



BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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LONDON NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánúm with John Long, Chairman of the United Kingdom National Assembly (left) and Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh (right).



AMATU'L-BAHÁ RÚHÍYYIH KHÁNUM IN NORTHERN IRELAND

CARRICKFERGUS 9–10 September 1978

Early in the morning of Saturday, 9 September, some of the Northern Ireland Bahá'ís began to gather in Carrickfergus to prepare the Town Hall for the eagerly awaited visit of Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum. Many of the friends had provided potted plants, ferns and flowers to decorate the hall and a beautiful bank of floral decoration was spread across the entire front of the stage.

The conference began at 2.00 pm in the presence of Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh, Board Members Beman Khosravi and Jack Costello, and National Assembly members — from the United Kingdom came Philip Hainsworth and Mary Hardy and from the Republic of Ireland Lesley Taherzadeh and Joe Watson.

The first session was a presentation of the goals and a summary of achievements, from which it was seen that one of the greatest difficulties confronting the friends in Northern Ireland is the difficulty of transport.

The second session was led by the Counsellor, Adib Taherzadeh, with Board Members Beman Khosravi and Jack Costello contributing. Counsellor Taherzadeh spoke first of the twin institutions of the Faith: he said that in this Faith things went in pairs — there were two Founders — the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh, two Interpreters — 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi, two houses for pilgrimage — one in Shiraz and one in Baghdad, two Holy Shrines — one in Haifa and the other in Bahji, two Holy Cities — Akká and Haifa, and twin pillars of the Faith — the elected and appointed institutions of the Faith. The first institution, the elected bodies — the Universal House of Justice, the National Assemblies and the local assemblies — was older and much better understood, but the second institution, the appointed bodies, was relatively new. Their functions were not yet as well known as those of the elected bodies. He said that we had now reached a stage when these two pillars of the Administrative Order must work together. It must be understood that the assemblies had been given authority, but the Hands, the Counsellors, the Board Members and their Assistants had been given the sacred function of working with the friends. He stressed that in teaching the Cause of God, the local assemblies should seek the help of the Board Members and their Assistants and drew the parallel of the use of human hands — if he wanted to write a letter he would use only one hand, but if he wished to pick up a bucket of water he would use two hands; it is often much easier to use two hands. If the local assemblies would only seek the help of the Board Members they would assuredly move forward much faster in their teaching work.

At the end of his talk he gave the good news that Italy and Portugal have both achieved their goals and he hoped that after the conference on the following weekend, the Republic of Ireland would have achieved theirs.

The evening was given over to entertainment — slides of part of the Green Light Expedition were shown and then there was music provided by several of the friends.

On Sunday morning there was a most moving session given by the members of both National Assemblies, but the highlight of the weekend was the long awaited visit to Ireland of Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum. She spoke of tests and suffering and said that the hardest service that anybody could render was to be a pioneer in Arabia, but second to this came Northern Ireland because it was known how much this country had suffered and, therefore, the friends here were very dear to the hearts of Bahá'ís everywhere else in the world. She said that the Irish people were a warm and loving people and this should make them ideal for carrying the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh to their countrymen.

This was the largest gathering of Bahá'ís Northern Ireland had ever seen and they showed their love and affection for this great lady.

About 120 people attended the conference; there were fifteen pioneer offers and fifteen travel teaching offers. Many people helped in different ways; among these were Pat and Marie Baillie and Jane Villiers Stuart, who led a contingent to prepare and decorate the hall; Ann Munro and Vida Lake who headed the party of caterers (without whom we would surely have flagged) and those who cared for the children.

It was a truly memorable occasion.



The day after the conference Amatu'l-Bahá met the Lord Mayor of Belfast and presented to him a book. With her at the interview were National Assembly members Philip Hainsworth and Keith Munro. The photograph above was taken in the Mayor's Parlour after the presentation.

The following telegrams were sent in connection with this conference:

From the Universal House of Justice to the United Kingdom National Assembly, 7 September 1978:

ARDENTLY PRAYING VICTORY CONFERENCE
NORTHERN IRELAND GRACED PRESENCE HAND
CAUSE AMATU'L-BAHÁ RÚHÍYYIH KHÁNUM WILL
REACTIVATE SPIRIT OF DEDICATION SELF
SACRIFICE WHICH ESTABLISHED FAITH THERE.
RECALL HISTORIC SERVICES MANY GALLANT
PIONEERS AND SACRIFICIAL EFFORTS LOCAL
BELIEVERS. STEADFASTNESS DEARLY LOVED
FRIENDS DURING YEARS DISTRESSING VIOLENCE
EXAMPLE TO ENTIRE BAHÁ'Í WORLD AND CLEAR
PROOF PROTECTION BAHÁ'U'LLÁH. URGE
GREATER EFFORT WIN GREATER FAVOURS
BLESSED BEAUTY ADD LUSTRE ALREADY NOBLE
RECORD. SHARE MESSAGE AMATU'L-BAHÁ.

From the National Assembly to the Universal House of Justice, 13 September:

NEARLY TWO HUNDRED FRIENDS GATHERED
CONFERENCE NORTHERN IRELAND HISTORIC
INSPIRING PRESENCE AMATU'L-BAHÁ RÚHÍYYIH
KHÁNUM. HEARTS FILLED GRATITUDE ASSURANCE
YOUR PRAYERS. FRIENDS ENDEAVOURING FULFIL
BELOVED HAND GEORGE TOWNSHEND'S HOPE
FOR IRELAND. FIFTEEN HOME FRONT PIONEER
FIFTEEN TRAVEL TEACHING OFFERS BEESEECH
PRAYERS TOTAL VICTORY ASSURE LOVING
LOYALTY.

From the Universal House of Justice to the United Kingdom National Assembly, 18 September 1978:

REJOICE HEARTENING OUTCOME CONFERENCE
NORTHERN IRELAND BLESSED PRESENCE
AMATU'L-BAHÁ PRAYING DIVINE ASSISTANCE
FRIENDS ACHIEVE HIGH PURPOSE AND BRING
JOY SOUL GEORGE TOWNSHEND ABHA KINGDOM.

LONDON NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Alexandra Palace, 24 September 1978

Unique in the history of the United Kingdom, this was the largest gathering to take place in this country since the Congress in 1963 — there were seven thousand Bahá'ís then, but a large proportion came from overseas. This London National Conference was composed almost exclusively of Bahá'ís resident in the United Kingdom, with just a small number of people who had been passing through London and had delayed their return in order to be able to attend. It was a wonderful and moving occasion with such a large number of British Bahá'ís coming together — and "British" in this context includes Persian believers who have made their homes here as pioneers.

These large conferences provide a tremendous stimulus — meeting old friends, making new ones, seeing people who have been in distant places for many years; hearing of teaching victories in other areas; learning of new approaches — but above all, on this particular occasion, having the opportunity to see and hear Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum, Hand of the Cause Alí Akbar Furútan and our own 'British' Persian, Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh.

Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum has addressed large audiences of British believers before, but never such a great gathering as this, and the love and appreciation which flowed out to her, to Mr Furútan and to Mr Taherzadeh must have warmed their hearts.

The conference began at 10 am, but long before that time friends started to gather from all over the British Isles — from Ireland and Wales and Scotland and the length and breadth of the English counties — there was no area of these islands which was not represented — and the great hall of the Alexandra Palace which will hold two thousand people was already half full before the meeting began. It was estimated that there were over 1800 people attending during peak periods.

