



BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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

For circulation among Bahá'ís only.

No. 223

Rahmat 131

June 1974

THE FIVE YEAR PLAN IS LAUNCHED

At Naw-Rúz 1974, one hundred and thirteen National Assemblies were acquainted, through the release from the World Centre of three most weighty documents, of the breath-taking objectives of the Five Year Plan given by the Universal House of Justice.

The first, a two thousand word message, was addressed to the Bahá'ís of the World; the second was addressed individually to those National Assemblies who had been given specific tasks to accomplish and the third, directed to all National Assemblies, amplified the importance and scope of certain general goals as well as listing the pioneer posts for the first 557 pioneers of the Plan.

The National Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom, before receipt of these messages, had already made plans for the study and launching of the Plan throughout the United Kingdom and the sequence of events up to the time this Journal goes to Press was as follows:—

- Naw-Rúz:** Receipt of the messages from the Universal House of Justice and the release of the one addressed to "The Bahá'ís of the World" to all the Assemblies, Groups and isolated believers.
- 22/24 March:** NSA meeting which enabled the Assembly to give some prior study to all three messages and release to local Assemblies, groups and isolated believers and to various national committees, the one to the "Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom" along with a summary of the overseas pioneer goals. All committees and Assemblies were called upon to study the two messages and report back to the NSA with recommendations.
- 30 March:** One-whole-day-consultation between the NSA and Miss Anneliese Bopp on behalf of the European Board of Counsellors.
- Mid April:** Release of these same messages to every believer through the "Bahá'í Journal".
- 27/28 April:** Presentation to the delegates and friends at the National Convention of the same messages by Hand of the Cause of God, Ugo Giachery, as the special representative of the Universal House of Justice. Fourteen resolutions and two hundred suggestions came from that Convention as well as one hundred and forty offers to pioneer either immediately or during the Plan.
- 3/5 May:** Full meeting of the National Assembly to prepare initial detailed plans to be released at a series of regional conferences.
- 11 May:** Regional Conferences in Perth, Manchester, Cambridge, Epsom, Winchester and Cardiff. About seven hundred Bahá'ís attended these six conferences and more pioneer offers were made, raising the total for the Plan in the two weeks following its official launching at Convention to about two hundred. Contributions were also made to the National Fund.

THE FIRST STEPS

While it is evident that there are about seventy different points of fact or advice in the two messages released to the community, the National Assembly is currently examining them under fifteen main headings. One of the most exciting features of the Convention, reflected also in reports to the NSA from the Assemblies who have already held special meetings, and which was a characteristic of all the conferences, is the overwhelming desire of the friends to get to work at once and not waste any time at all.

The National Assembly, almost in anticipation of this mood, was motivated to give most of its 3/5 May meeting to a thorough examination of each Assembly under its jurisdiction and take steps which were unique in our Bahá'í history.

Firstly those weighty and detailed comments about the station and role of local Assemblies were studied; then lists of activities to which all the Assemblies should, during the Plan, become fully committed were drawn up, and those special areas of development which can apply to only a few places (e.g. with local Radio, etc.), were itemised. This, in turn, led to the adoption of no fewer than thirteen areas of activity which the National Assembly felt should be given to every local Assembly whatever its present strength might be. Another seven areas of responsibility were selected for those Assemblies which should attempt to meet the challenge presented by these additional tasks.

When all this work was finalised and the special tasks allocated, instead of the minimum of twenty-five Assemblies being given extension teaching projects, no fewer than ninety out of our one hundred Assemblies will be involved either in extension teaching, opening districts or in the actual formation of new Assemblies. Seventy-one new Assemblies should, if the present Assemblies rise to the call, be established by existing Assemblies while others will be the prime responsibility of the National Teaching Committee through its Unit Committees.

This "vast and widespread expansion", this great increase in the number of local Spiritual Assemblies, will call for new materials, new services, a greater dedication and altogether a new way of thinking for the whole community. The pattern which could well emerge is that the Assemblies will, in their expanded teaching role, be assisted by three agencies:

1. The Unit Teaching Committees will offer help for teaching.
2. A new "Assembly Service Committee" will be available for guidance and for the provision of essential material.
3. The Auxiliary Board members, on whom the Assemblies will be encouraged more and more to call.

Although the first steps have been taken, much more is to be released by the National Assembly from its next few meetings. The Terms of Reference of the new Assembly Service Committee; the possibly modified structure of the Unit Committees to allow for the goal allocations; the probable modifications to be made in other national committees fully to meet the demands of the goals already given; the broader aspects of the overseas goals, and also the financial situation when all the needs have been more closely examined. The tables which follow show the initial allocation of responsibilities; the first steps have indeed been taken and the friends throughout the community have already responded with tremendous enthusiasm.

Responsibilities assigned to all Assemblies:

1. The encouragement in their community of intensification of personal contact making and teaching; each Bahá'í family and individual to hold a regular fireside, e.g. weekly, monthly.
2. Expansion of proclamation activities.
3. Increased awareness of the significance of the Bahá'í Fund, with the goal of achieving universal participation in this respect, through regular donations from every believer.
4. Approaches to be made to all schools and colleges in the area offering Bahá'í speakers and materials (which will be centrally produced).
5. They should seek the whole-hearted support of their community and encourage the friends to turn to the local Spiritual Assembly in times of trouble or difficulty. The Assembly should prepare itself to give guidance and assistance by studying the GUIDANCE NOTES which have been issued by the NSA, and by becoming familiar with, and using as appropriate, all the available social services.
6. A sustained and patient effort to secure publicity (as distinct from advertising) in local, daily and weekly papers, etc.
7. The placing of Bahá'í books in local, county, college and university libraries. (Guidance about the best method of approach will be given later by the NSA.)
8. Organisation of at least one weekend or one-day school for deepening and training.
9. Ensure that Bahá'í children in the community are instructed in the verities of the Faith and the Bahá'í life, and that regular classes are held where appropriate.
10. Provide for the development and deepening of individual believers.
11. Consult together and implement plans for the deepening and development of the local Spiritual Assembly; ensure that each member becomes aware of the station and function of the Spiritual Assembly as a divinely-ordained institution and is instructed in the administrative principles and procedures.
12. Appoint an officer or small committee to be responsible for giving career guidance to youth, aimed at preparing them for service in the pioneering field.
13. Arrange for regular gatherings of the friends for the reading and chanting of prayers and passages from the Writings.

Those responsibilities assigned to selected Assemblies:

14. To provide and finance travel teachers.
15. Responsibility for teaching minorities. This requires further careful study and will not be given initially but an announcement will be given later.
16. Formation of new Assemblies in goal Districts.
17. Extension teaching projects on a wider basis and further afield.
18. Opening new Districts.
19. Establish and develop contact with local or area television and radio.
20. Wherever feasible establish and give continued support to a Bahá'í Society in each local University and College.

Responsible Assembly	Assembly Goal	Districts to be Opened	Extension Teaching Projects	Other Responsibilities				
Aberdeen	—	Deeside				18	19	20
Arfon	Anglesey			14	16		19	20
(Chester assist)	Colwyn							
Aylesbury Vale	Milton Keynes			14	16			
Barnet	—		E. Herts	14		17		
Bath	N. Wiltshire							20
Bedford	Luton	Mid Beds.		14		18		
Belfast	Newtownabbey			14	16		19	20
(Liverpool assist)	Isle of Man							
Birmingham	Warwick	Solihull		14	16	18	19	20
Blackpool	Preston	Wyre				18		
(Sefton assist)								
Bournemouth	Christchurch				16			
Bradford	Kirklees			14	16			20
Brent	South Wight			14	16			
(Medina assist)								
Brighton	Hastings			14	16		19	20
Bristol	—	Kingswood				18		
Burnley	Craven	Ribble Valley		14	16	18		
(Pendle assist)								
Cambridge	E. Cambridge			14	16			20
	Huntingdon							
Camden	—							
Canterbury	Ashford	Dover		14	16	18		
(Maidstone assist)								
Cardiff	Rhondda		Monmouth	14	16	17	19	20
(Taff Ely assist)								
Carlisle	Nithsdale				16			
(Motherwell assist)								
Carrickfergus	Larne			14	16			
Castlereagh RD	—			14	16			
Chelmsford	Colchester			14	16			
Chester	Colwyn	Crewe	Ellesmere Port	14	16	17	18	
(Arfon assist)								
Craigavon	Lisburn			14	16			
Crawley	—							
Croydon	—			14				
Derby	Mansfield				16			
Dundee	Perth		N.E. Fife	14	16	17		20

Responsible Assembly	Assembly Goal	Districts to be Opened	Extension Teaching Projects	Other Responsibilities			
Durham	Hartlepool			16	17	19	20
Ealing	Argyll (Mull)			14	16		
Edinburgh	Etterick & Lauderdale	W. Lothian		14	16	18	19 20
Epsom	Mole Valley			14	16		
	Reigate & Banstead						
Exeter	Teignbridge			16			20
Glasgow	Stirling			14	16	19	20
Guildford	Waverley			16			
Hamilton	E. Kilbride			14	16		
Hammersmith	—						
Haringey	—						
Harrow	—			14			
Havering	Epping Forest			14	16		
Hereford	—						
Horsham	Chichester			16			
Hounslow	Slough			14			
(Reading assist)							
Hove	Worthing		Eastbourne	14	16	17	
Inverness	Moray			14	16		19
Ipswich	St. Edmundsbury	Mid Suffolk	Waveney	16	17	18	
Jersey CI	Guernsey			16			19
(Wandsworth assist)							
Kensington/Chelsea	—			14			
Knowsley	—		St. Helens		17		
Lambeth	—						
Leeds	Kingston-upon-Hull			14	16		19 20
(York assist)	Harrogate						
Leicester	Melton			16			19 20
(Rutland and Nottingham assist)							
Liverpool	Wirral			14	16		19 20
	St. Helens						
(Belfast assist)	Isle of Man						
Llanelli	S. Pembroke			16			
(Swansea assist)							
Londonderry	Strabane			14	16		19
Maidstone	Ashford			16			
(Canterbury assist)							
Manchester	Chesterfield			14	16		19 20
Medina	South Wight		Portsmouth	14	16	17	
(Brent assist)							
Motherwell	Nithsdale		Kilmarnock	14	16	17	
(Carlisle assist)							
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Tynedale			14	16		19 20
Newport	Brecknock	Monmouth		14	16	18	
(Cardiff assist)							
Northampton	—		Wellingborough			17	
North Down	—			14	16		
Norwich	W. Norfolk	Breckland		14	16	18	19 20
Nottingham	Melton	Broxtowe		16		18	19 20
(Rutland and Leicester assist)							
*Orkney							
Oxford	Vale of White Horse			14	16		20
Pendle	Craven						
(Burnley assist)							
Peterborough	S. Kesteven			14	16		
Poole	W. Dorset			16			
Portsmouth	—						
Reading	Slough	Bracknell		14	16	18	20
(Hounslow assist)							
Restormel	Carrick			14	16		
Richmond	Elmbridge			14	16		
Rutland	Melton		S. Kesteven	14	16	17	
(Nottingham assist)							
Salford	Wigan			14	16		20
Salisbury	Mendip			16			
Sefton	Preston			16			
(Blackpool assist)							
Sheffield	Doncaster						19 20
*Shetland							
Shrewsbury	Wrekin	Oswestry		16		18	
South Oxfordshire	Maidenhead			14	16		
Southampton	New Forest			14			19 20
South Lakeland	Lancaster	Allerdale			16	18	
Stafford	Stoke-on-Trent			14	16		20
Stockport	Macclesfield		Trafford	14	16	17	
Swansea	S. Pembroke			14	16		
(Llanelli assist)							
Taff Ely				16			
Torbay	Plymouth			16			
Tunbridge Wells	Sevenoaks			14	16		

Responsible Assembly	Assembly Goal	Districts to be Opened	Extension Teaching Projects	Other Responsibilities			
Wandsworth (Jersey assist)	Guernsey			14	16		
Watford	North Herts Three Rivers			14	16		
Western Isles	—	Ullapool					
Westminster	—			14			
Winchester	Test Valley	E. Hampshire	Basingstoke	14	16	17	18
Wokingham	Basingstoke				16		
Wyre Forest	—	Malvern Hills					18
York (Leeds assist)	Harrogate				16		20
E. Lothian	—	Berwickshire		14			18

Notes:

1. Where more than one Assembly is involved in a new project the name of the co-operating Assembly is listed, e.g. Arfon (Chester assist) Colwyn. Both Arfon and Chester will develop a new Assembly in Colwyn and it will be made clear later which Assembly has the prime responsibility.
2. * Neither Orkney nor Shetland have been given special tasks as the Universal House of Justice has called for a "Five Year Plan of expansion and consolidation" in these two areas.
3. No London Borough has been given an extension teaching project within London. Growth in the London area should result from normal teaching effort and all extension work should be outside the Greater London area.
4. Responsibility No. 15 relating to minorities will be allocated to certain Assemblies only and after a special study has been made by the National Assembly. The work presently being done in some places with the Gypsies should not, however, be allowed to slow down.
5. No announcement has been made about "localities" as the National Assembly is consulting the Universal House of Justice about these.
6. The re-establishment of the Assemblies of Dumbarton and Lincoln; the early formation of new Assemblies in North East Fife and Ceredigion; the achievement of the county goal of Gloucester and the raising to Assembly status of some groups not easily assisted by a local Assembly, will all be the direct responsibility of the National Teaching Committee through its Unit Teaching Committees.
7. Quite a number of Assembly goals cut across the present Unit boundaries but these will be clarified in due course, the important thing is for each responsible Assembly to rise to its particular challenge and begin work at once.

With seventy-one new Assemblies to be formed by Assembly extension work and at least five others directly by UTCs; with twenty new Districts to be opened and thirteen other extension teaching projects to be carried out by local Assemblies; with twenty-one Assemblies working on the goal of developing their contacts with local radio and television, and with all one hundred Assemblies, along with the new ones as they are formed, seeking to carry out their thirteen common objectives, we may well witness, in the not too distant future, that radiant activity which will attract new believers "in troops".

