out by a news agency.

November 3rd, 1950.

'Badi'u'llah, brother (and) chief lieutenant (of) archbreaker (of) divine Covenant (has) miserably perished after sixty years' ceaseless, fruitless efforts (to) undermine (the) divinely-appointed Order, having witnessed within (the) last five months (the) deaths (of) his nephews Shoa (and) Musa, notorious standard-bearers (of) the rebellion associated (with) the name (of) their perfidious father.'

November 11th, 1950.

'Approve publicise message. Emphasise (the) following: Badi'u'llah's relentless machinations (for) six decades as chief accomplice (of) archbreaker (of) the Covenant, later as leader (of) the rebellious party; his

misrepresentations (to) Abdul Hamid under (the) Turkish regime; his identification (with) the Arab Cause during (the) British Mandate involving (the) imprisonment (of) his daughter as (a) political agitator; his alliance (with) the representative (of) the traditional enemy (of) the Faith since (the) establishment (of) the Jewish State; his initial efforts (at) inducing (the) Sultan (to) reimpose incarceration (of) 'Abdu'l-Bahá; his sale (of) part (of) the Bahji Mansion for bribery (of) the Master's enemies; his schemings (to) prevent (the) purchase (of) the site (of) the Báb's sepulchre, interfere (with) its erection (and) incite (the) authorities (to) its destruction; his false repentance (and) subsequent intrigues, leading (to) his re-expulsion by 'Abdu'l-Bahá; his seizure (of) the keys (of) Bahá'u'lláh's Tomb (and) his appeal (to) the authorities (to) recognise his custodianship (of) the Shrine; his misrepresentations (to) the British authorities (and) appeal (to) the Moslem Court (to) prevent (the) transfer (of) the remains (of) the mother (and) brother (of) 'Abdu'l-Bahá (to) Mount Carmel; intensification (during) last decade (of) his subversive correspondence (with) Persia; his ignominious flight with Arab refugees; his return after ingratiating himself (with) the representative (of) the government which (has) persecuted (the) Faith over (a) century; (the) agony darkening (the) last days (of) his infamous career precipitating his death, after witnessing (the) deaths in rapid succession of Shuaullah (the) eldest son (of) Muhammad Ali, (who) was) despatched by him (to) America (to) join forces (with) Khayrullah and (who) (was) denounced in (the) Master's Will as one counting upon (the) murder of 'Abdu'l-Bahá; and of Musa, (the) second son (of) Muhammad Ali and (the) redoubtable enemy (of) the World Center (of) the Faith, who vigorously fought against (the) incorporation (of) the Palestine branch (of) the American National Assembly (and) (the) transfer (of) international endowments (to) its name. Transmit text of both messages (to) all National Assemblies.'

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Guardian has sent us a fine photograph of the Shrine of the Báb, from which Ted Cardell has reproduced smaller photographs. These will be on sale at Teaching Conference. There will also be on sale photographs of a presentation made to the Guardian to commemorate the completion of the Six Year Plan. This consists of a map of the British Isles, with Assemblies marked, surrounded by the names of the members of the British Bahá'í Community. It was finely drawn by Donald Millar.

Views on Teaching Conference

Eighteen Local Assemblies replied to the National Assembly's request for the views of the local communities on the holding of Teaching Conference. A small majority of Assemblies, representing a large majority of members of the Community, were in favour of the Conference being held. Some suggested that it should be an 'economy' Conference, and expenditure is being kept as low as possible. Further, three Local Assemblies suggested that each Assembly should be asked to contribute towards the cost of the Conference and a figure of £1 from each was suggested.

AFRICA

The Africa project moves a step closer to its launching in a one-day conference which will be held on December 29th in London, when pioneers who are planning to go to Africa at an early date and members of the Africa Committee will consult together on the far-ranging aspects of introducing the Faith in this vast field. Two non-Bahá'í authorities, as well as a young African, are being invited to participate and lead discussions on Africa's need for a spiritual contribution, the aspirations of modern Africa, and on African languages. The preparation of pioneers and teaching policy will be closely considered in a morning session open only to believers. The Conference is being carefully planned and we hope that the prayers and thoughts of the friends will surround and aid the delegates as they turn the light of Bahá'í consultation to problems at once so challenging and so new.

We are privileged to announce a pioneer offer from Dr. A. Afnan, who was with us at Summer School. Dr. Afnan is now in Paris but he will move to London for closer consultation and the many inquiries which are needed to find suitable employment in one of the territories of our Plan. His fine qualifications should enable Dr. Afnan to contribute greatly to the prestige of the Faith in Africa and we are thrilled at his readiness to pioneer.

Stop Press. *Claire Gung leaves for Tanganyika as our first pioneer on January 3rd. Unfortunately the departure of Philip Hainsworth and Hassan Sabri has had to be postponed.*

AFRICA COMMITTEE

CONTACTING PROMINENT PEOPLE

There has for many years been a rule about contacting prominent people, which the National Assembly has now clarified by recording the following:

(1) In general, nationally prominent men and women should be approached about the Faith only through the National Assembly or its appropriate Committees. Should any member of the Community think it advisable to approach a particularly prominent person, the N.S.A. would welcome suggestions giving reasons why such person should be contacted and suggesting possible lines of approach.