The conference opened with a welcoming address by John Long, chairman of the United Kingdom National Assembly, who said that its purpose had been to get together in the last crucial stage of the Five Year Plan because there was so much which still remained to be done; there were still a large number of assemblies to be formed, a large number of districts to be opened and a large amount of money to be found. The National Assembly had felt that it was necessary for the community to meet together to gain a better knowledge and understanding of the sacrificial efforts which all of us must make. At this point he read the following cable from the Universal House of Justice:—

"ARDENTLY PRAYING THAT DEVOTED FOLLOWERS BAHÁ'U'LLAH UNITED KINGDOM INSPIRED BY PRESENCE AMATU'L-BAHA RESPONDING TO HER CALL WILL ARISE WITH UNPRECEDENTED DETERMINATION WIN EVERY GOAL ELECTRIFY BELIEVERS THROUGHOUT EUROPE LAY FIRM BASE NEXT STAGE PROSECUTION DIVINE PLAN".

Because the National Assembly had put such great emphasis on the need for the success of this conference, Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum had agreed to alter her plans in order to be present and she left for a tour of Japan on the following day. Hands of the Cause Alí Akbar Furútan and Abul Qazim Faizi had both been expected, but Mr Faizi had been taken ill and was therefore unable to be with us.

Mr Furútan addressed the first morning session and began by saying that he was very happy to be present at this unique occasion. He had just visited Belgium, the Republic of Ireland, France, Italy and Spain and told us how lucky we were to be English, for English is the language into which Shoghi Effendi translated so many of the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá. He said that we had had Nabil's Narrative (The Dawn-breakers) since 1932 and reminded us that only recently had it been translated into Spanish and that the French believers still do not have it in their own language.

In speaking of the Five Year Plan, he said that some of us might think that these teaching plans were new — we were wrong — teaching plans began with the Báb and the very first was the plan given to the Letters of the Living when He sent them out to each part of Persia — He told them how to teach and what to teach.

Bahá'u'lláh gave teaching plans and 'Abdu'l-Bahá's "Tablets of the Divine Plan" is a blueprint for all our work; the beloved Guardian worked out many plans, culminating in the Ten Year Crusade, and now we have the plans given by the Universal House of Justice. These plans provide a framework within which to work and we could not work properly without them. He spoke of the



Hand of the Cause Alí Akbar Furútan

local assemblies as the nucleus and foundation of our administration; he stressed that the Guardian had written about Bahá'í Administration in English and that it had needed to be translated into Persian for the Iranian believers. (Bahá'í Administration was not written as a book — it is a collection of letters from the Guardian which were published in a book by the American National Assembly: Ed).

Mr Furútan then quoted from the Bayan of the Báb in which He said that all the revealed religions of the world were meant to become universal and include within their pale all the peoples of the world. Those to be blamed for the failure of these religions to achieve this objective were their believers, who forgot their duty and failed to accomplish their task. He said that when Jesus was crucified He left only forty-two followers, who through their enthusiasm and sacrifice brought Christianity to the Roman Empire — Constantine became the first Roman Emperor about 330 years after Christ; after 900 years Christianity came to Russia; after 1000 to Denmark; after 1100 to Norway and in 1844 to East Africa, the last territory to accept Christianity.

He quoted further: "...this will not be the fate of Him Whom God will make manifest". Here lies a promise that the Bahá'í Faith will become universal and will encompass all the people of the world. We have this promise, but we also have the responsibility before God to work for its accomplishment as soon as possible. If through our shortcomings we fail to sacrifice and through our reluctance to concentrate our efforts, we should be held responsible before God that the human race would remain longer in its waywardness; that wars will not be so soon avoided and that human suffering would last longer.

At the conclusion of Mr Furútan's session there was a special commemoration. After the death of Lady Kathleen Hornell exactly a year ago, the Universal House of Justice had asked the National Assembly to arrange a befitting memorial. So far it had not proved possible, but now the National Assembly felt that this conference was an ideal time and had asked Philip Hainsworth to speak about her. Philip said that this was a truly appropriate occasion, as Kathleen Hornell had been such a dedicated pioneer and teacher. She died at the age of 87 and those who knew her would

remember her for her graciousness, kindness, warmth and for all those qualities which one imagined would be present in an English lady; but she was also remembered for her tremendous dedication to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh. In addition to this, however, Philip said that he thought of her as a "child of the administration". When she arrived in England with her young daughter from India (her daughter, Molly, married to Hand of the Cause Hasan Balyuzi, was present at the commemoration with one of her sons and at this point her presence was applauded by the assembled friends) she had found a house; the lady who owned it was Elizabeth Herrick, author of "Unity Triumphant". It was through reading the manuscript of this book that Kathleen turned to the Faith. In 1922 there were no such things as declaration forms, and the first indication that she had been accepted as a Bahá'í was when she received a voting paper for the election of the first National Assembly of the British Isles in 1923. Among her friends were the first, second and third British believers — Mrs Thornburgh Cropper, Mrs Rosenberg and Dr Esselmont — and also Lady Blomfield. From 1936 to 1945 she was a member of the NSA, being Treasurer and a member of several of its committees. She pioneered many times, some of her posts being Nottingham, Belfast, Venice and Sardinia. Philip spoke of intercession, and suggested that we call upon her help in our teaching work so that we might respond to the call of the plan with the same response which had characterised her fifty-five years as a Bahá'í. Then followed a most moving programme of readings which brought the morning session to a close with an intense feeling of dedication.

After a break, which was necessarily long to enable so many people to have lunch and meet old friends, the conference reconvened to listen to Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum. She began by saying that this was the largest gathering of British believers she had ever seen and felt it was a sign that the goals would be achieved. She said that we know from the teachings that when the Bahá'ís come together, forces are released and forces are set in motion that can have an effect on the individual and the community. She told us that she used to observe how Shoghi Effendi carried on his work — "whenever anything wiggled, he would look at it; if it wiggled a little more, he would give it more attention, and if it wiggled a lot he would give it a lot of attention. When we come together like this we attract the attention of the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi. We have gathered here for the purpose of winning the goals of the Universal House of Justice — we are nearing the end of the second plan given to us by the Universal House of Justice and it is all part of the Divine Plan of 'Abdu'l-Bahá which the Guardian himself began to implement during his lifetime to carry the Message of Bahá'u'lláh to every part of the world." She told the friends that towards the end of his life, Shoghi Effendi began to talk about a concept which she had not seen mentioned in such detail anywhere in the Writings. He said that there were two plans at work in the world today — our plan as Bahá'ís and the plan of Almighty God. We always think of our plans — the Seven Year Plan, the Six Year Plan, the Ten Year Crusade, etc., as the plan of God for the planet working through the Cause of God. Shoghi Effendi had said that there was another Plan — the



Molly Balyuzi, daughter of Lady Kathleen Hornell and wife of Hand of the Cause Hasan Balyuzi photographed at the commemoration.

Plan of God — which was working outside our plans and over which we had no control. God works through forces which are at His disposal alone; He works through catastrophe and earthquake and plague — forces which the Bahá'í community and the Administrative Order had no power to influence. Shoghi Effendi had said that a day would come in the future when these two plans would become one — the plan outside the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh was the one in which God was going to force humanity to learn to live together in peace. She felt that the terrible earthquakes in Persia and South America, the floods and famine in India, Australian bush fires and other catastrophies were all part of this outside plan and that God was kneading this planet and forcing it into shape.

