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First Meeting of the International Teaching Centre – Bahjí – June 14, 1973.

'Alí Akbar Furútan Paul E. Haney 'Azíz Yazdí Hooper Dunbar Abú'l-Qásim Faizí
Florence Mayberry 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum

INTERNATIONAL TEACHING CENTRE

"ANNOUNCE ESTABLISHMENT HOLY LAND LONG ANTICIPATED INTERNATIONAL TEACHING CENTRE DESTINED EVOLVE INTO ONE THOSE WORLD SHAKING WORLD EMBRACING WORLD DIRECTING ADMINISTRATIVE INSTITUTIONS ORDAINED BY BAHÁ'U'LLÁH ANTICIPATED BY 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ ELUCIDATED BY SHOGHI EFFENDI STOP MEMBERSHIP THIS NASCENT INSTITUTION COMPRISES ALL HANDS CAUSE GOD AND INITIALLY THREE COUNSELLORS WHO WITH HANDS PRESENT HOLY LAND WILL CONSTITUTE NUCLEUS ITS VITAL OPERATIONS STOP CALLING UPON HOOPER DUNBAR FLORENCE MAYBERRY AZIZ YAZDI PROCEED HOLY LAND ASSUME THIS HIGHLY MERITORIOUS SERVICE STOP OFFERING PRAYERS HEARTFELT GRATITUDE SACRED THRESHOLD THIS FURTHER EVIDENCE ORGANIC EVOLUTION ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER BAHÁ'ULLÁH".

5 June 1973

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL TEACHING CENTRE

The centennial year of the revelation of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas has already witnessed events of such capital significance in the annals of the Bahá'í Dispensation as to cause us to contemplate with awe the rapidity with which Divine Providence is advancing the Cause of the Most Great Name. The time is indeed propitious for the establishment of the International Teaching Centre, a development which, at one and the same time, brings to fruition the work of the Hands of the Cause residing in the Holy Land and provides for its extension into the future, links the institution of the Boards of Counsellors even more intimately with that of the Hands of the Cause of God, and powerfully reinforces the discharge of the rapidly growing responsibilities of the Universal House of Justice.

This International Teaching Centre now established will, in due course, operate from that building designated by the Guardian as the Seat for the Hands of the Cause, which must be raised on the arc on Mount Carmel in close proximity to the Seat of the Universal House of Justice.

The duties now assigned to this nascent institution are:

- To co-ordinate, stimulate and direct the activities of the Continental Boards of Counsellors and to act as liaison between them and the Universal House of Justice.
- To be fully informed of the situation of the Cause in all parts of the world and to be able, from the background of this knowledge, to make reports and recommendations to the Universal House of Justice and give advice to the Continental Boards of Counsellors.
- To be alert to possibilities, both within and without the Bahá'í community, for the extension of the teaching work into receptive or needy areas, and to draw the attention of the Universal House of Justice and the Continental Boards of Counsellors to such possibilities, making recommendations for action.
- To determine and anticipate needs for literature, pioneers and travelling teachers and to work out teaching plans, both regional and global, for the approval of the Universal House of Justice.

All the Hands of the Cause of God will be members of the International Teaching Centre. Each Hand will be kept regularly informed of the activities of the Centre through reports or copies of its minutes, and will be able, wherever he may be residing or travelling, to convey suggestions, recommendations and information to the Centre and, whenever he is in the Holy Land, to take part in the consultations and other activities of the Centre.

In addition, we now appoint Mr Hooper Dunbar, Mrs Florence Mayberry and Mr 'Aziz Yazdi to membership of the International Teaching Centre, with the rank of Counsellor. These believers, who have been serving with distinction on the Continental Boards of Counsellors in South America, North America and Central and East Africa respectively, will henceforth reside in Haifa and will, together with the Hands present in the Holy Land, constitute the nucleus of the operations of the Centre.

Authority for the expulsion and reinstatement of Covenant Breakers remains with the Hands of the Cause of God. All such matters will be investigated locally by the relative Continental Board of Counsellors in consultation with any Hand or Hands who may be in the area. The Continental Board of Counsellors

and the Hands concerned will then make their reports to the International Teaching Centre where they will be considered. The decision whether or not to expel or reinstate will be made by the Hands of the Cause residing in the Holy Land who will, as at present, submit their decision to the Universal House of Justice for approval.

The following changes to the zones of the Continental Boards of Counsellors are now made:

- The number of zones has been raised to twelve by the removal of India, Tibet, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Laccadive, Maldives, Andaman and Nicobar Islands from the zone of Western Asia to constitute the new zone of South Central Asia.
- The Philippines, Hong Kong and Macau are transferred from North-eastern Asia to South-eastern Asia.
- The Caroline Islands and all other Pacific Islands lying north of the equator and between longitudes 140° east and 140° west, with the exception of the Gilbert Islands, will be transferred from the zone of Australasia to the zone of North-eastern Asia. Islands under the jurisdiction of the National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska remain in the zone of North America.

The number of Counsellors is now raised to fifty-seven by the appointment of Mr Friday Ekpe and Mr Dhikru'llah Kazimi in North-western Africa, Mr Hushang 'Ahdiiyyih and Mr Peter Vuyiya in Central and East Africa, Dr Sarah Pereira and Mrs Velma Sherrill in North America, Mr Rowland Estall and Mr Paul Lucas in Central America, Mrs Leonora Armstrong, Mr Peter McLaren and Mr Raul Pavon in South America, Mr Dipchand Khianra and Mrs Zena Sorabjee in South Central Asia, Mr Firaydun Mithaqiyah in South-eastern Asia, Mr Richard Benson and Miss Elena Marsella in North-eastern Asia and Miss Violet Hoehnke in Australasia. Dr William Maxwell who has been rendering distinguished service as a member of the Continental Board of Counsellors in North-western Africa has been obliged to return to the United States.

