



BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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THE MOTHER TEMPLE OF EUROPE
Langenhain, Germany

FIVE YEAR PLAN

Five months separate us from Ridván 1974 when the next global plan will be launched. For a period of five years the attention, resources and energies of the Bahá'í World Community will be directed to achieving the aims of this plan.

By Naw-Rúz 1974 you will have been notified of the overall goals of the plan and the specific tasks assigned to each of your national communities. Each one of you is therefore urged to arrange for a meeting, at Naw-Rúz or soon after, to which you will invite the Board of Counsellors in your zone to be represented and at which the plan can be considered and thorough consultation held on the manner in which each one of your communities will launch it.

You are asked to give careful consideration as soon as possible to the advisability of holding one or more conferences in conjunction with your Convention or soon after. You may wish to consult the Counsellors on this matter. We believe that such conferences would greatly assist in acquainting the friends with the nature and aims of the plan and in enlisting their enthusiasm and resolution to achieve it. All details as to the number of such conferences, their timing, their agendas are left entirely to your discretion, but we recommend that in planning them you attach great importance to the participation of youth so that they may feel wholly identified with the tasks assigned and give their immediate and maximum support to their accomplishment.

Now is the time to begin directing the thoughts and plans of the friends to the next great demand which will be made upon them and we assure you of our prayers at the Sacred Threshold that you may be guided and strengthened to take such decisions and make such plans as will enable your communities to anticipate with eagerness and receive with joy the new tasks to be offered them, tasks whose wholehearted and united accomplishment will raise the Community of the Most Great Name to a position where it may have far greater effect upon men's minds and prepare it for further thrilling and awe-inspiring achievements in the pursuit of its ultimate goal of the redemption of mankind.

21 November, 1973

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

NOTE: NSA consultation with Counsellors on 30 March; Regional conferences to be held in Manchester, Cambridge, Epsom, Winchester, Cardiff and Perth on 11 May, and in Belfast on the 25/26 May.

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Our hearts are uplifted by your letter of 20 December, 1973, breathing the spirit of "joy and excitement" with which you have received the announcement of the new global plan to commence at Ridván 1974. We are delighted with your plan to hold seven regional conferences soon after Ridván and with the news that your whole community is eagerly awaiting the Plan. The list of proposed goals which you have submitted is just in time to be considered in the final consultations about the worldwide Plan and we are delighted to have them.

The British friends are renowned for their admirable performance of the tasks assigned to them, and earned the loving admiration of the Guardian of the Faith in this respect. We are confident that whatever tasks may be assigned to them during the forthcoming Plan will be discharged with faith and devotion.

9 January, 1974

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

BEAUTIFICATION OF THE AREA AROUND SHRINE OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

"REJOICE ANNOUNCE FRIENDS BEAUTIFICATION DURING CONFLICT AGITATING MIDDLE EAST FOURTH QUADRANT AREA SURROUNDING MOST HOLY SHRINE EMBRACING OLIVE GROVE SOUTHWEST PILGRIM HOUSE BAHJÍ. BLESSED SHRINE AND MANSION NOW COMPLETELY ENCIRCLED BEAUTIFUL GARDENS INSPIRED BY PATTERN HARAM-I-AQDAS CREATED BY BELOVED GUARDIAN. PRAYING SHRINES SUPPORTERS MOST GREAT NAME EVERY LAND MAY REDOUBLE EFFORTS PROMOTE INTERESTS PRECIOUS FAITH IN ANTICIPATION FIVE YEAR GLOBAL PLAN SOON TO BE LAUNCHED."

4 December, 1973

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

OUR SILENT TEACHER

Set in the heart of the continent of Europe, among the gentle hills and apple orchards of the Taunus area near to Frankfurt in Germany, stands the Mother Temple of Europe. Because we are islanders and because of the strip of water that separates us from the rest of Europe, it is perhaps inevitable that the British believers may feel a little remote from this historic Temple, the "dawning place of the worship of God". Nevertheless, the British Isles are very much part of Europe. Indeed, since 1953, when the beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, announced that this Mashriqu'l-Adhkár was to be built, and since 1962, the year of its dedication, events in the non-Bahá'í world have taken place which have established us as part of this great continent. Spiritually, in the eyes of our beloved Guardian, we were already a part; now, through more recent political events, materially, we have become Europeans. Now as never before we must become fully aware of the importance this historic Edifice must play in the lives of each one of us.