Inside the British Isles we had our plan within the Administrative Order of Bahá'u'lláh which gave us a chance to play an infinitesimal part in the destiny of the Bahá'í Faith in our part of the world and the destiny of mankind, when we could truly have the Kingdom of God on earth. We were being asked to stand up and be counted — to stand up and be counted upon to do anything we could to win this plan of the Universal House of Justice — a



Hand of the Cause Mr Furútan, with members of the National Assembly during the commemoration programme for Lady Kathleen Hornell.

L-r: Betty Goode, John Long, Barbara Lewis, Simon Mortimore, Mr Furútan, Mary Hardy, Enayat Rawhani, Philip Hainsworth.

part of Bahá'u'lláh's plan for His Faith to carry the Cause of God to his people all over the world. She said that we did not have too much time to make up our minds — there was only a certain point in our lives to take action. She drew the parallel of ladies who visit sales and see articles they would like: they decide to go home and think about it, but when they decide to go back and buy, the articles have gone and the opportunities lost. She begged the community to grasp its opportunities and win the goals.

She then spoke of her visit to Ireland and how deeply impressed she had been with the spirit of the Irish Bahá'ís — she had found them a very warm-hearted and responsive people; she mentioned that there are only 300 Bahá'ís in the Republic of Ireland, but from this community twenty-seven pioneers had arisen at their conference.

Rúhíyyih Khánum told the friends of the tremendous strain undergone by the members of the Universal House of Justice and said that it was not a small thing to direct the Bahá'í world. She recalled how the Guardian had burned with his cares and responsibilities — that when he was distressed over a particular problem he would not eat sometimes for forty-eight hours. She went on to speak of the bounty for the British Bahá'ís of having the resting place of Shoghi Effendi here in London and the blessing of having one of the Central Figures of the Faith buried in our country. She went on to tell of the many times he had taken her to visit English gardens, showing his great love of gardens and beauty; of her visits with him to the House of Commons and other places. She finished by saying that her sort of hell would be to look back on this earth and on her life, to see the things which she had failed to do; and she besought everybody to follow Bahá'u'lláh's injunction to seize their opportunities — "Mount your steeds, oh heroes of God".

As she closed Adib Taherzadeh rose to call for pioneers and at the end of the afternoon seventy-eight adults, with youth and children raising the total to over a hundred, had arisen. These offers were carefully noted by a team set up by the National Teaching Committee.

During the latter part of the afternoon there had been an appeal to those who could not themselves pioneer to deputise others, and an appeal was made for funds resulting in donations of over £12,000.

At the end of the afternoon Rúhíyyih Khánum arose to thank all those who had made pioneer offers and to wish the British community every success in the winning of its goals.

HUQÚQU'LLAH

در این از سبب شیت الهی نازل قوله تعالی :

یا ایها الحسن علیک بهائی بعزت امرنا طرب باش و بتاجد به الافدة و العو
تکلمنا مطابیه حق ابد اجاز نموده نیست این حکم در کتاب الهی نازل لاجل بعضی
امور لازمه که من لدی الحق با سبب مقدر شده اگر نفسی بکمال رضا و خوشوقتی بکلمه
بصرا بخواهد باین فیض فائز شود قبول نماید و الا فلا . انتهى .



Rúhíyyih Khánum applauding pioneer offers. Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh in the background.

A conference of this kind demands an immense amount of work and a large number of Bahá'ís were involved in its organisation. It is quite impossible to name them, but the thanks of everyone should go to all who helped in general organisation, catering, preparation of devotionals, care of children, security, registration, catering and running the public address system.

It was a wonderful experience.

Reports by Lois Hainsworth

Photographs of the conference by:— Mike Cooper, Nadim Golmohamad, Lois Hainsworth and Golgasht Mossafaie, to whom many thanks.

'N.S.A. of the Bahá'ís' برای پرداخت حقوق الهی باید بایم
Mr. J. Long, 2 South St.,
Oakham, Rutland
ترجمه و بکادر :
ارسال کرد

TEACHING CONFERENCE

25—26 November

WINTER GARDENS
BLACKPOOL

NATIONAL FUND

Wonderful Response at the London National Conference

Following an SOS appeal by the National Assembly for Funds, there was an excellent response at the London National Conference, and a total of £11,525.00 was donated.

On 25 September the figures stand as follows:—

National Fund

Amount needed for the year from donations	£57,000
Target to 25 September	£15,346
Amount donated to 25 September	£19,078

Capital Projects Fund

Amount needed for the year from donations	£44,000
Target to 25 September	£12,573
Amount donated to 25 September	£12,604

National Deputisation Fund

Amount needed for the year from donations	£46,700
Target to 25 September	£11,846
Amount donated to 25 September	£6,826

From the foregoing figures it will be seen that the overall target for monies on 25 September is £39,765; we have had donated £38,508 therefore we are just £1,257 below target.

Very loving thanks to all those friends who responded so generously at this time. Please remember that to win the goals this rate has to be kept up through the year.

IMPORTANT

A reminder that the National Treasurer now lives at:

1 Loddington Lane, Belton, Uppingham LE15 9LA

Much correspondence is still going to the old address.

Betty Goode, National Treasurer

YOUTH CONFERENCE — NOTTINGHAM

9/13 July, 1978

"The field is indeed so immense, the period so critical, the Cause so great, the workers so few, the time so short, the privilege so priceless, that no follower of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, worthy to bear His name, can afford a moment's hesitation." (Guidance for Today and Tomorrow, p.223)

The National Youth Conference held on the beautiful campus of the University of Nottingham — the town being a county goal — on July 9–13, marked a turning point in the course of the Five Year Plan in this country.

The future of the world is held "daily in balance". We are the only ones who can redeem mankind from its waywardness. The Five Year Plan is not just a series of numbers and figures — it is a crucial stage in the overall development of God's divine plan. All the goals — not just the numerical ones — must be accomplished, otherwise the future development of the Bahá'í community is retarded and crippled. It is not too late. In the remaining nine months — the period of gestation for a human life — we can ensure the birth of a strong, healthy, victorious community.

Approximately 350 young people attended this historic gathering, representing 20 nationalities. Of these, 50% arose to travel teach: 92 on the homefront, and 48 overseas — many departing immediately after the conference, under the guidance of the National Teaching and International Goals Committees.

The gathering commenced with the commemoration of the Martyrdom of the Báb, on the Sunday evening — this was also the National Day of Prayer allocated by our National Spiritual Assembly. The official opening took place on the following morning by the Lord Mayor of Nottingham — the response being given by Counsellor Dorothy Ferraby.

Beloved Hand of the Cause, Mr Abu'l-Qasim Faizi, graced the conference by his presence. He greatly emphasised the importance of the role of youth. Youth is an exciting, challenging period of one's life — we must be fully equipped and prepared for teaching the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh. Soon there will come a time when we will be surrounded by people wishing to learn about the Cause. We

have to be ready. Marion Hofman, much-loved former Auxiliary Board Member in this country, recounted the story of Martha Root, a lady of slender means, yet through her devotion, confidence and sacrifices, travelled the world extensively, spreading the Message of Bahá'u'lláh.

Counsellor Betty Reed provided a comprehensive picture of the situation of the Five Year Plan within Europe. In each country the pattern was similar — the establishment of a local spiritual assembly in every county, and the opening of each locality and district to the Faith. The United Kingdom community was unique in the world, in that it had not been allocated specific local spiritual assembly goals, rather it was told "greatly increase" the number of these divinely-ordained institutions. Our National Spiritual Assembly, in its 'Programme for Victory' decided to double the number of assemblies existing at the end of the Nine Year Plan — bringing the number up to 200. At the time of the conference, 67 Assemblies had to be formed and 128 districts opened. "Only strenuous and sacrificial effort" by the friends could bring about the achievement of the outstanding goals.