With the enthusiasm and excitement already noted around the Community we may feel assured that indeed the Five Year Plan has been truly launched.

MASHRIQU'L-ADHKARS IN INDIA AND SAMOA

The Universal House of Justice will soon be considering the selection of architects for the Mashriqu'l-Adhkars to be erected in India and Samoa.

Those wishing to be considered as architects for either of these Temples are invited to submit statements of their qualifications. Such submissions may include examples of work previously designed and/or executed and, if desired, any thoughts or concepts of proposed designs for the Temples may be expressed in whatever way the applicant chooses.

The design of each Temple will be developed by the architect selected in relation to the climate, environment and culture of the area where it is to be built.

The initiation of construction of these Temples is a goal of the current Five Year Plan, and consequently those interested should forward their submissions at an early date to the Universal House of Justice, Bahá'í World Centre, P.O. Box 155, Haifa 31-000, Israel.

Please convey the above message to the friends assembled at your Convention and thereafter to the community at large in whatever way you see fit.

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

PASSING OF KNIGHT OF BAHÁ'U'LLAH, OLGA MILLS

Dearly loved Olga Mills, Knight of Bahá'u'lláh to Malta and stalwart pioneer of the Six Year Plan, passed away peacefully at 15.15 hours on the 2 May 1974. An obituary notice appeared in "The Times" of Malta and the Universal House of Justice cabled:

PASSING NOBLE SOUL OLGA MILLS GRIEVOUS LOSS BRITISH BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY. HER LONG STEADFAST DEVOTION BAHÁ'U'LLAH SHEDS LUSTRE ANNALS FAITH THAT COMMUNITY. ISLAND MALTA HISTORICALLY FAMOUS CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ISLAMIC ERAS RECIPIENT NEW SPIRITUAL POTENTIALITIES THROUGH HEROIC SERVICE KNIGHT BAHÁ'U'LLAH DEDICATED BAND PIONEERS. EXPRESS FRIENDS RELATIVES LOVING SYMPATHY ASSURE ARDENT PRAYERS PROGRESS SOUL.

A fuller memorial article will appear in a later issue of the Journal.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Is your child registered as a Bahá'í child? The advantages of registering your children are many. For those who may not know: upon the Religious Education Advisory Committee Registrar receiving a child's full name and date of birth (the day, month and year), up to 13 years old, a Bahá'í Prayer Book is despatched as a present.

Annually children then receive a birthday letter and a present. At anytime they may write and receive an answer from their own Bahá'í Auntie. They will also receive their own Little Journal.

Do you wish to have your child registered? The address to which information should be sent is:

Mrs Alicia Cardell (Registrar),
Manor Farm,
Great Paxton, St. Neots,
Huntingdon, Cambs.

NATIONAL CONVENTION 27/28 April 1974

Held for the second year running in the beautiful St. George's Hall, Liverpool, Convention was graced by the presence of Hand of the Cause Dr Ugo Giachery and his wife, Angeline, who were supported by Board Members David Lewis, Beman Khosravi, Ruth Riding and Patrick Green.

Convention was opened by the National Assembly Chairman, John Long, who first introduced the Hand to the assembled friends — the entire hall rose to give the Hand a loving welcome in a sustained ovation.

John Long then gave a short history of the Faith in the United Kingdom, pointing out that there were present in the hall two Bahá'ís (Alma Gregory and Philip Hainsworth) who had been at that historic Convention thirty years ago which had appealed to the beloved Guardian to give them the goals for the Six Year Plan which had been adopted and from which the community had emerged with such great achievement.

The ensuing Two Year Plan and the Ten Year Crusade had multiplied the number of Bahá'ís in the country many times, but he commented that the overwhelming number of Bahá'ís in this country had come into the Faith since the end of the Ten Year Crusade.

He closed with the thought that once more we stand at the beginning of yet another Plan whose tasks seem to be overwhelming, for the achievement of which we must start to plan.

After the roll call Convention Officers were elected as follows:—

Convention Chairman:	John Long
Convention Vice-Chairman:	Philip Hainsworth
Convention Secretary:	Charles Macdonald.

The supplementary report of the National Assembly was then presented as follows:—

As there were no LSA Goals to be won this year, chief concern during the period between Naw-Rúz and Ridván centred on the problem of maintaining existing Assemblies, of which eleven had fewer than nine members. The Chairman and Secretary of the National Teaching Committee and the Secretary of the Pioneer Committee were appointed as a special Assembly maintenance committee to stimulate and direct pioneer offers, and to co-ordinate the efforts required to save these precious Assemblies. As usual there was a heart-warming response and pioneers arose for Carlisle, Chelmsford, Derby, Ipswich, Kidderminster, Lambeth, Llanelli and Nottingham all of which were triumphantly held. Two of the three Assemblies which were lost may soon emerge again under new names — Aberystwyth as Ceredigion and St. Andrews as East Fife, but the other lapsed Assembly, Lincoln, along with Dumbarton, which was unable to reform in spite of strenuous efforts and a well-supported teaching project, must now wait until next Ridván.

As first fruits of the Five Year Plan five new Assemblies were formed in Crawley, Horsham, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and South Oxfordshire, restoring the number of Spiritual Assemblies in the United Kingdom to a hundred.

Several of the pioneers arose during the Youth Conference in Birmingham which was a great success with an attendance of nearly 300 and visitors from seven other countries. The Three Year Youth Campaign was well and truly launched with over forty offers for the teaching project in the northern islands. A cable to the Universal House of Justice brought this reply:

DELIGHTED GREAT SUCCESS YOUTH CONFERENCE
ATTENDED REPRESENTATIVES SO MANY NATIONS.
CONFIDENT ENERGETIC PROSECUTION YOUTH
CAMPAIGN WILL CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY
EARLY VITAL VICTORIES FIVE YEAR PLAN.
ASSURE PRAYERS SACRED THRESHOLD —
UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

Five Year Plan

The eagerly-awaited summons of the Universal House of Justice reached us in the stirring Naw-Rúz Messages addressed to the Bahá'ís of the World and, setting out our own specific goals, to the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom. These were duplicated for Convention delegates and local Spiritual Assemblies and have now been published in the current issue of the Bahá'í Journal. Assemblies have been asked to make recommendations for their own assigned extension teaching goals and the National Teaching Committee has drawn up a list of suggested goals to be brought to Assembly status during the Plan. On 30 March there was a

special meeting of the NSA for a consultation with the representative of the Continental Board of Counsellors, Miss Anneliese Bopp, about the goals of the Plan, and many constructive ideas emerged. A meeting of the incoming National Spiritual Assembly has been provisionally fixed for 3/5 May, i.e. the weekend following Convention at which, it is hoped, everything will be drawn together in time to specify and adopt the LSA and other goals for the launching of the Plan at the Regional Conferences the following weekend. Lists of all the districts in the United Kingdom, 316 opened and 160 unopened, have been compiled and circulated to delegates.

Teaching

There has been a heartening flow of news items demonstrating the vigour and enterprise of many local communities — seven new believers enrolled in Bedford in one month; a sustained month of activity in Londonderry where there were over 200 present at a Bahá'í concert in the notorious Bogside area with twenty-five enquirers at a musical fireside the following evening; an intensive teaching weekend in Henley; the preparation by Brighton of an ambitious exhibition 'Mankind United'; weekend schools at York, Menai Bridge, St. Andrews and Manchester; the first of a series of monthly Unity Feasts for the Greater London area which over 100 attended to hear a stimulating talk by Dr Dwight Allen from the USA and another spate of requests for Bahá'í speakers in schools.

Hands of the Cause

We were delighted to welcome Hand of the Cause, Dr Adelbert Mühlischlegel and his wife, Ursula, who immediately set off on a tour of Scotland and the Islands, which will surely have given inspiration and encouragement to all these communities at the outset of the Plan.

We recall with pleasure and affection the occasion several years ago when Hand of the Cause Dr Ugo Giachery attended our National Convention at Ealing. Now once again we are delighted that, with his dear wife Angeline he is going to be with us at Convention, this time as special representative of the Universal House of Justice.

We are delighted too that Mr Paul Haney, resident Hand of the Cause at the World Centre, who is attending the National Convention in the USA as special representative of the House, will be returning through London and would like to meet the friends. The date and place will be announced, probably either 6 May or 13 May.

Patrick Green who served with distinction as a member of the National Spiritual Assembly for some years, has accepted an invitation from the Counsellors to become a member of the Auxiliary Board for protection and we wish him success and happiness in his new field of service.

Malta

A special appeal, prepared by the Overseas Goals Committee, for pioneers to save the Spiritual Assembly of Malta, was sent out with the Newsletter for the Feast of Jalál. It brought precisely the four offers which were needed. Action was taken swiftly and all was settled for them to fly to Malta arriving early on Saturday morning, 20 April, in time to take part in the Ridván meeting. By good fortune Counsellor Betty Read, who was visiting the island at the time, was able to welcome the pioneers and to guide the community for the holding of their Ridván Meeting.



*Hand of the Cause, Dr Ugo Giachery,
addressing Convention.*

Publishing Trust

There has been a splendid response to the appeal which was made last year for loans to the Trust. A total of £21,656 has been received from seventy-seven people, including ten as free gifts and twenty-two interest-free, so we are well on the way to the target figure of £35,000 which we hope will soon be reached, as continued expansion of the Trust is called for in the Five Year Plan.

Consultation upon the annual reports followed, after which they were accepted with a vote of thanks to all those who had served as members on the many committees. Later during Convention thanks were also given to the outgoing members of the National Assembly, whose services were warmly applauded.

A Messages Committee was then appointed to send the greetings of those assembled to the Universal House of Justice and the Hands of the Cause, and to reply to messages from the Republic of Ireland and Gloria Momen who had sent messages of greeting. In addition a message was sent to Olga Mills, our pioneer for many years, who was very ill in Malta. It was noted that the German friends would be telephoning from their Convention and a specially worded reply was formulated.

The following cables were sent:

To the Universal House of Justice:

DEEPLY APPRECIATE PRESENCE DEARLY LOVED
HAND CAUSE AND MADAME GIACHERY GREETINGS
ASSURANCE PRAYERS UNIVERSAL HOUSE JUSTICE
STOP CONSCIOUS EVER-ABIDING PRESENCE SPIRIT
BELOVED GUARDIAN STOP PROUDLY LAUNCHING
FIVE YEAR PLAN DEDICATING HEARTS LOVE
ENERGIESWIFT IMPLEMENTATION STOP IMPLORE
PRAYERS SUPREME DIVINE INSTITUTION ENABLE
BRITISH BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY LAY VICTORIES
TRIUMPHANTLY THRESHOLD BAHÁ'U'LLAH.

to which was received the reply:

DELIGHTED SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION GRACED
PRESENCE HAND CAUSE AND MADAME GIACHERY
EVIDENCE CONSTANT VIGOUR CHARACTERISTIC
PIONEER SPIRIT BRITISH COMMUNITY ASSURE
ARDENT PRAYERS MASSIVE ADVANCES
PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHMENT FAITH
THROUGHOUT UNITED KINGDOM.

To the Hands of the Cause residing in the Holy Land:

FRIENDS GATHERED CONVENTION UNITED
KINGDOM INSPIRED PRESENCE HAND CAUSE
DR GIACHERY FOUR BOARD MEMBERS STOP
FIVE YEAR PLAN LAUNCHED SPIRIT DEDICATION
ENTHUSIASM STOP CONVENTION CONSCIOUS
URGENCY IMPLEMENTATION BEG PRAYERS
BELOVED HANDS ENSURE SUSTAINED STEADY
PROGRESS ULTIMATE VICTORY.

to which a reply was received from the International Teaching Centre:

DEEPLY GRATEFUL CONVENTION GREETINGS
PRAYING TRIUMPHANT ACCOMPLISHMENT PLAN.

Before commencing the more formal part of the financial report, the National Treasurer, Betty Goode, drew attention to the Declaration of Bahá'u'lláh in the Riqván Garden, and how, as a result, we were all gathered together at Convention giving and receiving reports of the progress of the Cause in the United Kingdom. She reminded us that in those far off days, in that precious era of the Cause, there were no Assemblies or committees. Now we were in the Formative Age of the Faith — the age of the gradual building of the Administrative Order, and which, although so different from the past, is in its own way just as precious. She said how the Financial Report was one that reported on the strength of faith of every believer, because the giving of Lifeblood was something that every single soul could take part in, and it was therefore very special.

She then paid many tributes. Firstly, to the community for contributing more than £32,000, thus beating the target of £31,000 set by the National Assembly for the year; to the children for their contributions; to the friends who had helped her in her difficult task, by sending, as well as donations, loving messages; to those who had included with their contributions stamped addressed envelopes; to the local Assemblies who had pledged certain amounts to the Fund, and who had honoured the pledges; to those local Assemblies who had become incorporated, and who were helping to pay towards the very high costs. And lastly, to her assistant — her mother, for the sustained support given in much of the routine chores of the Treasury.

After going through the Balance Sheet with the friends, Betty again urged everyone to keep up their contributions, and keep the Fund alive, particularly during the opening stages of the Five Year Plan.

The warm appreciation of the assembled friends was expressed in a long ovation for Betty Goode.

Dr Giachery then read the Messages sent at Naw-Rúz to the Bahá'ís of the World and to the United Kingdom and it was the guidance from the Universal House of Justice contained within these that dominated the thoughts of all present, and the consultation of the delegates, for the rest of Convention.

After lunch, Tellers were appointed and the election for the new National Assembly took place in absolute quiet — not a whisper broke the silence of the prayerful atmosphere. The new National Assembly which was subsequently elected met for a working lunch on Sunday and officers were elected. The membership is as follows:—

John Long	Chairman
Philip Hainsworth	Vice-Chairman
Charles Macdonald	Secretary
Betty Goode	Treasurer
Abbas Afán	
George Bowers	
Ted Cardell	
Mary Hardy	
Barbara Lewis	

In the session to launch the Five Year Plan, the chairman outlined the goals which had been given to the United Kingdom community and stressed the need for an increase in the flow of lifeblood into the Fund to meet the enormous capital outlay which was envisaged, the ever-increasing use of our youth, and the importance of educating our children.