The Significance of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár

If we are in danger of misunderstanding the Institution of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár, where else should we turn than to the writings of the Guardian? In a letter¹ written in 1929, the Guardian stated: "...the central Edifice of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár, round which in the fullness of time shall cluster such institutions of social service as shall afford relief to the suffering, sustenance to the poor, shelter to the wayfarer, solace to the bereaved, and education to the ignorant, should be regarded apart from these Dependencies, as a House solely designed and entirely dedicated to the worship of God in accordance with the few yet definitely prescribed principles established by Bahá'u'lláh in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas. It should not be inferred, however, from this general statement that the interior of the central Edifice itself will be converted into a conglomeration of religious services conducted along lines associated with the traditional procedure obtaining in churches, mosques, synagogues, and other temples of worship. Its various avenues of approach, all converging towards the central Hall beneath its dome, will not serve as admittance to those sectarian adherents of rigid formulae and man-made creeds, each bent, according to his way, to observe his rites, recite his prayers, perform his ablutions, and display the particular symbols of his faith within separately defined sections of Bahá'u'lláh's Universal House of Worship. Far from the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár offering such a spectacle of incoherent and confused sectarian observances and rites, a condition wholly incompatible with the provisions of the Aqdas and irreconcilable with the spirit it inculcates, the central House of Bahá'í worship, enshrined within the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár, will gather within its chastened walls, in a serenely spiritual atmosphere, only those who, discarding for ever the trappings of elaborate and ostentatious ceremony, are willing worshippers of the one true God, as manifested in this age in the Person of Bahá'u'lláh... having recognised in Bahá'u'lláh the source whence this celestial light proceeds, they will irresistibly seek the shelter of His House, and congregate therein, unhampered by ceremonials and unfettered by creed, to render homage to the one true God."

In the same letter the Guardian refers to the importance of the Dependencies which will be built... "It" (the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár) "cannot afford lasting satisfaction and benefit to the worshipper himself, much less to humanity in general, unless and until translated and transfused into that dynamic and disinterested service to the cause of humanity which it is the supreme privilege of the Dependencies of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár to facilitate and promote. Nor will the exertions, no matter how disinterested and strenuous, of those who within the precincts of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár will be engaged in administering the affairs of the future Bahá'í Commonwealth, fructify and prosper unless they are brought into close and daily communion with those spiritual agencies centering in and radiating from the central Shrine of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár. Nothing short of direct and constant interaction between the spiritual forces emanating from this House of Worship centering in the heart of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár, and the energies consciously displayed by those who administer its affairs in their service to humanity can possibly provide the necessary agency capable of removing the ills that have so long and grievously afflicted humanity."

The Significance of the Mother Temple of Europe

The tremendous significance of the erection of the first European Mashriqu'l-Adhkár was drawn to the attention of the European Bahá'ís in a message from the Universal House of Justice, read at the European Teaching Conference called on the occasion of the dedication of the Mother Temple of Europe, in the summer of 1964, close to the commencement of the Nine Year Global Plan.

The building of this unique Edifice, called for by the Guardian in 1953, had taken place during the Ten Year Crusade, and in its message, the Universal House of Justice referred to the many goals to be accomplished in the newly-launched Nine Year Plan. The linking of the Ten Year and Nine Year Plans by the erection of the European Mashriqu'l-Adhkár was drawn to the attention of the assembled Bahá'ís in these words²: "One of the major achievements called for by our beloved Guardian at the outset of the Ten Year Crusade, this Mashriqu'l-Adhkár was triumphantly raised during its closing years as the fruit of long and arduous labours in the face of determined opposition and upon the sacrificial gifts of believers from all parts of the world. Now dedicated in the opening months of the Nine Year Plan, it forms a striking link between these two great crusades, demonstrating afresh the organic progress of the Cause whereby the efforts exerted in one period bear fruit in the next, which in turn endow the Bahá'í community with new and greater capacities for the winning of still greater victories."

In the same message the Universal House of Justice referred to the great spiritual forces which were unleashed at the completion of the European Temple, and which would enable the Faith to go forward all over Europe: "Those who have been privileged to witness the extraordinary strengthening and consolidation of the Cause in Europe during the course of the last eleven years are well aware of the reservoir of spiritual potential that has been building up and the transformation of the life of the European Bahá'í community that has ensued. May the completion and dedication of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár be the signal for the unleashing of the potential, bring about on the European mainland and in the islands around its shores a quickening of the process of individual conversion comparable to those events which have transpired with such astonishing suddenness in other continents of the globe."

The Silent Teacher

'Abdu'l-Bahá refers to the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár as 'the silent teacher'. Which of the "older" Bahá'ís could have foreseen that in the space of just a few years, during which time the greater part of the British believers, and indeed the European believers, embraced the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, the attitudes towards the country of Germany could have undergone such a dramatic change. Is it not an indication of the great power of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, that there in the very heart of a so recently war-ravaged Europe stands our great silent teacher. Our hearts must surely lift when we think of the joy and love we feel when we meet with the German members of our family, and the sense of "ownership" and love we feel when we step over the threshold of our Mother Temple, knowing and being aware of the great spirit of the Cause flowing from it all over Europe and to these islands.