We were privileged by the presence of many distinguished and knowledgeable speakers. Philip Hainsworth expounded on the importance and significance of the Lesser Peace, also on the relevance of the Five Year Plan. Zebby Whitehead outlined the lives of the early believers of the West. Tony McGuire and Tom Keenan (from north of the border) spoke movingly on two outstanding figures from the history of the Dawnbreakers — Vahid and Badi. Ruhi Behi recounted the significance of the Letters of the Living.

The lives of Thomas Breakwell and Lua Getsinger were the subjects of talks for Shahbaz Fathe'azam and Violette Zamiadi. Shomais Afnan, a familiar figure to the British Bahá'í community, spoke on the New Race of Men, of the future. Enayat Rawhani spoke about 'Abdu'l-Bahá. The slide presentation "Glimpses of Perfection" was shown, and a tape of the voice of 'Abdu'l-Bahá played; the atmosphere heaved with emotion.

The purpose of this conference was to inspire and motivate the youth to arise to travel teach and pioneer in these latter stages of the Plan. As volunteers were called for to fill places on teaching teams — they came first in dribs and drabs, then trickles, then waves. The transport and accommodation had been previously arranged — all that was required was the manpower and support of the participants.

Nine teaching teams were despatched to all corners of the United Kingdom:— Northern Ireland, Ettrick and Lauderdale, Tynedale, Middlesbrough, Hull, Colwyn and Aberconwy, Brecknock, Mendip and West Wilts., and Restormel. The minibus heading for Northern Ireland left Nottingham on the penultimate day of the conference, amidst singing, launching of balloons, and laughter — bringing into memory the Youth Conference in Fiesch, Switzerland, in 1971, during the closing stages of the Nine Year Plan. "Have Prayer book — Will Travel", as suggested by Mary Hardy, in her talk on the "Importance of Prayer", was adopted as the motto of the teaching teams. Indeed, many of those who arose to support the teams had only their prayerbooks and a few clothes.

"The Education of Henry Halifax", a musical play directed by Fiona McDonald, provided entertainment one evening. David Podger, pioneer from Papua New Guinea, held all enthralled with his presentation of slides from life and teaching work in that country.

Thanks must be expressed to all those who assisted in the conference organisation, both before and during the event — Norman Hudson, NYC secretary, who acted as the Registrar, Elahe Karirai, the Conference Chairman, and most of all to the Conference Committee:— Shohreh Youssefian, Zarin Hainsworth (both of whom were also serving on the NYC for the majority of the planning period of the gathering), Vafa Ram, Shahab Youssefian, and Shahbaz Fathe'azam.

The spirit of optimism, enthusiasm and confidence generated will ensure the total success of the Plan in this country, and to the other countries to which youth travelled.

"Now is the golden opportunity. For whatever convulsions the waywardness of a godless and materialistic age may yet precipitate in the world, however grievous may be the effects of the rolling up of the present order on the plans and efforts of the community of the Most Great Name, we must seize the opportunities of the hour and go forward confident that all things are within His mighty grasp and that, if we but play our part, total and unconditional victory will inevitably be ours." (Wellspring of Guidance, p.27)

Ruhi Haqjoo

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TEACHING

DENMARK

Denmark is a gentle country of 474 islands, and beech trees washed by the iridescent waters of many seas. It was here to this Scandinavian country of abundance and plenty that a spearhead team of two Bahá'ís (myself and a Danish Bahá'í) went travel teaching from November to February this year.

Our first teaching post was an island in the Baltic ocean called Bornholm. The beauty of the island with its round red-roofed churches, cobbled streets and timeless ocean imparted a feeling of infinite grace and blessedness. Indeed the Universal House of Justice has stipulated that there must be an assembly here and this is not difficult to imagine. Our major job here was to man a public exhibition in the library where 180 pamphlets and leaflets were taken and a large number of mainly young people told about the Faith. A public meeting was attended by one contact, and the speakers had flown from other islands to be present. Our hostel was virtually empty, but the wardens, old friends of the Bahá'ís, trusted us to remain in the building in their absence — a privilege we appreciated.

From here we moved to Nakskov to be spoiled by the local Bahá'ís. The Bahá'í centre in the small town was kept open from morning to late evening with an outside display of pamphlets, and the story of the Faith was told in brightly coloured posters. A public meeting, advertised in every shop from opticians to Danish pastry shops, was attended by six non-Bahá'ís, a large number by usual standards. It was Christmas, and the local schools we contacted wanted to consider our invitations for speakers after we were due to leave, but at least we managed to tell them about the Faith. In addition, a press article was published and the Bahá'í Centre listed as one of the town's amenities.

In Kolding in Jutland, we were joined by Farhang Tahzib from Aberdeen. Visits to cafes, libraries, the museum, a bookshop, the Christian centre, shops, pubs and friends' houses proved successful ways of contacting people. In the meantime we ventured into the town centre with a wooden display stand and invitations to a public meeting and public fireside. Despite the cold and snow, people stopped and listened. Our public meeting was attended by two non-Bahá'ís while we managed to bring three positive people to the fireside in a room in the town.

Schools and local clubs and societies were contacted and we managed to get two interviews with the Press, in addition to an instructive afternoon with two consultant psychiatrists. Some kilometres outside the town, an artistic exhibition was set up for two weeks in a high school where around eighty-seven pamphlets and booklets were taken. The school population was about 100, so fair success can be claimed.

From Kolding we moved westward to the new harbour at Esbjerg where there are only two Bahá'ís at present. Our short one month's stay was interrupted by a spirited conference in Copenhagen, but we still managed to make some friends for the Bahá'ís and friends who still write to us in England. Again our display stand, often swept away by the cold westerly wind, proved a successful method of proclamation; a public meeting was attended by a lady from Greenland who also brought her relatives.

An exhibition was set up in the local seminary and this was followed by a talk attended by around thirty students. In two places, the transcendental meditation centre was contacted and told about the Faith and other public talks and lectures attended in order to gain friends for the Faith.

Overall the experience of teaching in Denmark can be encapsulated in the following remarks: the friends in Denmark are warm, hospitable and dedicated souls, but there are few of them; in addition, the faith is young and Denmark a land of material prosperity; with its model social welfare system, it has advanced further toward what we as Bahá'ís want in a material sense than Britain, but yet the spirit is desiccated and the people starve for something they have never tasted.

Alec Oulton

Footnote

Long term travel teachers are still required for Denmark until April 1979. Also pioneers are still needed to fulfil our goal to this country. Offers for either pioneering or travel teaching to: Peter Stratton, International Goals Committee, 14 Bloomfield Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4NS.

FINLAND

The British team which spent six weeks in July and August travel-teaching in Finland, comprised of Richard and Corinne Hainsworth (who were married just one week before the trip) and myself.

After a three-day train journey, we arrived in Kemi, a Northern industrial town which needs six more Bahá'ís to form its local spiritual assembly. The week spent here was perhaps the most discouraging of the whole trip. We had bad weather and had to waste a lot of time walking into town each day from the camp site where we were staying. We had no translators as none of the local Bahá'ís spoke English and no activities had been planned for us. We were told that previous travel teachers had had great success by just talking to people in the streets and cafes. We ourselves found this very hard, partly due to the language problem, but mainly because teaching in this way just wasn't natural for us.