In the late afternoon session for the Hand of the Cause and Board Members, Dr Giachery gave great emphasis to the need for unity — where there is an LSA in unity, the entire population of that area can be changed — the spirit of collaboration among the friends should always be encouraged. Dr Giachery spoke of the beloved Guardian and his long hours of work and warned us that five years to achieve these goals may seem like a long time, but 'before you turn around these five years will have gone'. The Board Members made loving contributions to this session, always stressing the enriching quality of Bahá'í life, the need for a selfless devotion to the Cause of God and reliance upon God, and the need to set ourselves a personal goal of making ourselves into strong Bahá'ís with the qualities called for by the Universal House of Justice. A parallel was also drawn with the parable of the talents and the need to multiply the number of our local Assemblies.

This Convention will go down in history as having tried something new!! Some dissatisfaction had been expressed at the slow rate of progress in making resolutions, and a suggestion was put forward on Sunday morning that each delegate should be given an opportunity to put forward any new ideas he might have, without immediate consultation upon them, and that these should be drawn together for consultation when every delegate had made his contribution. It was stressed that for this to be successful, delegates should limit themselves simply to putting forward ideas and should not attempt to make speeches about them.

This idea was accepted, but, alas, the delegates did not all conform to the limitation which had formed part of the suggestion, with the result that towards the end of Convention those who were last to speak had only a fraction of the time given to the first speakers. In consequence there was no consultation upon the ideas put forward. In spite of this, during the Sunday sessions, two hundred propositions were recorded, in contrast to the fourteen resolutions made on Saturday.

One of the first delegates to take advantage of this new platform delighted those present with news of some excellent proclamation work which had been done that very morning on Radio Liverpool by Eve Boswell, who was taking advantage of the time given to her by local stations to promote her new record "One God" (Phoenix label S/NIX 148) to talk about the Faith.

After lunch on Sunday Marion Hofman, at the invitation of the National Assembly, spoke most movingly about the very special nature of this Convention, coming as it does at the beginning of the Plan. She also mentioned the special location of the hall in which Convention was taking place, being within a few hundred yards of the hotel where 'Abdu'l-Bahá stayed in Liverpool in December 1912 — The Adelphi. 'Abdu'l-Bahá arrived one foggy evening and someone had once said that he had looked like Noah as he stood in the prow of the ship coming through the

fog. This Convention was also made special by the presence of one of the very few remaining of the first group of Hands of the Cause appointed by Shoghi Effendi — Dr Giachery, who had done so much to help the Guardian in the construction of the buildings on Mount Carmel.

Marion Hofman spoke of the last year of the Six Year Plan when there were only 370 voting Bahá'ís and twenty Spiritual Assemblies, yet 11½% of the community pioneered and one fifth went travel-teaching.

Her appeal for pioneers so moved the assembled friends that there was an unprecedented number of pioneer offers. First, those who had already made offers were asked to come to the front of the hall — there were fourteen — and then a few more friends joined them — a trickle of offers, but the trickle grew to a stream and the stream to a torrent when the friends realised that this was a call, not for immediate offers only, but for offers from those who would be able to pioneer within the Five Year Plan. In all there were a hundred and forty offers to pioneer.

Dr Giachery, who had been saddened at the last Convention he attended in London by an apparent lack of offers (as there had been a number made at the previous Teaching Conference), was visibly moved on this occasion and he anointed all these prospective pioneers with Attar of Rose. Such a stream of pioneers' offers is always an immensely emotional occasion, for often the wish to join the band of those who are prepared to leave their homes to serve Bahá'u'lláh is prompted by the knowledge that one is joining an army of light. The most moving offer of all came from a blind Bahá'í, to the tap-tapping of whose stick as he moved towards the front of the hall there came resounding applause from all present.

This Convention, special in so many ways, was closed by Dr Giachery, who had several times during its course risen to encourage us and to share with us his experience and wisdom. Spurred on by his words and by the guidance given by the Universal House of Justice, the friends left the hall to begin their efforts to achieve the goals — there was an aura of confidence everywhere, and one was left with the feeling that, monumental though the tasks may appear at this moment in time, the spirit generated by Convention will inspire the Bahá'ís throughout the United Kingdom to achieve them.

L.H.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

'Walk on a rainbow trail. . . Walk on a trail of song, and all about you will be music. . . There is a way out of every dark mist . . . over a rainbow trail.'

Navajo Song

So sang an unnamed Red Indian, movingly expressing what many of us come to realise; that man has always expressed his loves, joys and sorrows through the medium of music and song, and that one way of reaching to the heart of the masses and spreading the Message of Bahá'u'lláh, is through song.

We saw this amply demonstrated in St George's Hall, Liverpool, after the close of National Convention, although lamentably few Liverpoolians came along to listen. The Liverpool Assembly had put a great deal of thought and effort into a concert designed as a proclamation event which Fiona Dunne had organised at their request, and which had been widely advertised.

The programme was very varied, opening with a guitar accompanied choir of friends from all over the country, rehearsed by Fiona Dunne during the preceding months in several venues. They carried us along enthusiastically with a foot tapping number, and were followed by a group from Bangor who sang and played in a manner which would have immediately caught on with young pop enthusiasts. Quickly on their heels came a delightfully fresh presentation of songs by Shohre Youssefian and Parvin Afnán, who accompanied themselves on guitars. Top marks here for clarity and a swinging presentation with both young faces shining with joy at the message they were singing.

The songs were interspersed by passages from the Writings of the Faith read by Anne and Ridván Moqbel, which formed a link between the texts of the songs. The next musical presentation came from Viv and Rita Bartlett with more folk songs and then, by way of a complete change, a classical item played by Helen Momtaz on the flute, accompanied by Fiona Dunne on guitar — what an unusual combination — and so beautifully performed.

Back again to a group called 'Hummingbird' who gave us some folksy numbers, the most memorable of which was an item called 'The Nightingale of Paradise'. This song was sweetly sung by Rosemary Morgan accompanied by husband Richard, who imitated the birdcall of the nightingale with his flute.

Then another delightful concoction; Lois Hainsworth's beautifully professional rendering of 'Not so long ago, in Persia', a new song written by Houshang Jahanpur, being performed for the first time, with Houshang playing the instrumental backing on the Persian Santur; amply demonstrating the teaching of our Faith that East and West can work (and play) in harmony together.

Again the choir and musicians in a joyous number to which we clapped our hands and tapped our feet, as coloured slides of the different races were shown on a screen backdrop. The last item was a fittingly original finale and could well be used elsewhere.

Our thanks should go to all the artists who must have worked very hard; but a special mention should also be made of the excellent stage management, which ensured that numbers quickly followed one after the other, the change of artists being almost imperceptible.

May a word of constructive criticism be offered? Would groups please ensure that diction is clear and that the instrumental backing does not drown the vocalists. Remember the whole world is waiting to hear you **loud** and **clear** — BAHÁ'U'LLAH HAS COME, CAN'T YOU SEE THE NEW DAY?

E.B.

THE FUND

There are three ways to make contributions to the FUND

- 1 Directly to the National Treasurer:—

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

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

The National Westminster Bank
186 Brompton Road,
London SW3

Our account no. is 18188443

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

POINTS TO REMEMBER

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

PAYMENTS BY COVENANT

These are handled by

Mr John Morphey
Caerleon,
Norris Grove,
Park Lane,
Broxbourne,
Hertfordshire

Please contact him directly.

FOR THE PERSIAN FRIENDS

Huqúq'u'lláh payments are handled by

Mr John Long
2 South Street,
Oakham,
Rutland.



BIRMINGHAM YOUTH CONFERENCE

On Friday 12 April 1974 began a historic youth conference, the first of its kind in this country, which served also as the launching pad for the Three Year Youth Campaign. It took place in Birmingham at Westhill College of Education and was attended by over 280 people, mostly youth, some of whom had come from France, Germany, Spain, Norway, Italy and Eire. The wonderful atmosphere of love and spiritual fellowship which was generated cannot be described but, throughout the entire conference, the joyous feelings of warmth and happiness touched the souls and hearts of every participant.

The conference was opened by Philip Hainsworth, member of the National Spiritual Assembly, who said that this conference would set a pattern which could change the history of the Bahá'í community in this country. George Bowers spoke next on the 'Goal of a New World Order' and reminded us that all the barriers of the past had been broken with the coming of the Manifestation of God.

Our dear Marion Hofman, in a very stirring and moving account, led us through her experiences in the fulfilment of the many Plans given to this community as she spoke on the 'Historical Background to Teaching Plans'.

We were thrilled by the amazing store of knowledge that our dear Adib Taherzadeh displayed when speaking of the 'Young Heroes of the Faith'. His exciting and wonderful account of the sacrificial love and devotion to the Cause of the early believers spoke of a devotion which most of us earnestly strive for and long to attain.

We were very fortunate to have had so many wonderful sessions with such eloquent speakers as Philip Hinton and Tony Pirkis on 'Teaching Opportunities'; Mary Hardy and Wendi Momen on the 'Three Year Youth Campaign'; Patrick Green and David Lewis our dear Auxiliary Board Members on 'Youth in the Bahá'í Community'; Guilda Navidi on 'International Travel Teaching and Pioneering'; Ted Cardell on 'Audio Visual Aids'; Wendi Momen on 'Teaching the Minorities' and Auxiliary Board Member Mary Kouchekezadeh and Betty Goode speaking for the 'National Fund'.

From all these sessions we gained a great deal of knowledge and understanding of the part to be played by Bahá'í youth in today's and tomorrow's world. But it is very important for LSAs and other adult believers to understand that their co-operation, help and guidance is needed so that the significance of the effect of the Three Year Youth Campaign on the entire community can be realised. The youth plan is not separate from the Five Year Global Plan of the supreme Universal House of Justice, but will run concurrently and in conjunction with it.

The entertainments which were organised included a dance one evening, another evening of skits and music which even included a visit from Mr Gary Glitter disguised as Richard Green. On the Saturday night the college rocked to the vibration of a few hundred Bahá'ís of varying shapes and sizes dancing good old fashioned barn dances encouraged and guided by a lady from the English Song and Dance Society who led us through the various jigs to the accompaniment of her toe-tapping, foot-stomping, finger-clicking, hand-clapping music. . . It was all very good though exhausting fun.

The following cable was received from the Universal House of Justice in reply to one sent:

DELIGHTED GREAT SUCCESS YOUTH CONFERENCE
ATTENDED REPRESENTATIVES SO MANY NATIONS
STOP CONFIDENT ENERGETIC PROSECUTION
YOUTH CAMPAIGN WILL CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY
EARLY VITAL VICTORIES FIVE YEAR PLAN STOP ASSURE PRAYERS SACRED
THRESHOLD

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

Unfortunately it all had to end. It was a wonderful experience which we sincerely hope will help us to achieve and even surpass the goals which we have promised to win for Bahá'u'lláh. We look forward eagerly to the next conference.

Report by Ann Moqbel

HUQUQU'LLAH

حقوق الله

و در لوح سمندر کفک افروز نازل قوله تعالى :

فِي الْحَقِّ الْحَقُّ الْإِلَهِي الْمُبْرَكِي هُوَ بِرَجْمِ أَدَامِي أَنْ لَازِمٌ حَيْثُ كَلَامُ

سُبْحَتِ وَبَرَكَتِ وَخَيْرَاتِ وَ مَا يَكُونُ مَعَ كُلِّ نَفْسٍ فِي كُلِّ عَالَمٍ مِنْ عَوَالِمِهَا

الْفَنِّي الْكَرِيمِ . . . انسى

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONAL CONFERENCES HELD ON 11 MAY, 1974

CAMBRIDGE

John Long, on behalf of the National Assembly, and Dorothy Ferraby, on behalf of the Continental Board of Counsellors, gave short talks to open this conference, and all benefitted from their experience.

Between seventy and eighty friends attended and all aspects of the Plan were consulted upon as set out in the agenda prepared by the National Assembly. Everyone appeared to be content with the opportunity given them of being part of the launching of the Five Year Plan and there was very lively discussion after the report on the Three Year Youth Campaign. It was noted that several Districts thought to be unopened did, in fact, have resident Bahá'ís.

A considerable number of those present were amongst those who had offered for pioneering at Convention and an appeal was made for offers to be sent to the Pioneer Committee from anyone else who might feel moved to make a pioneer offer during the coming months. An appeal for the Fund resulted in a cheque for £15 being sent to the National Treasurer.

The need to make an early start upon the goals was stressed over and over again and there was real appreciation for the lead which the National Assembly had taken in so quickly giving goals.

CARDIFF

About seventy Bahá'ís from Wales, Bath, Birmingham, Aylesbury, Hereford, Kidderminster and Stafford, gathered together for the Regional Conference held in Cardiff, which took place at the Friends Meeting House.

There was a growing air of pleasure, approval and excitement among those present, as representative of the National Assembly, Betty Goode, shared with them the special goals given to all the local Assemblies, and during all the sessions, consultation and discussion was both lively and positive.

The Conference was blessed by the presence of Board Member, Mary Kouchezkadeh, who shared the platform with the NSA member, and as well as speaking at each session, joined the friends in the consultations.

Many of those present had already offered to pioneer during the Five Year Plan at Convention in Liverpool, and no further pioneer offers were made, but the contribution to the Fund from the friends was an outstanding £180, the greatest part of which was towards assistance for pioneers.

To mark the fact of this conference being in Wales, a prayer in Welsh was added to the commencing devotional, and to conclude this very joyous occasion, the children most charmingly sang some of the words of Bahá'u'lláh, and then everyone, young and old alike, joined together with the utmost love and in a spirit of dedication and harmony in singing Alláh-u-Abhá. What a fitting end to a conference in the "land of song".

EPSOM

The Epsom Assembly had arranged everything with their usual thoroughness, with excellent provision for children, a servery for drinks at the intervals and even a friend with a large Bahá'í sign on the main approach from London to direct traffic to the Conference venue.