The Need for Continual Support

Recently, members of the National Assembly attended the autumn conference of Counsellors, Board members and members of the European National Assemblies, held each year somewhere in Europe. In this Bahá'í year the conference was held in Langenhain, Germany, in the shadow of the Mother Temple of Europe. At this meeting, those National Assembly members present became very much aware of the great burden and responsibility being carried by the German community for the upkeep and running of the Temple. And we became aware that the German friends were really doing this on behalf of the whole of the European Bahá'í community. When in 1953 the German community was given the great privilege of erecting the first European Temple on their soil, Bahá'ís everywhere were urged to sacrifice and send Funds to assist the project. Since then not only has the building been completed, but the interior has been beautifully furnished, and the area surrounding the Temple landscaped in a most befitting way. But the years have passed. Now, the outerstructure needs attention, materials need replacing and there is the ever-increasing cost of heating and lighting, and the maintenance of the gardens in which our "jewel" stands.

These unique Edifices are perhaps the only part of our Faith that much of the non-Bahá'í world can see, and those of us present in Langenhain became very much aware that this "material symbol" of our Faith must be as near perfect as possible. We discovered that despite the very great sacrifices of the German community, the German National Assembly were finding it very difficult to "run" and maintain the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár with the meagre funds at their disposal, for, sadly, the support of the European Temple by the rest of the European Bahá'ís has dwindled considerably. A full report was given immediately to the United Kingdom National Assembly, and it was decided that action must be taken to call for all the British believers to give constant support to the Mother Temple of Europe. Here are the facts:

The costs in connection with the House of Worship are approximately DM 70,000 this year. The following is a general description of these costs:

1.	Running costs for utilities, repairs, cleaning and information materials	DM 32,300
2.	Urgent repairs needed for the gatehouse of the Temple	DM 14,260
3.	Urgent repairs and renovations required for the House of Worship	DM 20,740
4.	Direction signs to be placed at the autobahn exits	DM 4,000
TOTAL		DM 71,300

The New Global Plan

It is perhaps more appropriate than at any other time that your National Assembly recognised the serious need to support, wholeheartedly, the upkeep of the European Temple, the time being so near to the launching of the new world-embracing Plan, thus again linking the great crusades of our beloved Faith. . . the Ten Year Crusade when the Temple was inaugurated, and raised, the Nine Year Plan when it was dedicated and "flowered" and now the new Plan, when it needs all the material support we can pour into Germany.

Each year the National Assembly sends on behalf of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom a small sum of money to the German National Assembly to help with the running and upkeep of "our" Temple. A few individual believers send donations earmarked for the Frankfurt Temple.

Now the National Assembly calls upon every single believer in these islands to search their hearts and see if, despite the great calls being made upon them for the Faith, they will support the Temple of Europe. We call upon each one of you to add "our great Silent Teacher" to the items needing financial support. Four National Assemblies in 1972 and six in 1973 joined with the United Kingdom National Assembly in sending DM 4000; the huge balance has to be borne by the German community. The contributions, sent on your behalf by the NSA, were £100 in 1972 and £50 in 1973. On receiving these figures we have raised this year's contribution to £250 and we hope to budget for £1000 for the next Bahá'í year.

From our efforts, and from our Mashriqu'l-Adhkar, tremendous spiritual forces will be unleashed all over the Continent of Europe.

Betty Goode

¹ Letter from the Guardian, 25 October, 1929 (Bahá'í World. Vol. XIII 1954-1963)

² Message from the Universal House of Justice, July 1964. "Wellspring of Guidance".

CONFERENCE AT LANGENHAIN

Three members of the National Spiritual Assembly were privileged to attend the Conference at Langenhain, 1-4 November, called by the European Board of Counsellors for Auxiliary Board and NSA members. With Counsellor Betty Reed we got cheap flights to Brussels and drove in bright sunshine through miles of beech forests, breathtaking in their multi-coloured autumn cladding. Apart from a still unexplained diversion into and out of a busy cemetery near Liege the drive was uneventful with one stop along the motorway for a picnic meal, prudently provided by Betty. It got dark just before we reached Langenhain so our first sight of the Mother Temple was in its flood-lit splendour, something to touch and fill with pride every Bahá'í heart.

The first session was just finishing and there was the joy of greeting many old friends and meeting new ones. All our own Board Members were there with the sad exception of our dear David Lewis because of his serious illness. Everyone later signed a card with a message of love and prayer for his recovery.

Most of the sessions were held in the large comfortable meeting-room of the new German Hazíratu'l-Quds with its fine view of the nearby Temple on top of the hill. The building was not quite finished, but the occasion was used as a befitting opening ceremony.