Mrs Zena Sorabjee is appointed Trustee of the new Continental Fund of South Central Asia, while Mr Hushang 'Ahdiiyyih and Mr Mas'ud Khamsi are appointed the new Trustees of the Continental Funds of Central and East Africa and South America respectively.

Beyond these significant developments at the World Centre of the Faith and on the continental level, it is becoming increasingly necessary in many parts of the world for the Auxiliary Boards to be reinforced. The nature of the work differs from zone to zone and the Universal House of Justice is now consulting the Boards of Counsellors on this matter before making an announcement.

The decisions now announced are the outcome of deliberation extending over a number of years, reinforced by consultations with the Hands of the Cause of God, and especially with the Hands residing in the Holy Land who were requested in 1968 to assist the Universal House of Justice in the establishment of the International Teaching Centre, a task that now increases in magnitude as that Centre begins its work.

It is our fervent prayer that the Blessed Beauty will abundantly confirm this latest unfoldment of His divinely-purposed Administrative Order.

8 June 1973

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

"MARRIAGE" TABLET

With regard to your question concerning the so-called Marriage Tablet printed on page 47 of the supplement of the British Prayer Book, this is not a Tablet, but a talk ascribed to the Master by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab. It was given some time in December, 1918 about Sohrab's marriage. It cannot be regarded as Bahá'í scripture as nothing can be considered as scripture for which we do not have an original text, as the beloved Guardian pointed out. The friends may use this talk, but it is not to be considered as scripture.

18 January 1971 THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

TO ALL PIONEERS WHO HAVE SERVED OR ARE SERVING IN PIONEER POSTS DURING THE NINE YEAR PLAN.

With the triumphant conclusion of the Nine Year Plan the National Spiritual Assembly wishes to express deepest and loving gratitude to the pioneers who arose during the Plan and hastened to the goals assigned to this community by the Universal House of Justice.

To those still serving in far-away places, in the remote Pacific and the Far East, throughout the great African continent, in the islands of Europe and in the Americas, and equally to the friends who completed a tour of one or more years before being obliged to return, as well as to the valiant band of pioneers throughout the United Kingdom, we send the warmest loving appreciation of this entire Bahá'í community.

You have added lustre to the annals of the British Bahá'ís by your sacrifices and devotion, severed from family and friends and all that is dear and familiar. But we know that you have been sustained always by the consciousness of service to our Lord Bahá'u'lláh in a field which the beloved Guardian has extolled as comparable in station to that of the martyrs of the Heroic Age.

"They that have forsaken their country for the purpose of teaching Our Cause — these shall the Faithful Spirit strengthen through its power. A company of our chosen angels shall go forth with them, as bidden by Him Who is the Almighty, the All-Wise. How great the blessedness that awaiteth him that hath attained the honour of serving the Almighty! By My life! No act, however great, can compare with it except such deeds as have been ordained by God, the All-Powerful, the Most Mighty."

We know that you are the spear-head of a mighty army of pioneers who will go out from these islands through the coming centuries to win great victories for Bahá'u'lláh and to conquer the entire planet in His name.

Dearest friends, we hail and extol your deeds.

16 May 1973 THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

FROM HAND OF THE CAUSE WILLIAM SEARS

Beloved Friends:

It had been my plan to be present with you in person on this wonderful occasion, and to express my love, admiration, joy and happiness at the courage displayed by your National Community in arising to achieve the marvellous victories of the NINE YEAR PLAN.

Although I was unable to be with you on this inspiring occasion, I have sent the attached message of loving congratulations, and, I hope, encouragement. You are always in my thoughts and prayers, and words are powerless to express my love and appreciation to the Continental Boards of Counsellors, the National Assembly, the Auxiliary Board members, the local Assemblies, and the committees both national and local, who have aided so heroically in these great victories. And, above all, to the "legions" and the "warriors" and "army of Light" composed of every single hero and heroine throughout your triumphant nation!

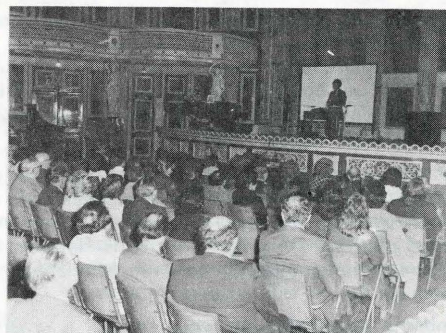
With warmest, grateful love,

William Sears,
Hand of the Cause of God

To: The heroic "Generals" of the NINE YEAR PLAN, and the members of Bahá'u'lláh's triumphant "onward marching legions"

Beloved Friends:

The Concourse on High is surely "raining down" showers of "Confirmations" upon your richly blessed land during these days of victory. You are gathered together in your National Convention to celebrate the glorious and triumphant conclusion of the NINE YEAR PLAN, the first of those mighty "world-wide enterprises" envisioned for the Supreme Universal House of Justice by our beloved Guardian. Above all, you are gathered here to elect the members of the National Spiritual Assembly who, during this special, unique year before us, will inspire you on to even greater and more astonishing achievements. The spiritual power released into every part of the planet at this time is unique and unprecedented. Unique and unprecedented must be our



Houshang Jahanpur performs at the concert held on the Friday evening preceding Convention at St. George's Hall, Liverpool.

response. There is no need for me to catalogue the glorious victories at the World Centre and throughout the earth during the NINE YEAR PLAN. You know them all and, even now, your hearts are throbbing with excitement and wonder at the majesty and greatness of our precious Faith. It is enough to say that this coming year is filled with a promise and a potential for victory beyond even our wildest dreams. The beloved Guardian said that some opportunities would not recur for one hundred years, some never again! Surely, many such unique and "world-shaking, world-shaping" opportunities are almost within our grasp.