Things gradually became better after this week. We spent a few days in Lapland with a Finnish NSA member as our translator. We had two good public meetings and visited the village of Pokka (which has a population of twenty-nine!). The Lapp people were very warm, open and non-materialistic and said the Bahá'ís were always welcome.

The following week we went to the Finnish summer school, at which Hand of the Cause Mr Faizi gave many inspiring talks. One thing he said which cheered me greatly is that each one of us should find our own method of teaching as we are created differently and cannot all, for example, be expected to be brilliant street teachers.

After summer school we spent one week in each of the towns of Varkaus and Vaasa, both of which have active Bahá'í groups who had arranged various firesides and public meetings. We were now joined by two Finnish Bahá'ís, Pekka Samila and Ari Mommio, who are permanent travel teachers in Finland, and this helped greatly so far as communication was concerned.

On the journey between Varkaus and Vaasa we stopped for one night in Kangasala, where we stayed with Robert and Anna Kinghorn, a young English pioneer couple, who have settled happily in Finland.

Richard and Corinne had a very hectic few weeks, singing almost every day in cafes, supermarkets, hospitals and at firesides.

We then returned to Kemi for a few days with Pekka and Ari as translators. Kami Namdar, one of the two Auxiliary Board members for Finland, joined us while we were there and really helped to raise our spirits. We also met two Alaskan Eskimo Bahá'ís who gave a performance of Eskimo dance and folk tales one evening which was well attended. They could only stay two days with us, but they told us of the tremendous progress of the Faith in Alaska. The goal of the Five Year Plan for them is to have two per cent of the population as Bahá'ís!

This time we had more success in Kemi, and we managed to arrange visits to kindergartens and hospitals, which were good for proclamation.

The last week was spent in Oulu, just South of Kemi, and here meetings had been arranged for every evening so we felt we were doing something to help the local Bahá'ís.

We hope, anyway, that our efforts will yield some fruits. If nothing else, I feel that the hundreds of prayers we must have said during our trip will have a great spiritual effect on Finland.

We would like to thank the British Bahá'í Community, without whose support of the International Travel Teaching Fund we could not have taken what was for us a very valuable and memorable trip.

Becky Priem

Ed: The following letter was received by our National Assembly shortly after the return of this team, passed through the Finnish NSA:

Dear National Assembly,

We would like to thank you for the wonderful services of the three travelling teachers that you sent to us in August. Richard and Corinne Hainsworth and Becky Priem gave very much to our group of four Bahá'ís in this western coast town in Finland. We are very grateful for the many public appearances that Richard and Corinne could make, i.e. hospitals, marketplace, old peoples home, public meetings, etc. We are sure that their efforts have contributed greatly to the formation of the LSA of Vaasa in, we hope, the not too distant future.

May Bahá'u'lláh assist your efforts in fulfilling the remaining goals of the Five Year Plan.

BEARWOOD SUMMER SCHOOL

29 July/13 August, 1978

One of the three major objectives of the Five Year Plan is the "development of the distinctive character of Bahá'í life". This unique Summer School, held at Bearwood College, Wokingham, was entirely self-catering — hence the low costs — producing £350 profit. It was organised by the three local Spiritual Assemblies of South Oxfordshire, Slough and Windsor & Maidenhead (veterans of four schools held in Henley). At any one time, 260 people were resident, over 400 people attending throughout the School. Universal participation was the keynote for the school's success. All were members of teams for cooking, washing-up and cleaning — an especial rapport being produced in the performance of these tasks.

The gathering was blessed by the unexpected visit of Hand of the Cause, 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum. Over 600 friends attended on that day. In her address she stressed that in our teaching methods we must be simple and direct, emphasising a few main points. She also urged the British Bahá'í community, one and all, to arise to achieve the outstanding goals of the Five Year Plan — a task well within our capabilities. The example of the Six Year Plan, when 60% of the community pioneered, was brought to the attention of the friends. Hand of the Cause, Mr Abu'l-Qasim Faizi, graced the school during its second week. In his addresses he emphasised the need to be prepared and equipped for teaching the Faith of God.

Sessions took place during the mornings. Counsellors Betty Reed and Adib Taherzadeh held all enthralled; there was a series of talks on the "Secret of Divine Civilisation" and on "The Seven Valleys": speakers including Ian Semple, Ron Bates, Enayat Rawhani, Adam Thorne, and Lamah Fananapazir. Peter Smith, Robert Parry, and Bill Hellaby spoke on three major religions in "Our Debt to Islám", "Who Was the Buddha?" and "The Book of Revelation", respectively. The afternoons did not have formal programmes, but there were informal seminars and discussion groups. Many went teaching in the surrounding areas.

During the early evening, there were talks of more general interest, with non-Bahá'ís attending also; such as "Science and Religion" (Iraj Mottahedin), and "The Need for Religious Education in Schools" (Gerald Warren). Participants also supported public meetings in Wokingham and Windsor.

There were four declarations at the school; one of whom assured the formation of the Local Spiritual Assembly of Wokingham. The National Spiritual Assembly held a meeting over the middle weekend. They addressed the friends one evening — each speaking of the International Convention in Haifa and the effects which that momentous gathering will ensure.

Travel teachers and pioneers were called for (16 pioneer offers and 84 travel teaching offers were made). Representatives of the National Teaching, International Goals, and National Youth Committees were present to channel these offers. Many of the youth were already travel-teaching as a result of the Nottingham Conference, hence the apparent sparsity of offers.

There were three sets of youth and children's programmes running simultaneously with the adults' programme, for the 10–15, 6–10, and 0–6 year olds. These were conducted under the supervision of Davey Wright, Martin Cortazzi, Ray Humphrey and Rúhíyyih Haqjoo. During the afternoons the children had various activities arranged for them such as trips to the cinema, the Windsor Safari Park, and a swimming gala.

Two of the oldest Bahá'ís of this country, Bernard Leach CBE, and Richard St. Barbe Baker, Founder of the Men of the Trees, also attended — Mr Baker took a party of those interested on a tour of trees.

In the late evening there were informal discussion groups conducted by speakers. These are the hallmark of Summer Schools — the universities of the future. On one evening Julian Hellaby held all enthralled with a piano recital. The "Tutti Frutti" club, which organised informal programmes for the youth, such as slides and films, and sold fruit and shish kebab — raised £270 for the Fund.

The school was attended by many of the British friends who had pioneered overseas, or were now resident at the World Centre.

The school provided and inspired a fresh confidence and enthusiasm to "gird our loins" to achieve the remaining goals. Thanks must be expressed to all those who worked in the organisation of the school; especially to Mary Hardy, who arranged all the catering, Sue Hardy (Registrar), and Brant Hardy (Chairman).

Ruhi Haqjoo

JUNIOR YOUTH FARM WEEKEND

26–28 August, Manor Farm, Great Paxton, St. Neots.

On Saturday 26 August the quiet, rural village of Great Paxton saw a change in its midst as ten tents of various shapes and sizes were erected at Manor Farm. These tents were to become the home of approximately thirty-five Bahá'ís aged between eleven and fifteen from all over the United Kingdom for the weekend. 2.00 pm marked the beginning of this weekend with a session called "Getting to know you" taken by Peter Stratton followed by a general consultation with Rúhíyyih Haqjoo.

At 3.45 pm came the first serious talks with "VIRTUES" by Sue Podger for the youngest and "CHILDREN OF THE HALF LIGHT" by David Podger for the older. These were followed, at 4.30 pm, by useful discussion on various problems led and organised by Davey Wright. After this hunger prevailed and so at 6.00 pm dinner was served.