The following telegram from the Universal House of Justice had been received on 31 October, 1973:

"LOVINGLY GREET FOLLOWERS BAHÁ'U'LLÁH
GATHERED AUSPICIOUS MOMENT LESS THAN SIX
MONTHS BEFORE OPENING NEXT GLOBAL
ENTERPRISE STOP EUROPEAN BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY
HAVING WITNESSED RECENT MONTHS
REMARKABLE ACCELERATION PROGRESS NOW
FACES GODGIVEN CHALLENGES ENTIRE
CONTINENT FROM ARCTIC TO ISLANDS
MEDITERRANEAN FROM MID ATLANTIC TO
SHORES CASPIAN SEA STOP FAITH MUST BE
FIRMLY FOUNDED NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT
CIRCUMSTANCES SOME AREAS STOP PROCESS
ENTRY MASSES MUST BE INTELLIGENTLY
ENTHUSIASTICALLY CONFIDENTLY FOSTERED
COLLABORATION AMONG COMMUNITIES

STRENGTHENED UNDERSTANDING BELIEVERS
DEEPEENED MATERIAL RESOURCES ACCUMULATED
ADMINISTRATION STREAMLINED STOP EVERY
ACTIVITY EVERY NEW PROJECT NOW UNDER-
TAKEN SHOULD BE VIEWED INITIAL STAGES
CAMPAIGN DESTINED SURGE FORWARD UN-
PRECEDENTED VIGOUR COMING RIDVÁN
PRAYING FERVENTLY HOLY SHRINES DIVINE
CONFIRMATIONS

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE"

to which on the last day of the Conference this reply was sent:

"COUNSELLORS BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENTA-
TIVES FIFTEEN NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES
GATHERED SHADOW MOTHER TEMPLE EUROPE
BLESSED PRESENCE HAND OF CAUSE DR
MÜHLSCHLEGEL STOP THRILLED MEETING IN
NEW HAZÍRATU'L-QUDS UNFOLDMENT AUXILIARY
INSTITUTIONS STOP JOYOUSLY PLEDGE
ENERGETIC RESPONSE GODGIVEN CHALLENGES
EAGERLY AWAITING NEXT GLOBAL PLAN STOP
DETERMINED REINFORCE ALL BASES SWIFT
ACTION SPIRITUAL CONQUEST CONTINENT STOP
HUMBLY GRATEFUL UNFAILING GUIDANCE
SUPREME BODY STOP PRAYING PROTECTION
MEMBERS DEEPEST LOVE

LANGENHAIN CONFERENCE"

The cable from the House gave direction to most of the consultations which followed, including division into four groups to study and discuss some of the beloved Guardian's World Order letters which have so much relevance to the present conditions of the world; later their findings were summarised in plenary session. Counsellor Eric Blumenthal spoke impressively about the importance of education of Bahá'í children quoting some little-known words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá (which are to be published in a booklet by the NSA of Hawaii). During one of the lengthy meal breaks all the NSA Secretaries got together to share information about work methods, communications etc. — a very

"PREPARE FOR TOTAL VICTORY"

Beloved Friends,

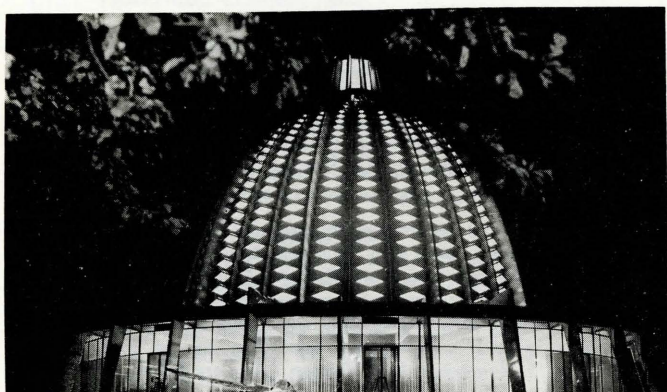
Soon the followers of Bahá'u'lláh all over the world will be summoned by His Universal House of Justice to undertake a great new Global Plan of expansion. Its duration will be for five years; it will bring tremendous victories for the Faith and it will demand the concentration of all our energies and resources.

Each one of us has something important to give, some special quality or capacity which no one else can exactly duplicate. It could be the ability to attract and confirm some waiting servant who would otherwise remain unawakened, or perhaps a sincerity in prayer which can enrich the whole community. It could be the means of introducing the Faith to some new stratum of society or publicity medium, or even to some unopened territory through friends and relatives. It could be the dedication and devotion to sever all attachments in order to serve as a pioneer, or perhaps the quality of patience and loving kindness which can hold a community together when threatened by tensions and disunity. Each one of us is like a unique thread which Bahá'u'lláh can weave into the great complex pattern of the Cause of God. This is why the Universal House of Justice has called for "universal participation".

Our Bahá'í youth, who because of their greater mobility and freedom from ties must be in the vanguard of every teaching project, can make an immense contribution. Most of them by the end of the Plan will be eligible for election to an Assembly and can from the beginning prepare themselves by gaining skills and qualifications to serve as pioneers both on the Homefront and overseas.

We recall the words of our very dear Hand of the Cause Bill Sears in his recent message addressed to "all the dearly-loved Bahá'ís in the United Kingdom": "Let every believer arise on this glorious occasion and assure the National Spiritual Assembly that the great new Plan of the Universal House of Justice will be launched upon a platform of total victory in every part of the United Kingdom", and also the powerful words of the beloved Guardian which he quoted at the end of the letter: "may they, one and all, prove themselves, in the crucial months immediately ahead, worthy of the blessings vouchsafed to them in the past, and of the high destiny which it lies in their power to achieve in the future."