(2) Believers may approach about the Faith any nationally prominent person with whom they are personally acquainted or to whom they have some special means of access. In such cases the N.S.A. should be informed.

(3) This ruling is made to avoid independent approach to the same person by several members of the Community, which might make the person approached feel he was being pestered. Further, it is the only way in which the National Assembly itself can be fully informed of approaches to prominent people and the response obtained, and it eliminates the danger of an unwise approach being made.

(4) The ruling applies with special force to politicians and churchmen.

Shrine of the Báb Fund

The total amount received for this fund to November 14th was £211 19s. 8d., accounted for as follows:

From 21 individual Bahá'ís £143 18s. 0d.
From 12 Local Assemblies £68 1s. 8d.

THE NATIONAL FUND

	Oct. 21st to Nov. 20th	Total since April 21st
THANKSGIVING FUND		
Earmarked donations and shares purchased	£ 15	£ 58
Balance of Six Year Plan deficit		1942
TOTAL INCOME		
Donations—Individuals (15) ...	242	695
—Assemblies (11) ...	70	158
Refunds	86	444
Other sources—Royalties, overseas donations, etc.	63	273
Guardian	50	1100
	<u>£510</u>	<u>£2670</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Pioneers	139	1722
N.T.C. and Consolidation Committee—Teaching, Assemblies, Committee Meetings, Secretariat, etc.	51	405
Six Regional and Teaching Committees	8	124
Africa Committee	14	29
All other Committees	2	69
N.S.A. (Travelling, Secretariat, Petty Cash, Centre, Literature Journal	109	636
Sundries (see below)	51	37
	<u>£374</u>	<u>£3193</u>

Notes

(1) Sundries include a solicitor's bill of £50 for alterations in the Memorandum of Association of the N.S.A. necessitated by a court ruling; £27 for the audit; £27 for Convention expenses; £16 for gifts and relief payments; Shrine of Báb £7; loan repayment £7; funeral expenses £5.

(2) The steady decrease in expenditure is seen when a 'moving average' is taken by averaging expenditure for the month before and the month after each of the following dates:

	£ per month
21st April	818
21st May	584
21st June	505
21st July	463
21st August	417
21st September	350
21st October	326

Changes of Address

Bournemouth Secretary: Mrs. Prudence George, 28 Drummond Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth.

Leeds Secretary: Mrs. Margot Wilkinson, 24 Roxholme Avenue, Leeds 7.

Belfast Secretary: Mrs. Beattie, 27 Rockland Street, Belfast, N. Ireland.

Blackpool Secretary: Dennis McArthur, 39 Sowley Avenue, Blackpool, S.S.

NONE BUT BAHÁ'ÍS

The Bahá'í Faith and its institutions are God's great gift to mankind in this age. We Bahá'ís in embracing the Faith are sustained by its perfection and accept the obligation to share this gift with others. Our awareness of this obligation and of that perfection is measured by the extent to which we devote to it our talents and wealth, our time and energy within the limits set by our age, environment and responsibilities.

What does this mean to each of us in practical fact?

Just as we accept the Bahá'í Faith as 'one Universal Cause, one common Faith,' so it is clear we do not accept it as a private faith, whether as individuals or as communities local or national.

We can make real to others the gift of the Faith and reinforce the power of attraction for them if we are vibrant with interdependent life, as if we were the cells of one human body. But the life with which we should so vibrate, the very heartbeats themselves, have meaning only in so far as we serve mankind using the trust that God has placed latent within us, our physical powers and our powers of mind and soul and the fruits of their activity.

This service is a gift and it is as a universal global whole that it has purpose and object.

Thus we should each deem it a privilege to give in every way open to us and deny ourselves no part of that privilege. We will naturally give within the field of our family and friends, and wider to our acquaintances and associates, seeing in each a need that our gifts can fill.

But we must each also give to our local community so that it has a life of its own, and communities and individuals in turn should give to the National Centre so that the National Community can have a life of its own, for that is the way our loyalties work and the Faith's institutions are organised. Beyond that again the National Community should give to the International Centre so that the whole planet may have life in its degree. It is as this stage is attained that the big dividends are paid.

Here are the really great accomplishments of the future which are foreshadowed already in the present. Increasingly we are able around the world to gaze upon the tangible fruits of great giving, measured not just in human terms with the miraculous spread of the Faith and growth of Communities in so many lands, but even in terms of tokens of praise to God in material form. The Shrines at Akka and Mount Carmel and the gardens that encircle them; the Temples in Wilmette and Ishqabad; the National Haziras in Persia, in the United States, in Egypt, in Australia, in India, in Iraq; the Archives; the many historical dwellings in Persia; the Summer School properties of the United States, Canada and Australia; the burial grounds and memorials to the great Bahá'ís around the earth; and the glorious literature of the Faith — these are but the beginnings of an epoch wherein the structures of man's hands will be raised by naught but unselfish giving.