This letter is to send my warmest, grateful love to each and every Bahá'í in your dearly-loved land, and to appeal with all my heart to each one of you, to arise as never before during this coming year from Ridván 1973 to Ridván 1974, to continue the momentum now established, and to "seize with both hands" the unequalled opportunities which this year offers. Never have so many wonderful, world-wide goals been so triumphantly achieved, some in the face of almost "insuperable obstacles" and "impossible difficulties". Never has the soil of men's hearts been more prepared to receive the life-giving Word of Bahá'u'lláh than right now. The harvest that will follow a nation-wide, enthusiastic, uninterrupted year of consecrated teaching on all fronts, will astonish even those of us who now, at this victory Convention, are still basking in the joy and ecstasy of the planetary triumph of our blessed Cause.

One loving word of caution. Following almost every great, long-sustained teaching Plan in the past, the great victory has been followed by a sigh of relief and a tendency to relax for just a bit. This has resulted in losing many of the hard-won victories, jeopardizing much that was accomplished through sacrifice, heartache and suffering. Assemblies were lost, centres abandoned. Thus we spent the first year, or more, of a new Plan struggling to get back to where we were at the triumphant conclusion of the preceding Plan.

This time, I am sure, we shall not let it happen! This is the victory that will not be followed by loss, on any front. Rather, let us increase the momentum, advance the tempo, ride onward on the crest of accomplishment, until it becomes a flood-tide that sweeps across the face of the entire planet! This is one way we can show our love and gratitude to our Supreme House of Justice for their love and inspiration, and for this golden victory which they, almost, single-handedly, have made possible. They are waiting to "pour their healing waters upon the warring nations and peoples of the earth" and to "heal man's age-old ills and ailments". Let us arise, one and all at this Convention, and carry home such a spirit of love and enthusiasm that every heart will be set afire. Under the loving leadership of the "Source of all good" which is "freed from all error" and is waiting only for the universal participation of every Bahá'í heart to "inaugurate an era the like of which has never been witnessed in past ages", let us flood out to every part of our nation, hastening that golden day when the Cause of God is on the lips, and in the hearts of all the peoples on the face of the earth. Let us, by the spontaneity and enthusiasm generated at this Convention, demonstrate to the Universal House of Justice we love so dearly, that Ridván 1973 to Ridván 1974 will be a year that will live forever in the already glorious history of this nation! It is up to this Convention, the heart-beat of the coming year.

With warmest, tenderest love to each one of you,

Haifa, Israel
Ridván 1973

William Sears
Hand of the Cause of God

CALL FOR PIONEERS

During this year of preparation for the next great Global Plan to be launched at Ridván 1974 the emphasis will be on consolidation and expansion. A primary aim will be to build up and strengthen all of our one hundred local Spiritual Assemblies and to banish the perennial problem of having at the last hour to find pioneers to maintain them at Ridván.

No doubt one or two are going to be needed for this purpose, but the new Plan is sure to call for many pioneers both overseas to open new goals on the home front. The British community has a proud record in this field which the National Spiritual Assembly hopes and prays will be given further lustre in the years ahead.

How wonderful it would be if, when the call is raised by the Universal House of Justice, an army of prospective pioneers could be drawn upon to fill every assigned goal within the first year of the new Plan. To this end the names of those who might be able to serve as pioneers after next Ridván will be recorded and where appropriate either the Overseas Goals Committee or the Pioneer Committee will arrange for consultation to deal with all the preliminaries and clear the way for swift action when the time comes.

If you feel moved to offer for this greatest of all service to our beloved Faith, please do not worry about difficulties or obstacles which can often melt away through consultation. Please register your name with the OGC, if you would like to pioneer overseas, and with the Pioneer Committee for the home front, giving full details of your situation, domestic, educational, employment and so on.

THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

COLOMBIA: The Continental Board of Counsellors in South America sponsored an International Youth Conference in Cali which was combined with proclamation activities. The report received reads, "...Thousands upon thousands of people heard of the Bahá'í Message. There were really fine and beautiful displays including a large display for a bank window in the busiest area in the centre of the city. There were pretty displays for store windows and counters. Nine large posters which were mounted on five-foot wooden easels were in a very busy park in the downtown area. In addition, there were numerous flyers, banners, etc. The park exhibit proved to be one of the best proclamation projects. From 500 to 800 people daily stopped to study the posters and to receive additional informational literature.

"Another very successful project was the distribution of some 20,000 artificial flowers to which were attached a 'Hidden Word'. Each person, in addition, received a flyer and a pamphlet. All classes of people besieged the girls for flowers. Later, we would find the flowers in people's houses, lapels or hat bands. The second largest radio station presented six daily announcements in prime time. Two stunning slides were made and shown for a month in two of the busiest movie houses. Thirty-two government leaders, including the mayor, were visited and presented with the Message and such books as 'The Renewal of Civilization' and 'The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh'.