With deepest love to all,
NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY



Another view of the European Mashriqu'l-Adhkár

useful interchange. These breaks had to be lengthy because the excellent food in the local eating places was slow to appear. Once we sat down at 6.30 pm. and were still waiting at 7.45 pm. and anxiously eyeing the clock as the time for the evening session approached. In the absence of other diversions a meal is obviously something to spend the entire evening over.

The German NSA had thoughtfully arranged a memorial service for Hand of the Cause Mr John Ferraby to be held on Sunday afternoon in the House of Worship, thus giving many NSA members from all over Europe the opportunity of attending. Just before we walked up from the Hazíratu'l-Quds, Dr Mühlischelegel spoke movingly of John Ferraby's great services to the Cause and the certainty of his presence there with us, and then within our lovely Mother Temple there were prayers and readings in many languages, a befitting memorial for a European Hand of the Cause of God.

It was here that we realised that the German friends, almost unaided, have the very heavy burden of maintaining this precious building, and the need for us, in the United Kingdom, to contribute much more generously.

As always at such international gatherings the outcome of the consultations was secondary to the spirit of love and harmony which was generated and the realisation of the tremendous unifying power of Bahá'u'lláh. The task in Europe is immense but the privilege of being present at this Conference at Langenhain gave new heart to your NSA representatives.

FAROE ISLANDS — VENUE FOR SCANDINAVIAN SPRING CONFERENCE

The Torshavn Spiritual Assembly has recommended, and the National Assembly has warmly accepted, a Scandinavian Spring School and Conference to be held in the Faroes between 11-17 April. The Universal House of Justice wrote that they are "most favourably impressed" by the "exciting and well-thought-out project". They describe it as "imaginative and highly meritorious", and it is hoped that the National Assemblies of Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland will give it their full support.

The proposed programme caters for all tastes with deepening, teaching, consultation on Scandinavian affairs, street teaching, "spiritualisation" and other such stimulating activities. We do hope that the United Kingdom will be well represented.

It is more than likely that much of the accommodation will be in the Youth Hostel (sleeping bags), but there is also Class A and Class B accommodation. The cost will vary from £27 to £53 for the six days depending on the numbers and the then value of the pound. Airfare reductions are given for children, youth and parties of more than ten.

The Torshavn Assembly will be the hosts and will be fully responsible for all the physical arrangements; further details will be made available as soon as we have some idea as to how many believers would like to attend from the United Kingdom.

It is, therefore, important that our Registrar, Elsie Bowers, 65 Sandown Road, Liverpool 15, be advised as soon as possible if you would like to attend. Please write to her immediately.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

REVISION OF BOUNDARIES OF LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES

The new structure of local government administration in the United Kingdom will come into operation on 1 April, 1974. A full report of the details of this change and its implications has been given to the Universal House of Justice which has decided that local Spiritual Assemblies must in future be based on the new Districts. This means a considerable change in the boundaries of many of the existing local Spiritual Assemblies, and also a change of name, which will take effect at Ridván.

In the new structure some counties will cease to exist and some new ones will be formed. Each county is then divided into administrative areas to be known as Districts. Many of the existing County and Municipal Boroughs will now become Districts with little or no change in their boundaries but the present Urban Districts on which a number of LSAs are based will cease to exist. They will be absorbed in the new Districts which in many cases will cover a much wider area. This means that the area of jurisdiction of some local Spiritual Assemblies will be considerably extended to bring in some previously isolated believers or even some groups.

The position in the four countries is:

England	with	363	Districts	has	70	LSAs
Wales	with	37	Districts	has	7	LSAs
N. Ireland	with	26	Districts	has	6	LSAs
Scotland	with	?	Districts	has	9	LSAs
(awaiting information)						
Isle of Wight	with	2	Districts	has	1	LSA

We have not yet got the details for the other islands.

In only two Districts is there more than one existing local Spiritual Assembly, namely:

Salford with both Eccles and Swinton

Birmingham with the present Birmingham and Sutton Coldfield.

Subject to further clarification by the Universal House of Justice (for which we have asked) it therefore seems that Eccles and Swinton LSAs will cease to exist and at Ridván the friends in these areas must come together to elect the new local Spiritual Assembly of SALFORD.

Similarly Sutton Coldfield LSA will no longer have separate identity and the friends in that area will take part in the election of Birmingham LSA at Ridván.

The Unit Teaching Committees have already been alerted and asked to recommend quickly to the National Teaching Committee which of the new Districts could reasonably be adopted as immediate goals to form LSAs at Ridván.