The days of the future are radiant with promise of Temples, of universities, of laboratories, of hospices for the aged, of schools, of factories and research and properties of all kinds dedicated to no other than that

service in love for mankind which is prayer in action and unity with God, the highest goal of individual and collective man.

We hasten those days by giving now. The more freely the 'fountain' flows, the quicker the 'blood' runs, the more energy and strength we have for building the Kingdom of Bahá'u'lláh. None but Bahá'ís can build it, and the process consists in taking all we can out of the old world and putting it into the new.

No believer can surely refrain from active giving — even sixpence a year would be warmly welcomed — nor surely can local communities, even if themselves in temporary embarrassment, refrain from making at least a token gift, as a regular habit, say 2/6 a month. It is easy to keep up or expand a habit once formed. Let us just allow the habit to be formed and regularly search out our Treasurer. He is human and has his failings, as we all have, but he will welcome our support and the community we belong to cannot but benefit. Similarly let each local treasurer see that his community supports the national work. For we have work to do in Africa and on the home front.

'Nine tenths of the friends' troubles are because they don't do the Bahá'í thing in relation to each other, to the administrative bodies, or in their personal lives.'

The Bahá'í thing is to obey the laws of Bahá'u'lláh, to pray and act, basing our actions on agreed decisions of the whole community whether local or national, and always selecting the most important as taking priority over the merely important.

'In these days, the most important of all things is the guidance of the nations and peoples of the world. Teaching the Cause is of utmost importance for it is the head corner-stone of the foundation itself.' That is 'Abdu'l-Bahá's explicit injunction in His Will and Testament.

It is Bahá'u'lláh Himself Who reminds us that 'results depend upon means.'

We had our token place set for us on Mount Carmel in 1948 as the fruit of endeavour; let us see what we can do to build a national life and worthily fill that place on the international scene through the ever-increasing scope of our giving.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

A Prayer for the Fund

The attention of the friends is drawn to the particular suitability of Prayer cliv on page 247 of 'Prayers and Meditations' for praying for the National Fund in its present state.

A Method of Giving

A method of giving to the Fund has recently been brought to the attention of the National Assembly which some members of the Community might like to adopt. It consists of putting by all coins of a certain size which are received, for example, all sixpences, or all threepenny pieces, or all halfpennies. When a sufficient sum has been acquired, it is sent as a donation to the Fund.

TOUR OF THE NATIONAL TREASURER

We give below some of the chief comments made to the National Treasurer during his recent tour, together with the towns in which each suggestion was made. They were made by individuals and are not necessarily supported by the Assembly or others of the Community to which the speaker belonged. A number of the suggestions have already been acted upon by the National Assembly.

I. ECONOMY OR WISE SPENDING

- i. Reduce the number of public meetings and increase personal teaching work. (*Brighton, Birmingham.*)
 - ii. In real emergency cut out Travel Teaching. (*Brighton.*)
 - iii. One Consolidation Committee could take over all the work of the Regional Committees. (*Brighton.*)
 - iv. Summer School could be omitted next year and the money individually given to the Fund. (*Brighton.*)
 - v. Use of a paid stenographer by the Consolidation Committee as this makes wages an added burden. (*Manchester.*)
 - vi. Employment of an outside secretary and dictaphone could replace a full-time National Secretary. (*Manchester.*)
 - vii. Regional Bulletins and Regional Conferences could be eliminated. (*Manchester.*)
 - viii. All Local Assemblies should try to meet their own expenses more than they do at present. (*Birmingham.*)
 - ix. Regional Committees should not hold unnecessary meetings. (*Birmingham.*)
 - x. Members of Committees should be encouraged to meet their own expenses. (*Birmingham.*)
 - xi. A Finance Committee composed of non-N.S.A. members should be appointed to look into and restrict expenditure. (*London.*)
- ### II. INFORMATION, CONFIDENCE AND RELATIONS BETWEEN N.S.A. AND COMMUNITY
- i. Personal representative visiting is a very valuable method. (*Glasgow.*)
 - ii. N.S.A. should realise that each L.S.A. is different and has different problems; names of L.S.A.s not contributing should not be made known either in the Journal or to other L.S.A.s. (*Edinburgh.*)
 - iii. Monthly totals of L.S.A. contribution is useful. (*Edinburgh.*)
 - iv. National Fund expenditure ought to be itemised in regularly provided information. (*Edinburgh.*)
 - v. All believers should be given to know how much we all have responsibility for the Fund. (*Edinburgh.*)
 - vi. If there has been economy in spending of funds the fact has not been made known sufficiently. (*Manchester.*)
 - vii. The National Assembly should prepare a statement giving information to the friends explaining the work of the National Secretary and the National Office showing the significance of the new development. (*Oxford.*)
 - viii. The National Assembly should seek to arouse in the friends the enthusiasm so that they are thrilled about the National Fund. There is a lack of the emotional feeling about the subject that there should be. (*Oxford.*)
 - ix. There should be more detailed discussion at Convention of the Fund, where the aim should be to make it a more vital living thing. (*Oxford.*)
 - x. The National Assembly has too often to rely upon what may almost be called gossip for its actions, instead of having reliable recommendations from the Nineteen Day Feasts, which are the right channels for grumbles and ideas about the spending of money from the Fund. (*London.*)
 - xi. An income and expenditure statement from the beginning of the financial year would be useful. (*London.*)
- ### III. THE DEFICIT
- i. The National Assembly should issue shares up to the value of £2,000 for sale to the friends and so share the debt and pay it off. (*Birmingham.*)
 - ii. Ask people to make their contributions as early as they can in the year, in a way similar to that once adopted by the Government in respect of Income Tax. (*Oxford.*)
 - iii. Set up a separate Thanksgiving Fund for paying off the debt, lay it out in visual form, e.g. a graph, perhaps initiate a sort of pledge scheme, or printing special stamps for sale to the believers, calling upon them to liquidate the debt; 400 believers at average of £19 each would pay it off and still leave enough over to meet the budget. (*Oxford.*)
- ### IV. PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS
- i. Consult together as communities for co-operative forms of making and doing things, so as to help one another to save money for the Fund. (*Glasgow.*)
 - ii. Form a habit of saving. (*Glasgow.*)
 - iii. Allocate so much to the Local, so much to the National Fund. (*Glasgow.*)
 - iv. Let each believer devote one hour per day, or per week, to the National Fund, giving the value of that hour as donation. (*Glasgow.*)
 - v. The whole community should help in finding jobs for those pioneers who still need one. (*Edinburgh.*)
 - vi. The Consolidation Committee should move pioneers to the places where they are able to get work, if they cannot get it where they are posted. (*Edinburgh.*)
 - vii. Pioneers should feel free to seek help and advice from the friends in their own locality in consultation. (*Edinburgh.*)
 - viii. In EXCHANGE AND MART (4d. on Thursdays) there may be fruitful ideas for obtaining part-time work to make money. (*Newcastle.*)
 - ix. The local community should give to the National Fund in spite of local debt, even if only a token amount. (*Newcastle.*)
 - x. Each person can make a voluntary pledge with himself. (*Newcastle.*)