There was a press conference for the Counsellors and on the spot radio interviews for two minutes at noon. The major radio station broadcast about seven straight minutes of correct information about the Faith.

"The park exhibition among many activities proved to be the best way to reach the middle class, including professional people, a good number of whom requested the correspondence course."

Counsellor in South America, Athos Costas, gave a talk at a public meeting to which some 2,000 invitations were given out. All of the proclamation preceded the Youth Conference which inspired the youth to continue their activities with unabated zeal.

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 Morphew**
19a High Street,
Hoddeston,
Herts.

Please contact him directly.

FOR THE PERSIAN FRIENDS

Huqúq'u'lláh payments are handled by

Mr John Long
2 South Street,
Oakham,
Rutland.

ECUADOR: The National Spiritual Assembly of Ecuador was recently made aware of an opportunity to rent a small radio station which reaches the majority of the many Indian believers. The station, located in Otavalo, has been rented for approximately \$150 per month. This sum provides the believers with radio time 24 hours per day and includes the services of three of the station's employees: two announcers and an electrician.

Two well-deepened believers are presently preparing programmes in the Quechua language. The National Assembly has requested that at least five hours daily be devoted to direct Bahá'í teaching and consolidation. Bahá'í programmes are to be presented at the hours of 5.30 a.m. to 7.30 a.m. and again daily at 4.30 p.m. until 7.30 p.m. The time between these hours will be devoted to commercial, social and cultural programming in Spanish, with the view of a great deal of indirect teaching being done.

MALAWI: A young lady who is travelling throughout Africa recently wrote of her experiences in Malawi: "The funniest and most exciting thing that happened was going to see the Chief of the area. . . He is translating 'The New Garden' and 'The Pattern of Bahá'í Life' but apparently is not a Bahá'í himself. So the National Spiritual Assembly asked me to go and see him. We had agreed to go on Sunday; it's a six-mile walk through the bush so we planned to start early. But on Saturday night it rained and Sunday they said: 'You can't go because we have to cross the river and it's waist high.' Sure enough when we got to the river it looked like the Thames in full spate. And then one of the Bahá'ís picked a banana leaf and tied it around his waist, then proceeded to take off his trousers. He wasn't wearing anything else, but the banana leaf was extremely modest and made him look like a ballerina. He said, 'I will guide you across.'

I was wearing a long skirt and a long petticoat so I took off my skirt and shoes and the petticoat was quite decent, and so garbed I approached the muddy incline. And in fact the bottom of the river was sandy, not muddy, and the sweet Bahá'í took my hand and took me across the river, where we all shook the water off, put our clothes back on and marched on! But I did think 'If mother could see me now!'

"And then we got to the Chief. He was quite charming and had worked as a BBC producer. We spent four long hours with him . . . I asked him why, after all this, he is not a Bahá'í. He said, 'But I am a Bahá'í', and then went on to describe his belief in Bahá'u'lláh. . .

UGANDA: A youth team set out recently from Kampala to Mbale to proclaim the Faith. The youth set themselves a goal to proclaim the Cause in five towns in Uganda. A radio announcement was broadcast throughout the entire country. The script of the broadcast read, "The source of all learning is the knowledge of God, exalted be His glory", from the Bahá'í Writings — the Bahá'ís of Uganda are having an information week in Mbale. . .

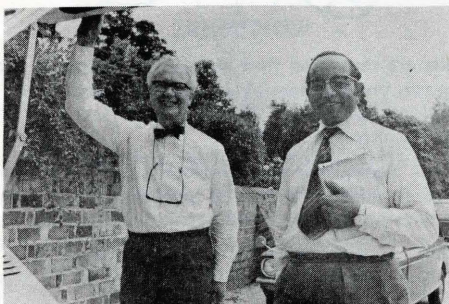
Two firesides were held nightly, schools were visited and literature dispensed widely to those who were interested in receiving it. In one of the schools where forty-five students attended the meeting, twenty-five of these declared their faith in Bahá'u'lláh.

On one occasion a policeman approached the team with hostility, demanded to see their permit and angrily tore down a poster before they could produce the permit. After seeing it he spoke to the youth at length about the Cause and apologized for his behaviour, and later asked if he could become a Bahá'í.

UNITED STATES: The popular musical team, "Seals and Crofts" are touring in the United States at present. The devoted services to the Cause of these two dedicated believers are indeed thrilling. In each city where they are to appear the team's manager arranges beforehand for a fireside to which the musicians invite the entire audience. The fireside is planned to follow the concert whenever possible.

In Washington DC on 9 February over 2,800 attended the concert at the Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts. Approximately 300 attended the fireside following the concert. The daughter of Congressman Haskell of the State of Colorado accepted the Faith at this fireside.

Next night the group played to a concert audience of 6,000 at the University of Maryland and more than 300 attended the fireside which followed. Questions were flowing from the audience to the speakers and the Bahá'í meeting lasted until 1.30 a.m.



David Hofman with Hassan Sabri at a recent St. Neots farm picnic.

ON THE MARTYRDOM OF THE BĀB

They killed you once
with wood and nails,
hammers in place of swords,
the tools of your trade;
you hung heavily upon the branches of the tree of life,
wood and nails
could not support both God and man;
only a handful of enemies,
two thieves,
and a few friends
stood by
to witness your agony
while it lasted,
to hear the final cry
that split the Temple veil
and raised the dead.
This time
a thousand rifles filled the air with smoke
and, as it cleared,
the dust that filled ten thousand watching eyes
covered the sun in shadow
as it hung, heavy and dim with blood
upon a sky
that was to know Hiroshima.