All local Spiritual Assemblies should now find out from their County Office or Town Hall the precise boundaries of their own District. Please then inform the National Office IMMEDIATELY if any groups or isolated believers are thus brought into your area of jurisdiction, giving the new total number of voting members in your community. According to the community returns at 1 November 1973 fifteen LSAs are below numbers:

Aberystwyth	2	Dumbarton	6	Lincoln	3
Bangor (Wales)	2	(lapsed)		Northampton	2
Carlisle	1	Ipswich	2	St. Andrews	3
Castlereagh RD	1	Kidderminster	3	Lambeth	2
Chester	1	Kirkby	4	Richmond	1
		Lerwick	3		

One of the goals achieved in the Nine Year Plan was to establish at least one local Spiritual Assembly in each county of England, but in the reorganisation four new counties are without an LSA. Kingston-upon-Hull has already been adopted as the goal for the new county of Humberside. We now need to adopt goals for Northumberland, Cleveland and Gloucestershire and the NSA will welcome recommendations from both the Unit Conventions and from LSAs in neighbouring counties.

The Universal House of Justice has commented that there will be fewer strictly isolated believers and that the net result may be a general enrichment of the Bahá'í life of all the members of our community.

So we can be confident that this change will give a new impetus to our work and bring rich rewards for our efforts. There are about 500 Districts in the United Kingdom and our long-term goal must be to establish a local Spiritual Assembly in each. Who knows the goal may not be far distant?

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

در لوح حاجی محمد رحیم نیریزی ارطم اعلیٰ نازل قوله تعالیٰ :

الیوم برکلی لازم است بقدر مقدور حقوق الهی را ادا نمایند این قهر سبب

نعمت و برکت و نجات بوده و هست طوبی لمن عمل بمأزول فی کتاب الله عزیز

العظیم

VISITS TO EASTERN EUROPE

It is most important that any Bahá'í intending to visit any country in Eastern Europe, for whatever reason, should first communicate with the National Assembly Secretary (Telephone: 01 584 2566).

THE NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

UNIT TEACHING COMMITTEES

We are very happy to report the growing strength of the Unit Teaching Committees and look forward to their further development in the future. Many friends have attended unit conferences and receive regular newsletters. Unit Conventions will soon be taking place and we hope that the increased activity within the Units during the past few months will help to make the careful choice of delegates easier, as well as providing more opportunities for teaching and deepening.

LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES

Last Ridván we were all overjoyed at the successful achievement of the goals of the Nine Year Plan, the first Plan of the Universal House of Justice. This year has provided a respite with each National Spiritual Assembly devising a special plan for its own area. In the last edition of the Journal we were able to see how some of the aims of our National Plan were being pursued.

However, the local Spiritual Assemblies formed during the Nine Year Plan through so much effort and sacrifice must not be lost; we must maintain all these Assemblies before moving on to the new Five Year Plan. At the moment our local Spiritual Assemblies are more than forty believers below strength so concentrated prayer and teaching are essential.

THE SCOTTISH ISLANDS

The Shetland, Orkney and Hebrides Islands are mentioned by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, but seemingly forgotten by many others. Equally forgotten by the British Bahá'í Community is the vision and promise that involves them.

Is it not true that the entry by troops into the army of Bahá'u'lláh will begin in the Scottish Islands before it occurs in England? Is it not, therefore, absolutely essential that these lonely outposts at Lerwick, Kirkwall and Stornoway be not only maintained but constantly reinforced and expanded? They are in a very real sense bridgeheads formed at great cost and sacrifice by our gallant spiritual soldiers still stationed there, and consequently will form the bases from which the victorious promises foretold by Shoghi Effendi will be produced.

In his letter of 1957, Shoghi Effendi wrote: "the splendid work achieved. . . must. . . be regarded as only a prelude to the series of future campaigns which the privileged members of the British Bahá'í Community. . . will, if faithful to such a mission, launch, in the years ahead, in the islands of the North Sea. . . which. . . must throw into shade the feats performed in the African Continent."

We have forgotten the importance of these words! And what is worse, we haven't come near to fulfilling the seven conditions which Shoghi Effendi said must occur to ensure the success of such an enterprise. Read these next words very carefully:—

"To be enabled to rise to this occasion. . . the small band of the ardent followers of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh must needs in the years immediately ahead:

acquire greater coherence,
increase more rapidly in numbers,
definitely emerge from obscurity,
plumb greater depths of consecration,
enrich its store of administrative experience,
become definitely self-supporting,
associate itself more closely, through the body of its elected representatives and its future Hands, with the National and Regional Spiritual Assemblies on the European mainland and in all the other continents of the globe, and particularly with the Hands already appointed in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres."

Not only must campaigns in the Northern Islands be launched immediately and sustained but the above seven conditions must be achieved throughout the entire British Community. This is the eleventh hour — we can wait no longer: if we are to be "faithful to such a mission" — and we must be — every sacrifice must be made now!