- xi. Collective enterprise in the form of a work party one evening per week especially for the Fund. (*Newcastle.*)
- xii. An envelope or other receptacle, slotted like a money box, and carrying an appropriate quotation, should be placed in a prominent position by each believer in his home to act as constant reminder. (*Manchester.*)
- xiii. Local Assemblies should have a graph or bulletin showing targets and achievements monthly and yearly. (*Manchester.*)
- xiv. New members of the Faith should be made aware of their responsibility towards the Fund. (*Manchester.*)
- xv. Local Assemblies should take up Regional Committees if they think them extravagant and refer the matter to the N.S.A. (*Manchester.*)
- xvi. Bus fares can often be saved and the money given to the Fund. (*Birmingham.*)
- xvii. Communities should have a box as well as a receipt book, since not only do some people feel freer to give that way, but some may like to give both ways; also it may promote a healthy unity in giving. (*Oxford.*)
- xviii. Every Bahá'í should make a will. (*Oxford.*)
- xix. We should all pray that the actions that require the expenditure of money are the right ones. (*London.*)
- xx. Individual offers of help included an offer of a loan, an offer to caretake the Centre when it is found, and an offer to help in the garden or by cleaning windows, and so help people save money. (*London.*)
- xxi. A deputy local Treasurer should always be appointed to take the Treasurer's place in seeing that facilities are available to believers at Feasts for giving to the Fund, in case the Treasurer for some reason cannot himself be present.
- xxii. In one place every person present made a contribution on the spot to the National Fund.

(*To be continued.*)

MOTHER GEORGE

Mrs. Florence George passed away on Saturday, November 4th at the age of 91. The Guardian has cabled:

'Grieve passing distinguished indefatigable promoter Faith ardently supplicating progress soul Abha Kingdom her notable meritorious services unforgettable.'

A Loving Tribute by Alfred Sugar

I was introduced to Mrs. George at Walmar House, the first Centre of the London Bahá'í Community, then recently acquired.

My first impression of her was of a rather formidable personality—tall, erect, dark, direct and rather brusque in speech. But more intimate contact soon revealed her warm, sympathetic understanding and progressive character.

To her intimates Florence George revealed her pride. She was proud of the distinction 'Mother,' bestowed on her by 'Abdu'l-Bahá. She liked to speak of her pilgrimage to Haifa, of her Master's personal care that the individual needs of the pilgrims were provided for; of His humour and His wisdom; of how He taught humility to the ostentatious and raised to dignity the self-abased. She prized the injunction He gave her that she was to be a Mother to the younger generation of Bahá'ís and train them in the love and knowledge of the Cause. This injunction she obeyed faithfully.

Mother George was proud, too, that she had been instrumental in making known the Faith to Dr. Esslemont. Following on a series of happenings which must have been pre-ordained, the doctor wrote to Mrs. George. The correspondence led to his attending a Bahá'í meeting in London, which meeting marked the beginning of his devotion to and his magnificent work for the Cause. Later, during her stay in Bournemouth, Mrs. George devoted herself to the further instruction of Dr. Esslemont and Sister Challis. But hers was not the pride of successful achievement; it was akin to the

pride of a child who had been singled out for a special distinction, and having been so honoured, must show herself worthy of the responsibility which the distinction imposed.