Denis MacEoin

CHILD EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Further excerpts from "A parent's notebook" published in "The Child's Way" in the United States of America.

THE HOME

The atmosphere can be very simple, but clean and light if possible, colourful to avoid drabness, orderly and harmonious. Co-operation and helpfulness of all members can create the peace and quiet everyone needs.

"Be still and know that I am God."

Children can be taught to appreciate the joy of silence and solitude — we find God and develop spiritually by being alone at some time each day. Listen with them to rain and wind, sounds of the night, music and stillness. The art of listening is much neglected.

SHARING CREATIVE ARTS AND INTERESTS

Try to expand the mind and heart of each child.

- Trips and excursions thoughtfully planned in advance with maps and reference books.
- Help children to appreciate beauty, experience beauty by taking time to look deeply. Artistic talents will be stirred and awakened. Walk in the woods, in the fields, along lakes and streams. Walk in the rain, in snow; climb; explore. Allow children to use their imagination to draw out creativity — and new ideas.
- Shared projects: Listening to music, singing, dancing, telling stories, jokes. Cultivate laughter, sports of all kinds, cooking and domestic arts, painting and sculpture, nature study (stars, plants, birds, shells, flowers, etc.), books, plays, poetry, building things, an endless and varied list.

QUESTIONS:

- Do you think Bahá'í children today are reared according to spiritual principles?
- What is the most effective way to give spiritual guidance?
- How important is discipline? Do modern parents apply enough discipline?
- Is family life important?
- What is a Bahá'í family?
- How important are Bahá'í children's classes?
- Do you think our children can develop into a "new race of men"?
- Why is memorising prayers important?
- What do you think of our children's literature?
- What can we learn from psychologists and educators?

NORWICH PEN PALS

The Norwich children's class, which totals seventeen, have started a Pen Pal Club so that Bahá'í children under fourteen all over the world can get to know each other, exchange ideas, hobbies, etc., and perhaps stay with each other during holidays. We feel this will bring great unity and understanding between the young as they are the 'link in the chain' for the growth of the Faith in the years to come. We already have letters from boys in Orissa in India and other parts of the world. If you would like to join this club, please send an interesting letter to:-

Mrs Patricia Frère-Smith,
2a Quebec Road,
Norwich, Norfolk.

Mark your name, age and address clearly and the reply will come direct to you. May the flowers of Bahá'u'lláh grow all over the world, from the hands of the young ones!

حقوق الله

حضرت عبدالبهاء در الواح وصایا میفرمایند: قوله تعالى:

ای یاران عبدالبهاء! محض الطاف بی پایان حضرت یزدان بستیحق حقوق الله

بر عباد خویش منت گذاشت و الا حق مستغنی از کائنات بوده و الله غنی عن العالمین

اما مفروض حق سبب ثبوت و رسوخ نفوس و برکت در جمیع مشون گردد.

GIPSY PROJECT

An important project to teach the gipsies in this country was launched on 27 May by the Youth Department of The London and East England RTC. On Sunday morning helpers arrived from Aylesbury, Brent, Cambridge, Epsom, Ipswich, Henley, Welwyn-Garden-City and Watford.

Our first destination was a large camp a few miles from Watford. On arrival we were greeted by dozens of very lively gipsy children. It did not take us long to get acquainted with them. After showing us round the camp they soon took us as their playmates and we found ourselves with a child in each arm and a third one demanding a piggy-back at the same time. They were beautiful children and soon we settled down to singing some Bahá'í songs for them and a few of them became quite eager to learn a song for themselves.

In the meantime some of the parents had come out of their caravans to find out what was going on. It was not difficult for us to talk to them and tell them about the purpose of our visit. The response was friendly and co-operative. The gipsies having gone through great hardships themselves could understand the need for the great world redeeming message of Bahá'u'lláh.

By this time curiosity had spread round the whole camp and almost every caravan that we passed someone would want to know who we were and what we were doing.

The whole morning turned out for us a series of new experiences as we taught the gipsies and tried to keep the children out of mischief. The loving attitude of the Bahá'ís towards the travellers who had experienced nothing but intolerance from society, had won us their favour. When it was time for us to leave, we were surrounded by pleas to return there again.

In the afternoon we went to a smaller camp near Hatfield. Once again it proved very easy for us to get acquainted with the gipsies. Half of us started singing with the children while the other half conveyed the Message of Bahá'u'lláh to the adults.

The head of the camp, whose sons and daughters together with their families occupied the other dwellings in the camp, held a long conversation with a number of us and was much impressed

with the Bahá'ís. At the end of the day when leaving the camp we were once again met with requests to return.

At the end of an eventful day, physically tired but spiritually very happy, we retired to discuss the experiences of the day. There was no doubt between us that the gipsies were a wonderful race of people with simple and open hearts that were going to respond to the call of Bahá'u'lláh. They were a race whose lives had been a constant struggle to gain some sort of security in an indifferent society. It seemed obvious that they needed to come under the shelter of the love of Bahá'u'lláh. To achieve this we concluded required us frequently to visit the gipsies in order to gain their friendship and trust. At the same time we felt it was necessary for us to listen to their problems and understand their difficulties. A follow-up was planned for the next weekend.