Everyone then collected inside for a slide show of the building of the Seat of the Universal House of Justice given by Ted Cardell.

Then, to cap a marvellous day, country and disco dancing took place in the garage until supper at 10.00 pm.

Sunday morning dawned, promising another sunny day, and from 6.30 am the campers began to appear. A good breakfast of bread, porridge and eggs followed a brief tidy up and at 10.00 am the day's school began. First came a devotional and a session on "THE IMPORTANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF PRAYER" by Arthur Weinberg, then, after a short break, Davey Wright discussed "ASPECTS OF BAHÁ'Í ADMINISTRATION" with the younger group and Peter Stratton "THE RELEVANCE OF THE FIVE YEAR PLAN" with the older.

Lunch was followed by a hike which ended in the granary. Yes, in the Granary! Here a great time was had by all, jumping up and down in heaps of grain. (This was to replace the timetabled straw-fight as straw was not available).

At 4.00 pm, when everyone had rid themselves of excess grain, David Podger took the younger group for "WHAT'S THAT BADGE YOU'RE WEARING?" and Ruhi Haqjoo organised the junior youth panel to speak on "ASPECTS OF BAHÁ'Í ADMINISTRATION". Then, at 7.30 pm, having consumed another delightful dinner, everyone was ready for another enjoyable evening, which this time began with an American auction. (This was very successful and raised £15.21 for the Bahá'í fund). To end the evening Davey Wright organised some skits which kept everybody amused until supper at 10.00 pm.

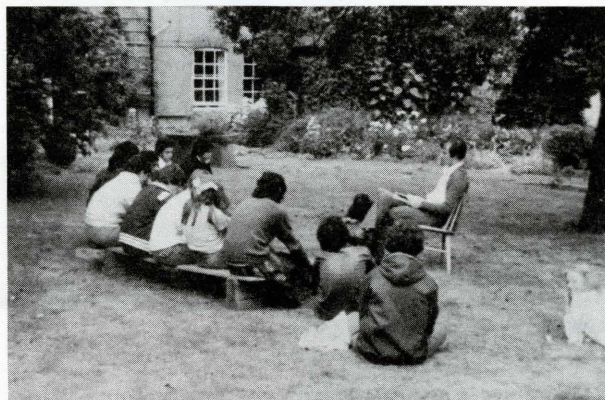
Monday morning dawned with a fine drizzle, but this soon cleared and by 10.00 am the first session "HOW TO GIVE BAHÁ'Í TALKS", by Sue Podger, got under way. Following this the "Tutti-Frutti" tuck shop had its closing sale during the short break before the last talk which was "TEACHING YOUR FRIENDS THE FAITH" by Marie Harder. Next came lunch and just as this was finishing everyone was called to the back kitchen for a surprise . . . there were four beautiful cakes, complete with three candles each, for Ivan Podger's twelfth birthday. This made a delightful end to a truly wonderful weekend.

2.00 pm and the farewell session came only too soon, but at this it was agreed by all that another longer camp was needed next year. It was also decided that this camp should include stories about early believers, talks by the campers themselves and more discussion.

I would like to finish by thanking everyone involved in making this farm weekend such a success especially Mr & Mrs T. Cardell, who had given permission to use their farm for the weekend, their family, the kitchen staff and Ruhi Haqjoo (Registrar) on behalf of all the campers.

Roger Wilkinson

Peter Stratton leading a discussion group.



SERVICE FOR THE BLIND COMMITTEE

NOTICES

PERSONAL READER SCHEME

We should very much like to link each of the blind friends through tape with a personal reader who will read for him/her any material requested, for example extracts from books, topical material or quotations on particular subjects. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this service, or would like to volunteer to be a personal reader, please let us know.

TAPE LIBRARY

Following our article "Questions and Answers about becoming a Volunteer Reader", in the February Journal, we have received several sample tapes. At present we have a good number of volunteers, but if you have been thinking of sending a sample tape, by all means do.

We have at last been recognised by the Post Office as a Library for the Blind, so we can now send out tapes post free. So now is the time to begin requesting books — titles available on cassette are listed in the February 1978 Journal and those available only on 1 7/8 ips open reel tape are listed in the April 1977 issue.

BRAILLE CLASS

The first "graduate" of our Braille class, Betty Begent (Colchester) has started work on the transcription of "Abdu'l-Bahá" by H. M. Balyuzi. Anyone who may be interested in joining the class, please write for details.

BRAILLE LIBRARY

The following additions have been made since November 1977. Those marked * are in American Braille.

"The Dawn Breakers", Nabil's Narrative of the Early Days of the Bahá'í Revelation. Volumes 10 and 12 of 13 Volumes, completing the Nayriz upheaval and containing accounts of the Martyrdom of the Báb, the Zanjan upheaval (continued in Volume 11, to be available shortly), and the attempt on the life of the Shah and its consequences.

"The Bahá'í Revelation", Volumes 4, 6 and 7 of 7 Volumes: Contain the Tablets of Tarazat, Tajalliyat and Ishraqat, the Kitab-i-'Ahd, the passage "Whoso layeth claim to a revelation" from the Kitab-i-Aqdas, meditations of Bahá'u'lláh and extracts from Tablets and talks of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on a variety of subjects. Volume 5 will be available shortly.

"Trustees of the Merciful", by Adib Taherzadeh. 1 Volume.

"God Passes By", by Shoghi Effendi. In 12 Volumes.

"Study Guide to God Passes By", arranged by Horace Holley. In 1 Volume.

ENQUIRIES

Please address all enquiries and correspondence to our secretary:

Oliver Christopherson
68 Briardale
Stevenage. Herts SG1 1TR
Telephone: Stevenage (0438) 55983

MARRIAGES

9 September 1978: Catherine Sheppard to Brian Stone, in Inverness (The second Bahá'í marriage under the Scottish law)

9 September 1978: Maureen Reid to Gordon Kerr, in Stirling.
12 October 1978: Clare Robson to Simon Mortimore, in Epsom.

BIRTHS

[REDACTED]

"O Thou Who art the Lord of all men! Grant then, O my God, that Thy servant may consort with Thy chosen ones, Thy saints and Thy Messengers in heavenly places that the pen cannot tell nor the tongue recount." (Red Prayer Book)

DEATHS

9 January 1978: Clarence Lacey
10 July 1978: Will Stevens, in Chelmsford.
19 July 1978: Hannah Beattie, in Portsmouth.
30 August 1978: Albert Joseph, in Manchester.
3 September 1978: Mrs Cohen (aged 105), in Colwyn Bay.
14 September 1978: Elsie Cranmer, in Bournemouth.
September 1978: Frederick Crain, in Dartford.
6 October 1978: Jeanette Batrick, in New Zealand.
16 October 1978: Edith Coltham, in Canterbury.
19 October 1978: Marcia Charles, in Poole.
22 October 1978: Joan Giddings, in Canterbury.

DEADLINE: As the Bahá'í Journal must now await distribution with other National Assembly material, would the friends please observe the regular deadline dates — six weeks before the first day of the month in which it is scheduled for publication — as follows:

February issue	— deadline	— 15 December
April		15 February
June		15 April
August		15 June
October		15 August
December		15 October

Please send **TYPEWRITTEN** copy (PLEASE) and black and white glossy photographs to the Editor:

Lois Hainsworth (Mrs)
136 Thurlow Park Road,
West Dulwich,
London SE21.

THE ONWARD MARCH OF THE FAITH

We warmly welcome to the community the following new believers, recorded in the National Office between 8 June and 29 September 1978.