Now that I look back on those earlier days, I feel that in her work for the Cause, Mother George tried to reflect the Light she had received from the Master in the days of her pilgrimage to Him. It was in the spirit of His Light that she conducted the Sunday afternoon meetings in her Chelsea home. These gatherings were marked by simple dignity; they were instructive, inspiring and without formality. Her hospitality, without 'fuss,' was warm and unstinted. We knew that the work her hospitality entailed, the comfort provided and the good things we enjoyed, sprang from the loving service of her daughter Dorothy Wellby. We may have failed to properly acknowledge this at the time, but we, who benefited by her service, never forget.

She liked to have young people to come to see her. She loved to teach them; she prized their affection. She went forward from the guidance of the Master to that of the Guardian without hesitancy and without question. To her the Master's Will was the authority; the later period was the fitting sequel to the earlier. In the course of her last letter to me, the script of which betrayed the weakness of the hand that wrote, she said: 'I cannot get to the meetings now and you can imagine my feelings. But I do some teaching of young Bahá'ís and I try to entertain at my home Bahá'ís who need help.' And, 'I think the pioneers have done good work.'

So, there has passed from this earthly life another of the links who bring to our Formative Period the spirit and the blessed aroma of the Apostolic Age, passed to the Abhá Kingdom, there to unite with them who have gone before, to supplicate on our behalf, to contribute their love and their prayers so that we who remain here may be aided by the Supreme Concourse in the work and sacrifice which it is our privilege to contribute to the progress of the Cause we love.

LOCAL ASSEMBLY NEWS

BIRMINGHAM.—Mr. Serrolah Haghshenas of Ibadan and Mr. Hushang Moin of Teheran have joined this Community; Mr. Hahshenas, who served on the Ibadan Assembly, is now a member of the Birmingham L.S.A. Mr. Salim Noonoo spent a pleasant evening with the local friends as part of his tour of all Bahá'í Communities in the British Isles.

BLACKBURN.—The first Bahá'í marriage to be celebrated in this town took place at the Blackburn Centre on November 14th, when Eileen Eastham, a member of the Blackburn L.S.A., was married to Dennis McArthur, a member of the Blackpool L.S.A. Alma Gregory of Liverpool performed the simple yet majestic ceremony with a sincerity that touched all hearts. Bahá'í friends from Blackburn, Blackpool, Bristol, Cardiff and Liverpool were amongst the fifty or so people who packed the small room to capacity, and the presence of Mr. Noonoo of Teheran gave additional pleasure to this joyous occasion.

BRADFORD.—The first unified activity of the Communities of the North Eastern Region was the Regional Teaching Conference held in Bradford on October 21st and 22nd. This stimulating Conference opened on the Saturday afternoon with a Devotional Programme in commemoration of the Báb, and the sessions which followed were devoted to 'Community Reports and Consultation,' 'The Place of Administration in Consolidation,' and the various aspects of teaching. Special invitations to attend the Conference were extended to those Bahá'ís who had pioneered from Bradford. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Norton have returned to Bradford after their splendid work in Sheffield, where they went during the last months of the Plan. Regular meetings continue to be held at the Bradford Centre on Sunday afternoons.

BRIGHTON.—The week-end Conference held at Brighton on September 6th-8th was the first regional activity organised by the South-East R.T.C., and proved to be a great success. As well as Bahá'ís and contacts from the host Community, friends were present from Bournemouth, London, Northampton and Norwich, and each of the four sessions was attended by thirty or more people. Three carefully planned and stimulating talks were given on 'Religion and Man,' 'The Covenant and You' and 'Deepening in the Faith,' and a panel of Bahá'ís answered some searching questions in a lively and effective manner.

BRISTOL.—Hugh McKinley and May White have spoken at public meetings planned by the Bristol friends as part of their autumn teaching campaign.

CARDIFF.—A public meeting held on November 3rd was addressed by May White. Mr. S. Noonoo visited this community at the end of October.

EDINBURGH.—Before going to Manchester for three months, Dr. Lotfullah Hakim spent a busy and successful week teaching in Aberdeen, where Dr. Esslemont's brother was most helpful to him. When Mr. S. Noonoo visited Edinburgh with his wife he was delighted to find three Bahá'ís working in the reception office of the hotel. Needless to say, he received a warm welcome! The local friends have entered with zest into teaching work, regular public meetings are

held and five new speakers from the local community have given talks.

LONDON.—Fireside meetings are held regularly on Tuesdays at the home of Mrs. I. Slade. Mr. Reuben Shamia of Iraq, Dr. M. Samandari from Belfast and Mr. H. Hazari from Sheffield are now studying in London. Some of the friends gathered together to celebrate the Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá at 1 a.m. on Tuesday, November 28th.