About 170 attended and received the details of the Plan with enthusiasm, welcoming the heavy responsibilities given to LSAs. Twenty further pioneer offers were recorded and £85 was donated to the National Fund. A pledge was given to pay for the acquisition of three Temple sites — in New Hebrides, Barbados and Nicosia. It was a very happy occasion, marred only by the absence of the Counsellor's representative, Mrs Betty Reed, who at the last minute had to travel to Portugal to deal with some urgent matters there.

MANCHESTER

The regional conference in Manchester was a happy and successful one, with representatives from sixteen Assemblies, three groups and a few visitors from outside the region covered by eight units. Altogether about 200 people attended.

George Bowers opened and chaired the conference on behalf of the National Assembly and Patrick Green in his capacity as Auxiliary Board Member gave us all his support and wisdom.

It was decided to record all ideas and recommendations put forward and to send these to the National Assembly, rather than to debate particular ideas and record resolutions after voting upon them. This had the happy effect of producing sixty-four

ideas, some of which had been tried in other areas, some of which were already in almost universal use and others which seemed to be quite new.

The Plan put forward by the National Assembly was read and those present given a thorough understanding of its implications. Certainly it became clear from the conference that there is a growing awareness within the whole community of the increased part to be played by the local Assemblies and of the intensified dedication required of every individual. Reference was frequently made to the Naw-Rúz letters from the Universal House of Justice and the guidance given therein.

Stress was laid upon the importance of educating children within the Faith and making them feel a part of it, to the special role of youth and to the integration of the whole community into the work of the Cause.

Of the 140 pioneers who offered their services in this field at Convention, fifteen were present in Manchester; after an appeal for further pioneer offers, another thirteen Bahá'ís came forward.

During the course of the conference a bowl for donations was introduced and £19 was contributed for the National Fund.

The conference was held in the beautiful hall of Hollins College and the thanks of all of us go to the Manchester Assembly, who were responsible for the organisation.

PERTH

Unmarked by emotional enthusiasm this regional conference was very impressive indeed. The sixty-five attendants represented most of the Scottish communities including deputations from the Western Isles, Orkney and Mull. The National policy was clarified, the role of the Assemblies was thoroughly discussed and the various objectives allocated to each community were presented. A tremendous urge to get on with the tasks, to work with dedication and sacrifice and to achieve each and every goal was evident. While much was said about pioneering and teaching the mood was against open demonstration, yet the proportion of the attendants who offered their services was probably the highest anywhere on record. Twelve offers to pioneer during the Plan had already been made prior to the conference; twenty others were quietly given; four offered for travel teaching; one offered for special work among the gypsies and one to lecture at colleges and other educational institutions, making in all a more than fifty percent participation. £25 was donated to the Fund.

Derek Cockshut representing the National Teaching Committee; Philip Hainsworth, Vice-Chairman of the National Assembly, and Board Member Ruth Riding reported that they had received great encouragement from a really outstanding conference.

WINCHESTER

About a hundred Bahá'ís, including children, came to this conference, which was held at Northleigh, King's Worthy, from twenty-five different places.

The National Assembly representative was Barbara Lewis and the Continental Board of Counsellors was represented by David Lewis.

The detailed Plan produced by the National Assembly was presented and there was specific consultation upon the goals given to the communities represented at the conference. Some of the Assemblies have already initiated work on some of the goals and suggestions were made about the adoption of goals additional to those given by the NSA.

A very lively interest was shown in the education of children and a number of suggestions were sent to the National Assembly.

On the subject of youth guidance an offer was made by a Bahá'í who has considerable experience in this field to place this knowledge and the result of a study of the subject at the disposal of the community.

There was consultation upon the strengthening of Assemblies and among other things the need for a good balance between teaching and 'socialising' was mentioned.

During the course of the conference several pioneer offers were made for overseas and the home front.

Consultation throughout was excellent and inspiring and showed a wonderful spirit of dedication and determination. Physical arrangements were lovingly and efficiently carried out by the Winchester community; lunch was available in a Bahá'í home and a profit of £9 was made — a call for universal participation in support of the Fund resulted in £21 being contributed, which enabled a cheque for £30 to be sent to the National Treasurer.

NORTHERN IRELAND: Conference scheduled for 25 May was cancelled due to civil disturbance.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



ARGENTINA: The entire Argentine Republic has once again been launched on the sea of proclamation. Through the grace of Bahá'u'lláh, a nationwide television programme was opened which has twenty million viewers and is seen on all the principal channels in the country. Although there were 600 applications from different people and groups, and although the Bahá'í Faith was completely unknown to the whole studio organisation of Channel 13 in Buenos Aires, the Bahá'í Proclamation Committee representative was invited to participate in this programme, which invites five important or unusual personages each weekday for a round-table conversation. This popular hour-and-a-half programme is filmed in elegant surroundings and conducted in excellent taste.

The interviewer was presented with a copy of 'Some Answered Questions' and a floral arrangement was sent by the National Spiritual Assembly in the name of the Argentine Bahá'í community. The interviewer repeated the title of the book and twice read the card which accompanied the flowers. The card bore the quotation 'The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens'. Although she had met the Bahá'í representative only ten minutes before the programme commenced, she placed him at the head of the table, on her left, with her cue cards on the Bahá'í Faith uppermost beside her plate.

At the end of the programme she spontaneously embraced the Bahá'í who participated, telling him that he could leave the studio peacefully knowing that the Bahá'í Faith was now known throughout the country. More than thirty telephone calls and telegrams from various people and institutions all over the country were received at the studio while the programme was on the air. Positive results are being experienced all throughout Argentina. People are remarking that this new religion is what the world needs now and letters asking for information are received daily at the Bahá'í Information Centre in Buenos Aires.

AUSTRALIA:

Melbourne: At the suggestion of one of the believers a positive step was taken to have the Bahá'í Faith presented on the popular television programme 'No Man's Land'. A reporter who handles the show's interviews was contacted. She was most interested in the Faith and felt that the public would also like to know about the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

The completed programme was well done, with love and care, and included shots of the House of Worship in Sydney, specially taken for the show two days before the filming.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: A year ago, in March 1973, the Central African Republic NSA was granted permission by the Head of State to present a regular weekly radio programme on the national broadcasting network, the only one in the country. This privilege had previously been granted to only three other religious groups. More than fifty successful Sunday morning programmes on various subjects designed to serve the double function of teaching and consolidation have been broadcast. The most successful format has been a dialogue in which one Bahá'í poses as the seeker and fires questions at another Bahá'í. Because of the liveliness and the 'everyman' quality of the interchange, this type of presentation has particular appeal.

Although there is no way of measuring the overall impact of the broadcasts, the available evidence indicates that it is far-reaching indeed. One can often hear people singing or whistling '*La foi bahá'íe unit les gens*', the theme song which opens and closes each programme. More than thirty letters have been received from listeners so far, from all over the Central African Republic and from neighbouring countries. When one realises how difficult it is for the people in the rural areas to assemble a piece of paper, a pen and an envelope, and then to buy a stamp, one begins to appreciate the significance of this steady flow of letters, many of which are extremely touching in their simplicity and sincerity.

The broadcasts have of course brought many people into the Faith directly and indirectly — over 1,000 new believers have been enrolled in the past year, far more than any previous year. It has made it much easier to teach in all areas and strata of society, since almost everyone already knows about the Faith and is favourably disposed towards it. If our experience so far is any guide, there must be many thousands of people who have been completely prepared for the Faith and who are only waiting to be confirmed and enrolled. Our crying need is for more manpower to help bring in this tremendous harvest.

On 31 December, by tradition, all interest groups are received by the President of the Republic to present to him their wishes for the New Year. This year for the first time the members of the National Spiritual Assembly were officially invited to join the representatives of other religious groups for the presentation of greetings to the President at his palace. . . two members of the Continental Board of Counsellors joined us in this event. . . a speech on behalf of all faiths was presented by the Catholic Archbishop. In his answering speech the President explained that as there is only one God, and all religions come from the same God, they must be united — as the fingers of one hand!

CHILE: Dr 'Ishrat H. Naqvi, Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Saskatchewan in Regina, Canada recently spent about a month in Chile in relation to his work.

In Santiago he spoke on "Religion and Science" at the National *Haziratu'l-Quds*. Before the public talk, Dr Naqvi was interviewed by Television Channel 13 of the Catholic University; the film was taken at the national headquarters; views of the audience attending were also taken and the film was telecast the next day during the news programme at 8 pm. This was a very important proclamation event which was widely seen — approximately seventy persons attended, including the Mayor of LaCisterna, a prominent figure in Santiago.

ECUADOR: Three Bahá'í musicians from Colombia recently visited Ecuador for the purpose of proclaiming the Faith with their songs and music. Following an enthusiastic meeting with the Bahá'ís of Quito, this talented trio was interviewed by a leading newspaper in the capital city and a lovely photograph of the group appeared in the Sunday paper. They also had a fifteen minute programme on television, Channel 6, at the prime hour of 8.15 pm. During the visit of the trio to Otavalo, tapes were recorded for the local radio station, and in Cuenca they appeared on a thirty minute television programme. Ecuador is delighted and grateful for the publicity given the Faith through their charming songs.

LEeward AND VIRGIN ISLANDS: **Martinique:** An initial victory for the Faith was accomplished in Martinique during the first week of the visit of Mme. Lea Nys of Belgium. Through contacts previously established, we were able to have three radio interviews on the Faith at the government radio and television network, in Fort-de-France. The programme director was warmly co-operative and offered helpful suggestions.

In an area where resistance had been experienced by the Bahá'ís in attempting to have the Faith mentioned through mass media, this was a break-through — one more example of how Bahá'u'lláh opens doors for us when we knock softly and enter with a spirit of humility. Prayers were offered for many months before we approached the radio and television authorities.

NEW ZEALAND: It was the pleasure and the immeasurable privilege of the New Zealand Bahá'ís to be granted audience with His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II of Western Samoa in Auckland.

A bouquet of flowers had been sent to the hotel to greet him on his arrival and later the delegation invited by the National Spiritual Assembly to represent the Bahá'ís of New Zealand presented suitable gifts to His Highness, to his sister and to his son.

Included in the delegation were Mr Miu Tuataga, a member of the Auxiliary Board and himself a Samoan, who served as translator throughout the audience, and Mr Hawea Grant, a representative of the Maori race. Out of respect for our noble visitor, Mr Grant wore a 200 year old Maori cloak, an heirloom of his tribe which is worn only when in audience with royalty. When not in use the cloak is kept in the vaults of the Bank of New Zealand. His Highness demonstrated that quality of deep humility that is characteristic of true royalty and with unfailing graciousness and charm spoke to the friends about the Faith and its development, and expressed the hope that soon would be witnessed visible evidence of its establishment and triumph in the heart of the Pacific area.

PARAGUAY: The small town of Villarrica, Paraguay, which has a population of 25,000 was chosen recently for a large proclamation meeting. The event was announced for one month in advance by means of radio publicity and street banners.

Movies about the United Nations and the Bahá'í film 'El Abha' were scheduled to be shown. Optimistically, the Bahá'ís took 300 pamphlets to distribute and the United Nations offered much free literature.

At 8 pm. the programme was to begin. Since it is a particularly difficult town, the Bahá'ís were very happy to see twenty people in the audience. Then at 8.30 pm. people started arriving in a constant stream. By 9.30 there were 4,500 people in the audience listening attentively to the Message of Bahá'u'lláh presented by a representative of the Continental Board of Counsellors in South America.

One-fifth of the town's population heard the Message! The Bahá'ís learned much. Next time, there will be literature for thousands. Follow-up meetings will be held in the local theatre, the local cultural centre and the home of the resident pioneer.

DEATH OF COVENANT-BREAKER

"CHARLES MASON REMEY WHOSE ARROGANT ATTEMPT USURP GUARDIANSHIP AFTER PASSING SHOGHI EFFENDI LED TO HIS EXPULSION FROM RANKS FAITHFUL HAS DIED IN FLORENCE ITALY IN HUNDREDTH YEAR OF HIS LIFE BURIED WITHOUT RELIGIOUS RITES ABANDONED BY ERSTWHILE FOLLOWERS STOP HISTORY THIS PITIABLE DEFECTION BY ONE WHO HAD RECEIVED GREAT HONOURS FROM BOTH MASTER AND GUARDIAN CONSTITUTES YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE FUTILITY ALL ATTEMPTS UNDERMINE IMPREGNABLE COVENANT CAUSE BAHÁ'U'LLÁH".
THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

THE FUND

The Five Year Plan has been launched and now the National Assembly has to turn its thoughts to the amount of money which will be needed for the Faith in the exciting and vital first year.

We know we have many goals involving special capital projects of financial assistance overseas, and to be sure, the Universal House of Justice would not give us such goals if it were not within our capacity to meet them. Apart from this, it is very important that until a budget for this year is fixed we maintain the same rate of contribution as last year, as a minimum requirement.

This is the period of the year — the first six months — when the flow of Lifeblood slows up in the United Kingdom. This is a problem which over the years has not been solved, and is always one of the greatest hindrances to the Faith, because, whatever happens, the work has to go on. Again, even as we launch ourselves into this new Plan, the old signs are showing, and the Lifeblood is lessening. Let us all resolve NOW to make the first year of the Five Year Plan different, so that the Lifeblood flows strongly and vigorously THE WHOLE YEAR THROUGH.

Yá Bahá'u'll-Abhá!

Betty Goode — National Treasurer
8 Knowle Road,
Stafford.

PLEASE NOTE

The address of the Secretariat of the Continental Board of Counsellors in Europe and of Mrs Dorothy Ferraby will change on 16 May to:

42 Elmswood Gardens,
Sherwood,
Nottingham NG5 4AW

EDITORIAL

The Editor would be deeply grateful if reports and other contributions could be typed in double spacing, although it is understood that in very small communities where no typewriter is available it may not be possible to type contributions for "News from the Communities".

Black and white glossy photographs of community activities are especially welcome.