ADULTS:

Miss Irene Barton (Gloucester); Mrs Gaenor Carter (Wealdon); James Harrison (Broxbourne); Mrs Susan Howard (Lambeth); Harold Jack (Wychavon); Robert Lawton (Sheffield); Mrs Denise Lawton (Sheffield); Farhad Mostaghimi (Luton); Miss Manijeh Mostaghimi (Luton); Mrs Ivy Beatrice Page (Thurrock); Narendra Pande (Plymouth); Miss Shideh Leyton (Sutton); Mrs Berkhuyzen (Tunbridge); Mrs Margaret M. Bourne (Wrekin); Philip Fadzomor (Luton); Miss Sharon Elizabeth Pattie (Hatfield); Mrs Iris MacCallum (S. Oxon); Mrs Assieh (Nee Khammisi) Mondavi (Luton); Ronald Remy (Kingston upon Hull); Michael Everard (Kingston upon Hull); Mrs Heaëlla Rupp (Wycombe); Trevor George Smithson (Ipswich); Mrs Joy Appaswamy (Greenwich); R. A. Baker (Westminster); Mrs Shabani Bloor (Vale of the White Horse); Stephen John Blowfield (S. Oxon); Mrs Dorothy Bone (Derby); Mrs Margaret Eileen Brown (Thurrock); Mrs Louise Clay (Mendip); Mrs Leonora Cohen (Colwyn); Mrs Edith Coltham (Canterbury); Miss Linda Cordell (Teignbridge); Frederick Crane (Dartford); Mrs Pat Green (Reading); Mrs Jean-Anne Greenaway (Worthing); Asad Hewlett (Banff & Buchan); Mrs Sarah Hewlett (Banff & Buchan); Mrs Deirdre Hudson (Wealden); Miss Helga Jenkins (Westminster); Dr Nilda Nadya Lamprill (Orkney); Miss Pearl Lawson (Lincoln); Mrs Jackie Learmonth (Restormel); Mrs D. V. Moorey (Hove); Y. Navaratnam (Greenwich); Mrs Margaret Perren (Aylesbury); Denis Edward Perren (Aylesbury); Mrs Diane Perry (Test Valley); Sajid Hussain Shah (Sheffield); Nick Sier (Banff & Buchan); Mrs Joyce Thomas (Wokingham).

YOUTH:

Russell John Attwood (Kettering); Mrs Susan Billing (Crawley); David R. Cook (Brecknock); Graham Hales (Pendle); Amal Maani (Restormel); Kenneth Marsh (St Helens); Mrs Jaqueline Mehdinejad (Barking); Miss Afsaneh Parwizi (Thanet); Miss Rachel Kay Perren (Aylesbury); Mrs Bano Batool Shah (Sheffield); Miss Margaret Syme (Inverness); Ramin Yamini (Reading); Kareh Pourteymour (Cheadle); Miss Fariba Sabeti (Welwyn).

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

BARNET: Earlier this year the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor David Burton, planted a tree on behalf of the Bahá'í Community of Barnet at the site selected by the Borough Engineer at the main Ballards Lane entrance to Victoria Park.

A small representative group of Bahá'ís welcomed the Mayor who spoke of the loss of trees due to disease in the Borough and the concern of his administration to maintain the beauty of the area by the replanting of trees whenever possible. He much appreciated the public spirit of such organisations as the Bahá'ís who showed their civic pride in tree planting and in the maintenance of the parklands and the green belt nature of the Borough.

In reply, Philip Hainsworth, Public Relations Officer of the United Kingdom Bahá'í Community, said that the Bahá'ís of Barnet were not only delighted to purchase a tree for the Borough, but also felt that the planting of this tree was symbolic of their vital and whole-hearted concern for two of the great problems facing mankind today. As man used up more and more of the carbon fuels and, at the same time, destroyed the earth's tree coverage, the balance between carbon dioxide absorption and oxygen production was upset and the pollution of the atmosphere was increased. Bahá'ís the world over were working hard in thousands of centres to help to improve the environment and the quality of life of all the inhabitants of the earth. They were also involved in efforts to resist the spread of deserts which themselves resulted from the wholesale destruction of trees. At world level, through United Nations agencies, the Bahá'í International Community was constantly involved in this work of improving the environment, of which mankind itself is a part, by teaching the basic Bahá'í principle of the oneness of mankind. This tree now being planted therefore symbolised the real involvement at local level of the Bahá'í communities the world over and their dedication to the progress and betterment of the whole human race. This approach was further emphasised by the presentation to the Mayor of a most pertinent book, "The Earth is but One Country", by John Huddleston.

CRAVEN: Dr Richard St. Barbe Baker, founder of the Men of the Trees, was the guest on Sunday, 30 July of the North Craven Heritage Trust at their Museum in Settle. The evening of the same day he spoke on his work of fighting the spread of deserts and planting trees at a public meeting in Settle to about sixty people, a meeting well supported by the Bahá'ís of surrounding communities as well as by many members of the Heritage Trust.

The following day he spoke about his work to an audience of some fifty people at the Town Hall in High Bentham. In all the meetings a wonderful spirit of fellowship was evident and at all of them Dr Baker mentioned the Bahá'í Faith. The numbers of people attending these meetings surprised some local people who learnt of the Bahá'í support they were receiving and had their curiosity aroused about the Faith. One member of the North Craven Heritage Trust has since received literature.



The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor David Burton planting a tree in Victoria Park. (Photograph by the Hendon Times).

On Tuesday, 1 August, Dr Baker spoke at a fireside in the house of Bill and Madeline Hellaby in High Bentham and, though the numbers attending were modest, at least two who attended were deeply interested and one has now been presented with copies of "Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era" and "The Hidden Words".

The supporting cluster around Craven were exceedingly generous in their financial help which made the widespread publicity possible. Whilst in High Bentham Dr Baker was interviewed by a reporter of "The Yorkshire Post" who travelled from Leeds to spend two hours talking to him, and left with books about the Faith. This resulted in a splendid article.

IPSWICH: Several exciting events have taken place recently in the town and area. We had on the Feast of Izzat (Will) 8 September, a wonderful gathering of twenty-seven friends from the community and neighbourhood, with visitors from Australia, Cyprus, Sweden and Malaysia, together with friends from about six communities in this country, as far away as Gloucester and London, who were visiting the town. The local community were both surprised and delighted to see so many new and old friends unexpectedly.

The following day was the first local Bahá'í wedding in the town. As this was one of the community marrying a local Christian resident, it caused some local interest. One of the Bahá'ís had tried to get permission for the groom to have either a church wedding in his family church or the use of the hall for the Bahá'í wedding and reception without success. The local community had agreed at a previous Feast to give the reception to the bride and assist in every way over this. This was much appreciated by the bride's family and very favourably commented upon by the guests and of the community and family spirit of the occasion.

At the wedding held in the Unitarian hall, Hugh McKinley gave an introduction to the wedding and Bahá'í Faith, as requested by the bridegroom, for the benefit of his family and friends. Fraser Dunbar represented the Assembly and married the couple. It was a very pleasant and humorous occasion. Between the prayers and readings, fairly modern music was played with a spiritual theme. A short article in the paper described the wedding as a 'Pop Wedding'!

A happy footnote to the occasion. The couple have now secured a house, after patient waiting, in Babergh, the goal area immediately adjacent to Ipswich. The bridegroom is now a declared Bahá'í and they have the warmest wishes and support from the whole community as pioneers in Babergh.



Seven members of the first Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Preston, which was formed in May. Auxiliary Board Member Joe Foster third from left.