MANCHESTER.—This Community carries on its established teaching work with unflagging energy and enthusiasm. Regular children's classes are conducted on Friday evenings; Mr. Craven's weekly meetings at Altrincham have maintained unbroken continuity for many years; and other friends have spoken at the regular meetings held on Sunday evenings at the Manchester Centre. Connie Ward is the stimulating personality behind the increased social activity, and the recently formed Social Committee is making good progress. Brenda Coulson's first public activity after re-declaring herself upon attaining her majority, was to conduct a 19 Day Feast, which proved a memorable occasion for all who attended. In addition to local work the Manchester friends supply speakers for and support by their presence Bahá'í meetings held in neighbouring communities.

NEWCASTLE.—The friends had a most inspiring evening at the Feast of Ilm, when Minou Sebetian told them of his visit to the Stockholm International Summer School, where he gave three talks on the Faith. Returning to England, Minou hitch-hiked through Denmark, Germany and France, staying with contacts at Hamburg. The local community enjoyed another interesting evening when they saw the slides and film-strip of the Temple. Iraj Pootschi has settled down in Newcastle, where he is of invaluable help.

NORTHAMPTON.—Dick Backwell gave the opening talk at the new Bahá'í Centre, and on that occasion as well as subsequently some of the local friends found themselves sitting on cushions on the floor, the room being packed to capacity! At the public meeting organised to launch Northampton's winter teaching campaign eighty-four people heard Richard St. Barbe Baker and Hasan Balyuzi speak on 'The Charter for the New Earth.' The series of four weekly discussion groups, led by John Shortland, which followed the public meeting was well attended, and since then the friends have welcomed Mr. H. Backwell, Mr. S. Noonoo and Philip Hainsworth.

NORWICH.—In November the oldest pioneer in the British Community — stalwart Sam Scott — spent a week in hospital for treatment, after which he returned home to the good care of Evelyn Hardy. Besides a regular weekly fireside, the Norwich friends have been running a Sunday study-class on the Gospels and keeping up their public meetings addressed by visiting speakers, one of whom was Eruch Munsiff. Mr. Noonoo received a warm welcome in Norwich. A discussion group entitled 'Your Holiday with Snaps' organised by the International-Club provided an excellent opportunity for the friends to show some pictures and talk about Summer School.

(To be continued.)

FOR MEDITATION

I render Thee thanks, O Thou Who has lighted Thy fire within my soul, and cast the beams of Thy light into my heart, that Thou hast taught Thy servants how to make mention of Thee, and revealed unto them the ways whereby they can supplicate Thee, through Thy most holy and exalted tongue, and Thy most august and precious speech. But for Thy leave, who is there that could venture to express Thy might and Thy grandeur; and were it not for Thine instruction, who is the man that could discover the ways of Thy pleasure in the kingdom of Thy creation?

'Save the Children'

The National Assembly has recently received an appeal from the 'Save the Children Fund,' and is making a small contribution to it. This Fund was blessed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in a special Tablet. It is suggested that when the friends wish to make charitable donations, they may care to make them to the Save the Children Fund.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

As Bahá'í books for children are not yet published in this country, parents may like to order some of those published in the United States of which the Child Education Committee has a list. The Secretary is Arthur Whitworth, 56 Butterworth Lane, Chadderton, Lancs. A Government permit to buy books from America is needed, which can be easily obtained. Banks and Post Offices will explain how to apply for a permit. The address of the American Bahá'í Publishing Committee is 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A. Books can also sometimes be obtained through large bookshops which have an account with the U.S.A.

Overseas Schoolchildren

The Persian Committee is planning to arrange a week-end school in London during the Christmas holidays for the Bahá'í children from Persia who are at school in this country.

Visitors

We were happy to have with us in London for a short time Mr. Sami Doktoroglu, a Bahá'í from Istanbul, Turkey. He has spoken of visiting pioneers in Africa during the Two Year Plan. We welcome also Miss Malik-Taj Khabiri, who came for medical treatment and is staying for a longer visit.

Additions to the Community

Since the last list was published in *Bahá'í Journal*, registration cards have been received from the following:

Mary Kells, Liverpool
Theresa Dunne, Liverpool
Ethel Pritchard, Liverpool
Houshang Main (from Iran), Birmingham

We regret that Miss Marion Gibson of Brighton was omitted from previous lists.

THE BAHÁ'Í WORLD

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. A message from the Guardian congratulates this scattered Community on 'the remarkable progress achieved . . . in promoting the Plan' and says it will 'mark the opening of a new and glorious chapter in the history of the Faith in that continent.' He also says that 'measures should be carefully devised . . . for the launching of the initial enterprises destined to carry the Message of the Faith beyond the confines of these territories to the Islands of the Pacific lying in their immediate neighbourhood.'

Commemoration of the Centenary of the Martyrdom of the Báb is reported from Hobart, Caringbah, Perth, Sydney, Adelaide and Auckland. The Winter Session of Yerinbool Bahá'í School had to be cancelled owing to extraordinary weather throughout New South Wales, which caused the main road over Razorback to collapse. It is hoped that those planning to attend then will be able to transfer to the forthcoming Summer School being held in the first two weeks of January.

INDIA. This energetic, enterprising Community is to be congratulated on the remarkable publicity obtained for the Centenary of the Martyrdom of the Báb. In spite of the heat of the height of summer and the beginning of the rains, numerous meetings were held and public dignitaries invited. *The Times of India* and eight other important daily papers reported favourably, and the *Hindustani Times* included an article under the title 'Martyr to World Government.'