"IN TUNE": those wishing to subscribe to this excellent youth magazine should send subscriptions (50p) to:

"IN TUNE",
c/o 27 Rutland Gate,
London SW7

Please note that changes of address and alterations in the number of Journals required should be sent to the **NATIONAL OFFICE** and not to the Editor. Envelopes for Journal distribution are prepared in London and sent to Leeds for despatch.

Deadline for the next issue: **10 July 1974.**

Please send material to the Editor:

Lois Hainsworth (Mrs)
Treen,
Allerton Park,
Leeds LS7 4ND

NOTICES

BIRTHS



PICNICS AT MANOR FARM

Farm Picnics will be held again this year at:

Manor Farm
Gt. Paxton
St. Neots. Hunts.

on the following Sundays:

2 June
7 July
4 August
1 September

All are welcome from dawn till dusk; please to bring as many friends and children as possible — please bring also your own food. Tea, coffee and orangeade will be available free all day. Come and have a day in the country, play games and picnic!

A loving welcome will await you from:

Alicia and Ted Cardell and their family.

"BAHA'I NEWS"

Communities which have news of world wide interest should sent their typed contributions to:

Ted Cardell,
Manor Farm,
Great Paxton,
St. Neots. Hunts.

Where possible, these should be accompanied by glossy black and white photographs.

PIONEERING

by Lou Turner

To answer the call of pioneering for our Beloved is to experience, vividly and personally, the truth of His Words, "The earth is one country and Mankind its citizens". Not until we taste for ourselves the indescribable joy of serving within the Plan of Bahá'u'lláh's World Order can we truly realise what this means in terms of our daily lives.

Only by offering ourselves humbly in His Service can we become enriched by a growing awareness of what the Faith really is. Pioneering, like everything else in life, can be appreciated and understood only when it has been experienced personally!

Once the call for pioneers touches the heart of a believer, he is already, in his heart, transplanted to his unknown destination, for in his love for the Blessed Beauty he is set free. It was for this purpose that Bahá'u'lláh consented to be bound with chains, and in our love for Him the fetters of our earthly lives fall away, allowing the spirit fulfilment of its true destiny. It is through obedience that we are set free! No matter where our pioneering takes us, we are making a response; a personal, individual response in our love for the Cause of God. For this reason our lives become changed, our awareness deepens and we step into a new dimension. This experience takes place at the spiritual level of our being, regardless of the tests and difficulties which may be encountered on the pathway. We find ourselves lifted into an awareness that what we are doing has been undertaken for the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh and this makes even the most ordinary tasks appear in a new and significant light. It is this realisation that floods our daily lives with a beauty not of this world and which fills the heart with a boundless happiness and love.

'Abdu'l-Bahá says, "Man is, in reality, a spiritual being, and only when he lives in the spirit is he truly happy". And in our new pioneer home this 'living in the spirit' creates an inner harmony which animates and sustains us in every situation. It is like living in two worlds simultaneously. On the one hand we see our fellow-men confused and agonised by doubts and rear, while in the realm of our own inner certitude the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh lift us securely above all the darkness and despair.

"Armed with the power of Thy Name nothing can ever hurt me, and with Thy love in my heart all the world's afflictions can in no wise alarm me" . . . re-assured by His Words our one aim is to share this love and security with others.

In our realisation of oneness we make our home in every land, no matter how bitter the hatreds between the people of that country and the land of our birth. With hearts cut free from race and nationality and set towards the goal of unity, we see only kinsfolk and feel only love! Strife between people and nations is non-existent to the one who knows the purpose of God. Learning to 'see His Face in every face' conveys a sense of true harmony with every soul we meet. Differences and prejudices melt away and lose all significance, not only in ourselves, but in the consciousness of all! We then see only the

human heart in whose depths is an unspoken yearning for the great gift of God in this Day. How often does the pioneer echo within his own heart words from 'The Seven Valleys' — "... in this journey the seeker reacheth a stage wherein he seeth all created things wandering distracted in search of the Friend". The believer at his pioneer post becomes intensely aware of his great responsibility to share the knowledge he has.

An abundance of gifts and bounties result from pioneering, for in this service we have made a choice between the spiritual and material aspects of life, and in choosing the former we have resolved to place all our trust in God, alone. By a deliberate act of will a pioneer puts his life and all his affairs in God's Hands and ever afterwards this wonderful, all-embracing awareness of Divine assistance and love remains with him. In relying upon the One Invisible Source for all our needs, a valuable lesson in faith and trust is learned.

The material world is losing its hold over us and gradually, imperceptibly our hearts are turning towards the divine world. In separation from friends we find a greater understanding of Bahá'u'lláh's love and nearness, thereby discovering the comfort of the True Friend. Our understanding of the Faith is greatly increased as a result of pioneering. Actual participation in the formation of a local Spiritual Assembly creates a deeper realisation of what it means for a town or city to have a Divine Institution in its midst. To be present at the birth of an Assembly is a profoundly moving experience, bringing more fully to our understanding the significance of what is taking place in our own life time. How can any single act of our lives be dull or mundane after this?

Our involvement in the Divine Plan has lifted our lives, forever, above the commonplace and freed us from attachment to the transient. The greatness of God's Cause fills us with awe, humbling us in the knowledge that each one of us has been offered the gift of helping to build the foundation of Bahá'u'lláh's glorious World Order for mankind. To teach the Faith is the most precious and sacred duty in the life of a Bahá'í and the greatest happiness is to witness in another soul the dawning light of faith and love for Bahá'u'lláh, echoing the love in our own. When this takes place in the country of one's pioneering it creates feelings of tremendous joy. The radiance of certitude, reflected in the beautiful faces of the newly-declared believers is one of the most fulfilling and rewarding experiences of life! Knowing that other souls have attained life's supreme Gift and have escaped from the darkness of the old world, to take their places in this beautiful and wonderful New Day of God. Souls who, in their turn, will arise to serve the Cause, carrying the message of the Beloved to other lands and other peoples who, even now, are waiting in the outer darkness for the coming of the pioneers!

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs A. L. Hofman

Granny, as we all called her, whether her children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren, passed away on the evening of Naw-Rúz Day, 1974 in her 93rd year. Her long adventurous life was full of incident, hardship and happiness. She raised nine children, weathered two world wars, outlived her husband and four of her children and became a figurehead of love and unity, hospitality and devotion. She became a Bahá'í in 1941 and received a loving letter from the Guardian when he heard of the death in action at Singapore in 1942 of her son.

Granny Hofman lived a life of service to others. Her joys and sorrows were those of her family and friends. Her faith in God was absolute and the bulwark of her long life; it is probably true that no day passed in which she did not pray. She brought up her large family in this attitude and constantly encouraged them in decency, good manners and human endeavour. She had boundless energy and was full of cheerful optimism, always ready for an expedition, a picnic, a party, any occasion to promote happiness.

She was a foundation member of the local Spiritual Assembly of Northampton and attended the World Congress in 1963. On that occasion she was one of a party of "old-timers", the others being Golden Kilford, Lady Hornell and Mrs Slade.

After her death, among her Bahá'í books her Family Bible was found to contain a full-page picture of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, a leaflet about the Faith, a programme of public meetings and two snapshots of grandchildren. When talking about the Cause she would often say: "I love 'Abdu'l-Bahá."

D.H.



Mrs A. L. Hofman

Forward into Tomorrow

The work put in over the last nine months in the teaching field is now showing positive results. The unit teaching committees are starting to demonstrate just how effective a launching pad they are going to be in the Five Year Plan. The National Teaching Committee has revamped its operating procedure in order to deal effectively with the vast increase in paperwork that the new system has generated. More and more specialist advice is now called upon to aid, assist and develop our consultations. We have our own specialist departments in the admirable Youth, the Teaching the Blind, Minorities Teaching and Travel Teaching. Each one of these departments has now been geared to assist the friends in winning the assigned goals of the Five Year Plan. We are looking forward to an exciting unfolding of a new type of teaching through the teaching of the blind department, who shortly will be utilising the UTCs to launch various projects throughout the United Kingdom. The minorities teaching department will enable us to work in precise strata of society rather than the general approach to which we are more accustomed.

The Youth Department launched the first part of the Five Year Plan at the Easter Conference in Birmingham and the NTC expects the UTCs to galvanise the friends in their areas to grasp the wonderful opportunities offered in the Three Year Youth Campaign. One strongpoint we would make is that this campaign is a national project, not a youth one, so all ages will be helping. LSAs wishing to have activities in their area during the Three Year Plan should contact the Youth Department of the NTC. The Travel Teaching Department is now functioning at a fairly high level of activity. Would UTCs and LSAs note that most travel-teaching offers occur at short notice and, as a result, the notice to potential host communities is correspondingly short. Please inform the Travel Teaching Department of the results of such visits.

Finally, more United Kingdom travel-teaching offers please. You can help win the Five Year Plan just by moving around and seeing people.

The results of the Five Year Plan will astound us all. Let us move forward united, and determined to achieve all what is given us, and then achieve more.

Now is the time for us to acquire that spirit of audacity the Guardian said we should develop.

UNIT COMMITTEES

UNIT 1 NORTHERN IRELAND



Unit 1 – Northern Ireland – bomb riddled and tension packed, with six LSAs in the area: Belfast, North Down, Castlereagh, Carrickfergus, Craigavon and Londonderry.

This unit has accomplished a miracle! As if reflecting the difficulties surrounding it, Unit 1 was plagued by despondency and depression and seemed to be disunited. When the unit teaching committee was appointed, they made a superhuman effort to provide an example and stimulus for the unit. To achieve unity and harmony among themselves and to institute teaching plans, they found it necessary to meet three times the first month, twice the next two months and finally, having stabilised themselves into a harmonious whole, they now meet only once a month. The results speak for themselves.

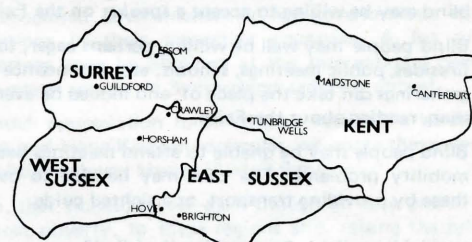
They instituted a fourteen week project during which all communities supported each other for a set three-weekend period in each community. This inter-community effort appeared to be the best organised of any of our unit activities. The climax was the Londonderry project which provided activity for every weekend from 23 March to 20 April. Two hundred attended a folk concert in the notorious Bogside and twenty-five came to the musical fireside which followed.

So great has been this renewed stimulus and interest that seventy out of eighty members of the community voted at the Unit Convention – the best record in the United Kingdom!

To keep the vital lines of communication flowing, their excellent news-sheet "Intercom" provides the unit not only with community chat and unit activities, but also furnishes a medium for individual creative urges such as poetry, etc.

Unit 1 has put on a new face despite tremendous odds. The effort required to galvanise the community into renewed activity and unity has paid off!

UNIT 18 SOUTH EAST



Unit 18 – South East – is the shining light among the nineteen units comprising the British Community. It is situated in the most south easterly portion of England and consists of the four very lush and green counties of Kent, Surrey, West Sussex and East Sussex.

When the unit teaching committee for the area met for the first time last August there were five LSAs in the area; Canterbury, Epsom, Guildford, Hove and Brighton. At that first meeting a definite decision was made to build at least three more LSAs during the year and, if possible, five. This they accomplished: Horsham, Crawley, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells gained Assembly status at Ridván. How was this achieved and what lessons can be learned from their success?

First of all, it is interesting to note that the UTC first met in August and has been meeting regularly ever since. Reports of their meetings were then submitted to the NTC promptly, thus establishing a firm link. Their conference was held at the end of September, making contact with the grass roots of the whole unit early and they have continued to keep in touch with them through their regular newsletter. Thousands of miles were covered by individual members of the UTC visiting the local communities.

Following their energetic lead, the unit committee then devised a series of enterprising teaching programmes so that there would be some type of teaching activity every nineteen days somewhere throughout the unit. Since the unit conference had been held early, their goals and plans were soon under way with the full knowledge and co-operation of all the members.

The results speak for themselves – four new Assemblies and two groups at Sevenoaks and Weybridge with six and seven Bahá'ís respectively. Even their unit convention showed better than average voting, with three-quarters of the entire unit voting! Throughout the year the UTC has been actively encouraging inter-community action and it has paid off with big dividends. Another note of interest from Guildford shows the bounty of forming an LSA. Guildford, which formed last Ridván, with only nine members, now has seventeen adults and four youth.

Surely this unit has set an example in efficient organisation, industry and accomplishment!

TEACHING THE BLIND DEPARTMENT

People often feel uneasy when they are introduced to a blind or disabled person. It is a bit like meeting someone of another race – you may feel self-conscious and uncertain how to react. The basic rule is the same in both cases – don't worry about how you appear, just treat the person as a fellow human being, with courtesy. A blind person will inevitably get to know you by listening to what you say. This makes some people want to speak more loudly and distinctly than normal, but don't do this as it makes it impossible for your listener to tell what you are really like. One thing to avoid is addressing a blind person through a sighted companion – to say for example: "Does he take sugar in his tea?" There are two reasons for this – in the first place nobody likes to be by-passed, and secondly nobody likes to feel that they are making someone else nervous.

What opportunities are there for teaching the Faith to blind people?

We should like LSAs who have, or can establish, contact with blind people, either individually or in institutions, to consider the specific problems of teaching the Faith to blind people. Bear in mind the following points:

1. Blind people are cut off from many of the normal channels of proclamation such as posters and newspaper advertisements. This means that more personal methods must be used.
2. Blind people are generally very willing to converse about anything that interests them, and this may well include religion.
3. It is quite possible that schools and institutions for the blind may be willing to accept a speaker on the Faith.
4. Blind people may well be willing, perhaps eager, to attend firesides, public meetings, schools, etc. Attendance at such gatherings can take the place of, and indeed be even better than, reading about the Faith.
5. Blind people may be unable to attend meetings because of mobility problems. The LSA may be able to overcome these by providing transport, or a sighted guide.

What material is available for teaching the blind?

This department is responsible for providing any Braille literature you may need. Enquiries to the correspondence secretary:

Kari-anna Christopherson,
48 Western Hill,
Durham DH1 2RJ.
Telephone: Durham 2994.