On 3 June friends from Welwyn-Garden-City, Epsom and Watford met to visit the large gipsy camp for the second time. As we entered the camp the faces of the children lit up and the smiling adults welcomed us. The children were anxious to play with us but the adults were even more willing to talk to us. We were invited to sit beside their caravans and there followed a very useful and stimulating exchange of views. Most of the gipsies could not read or write and, therefore, the Faith was explained verbally in very simple language. Due to a lack of education, we realised the children were very eager to learn, and what better things are there to give them than the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh for this day and age. This, we discovered, had the agreement of the parents. Again, when the time came for us to leave the camp, we were met by questions of 'When are you going to come again?'

We feel teaching the gipsies is an experience that must be shared by everyone. One or two communities do not have the resources to keep up a sustained programme of teaching, especially for the gipsies. The fruits that regular visits to these camps can bring are enormous. At the moment manpower is required so that groups of Bahá'ís can be organised to visit these camps every weekend. If you can spare a day in any weekend phone Watford 32317. A project has been started, the follow-up is up to YOU.

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

by Denis MacOein

We may beat upon the rocks of Sinai, upon the slopes of the Mount of Beatitudes, upon Hira or Sar-Galu, with the hammers of our philosophies; we may enter the darkness of Herod's dungeon, of the cell wherein Krishna was born, of the Tomb in the garden, the blackness of Chihriq or the Siyah-Chal, bearing with us the lamps of our sciences; we may examine in our laboratories the nails of the cross, or the bullets that tore the body of the Blessed Báb, the spearpoint that pierced Zarathustra through and through, or the chains that bore down the body of Bahá'u'lláh. But, without the strength of faith, the light of true understanding, and the touchstone of inner knowledge, we will find only weathered stone, the ancient dampness of a prison-cell, the coldness and the firelessness of rusted iron.

We may walk in the footsteps of the Holy Ones: from the city of Ur by the Euphrates unto the land of Canaan and the Jordan Valley, from the slave-camps of Pharaoh's Egypt unto the milk and honey of the Promised Land beyond the Sea of Reeds, in the path of the Pillar of Fire, from the holy precincts of Mecca to Medina the blessed, across the lonely paths of exile from Tihiran to Baghdad, into the mountains of Kurdistan, across the freezing winter desert unto Constantinople, and again traverse the weary miles to Edirnih, coming at last, after millennia of wandering, to the Holy Land again, in the city of 'Akka upon the Western shore. But, without the true Guide to lead us, and lacking the chart of truth, we will come to no destination, reach no goal, and the end of our journey will be but bleeding and broken feet, a heavy soul, and a weary heart.

We may fill our shelves with the Torah and the Law, with the Evangel and the Psalms, we may memorize by heart the verses and chapters of the Qur'an, and know in full the Traditions and their names, we may transcribe the Vedas and the Gita, comment upon the Upanishads, render into strange tongues the Dhammapada, the Avesta or the Gathas, we may read in full the verses of the Bayan, or all the volumes revealed by the Most Great Pen, but if His Word be not within our hearts, and its meaning be not engraved upon the shadows of our hearts, and its essence fused with the fabric of our souls, we will see but common words, and read but letters, and hear within the hollow chambers of our breasts but sounds and vibrations of sounds, whose rattle will echo there for a thousand years and give no sense, transmute into no meaning.

EDITORIAL

The friends are reminded that changes of address and requests for changes in the numbers of Journals required should be sent to the National Office, 27 Rutland Gate, London SW7, and NOT to the Editor.

The Editorial Committee would welcome photographs of Bahá'í events — black and white if at all possible, colour photographs can sometimes be used, but only if they are particularly clear.

The deadline date for material for the October issue of the Journal is 10 September, which should be sent to the Editor:

Lois Hainsworth
Treen,
Allerton Park
Leeds LS7 4ND

NOTICES

MARRIAGES

22 June Karola Witt to Ahmad Zaim Mostafanajad in Hamburg.
29 June Elizabeth Tweedie to Iain Palin in Edinburgh.

BIRTHS



Ted Cardell drives a tractorload of happy children around his farm at a recent picnic.

Bahá'í Publishing Trust

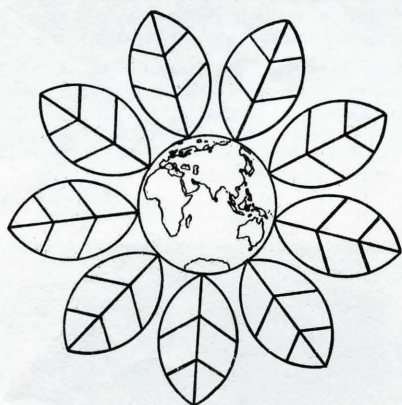
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Rutland



THE TRUST WILL BE CLOSED FOR A FORT-NIGHT FOR THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY FROM FRIDAY 27 JULY TO MONDAY 13 AUGUST. ORDERS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED FOR DESPATCH DURING THIS PERIOD.

BEING A BAHÁ'Í

This is a handy wallet containing seven illustrated, coloured cards, each dealing with a different aspect of the Faith and written very simply. There are cards with mini biographies of The Báb, Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá and with notes on Bahá'í Law, Administration and Prayer, and are ideal for giving to young people, or to those who do not like to read anything substantial. They are available on free issue for teaching purposes from the National Teaching Committee, whose secretary is Will van den Hoonaard, 33 Harkyn Road, Chester.



'THE PRICELESS PEARL'

by

Hand of the Cause 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum

This fascinating life story of Shoghi Effendi, Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith incidentally provides, in the process of telling of the Faith's development, trials and triumphs during his Guardianship, guidance on practically every Bahá'í teaching.