NORTHAMPTON: On 15 September Bahá'ís from Northampton, East Northants and Kettering, presented, on behalf of the Northampton Spiritual Assembly, the book, 'The Earth is But One Country', to the Mayor of Wellingborough. The Mayor was accompanied by a senior council official who expressed keen curiosity and particularly asked for the explanation of the Faith to be held back until he could return after making coffee for everyone.

The discussion lasted two hours and both the Mayor, Mrs Ritchie, and the official asked many probing questions about the principles of the Faith and activities of local Bahá'í communities. At the end of the session Mrs Ritchie expressed her pleasure at meeting Bahá'ís and promised to study the book carefully. She also said that anticipation of the visit by the Bahá'ís had generated much curiosity in the council chambers and her colleagues would be asking her about the meeting.

The local newspaper carried a photograph of the presentation and an accompanying article submitted by Mrs Ritchie. In this, her concluding remark was: "I spoke to them for a couple of hours and although it may take a long time for their aims to be achieved, their philosophy is quite stimulating." The newspaper has a wide circulation in both an LSA goal area and an unopened district.



Bahá'ís from Northampton, East Northants and Kettering present 'The Earth is but One Country' to the Mayor of Wellingborough, Mrs Patricia Ritchie.



During the summer there was a teaching project in Middlesbrough and it coincided with a jazz concert at which Dizzie Gillespie performed. Dizzie always mentions the Faith at his concerts and was recently a guest at the White House, where he performed a duet with President Carter who sang "Salty Peanuts"! Afterwards Dizzie gave him a Bahá'í book which the President promised to read. The photograph shows Dizzie Gillespie with some of the teaching team and local Middlesbrough Bahá'ís.

SEVENOAKS: We have had some very interesting firesides this year and besides holding them in the homes of members, we have two very kind non-Bahá'í friends who enjoy opening their houses for this purpose. One of these is the eighty-three year old widow of a Methodist minister, and on one occasion she asked her own minister if he would care to come. He did come, obviously determined to listen with tolerance, but nothing else, but by the end of the meeting he was deeply interested and in no hurry to move! There are a number of contacts who come fairly regularly but don't feel ready to commit themselves.

We decided to support the Annual Day of Prayer for All Children which originated with the White Dove Friendship Circle in Bournemouth and is now increasingly being recognised in various parts of the world. We notified all the members of the Sevenoaks Council of Churches and some other organisations, giving them details and suggesting that they might like to support it, either in their own communities or by coming to two events we were holding, one on the Day and one on the Saturday afternoon for children.

We only had two letters of reply supporting the Day, but hope it was remembered by the others in spite of this. Our meeting on the Friday went well, and prayers and readings from the world faiths about or in connection with children or unity were read, and then Adam Thorne spoke about education and the character training necessary to equip children to be the 'Guardians for Tomorrow'. He stressed the importance of the family as the basic unit of society and how it could be used as the blueprint for the world family of nations.

The Saturday gathering for children, which was at the Friends Meeting House, was a great success. There were fifteen children present, six Bahá'í and nine non-Bahá'í, mostly friends of our one child in the community of school age, Maria Rallings aged nine, and they were nearly all dressed in varying national or other costumes. We started by telling them about the day — that it was to think about all the children in the world, especially those who were starving, unhappy or less fortunate than themselves. Then the children read prayers on behalf of each of the world faiths.

This was followed by a presentation based on 'Prayers from the Ark' by Carmen Bemos de Gasztold translated by Rumer Godden in which the children took part (one of our members, David Brown, had written an introduction and also dressed as Noah, and Julie Bryant had painted a beautiful ark with the animals!). After this there were games and refreshments, and we gave each child a little 'passport to Peace' for 'Tomorrow's World Citizen' containing quotations from all faiths showing how they think alike and all look forward to the time when the world will be one.

Since this meeting some of the children have been taken for a picnic, and eventually when we know the children and parents better, we hope to suggest a class which they might like to attend to learn a little about other faiths.



Some members of the teaching team to Mendip at the exhibition in the Town Hall. (Photograph by Mike Cooper.)

Bahá'í Publishing Trust

2 South Street
Oakham
Rutland



MAGNIFIED BE THY NAME

A new printing of this long-time favourite book of prayers and thoughts for children from the Bahá'í Holy Writings is available.

Originally compiled by the Child Education Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom (British Isles as it then was), it has a full page illustration of the Shrine of the Báb as frontispiece, 48 of its 64 (viii + 58) pages are printed in two colours, 17 having miniature illustrations, a contents page at the front, indices to first lines, lists of references and four pages of the meanings of words which children find difficult when reading the text defined in terms which they can understand at the end of the book.

Red Linson bound hardback with gold lettering and the same 'flying horse and star' endpapers as for the previous edition, it now comes with a new jacket most attractive to children, the design for which was created especially for this edition by book designer Tony Shearing.

B11

£1.50

BAHÁ'Í PRINCIPLES FOR CHILDREN

Written by R E Ford and illustrated by E Povey, this little book takes five of the principles of the Faith, prejudice, the harmony of religion and science, unity, independent investigation of the truth and the introduction of an auxiliary language, and explains them in the form of well told stories which should prove very attractive for young children. The illustrations are an added attraction and the little book will be a happy addition to the libraries of families with young children, both as a bed-time reading book for mothers with very young children, as well as for those children who have learned to read.

B119

30p

LET THY BREEZE REFRESH THEM

This is a really beautiful prayer book for children. Some time ago the Universal House of Justice released a compilation of prayers for children and our National Assembly asked the Publishing Trust to prepare something special. The result was an impressive, hard backed prayer book, containing some exquisite colour photographs of flowers, animals, birds and landscapes which add to the beauty of the words and must surely attract the attention of children. It is a refreshingly lovely book for *anyone* who loves beautiful things.

B138

£1.35

BAHA'I PRAYERS FOR CHILDREN

A selection of prayers for the use of children — it is in large type for easy reading.

B8 (Stiff blue cover)

15p

POKKA'S STORIES by Betty Reed

Some years ago, as a result of a visit to Finland, Counsellor Betty Reed wrote a number of stories for children. They were designed to be read by very young readers, or to be read to children who cannot yet themselves read and the language is very simple and suitable for this purpose. Pokka, who appears on the first page, is a little Finnish girl and these are stories written as though told by her.

There are seven stories altogether, and they cover the history of the life of Bahá'u'lláh, giving His background and the story of the early days of the Faith, through His exile to Baghdad, His years in the wilderness of Kurdistan, His journeys to Constantinople, Adrianople and Akka. The last story deals with his departure from Akka until His passing at Bahji.

There are very few books of stories for children and this one will make a welcome addition for parents wishing to tell these stories in a simple way. We all know how important it is to tell our children the stories of our Faith so that they will learn to love them, and here we have the story of Bahá'u'lláh's life told in a way which will attract children.

This book was held up for some time because it was difficult to find an illustrator who could draw pictures which would attract children — the illustrations which were finally commissioned are delightful and should interest our little ones.

The book is printed in black with illustrations in shades of brown on a light buff-coloured paper, which is quite unusual and most attractive, and the cover is a drawing of the photograph of the City Gate of Tihrah which appears in the American edition of 'The Dawnbreakers'.

B139

99p

FUTURE PUBLICATIONS

There are at present two Bahá'í books for children being processed by the Publishing Trust. One a delightful book which tells of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and the other a thrilling adventure story which gives glimpses into the past as well as a vision of peaceful living in the future.