Of course, not all blind people can read braille efficiently or at all. Many rely on a "talking book" machine or sighted "readers". Unfortunately there are no Bahá'í books available as talking books at present. There is a variety of material available on tape and cassettes. Some of it is for Bahá'ís only, but much of the remainder is suitable for teaching. The tapes and cassettes are available from the Audio-Visual Committee; sales enquiries to:

John Reed,
44 Highbank,
Brighton BN1 5GB;

loan enquiries (cassette only) to:

Terry Pickles,
33 Kendrick Road,
Reading, Berks.

Two words of caution:

1. Never press a person to accept Braille literature. Evangelical activity in the past has made many blind people distinctly hostile to Braille literature for which they have not asked.
2. It sometimes happens that Braille books are presented to institutions where there are few if any Braille readers. Most proficient Braille readers are in the under-65 age group. If there is a home for the elderly blind in your area, the offer of practical help or a speaker may be more useful than a gift of Braille literature.

What are the needs and potentialities of blind Bahá'ís?

We should like those few LSAs who have blind Bahá'ís in their area or near at hand to consider how they can be helped to progress in the Faith and also make their full contribution to the teaching and other activities of the community. Administrative work, for example, may well be within the abilities of blind Bahá'ís, given suitable equipment.

A blind Bahá'í might well be asked to take charge of the deepening material (talks, study classes, etc.) available from the Audio-Visual Committee. The whole community would benefit from hearing these cassettes. If a cassette tape recorder is beyond the individual's means, the LSA might consider assisting him to buy one. It would come in very useful for his own study of the Bahá'í writings, particularly if there is someone who can help him by acting as a "reader". Blind students who use sighted readers find it almost essential to have a tape recorder to preserve the material for study and reference.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

With the launching of the Three Year Youth Campaign, the activities of the Bahá'í youth in the United Kingdom enter a new phase. What is now needed is a greater participation of Bahá'í youth in the affairs of their local communities and a commitment to the winning and the tasks and goals which we all now face. Only through a spiritual rededication of our lives,

through a realisation of the power of prayer and faith in the all-conquering power of Bahá'u'lláh can we achieve that state of total confidence necessary for complete victory. Our activities must now be greatly increased particularly in teaching the faith. To stimulate this on a national scale the Youth Department have organised the following events:

1. 22/23 June — Bahá'í Centre, 360 Wilmslow Road, Manchester:

"Prescription for Living" — Marriage and Morals. One of the three major objectives of the Five Year Plan is the "Development of the distinctive character of Bahá'í life". This weekend is to study the aspects of Bahá'í marriage and morals and will be led by Keith and Ann Munroe and Shahin and Joan Fath'Azam.

2. Summer 1974:

Teaching projects will take place in various parts of the United Kingdom, including one in July in the Cardiff/Newport area, and one during the last three weeks in August in the Epsom area. Offers to participate or requests for further information to:

Fiona Dunne,
23 Dorville Crescent,
London W6 (Telephone: 01-748 8911).

3. Winter School, 21-28 December, 1974:

At last year's winter school feelings were expressed that the venue could be improved. Therefore the Youth Department have booked Grey College, Durham University, for this year's winter school. Accommodation is in single study bedrooms and the conference facilities are excellent. The cost for booking:

Before 1 November:	£2.65 per day
After 1 November:	£2.75 per day
Late bookings:	£2.95 per day

The registrar is:

Farhad Behrooz,
28 Roxwell Road,
Chelmsford.

All cheques should be made out to the NSA of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom.

4. This year the Arts Festival will be held at Grey College, Durham on 29/30 December. All those wishing to enter should contact:

Shohreh Youssefian,
44 Chatsworth Road,
Ealing, London W5 3DB

and also look at "In Tune" for further information and their entry forms.

Full details of all these events and much more may be found in "In Tune" available at the subscription rate of 50p. per year from:

"In Tune",
27 Rutland Gate,
London SW7.

Finally, the Youth Department is compiling a youth archives, and would welcome reports and photographs of youth activities, local and national, past or present.

FRENCH SUMMER SCHOOL

Carry-le-Ronet — 24 August to 1 September

Inclusive cost per day: Adults 40 francs
Children 30 francs

The rooms are very modern and pleasant and each contain four beds. Showers are available for each room. There is a private beach and facilities for sailing, pottery and ceramic work.

Further information from Mme Soghomonian,
31 rue du Verger,
13002 MARSEILLE.

Places are limited so applications should be made as soon as possible. There is a reservation fee of 80 francs.

You have already heard through the Naw-Rúz Message of the Universal House of Justice that 557 pioneers are called for to fulfil the goals of the Five Year Plan, full details of which were announced at Ridván. In addition, many of the overseas goals won during the Nine Year Plan still need strengthening.

Those of us who consider filling one of these goals or any other goal of the Five Year Plan should immediately contact the Overseas Goals Committee for help and guidance. There is a list of jobs available through United Nations in nearly all parts of the globe. The United Nations Volunteer Service employs with a good salary experienced or inexperienced people as architects, agriculture engineers, economists, teachers in all subjects, draughtsmen, graphic artists, audio-visual technicians, rural engineers, agronomists, irrigation surveyors, civil engineers, town planners, medical doctors and nurses, etc. Details of jobs can be obtained either through the OGC or by writing directly to International Secretariat for Volunteer Service, 10-12 Chemin de Surville, 1213 Petit-Lancy, Geneva, Switzerland.

Qualifications for United Nations Volunteers: To qualify for admission to the United Nations Volunteers a man or woman must be over the age of twenty-one, meet the health standards and personal qualifications established by the UNV, and possess the educational and technical background needed in the post for which he has volunteered. The programme is intended primarily to encourage the participation of the younger generation in the cause of development.

The United Nations Volunteers will have well-defined duties. Heavy emphasis is placed on appropriate technical qualifications, in anticipation of governments' requests for volunteers to work in development projects where the need for specific skills and talents is of high priority. The broad scope of development projects in the United Nations system, which range from agriculture and teacher training to engine repair and city planning, offers a wide choice to able young graduates from universities and technical institutions and to highly-skilled artisans.

Financing activities of United Nations Volunteers: The external cost of United Nations volunteers — Preselection and basic training; travel to and from country of assignment, including resettlement allowances — will be borne, as a general rule, by the volunteer-sponsoring organisation and agencies.

Local living expenses of UN volunteers in cash or in kind will be borne either by host Governments or by the United Nations system in agreement with respective Governments. These will include: (i) installation allowance; (ii) modest personal living allowance; (iii) adequate living accommodation; (iv) all work-related travel costs within the country of assignment; (v) tools and equipment necessary to the performance of assigned tasks.

Individuals wishing to join the UNV should seek sponsorship from recognised governmental or non-governmental volunteer organisations in their respective countries. A list of these organisations may be obtained at the International Secretariat for voluntary service in Switzerland (address above).

With much appreciation to all of you who will arise and serve in Malta and Hong Kong in particular, we quote these wonderful words of our beloved Master 'Abdu'l-Bahá:

"Oh, that I could travel, even though on foot and in the utmost poverty, to these regions and, raising the call of Yá Baha'u'l-Abhá, in cities, villages, mountains, deserts and oceans, promote the Divine Teachings. This, alas, I cannot do. How intensely I deplore it. . . Please God, ye may achieve it. . ."

The Pioneer Committees are grateful for the wonderful response to the call for pioneers at Convention. Would those of the friends who volunteered but did not give their names and addresses please contact the appropriate committee:

For Overseas: Mrs Elsie Bowers, 65 Sandown Road, Wavertree, Liverpool, 15. Telephone: Liverpool 733 2547.
Home Front Goals: Mr Bob Smith, 53 Riddlesworth Road, Purley, Surrey.

ANNUAL REPORTS

The following two reports arrived too late for inclusion either in the Annual Reports for Convention or for the last issue of the Journal

AUDIO-VISUAL COMMITTEE

One of the ongoing duties of the Audio-Visual Committee is the maintenance of a hiring service for exhibitions, films, slide shows, film strips, projectors, and cassettes. Now that deepening also falls within our terms of reference, deepening materials may also be acquired from the committee. Unfortunately, many materials are not being returned or passed on to other communities on time and this creates a great burden for the other communities and the members of the committee responsible for the various items.

The Newcastle community has very generously given a beautiful exhibit constructed mainly of glass, that has proved very useful to them for the last few years. Because of its great fragility and weight it will probably remain within one community or unit but a very similar exhibit in acrylics (lighter and unbreakable) is being constructed and it will shortly be available for loan. It will be relatively waterproof, thus making it ideal for outdoor fairs and exhibitions.

A standing exhibition for the National Centre at Rutland Gate will soon be mounted. This is intended to be an introductory and informative medium for visitors. It is also being constructed from acrylics and will have the advantage that materials used may be easily varied.

For a long while, we have been concerned that many of our materials, particularly those originating in America, are not always entirely appropriate for the United Kingdom. However, they are usually of a very high technical standard and relatively inexpensive because they are able to produce in great quantities. We are thus considering the idea of developing some slide shows (showing perhaps the Guardian's Grave, Royal Albert Hall, etc.) which might be of interest both here and in other countries.

We are also producing cassette recordings of various Bahá'í books which we hope will be of use not only for the blind or partially sighted, but also for deepening classes, children not yet proficient in reading, and others (such as housewives?) who can listen while doing other things.

As have undoubtedly many other committees, we have been affected by the three day week, shortage of materials, and the rail strike. We had hoped that our new catalogue showing both sale and hire materials would be available for Convention, but unfortunately this has not proved possible, so a copy will be sent to all units and local Spiritual Assemblies as soon as they are available.

On the weekend following Convention the Brighton community is holding proclamation meetings and in the Exhibition Hall there will be a special room set aside where all the exhibits and materials of the Audio-Visual Committee will be displayed. Other communities are invited to send representatives in order to acquire a first hand knowledge of the available materials.

A great deal of time is spent at all our meetings on sales materials and we are so impressed by the amount of work involved in carrying out the functions of the Sales Department that we should like to close this report with a special thank you to the members of that department.

Ron Batchelor	Bahador Haqjoo	Victor Priem
Sue Benatar	Houshang Jahanpur	Bill Prince
Ken Carter	Terry Pickles	John Reeve
	Elizabeth Rodriguez	

SALES DEPARTMENT

Sales of materials for the year totalled just over £1800, exceeding the turnover for the previous year by about £120. Cash sales at the Liverpool Convention were exceptionally good, totalling £377 excluding VAT.

However the cancellation of the Leicester Teaching Conference, in anticipation of which extra stocks had been purchased, adversely affected the final Sales Total. Materials were supplied to various places overseas including Australia, Thailand, U.S.A., Malta, St. Helena, etc.

Over the course of the year several new items were introduced including the Windflower LP, acrylic prayer and Greatest Name Plaques, Acrylic pendants, coloured picture Letter-Cards, and other items. The acrylic material introduced sold exceptionally well, especially the Greatest Name pendants.

Although most prices have remained reasonably steady, the cost of ringstones and gold plated rings has increased considerably. In general, it is anticipated that as stocks are renewed there will be further price increases; this may especially relate to printed matter and poster issues.

Towards the end of 1973, the Sales Committee was reformed as a sub-department of the Audio-Visual Committee, the Secretary of the original Sales Committee becoming the liaison member in attendance at the meetings of the Audio-Visual Committee held in Rutland Gate. The advantage of more expert consultation on approval and the design of new materials came into effect under this new arrangement; several new items were reviewed but not all were accepted as suitable for distribution through the Sales Department national outlet. In some instances, new designs were manufactured at LSA level and the Sales Department

asked to sell surplus stocks before their design was approved under the proper procedure. It is hoped that this will no longer occur when the Bahá'ís throughout the country understand that it is essential that all designs should be submitted for approval before production and sale is undertaken on a national scale. Nevertheless, the submission of new ideas and designs for possible future production are encouraged and welcomed.

For the first time, a wall calendar was produced in this country, selling at a lower price than those previously obtained from overseas. As the work of the Sales Department grows yearly, it is hoped that the capacity to introduce improved design work and new items will also increase proportionally.

John Reeve

Sylvia Reeve

Mary Mehrnoosh

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

The costs of bus advertising have been investigated with a view to placing cards in at least 100 buses. This is the minimum which British Transport Advertising will now accept. However, this can be sorted out into groups throughout the country and we would therefore like to plan this venture on a national basis. The most economical way is to take out a twelve month contract and this would cost £40.00 per month for 100 spaces, plus 10% VAT. The actual advertising card, which would be 20" x 8½", is not included in these charges. One community has already expressed its willingness to take ten advertisements, and we would be glad to know if any other communities would like to support this venture. If ten communities took ten advertisements it would cost each community £4.40 per month plus the cost of the ten cards themselves. If only five spaces were taken, the costs would be £2.20 per month. Please let us know which communities would be interested in taking part in this scheme, writing to the address below.

Some communities have asked if there is any Bahá'í magazine which could be put into the reading rooms of libraries, suitable for non-Bahá'ís. As you know, the Bahá'í Journal and Bahá'í News are for circulation amongst Bahá'ís only. However, there is an excellent quarterly publication produced in the United States to which one can subscribe, called "World Order". This would be eminently suitable for supplying to reading rooms, and may be ordered direct from 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, USA.

Although several communities send us reports of publicity gained and copies of press cuttings, for which we thank them most

warmly, we would be most grateful if we could have the co-operation of all communities as this would give a more complete picture of local publicity. As stated in the Annual Report of this Committee, the National Press will begin to be interested in printing articles on the Faith when there is more widespread local publicity. Please keep us informed of your achievements in this field.

The committee would like to thank all those friends who have taken the trouble and time to write to us with suggestions for publicity, and have pointed out the opportunities which may be open to us in certain sections of the media. We are indeed very grateful and assure you that we will follow all of these up — in the meantime, please continue to keep us informed!

Attention — If there is anyone who would be willing to write an article of up to 1,000 words on subjects such as Industrial Relations, Progressive Revelation, Justice, Medicine, Work, we would be very grateful. Don't worry about the style of writing — but if you can do the basic research and give us the facts about the Bahá'í teachings on these subjects, this would be a great help.