IT IS NOW AVAILABLE IN A FULLY ILLUSTRATED, PAPERBACK EDITION.

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This printing is heavily subsidised to help those who could not afford to buy the cloth bound edition. When reprinted the price will be much higher, possibly doubled, so it is offered at the above price 'subject to being unsold'.

IMMEDIATE ORDERING IS RECOMMENDED

SPECIAL NOTE:

A few copies of the special de luxe edition signed by 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum are available.

At the request of 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum these are for disposal at £21 each, the addition to the original price being a contribution made by the purchaser towards subsidising a second edition of the paperback edition which is now nearly sold out, and which will cost something like double if no subsidy is available.

Copies of the Spanish Edition of this wonderful book are now available.

In make-up and content it is identical with the English language edition and a small quantity has been imported so that anyone wishing to give a copy to a Spanish speaking friend in this country or abroad can obtain one from the Trust or purchase one from the bookshop in the London Hazíratu'l-Quds. They cost £1.50 each, paper cover; there is no hardback edition.

PRAYER BOOKS

Bahá'u'lláh has said of Prayer:

'Intone, O My servant, the verses of God that have been received by thee, as intoned by them who have drawn nigh unto Him, that the sweetness of thy melody may kindle thine own soul, and attract the hearts of all men. Whoso reciteth, in the privacy of his chamber, the verses revealed by God, the scattering angels of the Almighty shall scatter abroad the fragrance of the words uttered by his mouth, and shall cause the heart of every righteous man to throb. Though he may, at first, remain unaware of its effect, yet the virtue of the grace vouchsafed unto him must needs sooner or later exercise its influence upon his soul. Thus have the mysteries of the Revelation of God been decreed by virtue of the Will of Him Who is the Source of power and wisdom.' Gleanings P. 294.

'Abdu'l-Bahá has said that Prayer is indispensable:

'O thou spiritual friend! Thou hast asked the wisdom of prayer. Know thou that prayer is indispensable and obligatory, and man under no pretext whatsoever is excused from performing the prayer unless he be mentally unsound, or an insurmountable obstacle prevent him. The wisdom of prayer is this: That it causeth a connection between the servant and the True One because in that state man with all heart and soul turneth his face towards His Highness the Almighty, seeking His association and desiring His love and compassion. The greatest happiness for a lover is to converse with his beloved, and the greatest gift for a seeker is to become familiar with the object of his longing; that is why with every soul who is attracted to the Kingdom of God, his greatest hope is to find an opportunity to entreat and supplicate before his Beloved, appeal for His mercy and grace and be immersed in the ocean of His utterance, goodness and generosity.'

Bahá'í World Faith P. 368.

Do you have an adequate selection of prayer books for your own use? And to give to seekers?

To use at home and to take to meetings there is:

Bahá'í Prayers	— red Cloth cover	B.7. at 50p.
	— red washable plastic cover	B.7. at 70p.

To have in your pocket and to give to others there is:

Love of God	—	P.91 at 6p. each.
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This is available in eight different cover colour/print colour combinations and at special prices for twenty or more as detailed on the price-list.

To give to children, in large-type for easy reading there is:

Bahá'í Prayers for Children	—	B.8. at 10p.
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For your own reference and for use at devotional meetings (containing a wide range of prayers and meditations) there is:

Prayers and Meditations	—	B.4. at £1.13.
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Do you have ALL these yourself? If not, consider yet further words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, for in addition to telling us what is the wisdom of prayer, as quoted above, He says elsewhere:—

'I now assure thee, O servant of God, if thy mind become empty and pure from every mention and thought and thy heart attracted wholly to the Kingdom of God, forget all else besides God and come in communion with the Spirit of God, then the Holy Spirit will assist thee with a power which will enable thee to penetrate all things, and a Dazzling Spark which enlightens all sides, a Brilliant Flame in the zenith of the heavens, will teach thee that which thou dost not know of the facts of the universe and of the divine doctrine. Verily, I say unto thee, every soul which ariseth today to guide others to the path of safety and infuse in them the Spirit of Life, the Holy Spirit will inspire that soul with evidences, proofs and facts and the lights will shine upon it from the Kingdom of God.'

from Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá P. 205.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

BANGOR, North Wales: The Bangor community was very happy to welcome Will van den Hoonaard, May Hofman and two friends from Glasgow who all travelled long distances to participate in a spiritually profitable deepening weekend on 1/3 June. On the Saturday evening, Bahá'ís from Dyffryn Ardudwy joined us for the public meeting arranged at a local hotel, and although at first only Bahá'ís were present, very soon, after several of the friends went into the town, saying prayers and searching for receptive souls, we found that we were entertaining ten contacts! Three of these interested people are continuing to attend firesides and deepening sessions and seem to enjoy participating in the discussions.

Summer Teaching Project in North Wales: for details of events to be arranged, please contact Mrs Carolyn Gibbs (secretary), 453 Caernarvon Road, Bangor, Caerns. We would greatly appreciate support of all kinds and if you think you can help in any way please join the Bangor friends sometime in the summer months (the project is taking place well into the Autumn). We would like to make a special request for 'musical' Bahá'ís to pay us a visit as plans are being made for such events as singing on the beaches in the area.