EGYPT. The Centenary Commemorations were carried out with great care and reverence. A memorial pamphlet dealing with matters of dispute between the Moslem, Christian and Jewish religions was published. Wide publicity was given to the Commemoration and 80 eminent non-Bahá'ís were invited. Several daily papers published interesting comments with illustrations.

ETHIOPIA. There was a successful Commemoration of the Martyrdom of the Báb in Addis Ababa, to which sympathisers were invited.

UNITED STATES. A long letter from the Guardian praises 'this generous-hearted, valiant and dedicated Community' and speaks of the fivefold task lying before it: (1) To consolidate the victories won and reinforce the foundations of the unnumbered institutions in North America. (2) To rear the twin pillars of the Universal House of Justice in Latin America. (3) To maintain at their present strength the strongholds of the Faith in the ten goal countries of Europe. (4) To complete the interior ornamentation of the Temple in preparation for its Jubilee. (5) To assist in the erection of the superstructure of the Shrine of the Báb.

CANADA. Two new features were included in the fourth year of Beaulac Summer School, the extension of the course for two weeks, and the inclusion of children. The Maritime Summer Conference was a splendid success. On July 6th and 9th, invitations were issued to two public meetings, one of which commemorated the Martyrdom of the Báb.

Birth

Nouran and Abbas Dehkan are happy to announce the birth of a son, [REDACTED], 1950.

AFRICA COMMITTEE

49 Sandbourne Ave.
London, S.W.19

15th December 1950

To all Members of the London Community

Dear Baha'i Friends,


The Africa Committee is organising a one day Conference between committee members and some of the prospective pioneers to Africa, which by kind consent of the London Assembly is being held at the new London Baha'i Centre on Friday, 29th December. In the evening we have arranged for the showing of two films about Africa by the Central Office of Information. These are:

"Here is the Gold Coast"
"East African College"

The Committee offers an open invitation to all members of the London Baha'i Community to attend this evening session to see the films. They will start at 8.15 p.m. sharp, and last about an hour.

As the remainder of the Conference is more in the nature of a business consultation, however, we regret it is not possible to invite London members to this.

With Baha'i Greetings


Secretary

P E R S O N A L T E A C H I N G .

TO EVERY BELIEVER IN BRITAIN.

Most of us try to obey the teachings of the Cause, - to pray daily, to fast at the proper time, to attend the 19 Day Feasts, to obey the Guardian, to be free from prejudice, etc., but there is one command of Baha'u'llah that most of us continually fall short of. He says, "Teach ye the Cause of God O people of Baha, for God hath prescribed unto every one the duty of proclaiming His Message and regardeth it as the most meritorious of all deeds." And as the Guardian says, "Let this be the paramount and most urgent duty of every Baha'i. Let us make it the dominating passion of our life."

"Surely one can be a Baha'i and not teach?"

No, it is the duty of everyone to proclaim the Message.

"But I am not able to speak at a Public Meeting."

There are many ways of teaching other than speaking at meetings, in fact the Public Meeting type of activity is one of the least effective teaching methods.

"How can I become a teacher?"

Start now and mention the Cause to someone every day.

"But I cannot put forward a good argument."

Opportunities are continually occurring to mention a Baha'i principle, quote a passage of Scripture, offer a pamphlet - remember, everyone has the right to know of this Cause, and the most simple statement is often the best.

"Whom should I teach?"

Regard every single person who crosses your path as being sent by Baha'u'llah to hear of His Cause. He would not have given this command if He knew we were unable to carry it out. Acceptance of Him gives us the ability as well as the duty and privilege.

P.T.O.

"What is the most effective teaching method?"

Personal attraction. The Baha'i life is the first attractor. ".....and having attained sufficiently the individual regeneration - the essential requisite of teaching - let us arise to teach His Cause with righteousness, conviction, understanding and vigour" (The Guardian.)

"How can I personally attract?"

Pray daily for this power. Radiate faith and happiness. Be confident in the greatness of your Faith. Read the Scriptures. Study "Gleanings" foot of page 7 and pages 294-296.

"How do I set about my daily contacting?"

Speak of the Faith to someone new every day. Talk about anything of interest, ready to seize the opportunity to mention the Faith or offer a pamphlet, when it presents itself. Always be ready to listen. Do not argue, rather "suggest" new ideas. Do not push too many pamphlets onto a person. If a casual acquaintance, see the pamphlet has an address in it for follow-up if interest has been aroused. Use the "Principle" cards to hand out.

"Where can I start?"

The family circle, friends, acquaintances, place of work.
The restaurant, office, hotel you visit.
The 'bus, tram or train in which you travel.
Any Libraries, Clubs, Societies of which you are, or may become, a member, or whose meetings you attend.
Everywhere where people meet, or where you meet people.

"Suppose I do arouse interest, what then?"

Invite to your home for a chat, or take them for a coffee, or introduce to another Baha'i, invite to a Fireside, offer to send them a book. Do not rush. Do not try to answer every question all at once. Show the utmost friendliness all the time - for it is this warmth that attracts and keeps the contact.