Please note — In our last Journal report, we said you could purchase copies of the UHJ broadsheet direct from the Publishing Trust. We are sorry, this was a mistake — copies are **not** available from them.

Secretary,
Miss Jean Harper
36 Coombe Gardens,
Bournemouth, Hants.

A WEEK IN ORKNEY

by Terry Pickles

Some of the team who were in Orkney for the thrilling 'Islands '73' project were gladly able to return in April to follow up, to carry on. So much is promised us when we go travel-teaching it is no wonder that it all happens way beyond our imaginations but one is left amazed at the generosity; generosity so outweighing our easy and undeserving efforts.

As if to consecrate our project's recommencement, Hand of the Cause Dr Muhlschlegel and his wife came, "through whom the sea of bestowal hath moved", blessing us by the example of their presence; whilst, ensuring by her prayers continuing extra divine aid, the first Orcadian pilgrim was at the Holy Shrines.

For the summer project the Kirkwall Spiritual Assembly had formed us into a musical group to which consultation had given the name 'Keys'. We had then given two public shows, musical presentations of the Bahá'í Faith, and a show of just singing at the Grammar School hostel. It was therefore a marvellous welcome back that the local weekly newspaper proclaimed 'Keys Return' on the front page, which led us jubilantly to echo 'the Keys have returned' on our posters. We arrived, and the posters went up, on the Friday. On Saturday we unashamedly did a determined walkabout both to hope to meet friends made previously and to make known by the most effective way of certain, speedy, but kind gossip that we were back. On Sunday we deepened, letting the delight of together discovering truth gently reunite us as a team once more.

So much is possible still in Orkney, if done now, that we would baulk at back home, without the confidence of such a mission to make us audacious. Of that week I can but offer a list of the more easily writable wonders. Monday began with an example of just such unusual opportunity in that we were able to hand directly to the willing editor an article on our purpose in Orkney and a photograph for inclusion in that week's issue of the 'Orcadian'. That evening we were invited to revisit the school hostel where this time it was welcome for us to make a break in the singing and give the attentive audience some of the Faith's beauty through direct teaching. After the show we stayed to make firm friends of about nine of the older children, they came the next night to our public show at Kirkwall, and it became excitingly evident that hearts were involved in our meeting.

These children asked us to visit their Headmaster, so, emboldened by their suggestion, the next day we were able to tell him much about the Faith and gain his permission to take a fifth-form Religious Education class that very afternoon. Once again the discerning attention of children was upon the Faith as we spoke well past the ungreeted bell. Again books were eagerly accepted by many. To the talk that evening our friends brought new friends along, whose initially evident suspicions were soon dissolved by their own laughter at an excellently aimed and humorously delivered verbal presentation.

Thursday gave us two public outings. In the afternoon we sang

in all the wards of the old folk's hospital, warming inside their silent walls with the glorious name of Bahá'u'lláh. The evening too in Stromness was quiet until, after our show, came in an undoubted seeker who met there the Bahá'í Faith for the first time, to his evident delight.

Friday was a free day. We journeyed to an island named Wyre intending only to pray, but the people there proved so friendly as to set us to work again singing in their all-purpose church. The most respected lady of the island was visibly moved when we gave her a copy of the book, signed with our love, by Gloria Faizi, whom she had twice met and warmly remembered. It was striking to us that even on the tiny remoteness of that island we were not the first bearers of the Bahá'í message to tread its stony tracks.



The "Keys" and the Mehrabi children in Orkney

Back in Kirkwall, for the Saturday evening show a fresh young audience again listened to a large proportion of direct teaching as well as song, and again stayed on to confirm their friendship. This section of the Orkney populace had evidently not been quite so definitely contacted before. It is everyone's hope that they or one of them will, if nurtured, lead the way for many young Orcadians to follow into the Faith. It is a passionate, heartfelt hope, for even with such a density of major opportunity as I have tried to describe, and even though the Ridván report of the Kirkwall Assembly could make many mainland communities boggle, progress in Orkney is pitifully slow, yet so very urgent! Our little group was able to do no more than replace the friends there at the front of a battle against apathy and fear that has been going on for twenty years.

I know the whole group wish to not only record their thanks for, but also to testify to, the stunning scale and constancy of the love of the Orkney community. To say 'without whom nothing would have been possible' sounds so small a tribute, but, as far as mortals are concerned, it stands true, and what they have made possible has been a week full of golden events such as a year seldom contains and we, the lucky team, shall for ever remember. Constant and recurrent too is the effort needed if it is not all to be wasted.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

BEDFORD: At Convention in Liverpool one of the delegates spoke of Bedford's "magnificent seven" new Bahá'ís, who have now become the "magnificent nine" with a wonderful evening on Twelfth Day of Ridván when the LSA met briefly before the celebrations to accept a new youth declaration and had to meet again afterwards to accept another adult declaration. The most recent declaration in the present series of nine which began during the Fast on 12 March was that of Bob Graham, who declared at 9 o'clock on the Twelfth Day of Ridván 131. From our files we have worked out that Bob was the nineteenth declaration during nine years of Bahá'í activity in the Bedford area and the ninth declaration since the Fast.

The question that is of interest to other communities is what the Bedford Bahá'ís have been doing to deserve the blessing of such an upsurge, and the answer is that there has been continual devoted Bahá'í activity in Bedford since the first Bahá'í, Ann Knightly, came to Bedford in 1965 (according to our records). Then other families pioneered in the wake of Ray and Mahin Humphreys until the first LSA was formed in Bedford in 1970. Since the formation of the LSA there has been almost universal participation from the members of the Bahá'í community in Bedford, including the children. There had previously been extension teaching in Bedford by the Cambridge LSA, and

devoted support given by Ted and Alicia Cardell from St. Neots; there had also been a supporting committee for a period, consisting of Bahá'ís from Northampton, Watford and Cambridge.

In addition to the holding of regular Feasts, Firesides, and all the usual types of Bahá'í public meetings, there has been an extensive prayer campaign by individuals, saying 500 and 1000 times the Remover of Difficulties prayer, and the regular use of the Tablet of Ahmad. This was a community project although no special prayer meetings were held.

Now we have exciting firesides with visitors from other communities, as many as twenty-five at some meetings. These firesides are now used for deepening as well as providing interest for other enquirers. The deepening of the new friends, and bringing them into the community to become part of the whole is now our joy.

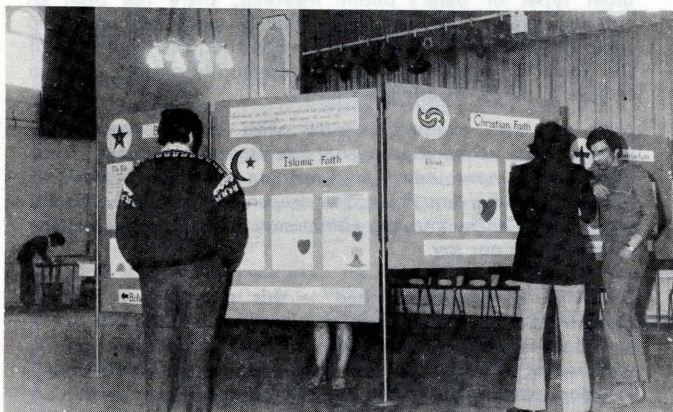
BRIGHTON: "Mankind United" — this is not only one of the most important Bahá'í principles, but it was also the title of the ambitious exhibition staged by the Brighton community on the weekend of 4/5 May. When it was discovered that the United Kingdom community possessed a large and costly exhibition which was gathering dust in Manchester, an expedition was despatched to collect it and after the Brighton Audio-Visual Committee had put in many weeks of very hard work, assisted by the rest of the community, not only was it restored to life but seven extra very impressive 'progressive revelation' boards were added, each depicting a major world religion. Intensive preparation was undertaken before the weekend of the exhibition involving a considerable sacrifice of time and funds on behalf of the community, such a spirit of sacrifice undoubtedly contributing significantly to the success of the exhibition. One hundred and twenty letters of invitation, containing literature about the Faith, were sent out to MPs, Councillors, churches, religious organisations, clubs, societies, schools, hospitals, etc., and every Bahá'í community within a hundred mile radius was invited not only to assist on the day, but also to see the exhibition and consider the possibility of using it in their own area. Large invitation advertisements were placed in two local newspapers and the Sussex University students newspaper, and quantities of posters were put up wherever possible, especially in Sussex University and other colleges. Special personal invitations were made for the friends to give to their contacts — especially important as personal teaching has been stressed so much. Lastly, and perhaps most important of all, each individual believer recited the Tablet of Ahmad at least once a day over the week leading up to the exhibition.

So the day of the exhibition arrived! It was very heartwarming to have the support of so many other communities, and initial high hopes were reinforced by the good response to the Saturday lunchtime street-teaching. Anyway, the first few people arrived, and then a few more, and then more, and more, until our wildest expectations were surpassed! Soon there was a regular flow of visitors to the exhibition and everybody in the hall was kept busy guiding them around and answering their questions. Nobody who came to look around could have failed to notice the vibrant atmosphere, enhanced by music, flowers, free refreshments, the warm smiling faces of the Bahá'ís and undoubtedly sustained by the continual reading in a side-room throughout the exhibition of the Tablet of Ahmad. In the evening there was a good audience for a beautifully presented slide show accompanied by a selection of readings from the Writings and interspersed with Ed Povey singing some of his wonderful, meaningful songs. Sunday morning was very quiet, but as soon as people had let their Sunday lunch settle the stream of visitors started once again and the audience for the evening slide show was perhaps even larger than the night before!

However, the real success of the exhibition lay not in the quantity of visitors but in their "quality". Many stayed for a long time talking to the Bahá'ís, and the bookstall and the Sales Committee stall sold a considerable number of books, pamphlets, postcards etc; many expressed a keen desire to discover more and promised to come to firesides, and not a few people said that they were overwhelmed!

Overall the exhibition was for Brighton a promising and significant start to the Five Year Plan and is surely an example of "the abundant evidences of Divine confirmation" which the Universal House of Justice mentioned in their Naw-Rúz message. Its success can be attributed to prayer, sacrifice, hard work, a strong, well-functioning LSA, and the unity and involvement of the whole community — including the children whose enthusiastic help was invaluable! The Brighton community would like to take this opportunity to thank all those other

communities and people who lent a hand — Ken Carter for his wonderful drawings, and those who came all the way from Bath, Shrewsbury, Winchester, Portsmouth, Southampton, London, Epsom, Guildford, Crawley, Tunbridge Wells, Horsham and Hove.



Part of the Brighton Exhibition

GLANFORD (WINTERTON) and SCUNTHORPE: Glanford is a newly opened area and our main teaching effort has been to donate books to the local library and to join with the Scunthorpe community in planting a tree in Scunthorpe on behalf of the two communities. The one remaining Bahá'í in Scunthorpe went to the Birmingham Youth Conference taking with him a friend who was not a Bahá'í who declared during the conference — later the same day they both offered to pioneer — thus Scunthorpe had in the same day a hundred per cent increase in its community and lost all its believers!

GUILDFORD: The community is working hard on personal teaching; we have a representative on the Guildford International Council and several youth are on the committee of the All Nations Club. Two of the friends work on a local newspaper which has resulted in our reports being published regularly and unabridged. More than a hundred people attended our Naw-Rúz gathering and there is a great deal of inter-community activity. A series of five public meetings produced several continuing contacts. Our boundaries have been greatly enlarged and we are holding a public meeting in each of the urban areas.

HAMILTON: During the last two months pamphlets on the Faith have been placed in the public library on the check-in counter. They have been "disappearing" at the rate of about ten per week. If this rate is maintained about 500 pamphlets would be taken in a year!

Monthly quotations are now being placed in the local newspaper and reference is made alternately to the Bahá'í book stock in the public library and to the local Bahá'í phone number for enquiries. Six press releases have been submitted to date, of which five have been printed in an abbreviated form.

The most exciting recent acquisition in this community is a Roneo duplicating machine, given to one of the youth by the firm where he is an apprentice, as they had finished with it. The machine (manually or electrically operated) opens up many possibilities which should help us to involve the whole community and improve communications in our greatly enlarged teaching area.

IPSWICH: We had a successful day on Saturday 9 March, despite the freezing weather and wintery skies, which curtailed our activities to praying in various parts of the town and doing some street teaching in the town centre, instead of the full street teaching campaign which we had planned.

In the evening there was an excellent supper of Persian food, nobly prepared by our community, which was a novelty for our English and non-Bahá'í friends. Whether fasting or walking round the town earlier had anything to do with it we cannot tell, but the evening was a terrific success. "The Humming Birds" provided music and were a success, particularly with the children, and we had two films showing different aspects of the Faith in various parts of the world. There were about fifty-five people, including ten non-Bahá'ís, several of whom showed great interest and all of whom were sincerely impressed with the friendliness and warmth of the occasion. We should like very much to thank all those friends who came from outside the community and helped to make it such a wonderful evening.

LEEDS: Declarations during the year, movement into the town of Bahá'ís from other areas and the extension of the city boundary have meant that our voting community is now twenty-two, which made our Ridván celebration this year a particularly happy one. Including children, youth and visitors from overseas, over forty people were present at our Ridván meeting which was held this year entirely out of doors in a large garden at the home of one of our families. Our youth committee had planned a barbecue and produced an excellent outdoor meal, and we were fortunate, also, in that the sun smiled upon us for the whole afternoon and evening.

LEICESTER: During March John Long, chairman of the NSA, went to the Evington Grammar School to give two separate talks to two classes. The school is mainly run by Catholics, and he said that the children asked many questions, especially during the second talk.

Also in March six members of the Leicester community hand posted over 800 letters with an invitation to a public meeting, and a pamphlet explaining the Faith, around the Humberstone area of Leicester. A slide show was given on the evening concerned, but, alas, not a single member of the public turned up!