CHELMSFORD: A street teaching project was launched by the Chelmsford friends on Saturday, 16 June. Activity was concentrated on the pedestrian shopping precinct. Musicians, including trumpet, flute, guitar and well supported with tabla and bongo, were stationed by the fountain from which the arcades radiate, played and sang Bahá'í songs and improvisations. Outstanding among the musicians were the new believers from the Lowestoft area. A display of posters and illustrations was used and much attention was aroused, love radiated and beautiful spirit was released. Contacts were formed and one soul was welcomed into the Faith. A happy picnic was held the next day in the public park and a social afternoon followed in the YMCA Hall, which was well attended by friends from other communities plus seekers. Teaching continues in the precinct every Saturday and the help of believers, to experience the bounties of street teaching or join the Chelmsford friends in their prayers, is needed.

COLEG-Y-FRO: There is to be a weekend school commencing with dinner on Friday, 26 October, through two days to teatime on Sunday, 28 October. The all-in charge will be £5.50 – if you would like to take this opportunity for deepening, fellowship and service, please write to Carl Card, 13 Mynachdy Road, Cardiff, South Wales.

CRAIGAVON: Northern Ireland, a festering sore in the eyes of the world, could erupt spiritually through the power of the Greatest Name.

We are organising a Summer Teaching Project of the greatest magnitude. The dates are 17 August to 9 September inclusive. These dates are DEFINITE.

You can HELP. Support is **desperately** needed. Everyone who is willing to participate should contact the LSA secretary, Barry Watson, 44 Aldervale, Tullygally, Craigavon. Results could stagger the mind (and the body)!

ECCLES: "The Vision of a New Age" was the title given to this year's Eccles Weekend School, which took place on 16/17 June and attracted friends from many places. Excellent talks were given, an interesting slide show and a panel session all added to the success of the school and our community is deeply grateful to those who contributed to this success. A concert took place on the Saturday evening, which the mayor and mayoress attended and they were presented with an appropriately inscribed book. We were given excellent singing and guitar playing by the artists who helped us and the "Valley of Love" gave a brand new and very dramatic performance.

EDINBURGH: The Scottish Regional Teaching Committee organised a stall at the Royal Highland Agricultural Show held at Ingliston, near Edinburgh, from 19 to 22 June. Over the four days over 100,000 people visited the Show and several thousand leaflets were taken away by interested enquirers.

What is believed to be the first Bahá'í marriage to be celebrated in a church took place on 29 June, when Dr Iain Palin married Elizabeth Tweedie in the bride's church, both ceremonies taking place in the church. The matter was referred to the Universal House of Justice, who replied that as the bride was a church member there was no objection to this being done, provided the usual criteria for a Bahá'í marriage were met. Over a hundred people attended the wedding ceremonies and the proclamation value was notable.

The Bahá'í community have an entry in Edinburgh's Radical Directory where a very brief summary of the Faith is given, together with a quotation from "THE HIDDEN WORDS".

HEYWOOD: Proclamation Day: An event which began with letters claiming Bahá'u'lláh was a false Prophet culminated in the Proclamation of the Bahá'í Faith in Heywood on 30 June. The day began with many Bahá'ís actively preparing the Civic Hall for the event, erecting a large exhibition and distributing leaflets.

At 2.00 pm there arrived at the Civic Hall the Chairman of the Crompton UDC, Councillor George Read, accompanied by Councillor Mrs Read representing the local MP, Mr Joel Barnett, who was unable to be present, but had sent a telegram of good wishes for the occasion. Also present were the Mayor and Mayoress of Heywood, Councillor and Mrs L. Nutall, the Editor of the "Heywood Advertiser" as well as two ex-Mayors and other dignitaries. Three Proclamation books were presented to the leading Civic Heads, with bouquets of flowers to Councillor Mrs Read and the Mayoress.

Short addresses were given by the Chairman of the Crompton UDC and the Mayor, in praise of the teachings of the Faith, which were followed by a talk by Philip Hainsworth: "Meeting the challenge of today".

The Civic Party were then entertained to tea by the NSA members present, and this was followed by a slide show of the Holy Land including places of Bahá'í interest. Then the civic party left, and an open forum with six members on the panel answered questions from the floor. There was then an interval for tea and a chance to see the exhibition, while in the evening a concert took place which many claimed was the best they had witnessed.

Many communities contributed money to make the day such a wonderful success, while to include the areas from which Bahá'ís came or the artists who took part, would take up too much space, but the Heywood Group would like to thank one and all for making the Proclamation of the Faith in Heywood such a glorious and momentous occasion.



The Mayor and Mayoress of Heywood signing the visitors' book after receiving the Proclamation book, with Louis Ross Enfield of the Heywood group.

OUTER MANCHESTER AREA: Isolated believers in the Manchester area continue to meet together and to hold Unity Feasts in their homes in rotation and also to picnic together, most recently in the gardens of Lyme Hall. The readings and prayers which we always share seemed even more significant in this peaceful atmosphere and we plan a further such summer Unity Feast in Heaton Park on 21 July.

SCUNTHORPE: The sun shone gloriously for the Scunthorpe Family Weekend, and many people came into the Bahá'í tent and showed interest in the Faith. It was a great opportunity for proclamation and the Faith made its presence felt; on two occasions we had a five minute spot on closed television to an audience of about 75. The lone Bahá'í in Scunthorpe attributes all the success of the weekend to the friends who supported the effort and who came from Yorkshire, Lancashire and the Midlands. On 14 August, this will be followed up by a slide show at the Central Community Centre, Lindum Street. Should any of the friends be able to support this event, they will be most welcome.

SOUTHPORT: Help needed on 8 September for a Public Meeting at 8.00 pm. at the YMCA, Hoghton Street. There will be an opportunity beforehand for some street teaching and to hand out leaflets. A table will be erected in the Burton Arcade with display material.