"What would be a good personal goal to set myself?"

Pray daily.
Help demonstrate the true Baha'i community life by attending Feasts, showing the utmost love and unity to all, and become a channel for His grace by regular contribution to the Baha'i Fund.

Speak of the Faith to someone every day.
 Entertain someone every 19 Days.
 See that you bring one new enquirer to every Public Meeting.
 Contact members of some promising organizations, before
 Ridvan.

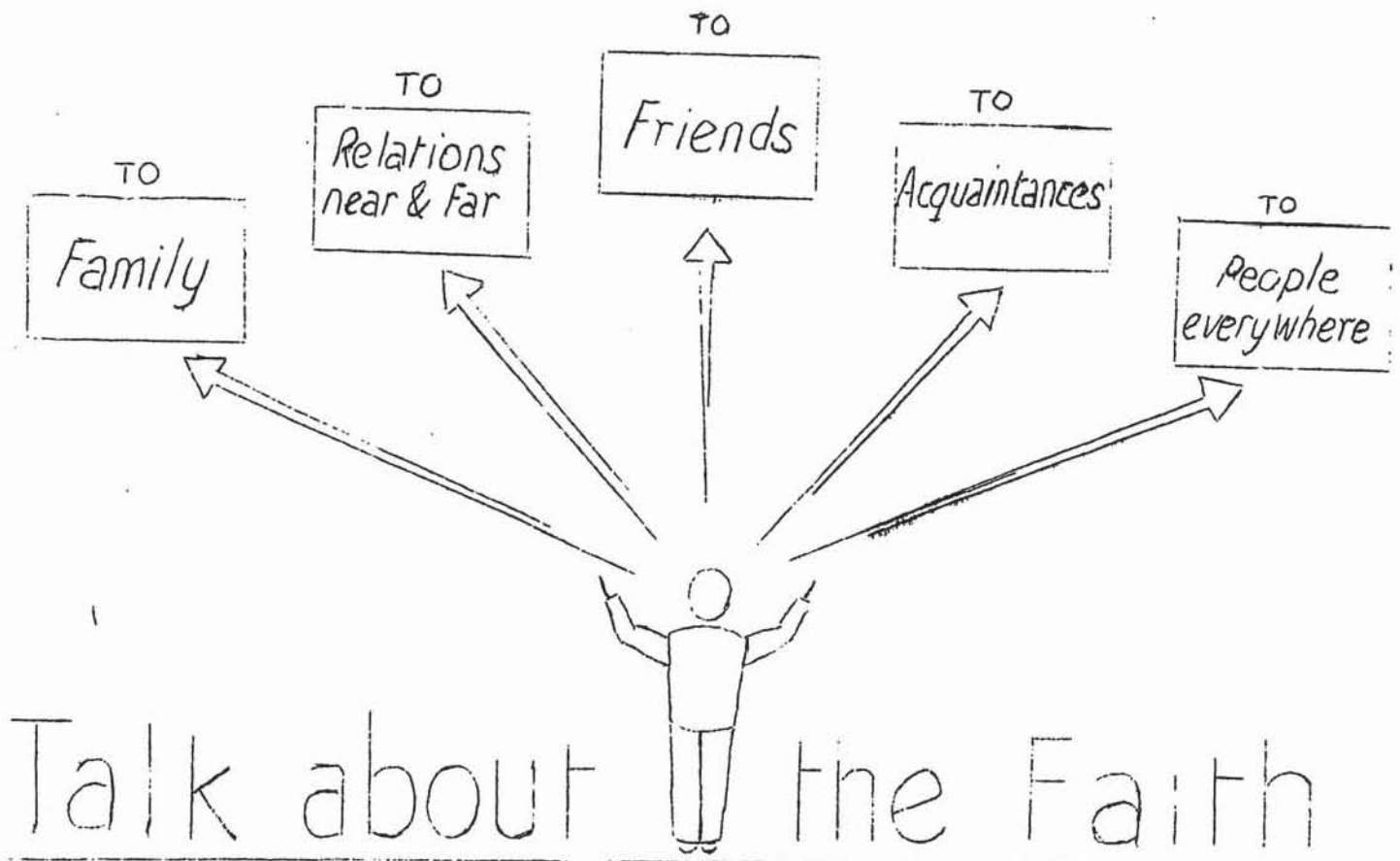
"Where can I find more of the Teachings on teaching?"

"Gleanings",
 Teaching Manual,
 "The Earth is God's",
 "Will and Testament".

"Selections from Baha'i Scriptures",
 "Advent of Divine Justice",
 "Paris Talks",
 "Will and Testament".

* * *

"The Pen of the Most High hath decreed and imposed upon
 every one the obligation to teach this Cause....."
 Baha'u'llah.



"It is known and clear that today the unseen divine assistance encompasseth those who deliver the Message. And if the work of delivering the Message be neglected, the assistance shall be entirely cut off, for it is impossible that the friends of God could receive assistance unless they be engaged in delivering the Message."

'Abdu'l-Baha.