One evening in April three of the Leicester friends attended a large Inter-Faith Meeting at the Melbourne Road Community Centre in Leicester, when Albert Robinson, one of Leicester's Bahá'í Community, answered questions from a panel consisting of one member of the Hindu, Jewish, Jain, Christian and Mohammedan religions. Albert was able to give the Bahá'í answer to many of the questions which were put by the quite large audience present. The best thing of the evening was when Albert was able to say the closing prayer — a Bahá'í prayer. The friends in Leicester are very pleased that they have been invited to attend these meetings as we can meet people of the many races which form such a large part of our city now.

LONDONDERRY: News from this stricken area was brought back by seven friends who recently visited the town to help run an exhibition in the Bahá'í Centre there and to invite the people of Derry to come and investigate the religion of Bahá'u'lláh. With all the upheaval and strife in Londonderry at the moment, they felt they should share the wonderful experiences they were privileged to have when they saw the coming together of hundreds of people — firemen, teachers, soldiers, Catholics, Protestants, police and children (sent by their parents and teachers), as they poured into the Centre every day and found there the love and peace they craved. For some of the young people it provided the incentive they needed to take them off drugs — one boy wrote: "In the four days I have known you I have experienced more than in my whole life, and I know that I speak for everyone of my friends who have been with you. Never have I thought about God, or loved God as I have done in that short time. Never have I looked at other people and thought of them as people. Never have I experienced such peace and yet felt that I was only on the edge of all that you feel. You have taught me that life is not wrong — only people can be wrong and people can change and do. I and my friends shall never forget you and we all hope that our understanding can be deepened. The love of God you have shown reaches everyone and it is with that love that I thank you always."

MAIDSTONE: A talk was given by Steve Lambden on the Faith at The World Congress of Faith at Chatham and a number of very interested seekers were prompted by the meeting, one being a teacher who wanted to inform his pupils about the Faith. Two people there had visited the Bahá'í House of Worship in Wilmette, USA, and another enquirer, who came to Loose Road as a result of seeing a poster, had visited the Holy Shrines.

Edward Castle gave an inspiring talk at a Public Meeting held at The Friends' Meeting House.

On 16 March a one-day deepening school was held at 374, Loose Road, Maidstone; Steve Lambden gave an analytical and discursive talk based upon the Four Valleys and the text of some of the Buddhist scriptures in relation to the Bahá'í Faith. It was well supported by Bahá'ís from Henley, Northampton and Broadstairs.

A fancy dress party for Naw-Rúz also brought several contacts and proved to be a most enjoyable evening.

Each week in Maidstone firesides are held on Tuesday evenings at Four Wents, Weaving Street, and on Sunday afternoons at 374 Loose Road, Maidstone.

Steve Jenkerson from Oxford gave us a talk on Friday 29 March.



First Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Maidstone

NORTHAMPTON: Following the Youth Conference in Birmingham nine youth travelled to Northampton to help teach in the town. The youth from Aylesbury, Epsom, Reading, Peterborough, Ipswich and Birmingham, arrived on the Monday evening and immediately held a prayer meeting. On Tuesday, after more prayers, the youth with Bahá'ís from Northampton, moved through the town with pamphlets. As the weather was good, much successful teaching was done in the parks.

In the evening all fourteen of the street teachers enjoyed a Persian supper. Wednesday was colder and less suitable for teaching, but several interesting contacts were made. In the evening a meeting was held in the Town Hall; Ted Cardell presented a creative slide show accompanied by classical music and the words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. There were several very interested contacts at the meeting and a large contingent of Bahá'ís from Bedford, who never fail to support Northampton. The following day the Northampton evening paper carried a report of the meeting after a detailed interview with one of its reporters.

NOTTINGHAM: Following a series of activities three radiant souls have embraced the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh at Nottingham University. The friends in Nottingham feel that the University has great potential and that there are many, many individuals waiting, eagerly waiting, for a glimpse of a New World Order, or indeed some guidance to offer hope and direction to their distraught environment. The University Bahá'í Society is organising a week of activities from 9 June to 16 June, culminating in a concert on Sunday, 16 June, in the Ballroom of the University. Fiona Dunn, Hooshang Jahanpur and Adam Thorne will be providing the entertainment for what could be a most exciting evening. The activities have been specially arranged for a time when some, at least, of our youth will be free following their examinations, and we would consider it a great bounty if anyone could help us during that week.

PLYMOUTH: Our New Year meeting was very successful with about a hundred people from thirteen different countries — Ghana, Hong-Kong, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Polynesia, Uganda and the United Kingdom. Much support was given by the International Friendship League, the time and place of the meeting were announced by the local BBC television station and on the following day a prominent photograph appeared in the local newspaper. At our last large meeting, for the celebration of the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh, twenty countries were represented, and we hope to have even greater representation of various nations at future public meetings. We hold three regular weekly meetings — a fireside, a deepening meeting and a children's class.

PRESTON: On Saturday, 18 May, we were glad to have friends from Maidstone, Reading, Northampton and Blackpool to help with some street teaching. The one-day school on Sunday, 19 May, started with a devotional organised by the Rochdale Group, and then we were fortunate to hear a first-hand account of Shoghi Effendi from Philip Hainsworth. The afternoon session began with a beautiful rendering of a prayer by Lois Hainsworth, followed by the proclamation "Why Bahá'í?" very appropriately given by Bill Hellaby, who was formerly the Unitarian Minister for Preston. Many searching questions were adroitly answered by our excellent panel, who came from diverse backgrounds and were able to put together complementary points of view, and everyone joined in the singing in the Bahá'í spirit to make a perfect end to a very successful event.

Over fifty Bahá'ís attended, and half of the twelve "potential-Bahá'ís" present in the afternoon were from Preston. In the evening we were able to continue discussions with one "potential-Bahá'í", and entertained her with films and music.

Many follow-up events are being planned, and we are confident that Preston LSA will be achieved within the Five Year Plan, although following the death of George Holt on Wednesday 27 February, the remaining two of us are now divided by one of these new district boundaries.

ST. AUSTELL WITH FOWEY: 'Children' was the theme at our weekend school on 23/24 March, the last to be arranged by the Bahá'ís of St. Austell with Fowey, as we shall be called RESTORMEL after April 1. Only fifteen attended the school, but this gave a greater opportunity for intensive discussions.

The school opened in the Community Centre, Mevagissey, with a quiz arranged by Julian Filip of St. Austell which really tested our knowledge of the Writings regarding the training and education of children. We recommend quizzes as a stimulating way of presenting a subject at a weekend school; this is the third time we have had one — each time with tremendous success.

Naomi Long stepped in at the last minute to take the public meeting — but no public arrived, so after half an hour's prayer Naomi spoke to us of her experience of bringing up two daughters — one before she accepted the Faith, the other afterwards, which led to a discussion on the difficulties encountered by young Bahá'ís trying to live out their beliefs in a world which is becoming more and more decadent. A short programme of slides and commentary as a brief introduction to the Faith was followed by coffee and a 'sing-song' round the piano. On Sunday morning Zaim Mostafanajad gave a talk on the role of Bahá'í youth, which provoked much discussion. The last session was a party for the children, who were joined by the children of non-Bahá'í parents who attend our children's classes. We would like to say 'Thank you' to everyone who came to the school and helped us.

WANDSWORTH: During the Intercalary Days a group of Bahá'í youth visited a children's home, taking presents of food and delicacies. They received a warm welcome from three ladies who looked after the children, who were very surprised to see presents being given at that time of the year. They were interested to know what had prompted the visit and seemed to be very impressed with what the youth had to tell them.

YORK: Once again we heralded the Bahá'í New Year with a weekend school at the Youth Hostel, Clifton, on the 23/24 March. The thematic statement of the school was from Bahá'u'lláh and opened with the line: "We desire but the good of the world and the happiness of the nations. . ."

Only a few friends supported us from the region, but we are deeply grateful to those who travelled from Bradford, Leeds, Ripon and Scunthorpe. Other dear friends travelled from as far as Chelmsford, Durham, Epsom and Waveney and all brought great encouragement and loving stimulation. Our public advertisement attracted a young schoolgirl from York and she showed great interest in the Faith. This was quite exciting for the York believers as public advertisements in the city for the Faith rarely attract interest. Saturday afternoon began with a devotional and teaching work either in the hostel or in the town. A prayer vigil went on all afternoon. In the evening about forty Danish youth arrived in the hostel to stay overnight and about half of them attended the exciting musical show given by the group from Waveney called 'Hummingbird' who entertained everyone with one of the most original and skilled performances ever seen from a Bahá'í group. Their musical sensitivity and commitment undoubtedly impressed all those who saw them.

Sunday was a beautiful day. Not the weather actually, but the spirit and love at the school. The morning session was prepared by Peter Smith from Durham and led by him and Ann Hinton. Two discussion groups sat round the hostel fires and shared their responses to some Bahá'í writings. In the afternoon Philip Hinton spoke on 'The Family of Man' with both insight and power and so finally brought us to our closing devotional. This was not a big school, but a school that sharply demonstrated an intense unity and conviction and has given the York friends a real spiritual strength for the future.

At long last both the Lord Mayor and the Sheriff of York have accepted the 'Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh'. This now finally completes our presentations which have also included the Vice-Chancellor of York University and the Editor of the 'Evening Press'.

Bahá'í Publishing Trust

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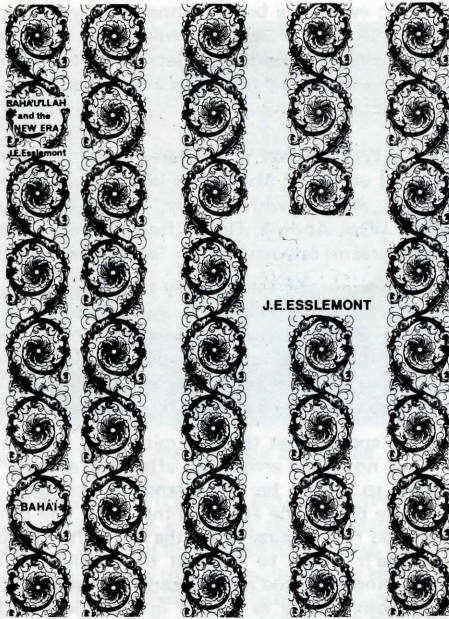


THE BOOKTRADE

Following the call of the Universal House to stimulate sales of Bahá'í books to the book trade, the Trust is once more taking advantage of the annual religious books issue of "THE SPECTATOR" which will come out on 1 June. This year the books to be advertised are:

PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS	£1.50
GUIDANCE FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW	£1.20
THE PRICELESS PEARL (paperback)	.63

Communities would greatly assist this work if they would decide upon one bookseller in their area and ask those friends who are able to purchase one or other of these three books following upon the issue of "THE SPECTATOR" on 1 June, to order from the chosen bookseller, referring to "THE SPECTATOR" when asking for them. In this way the entire community can assist the Trust in its effort to fulfil the wish of the Universal House to stimulate the sale of Bahá'í books through the book-trade. As a growing awareness from individual booksellers about the existence of Bahá'í books develops, an impact will gradually be made upon the larger suppliers.



BAHÁ'U'LLAH AND THE NEW ERA

The Trust is particularly happy that the new edition of "BAHÁ'U'LLAH AND THE NEW ERA" by J. E. Esselmont is at last on sale. The long gap in availability was caused by the substantial stock held in 'flat sheets' being found to have deteriorated and to be useless when sent to the binders.

A great deal of new material was supplied by the Universal House of Justice and is incorporated in this new edition. Many, many hours have been spent by several Bahá'ís in checking this new edition and in producing a new index, and the Trust is most grateful to them for their help.

This immortal book was first published in 1923 and there have been several editions, but since 1937 no revision has been made to the text, except for some minor corrections in 1950.

The diffusion and development of the Bahá'í Faith since that time have been tremendous and there has been added to Bahá'í bibliography a rich legacy of incomparable expositions, translations and historical accounts from the pen of Shoghi Effendi, Guardian of the Faith and the appointed interpreter of its Sacred Writings. It has, therefore, been found necessary to bring the book up to date in order to maintain its usefulness for modern readers. This has been done with a minimum of alteration to the text, and chiefly by the use of footnotes and of an epilogue giving the current statistics and new developments in the organic unfoldment of the Faith.

Dr Esselmont's book continues to be one of the most widely-used introductory books on the Bahá'í Faith, as evidenced by the fact that since 1937 the number of translations has increased from thirty to fifty-eight.

Available from the Bahá'í Publishing Trust: Clothbound: £1.00
Paperback: .30

INVESTMENT SCHEME — LOAN APPEAL

The appeal for loans to support the work of the Trust has now reached £21,756, but there is a long way to go before the target of £35,000 will be reached. The friends may be interested to know that loans have come from as far afield as Australia and New Zealand.

You may wish to be reminded that loans can be made in any multiple of £25 for fixed periods of 10 or 20 years bearing interest at the rate of:—

7½% p.a. on a 10 year loan and
8% p.a. on a 20 year loan.

The Trust acknowledges with gratitude the help given by those who contributed to a previous appeal who have extended their repayment time into the new appeal.

Application for loan forms and further information from:—

The Publishing Trust, 2 South Street, Oakham, LE15 6HY.

"THE PROCLAMATION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH"

With the call from the National Assembly in its recently issued Plan for further proclamation efforts the friends may wish to be reminded of the wonderful book issued by the Universal House of Justice in 1967 to aid us in proclamation, especially for presentation to national and civic notables. It is a concise compilation of the letters of Bahá'u'lláh to the Kings and Rulers of the world, handsomely bound into a pleasing volume. Those Rulers rejected the call of Bahá'u'lláh and in the introduction the Universal House of Justice writes:—

"Today we reap the appalling results of our forebears' rejection of His divine call; but today there are new rulers, new people, who perchance may hear and avoid or mitigate the severity of impending catastrophe. It is with this hope and believing it to be its sacred duty, that the Universal House of Justice, the international governing body of the Bahá'í Faith, proclaims again, through publication of these selected passages, the essence of that mighty call of a century ago. In the same hope and belief the Bahá'ís throughout the world will do their utmost during this centenary period to bring to the attention of their fellow-men the redeeming fact of this new outpouring of divine guidance and love. We believe they will not labour in vain."