Already some of our units in the South have responded to the follow-up programme of last summer's project. Joan Giddings volunteered from Unit 18 and has already spent three weeks in the Shetlands and Orkneys during December. From the Unit 13 Conference Kevin and Nina Beint, Pari Firoozmand, Godfrey Nix, Atherton Parsons and Massoud Tahzib have volunteered to visit the islands while their home LSAs are instituting a

deputisation fund to give everyone in the unit area an opportunity to serve and feel a part of the tremendous task ahead. From the Unit 15 Conference the following volunteered: Doreen MacKay, Pat Keely, Yvonne Leach, Terry Pickles, Martin Anderson, Martin Parry, Barbara Smith, Brant Hardy, Michael Freemantle and Hugh Fixsen. At the same conference Salisbury donated £12.50 for deputisation. Some will be going at Easter and others later in the year. Mary and Abbas Mehrnoosh from Unit 18 will also be leaving shortly to visit the Islands.

However, many more volunteers are needed. A constant flow of visitors has a two-fold function: it brings fresh spirit and interest to the local believers and brings back greater understanding and stimulus to those in their home LSAs. So far three units have responded to this urgent call — what about the rest of the British Isles? One does not need to be a speaker or especially trained in teaching — just loving, thoughtful and sincere friends calling in to help out other friends in whatever way they can. Many of the above volunteers will be self supporting; others may be deputised by the LSAs in their units. Remember that not until every Bahá'í in the United Kingdom begins to participate in this campaign will it be successful. If you can't go, help to send someone else — and then pray! Keep your thoughts constantly on the Islands — talk about them — write letters — send ideas.

Here are some ideas in the process of gestation:

1. **Pioneers for Lerwick:** Lerwick is four below strength — two young families have volunteered to go:

Barney and Erica Leith

Gordon and Gwen MacKenzie

However, both are having difficulty in finding jobs. Since the situation is urgent, others are needed to apply so that eventually someone will be able to find a niche on the island to ensure that this most northerly outpost will be held! Information about jobs can be obtained from local labour exchanges.

2. **Work Team:** to be composed of at least six individuals who will work together at seasonal labour; thus bringing the faith to the working man by showing him that Bahá'ís can work well, be happy and cheerful, trustworthy and reliable: — to begin after Ridván.

3. **Holiday Makers:** Instead of going to the continent, plan to spend your holidays in the islands; have a holiday with a difference. Make your own arrangements; take your family there; talk to people wisely and sensibly as you would at home or on any other holiday.

4. **Mini-Summer School in Mid-Yell in the Shetlands.** The possibility is being investigated to be followed by a teaching project. This is a locality where the local people have asked the Bahá'ís to return.

5. **Travel teachers** — of all shapes, sizes and abilities.

As you can see, there are opportunities for almost everyone.

Many of our British Bahá'ís are clustered together in our large cities and are complaining about the lack of receptivity. Why not consider a change of location to teach? Some of these islands are small like Fetlar whose eighty inhabitants were introduced to the Faith by Gloria Faizi. They are waiting to hear the word again. It's far easier to talk to eighty people in two or three weeks than eight million in London for twenty years.

It has been nearly twenty years since Shoghi Effendi wrote that letter.

Think about it — if those eighty people could accept the Faith and the whole island become Bahá'í, the impact would be far greater than twice that number in the heart of London. Here one begins to understand the wisdom and brilliance of Shoghi Effendi.

Remember our Mission!! Remember that the connection between the progress of the Faith and sacrifice is a mystery, but undeniably there. There must be universal participation. There is no time for indecision; no time for apathy; no time for weakness. From these sorties on to this spiritual battlefield will future historians write the names of the heroes of our Cause. This is the time for sacrifice and endeavour; this is also the time for victory and greatness.

Please contact the NTC Secretary if you can help!

NATIONAL BAHÁ'Í CONFERENCE — U.K. 1974

To launch the Three Year Youth Campaign

Date: 12, 13, 14 and 15 April, 1974

Place: Westhill College of Education,
Wesley Park Road, Selly Oak,
Birmingham B29 6LL

Price: £8.75

Registrar: Shahram Mohtahed,
30 Castelnau, Barnes
London SW13

Payment: The full amount is payable by cheque or postal order
(made payable to Shahram Mohtahed) when booking.
Please enclose two stamped addressed envelopes.

DEADLINE: 1 April, 1974.

Those coming for part of the Conference or booking too late may obtain a list of convenient hostels and hotels by writing to the Registrar. A Conference registration fee of 50p per day or £1 for the whole period will be charged to non-residents.



IN TUNE

The Bahá'í youth magazine of the United Kingdom may be obtained by sending a subscription of 50p for one year to:

"IN TUNE",
27 Rutland Gate, London SW7



WISTON WINTER SCHOOL, SCOTLAND, 1973/4

Was it a gathering of talented artists, of teachers and students of non-Bahá'í religions, of perfectionist cordon bleus, of expert dancers, or was it just a Bahá'í winter school?

Our National Youth Department had organised an excellent week to suit the tastes of the weirdest among us.

The Arts Festival, which has been established to encourage artistic expression in teaching the Faith, revealed great talents: plays, poetry, posters, singing, a puppet show, pottery, weaving and embroidery. Four awards designed by Matthew Frere-Smith were presented to the winners and certificates were delivered, too.

Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islám, the Bábí and the Bahá'í Faiths: the teachings and historical development of these religions were covered in one week. Although much was learnt from the talks, some felt that more would be gained from the study in depth of only one religion along with our own.

A three-year youth campaign to be launched at a large youth conference at Easter was announced and suggestions made by all present during one session.

The highlight of the school, to the mind of most, was a gathering where, by the light of candles, prayers and tablets were read.

REPORT ON THE FUND

The response to the urgent appeals made by the National Assembly for the "Lifeblood of the Cause" has been very good. Money has flowed into the reservoir, and, at the end of the third quarter of the financial year, it was possible to report to the National Assembly that income had exceeded expenditure for the first time this Bahá'í Year. It was also possible to report that the rate of donations had been very good indeed and had exceeded the amount due by the end of the third quarter, as follows:—

Amount needed from donations for the year ..	£31,000
Amount needed from donations from 20 March — 20 December	£23,250
Amount received from donations from 20 March — 20 December	£24,889

It should be noted, however, that this tremendous response did not take place until the last quarter, and for the first six months of our financial year it was a mammoth struggle to keep going. The same thing happens each year at a time when we are trying to launch new projects, and when there is a serious need for funds at a time when the friends can go travel teaching during the summer vacations. This, each time, is a serious setback to the work of the Cause, and with the new Global Plan now so

near to being launched, it will be necessary for the friends everywhere to see how best they can give support to the Fund right through the year from its commencement in March.

From the first and second quarters	£11,500
From the third quarter alone	£13,300

Much sacrifice has been made by many of the friends, and various communities have undertaken numerous projects for raising funds such as sales, auctions, and many other things. Now a number of communities and individuals are paying for the Journals they receive, and all these things have caused this wonderful upsurge in finances. The National Assembly has also made numerous sacrifices to cut down expenditure and we thank the whole community most warmly and sincerely, for their great response.

We hope very much that this report will not stop the friends everywhere from keeping up the impetus which has been gained during the past twelve weeks or so, for already the National Assemblies have been called upon by the Universal House of Justice to gather together material resources for launching the new Global Plan.

With deepest love to you all,

National Treasurer, Mrs Betty Goode,
8, Knowle Road,
Stafford.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



TRAVELS OF HAND OF THE CAUSE 'ALI AKBAR FURÚTAN

The beloved Hand of the Cause left Haifa on 18 August for Paris where he participated in two large meetings: in the Hazíratu'l-Quds, and at the home of one of the friends in the suburbs of Paris, both of which were a source of great joy to him. Whilst in Paris he also had the opportunity of visiting Madame Dreyfus-Barney, a wonderful servant of the Cause, who although over ninety years of age, still vividly remembers her visits with 'Abdu'l-Bahá when she recorded "Some Answered Questions". Mr Furútan then visited the French Summer School, held near Marseilles, which was attended by over two hundred believers from fifteen countries. An exciting characteristic of this school was the participation of many new, young, enthusiastic French Bahá'ís whose presence promised much hope for the future of their country. The Hand of the Cause gave a number of talks on a variety of subjects — always encouraging the French believers to take the lead in Bahá'í activities. Mr Furútan's stay in France ended after he visited the friends in Orleans, whence, on 3 September, he left for Portugal.

In Faro, in the southernmost part of that country, a meeting was held at the home of a lady, who, although her husband is not a Bahá'í and who is herself a new believer, had imbued her five children with the spirit of the Cause. A youth in that town proved to be a wonderful servant of the Cause with a great future in the service of Bahá'u'lláh; indeed, it was a truly magnificent sight to see the number of Portuguese believers who were ablaze with the fire of the love of God — an achievement due, at least in part, to the steadfast devotion of a Bahá'í couple who pioneered there from Latin America.

The beloved Hand of the Cause then visited Portimão, where the young Auxiliary Board member has, with his wife, established a school for foreign languages, an institution that, hopefully, will be instrumental in spreading the Message of God to the Portuguese people. From here, Mr Furútan travelled north to Setubal, to Coimbra, and thence to Porto in the extreme north of the country, meeting the pioneers, their families, and friends who had shown interest in the Faith. Sometimes these meetings did not close until after midnight.

On 8 September Mr Furútan visited the Bahá'ís in Lisbon, participating in a youth gathering where he spoke of the International Teaching Centre — a topic that was the subject

of many of his talks throughout Portugal and France. The whole of the next day was spent with some thirty to forty friends, from Portugal, America, and Persia, who had gathered at the site chosen for the future Mashriqu'l-Adhkar, a beautiful spot looking out to the Atlantic Ocean.

Mr Furútan then visited Spain where he says the spirituality of the Bahá'ís and their sincerity made him very happy. In one small village he met in the local Bahá'í Centre more than 200 friends, a memory which he says "will never be forgotten".

He then travelled in Germany and held deepening conferences in four regions in Cologne where more than 300 people gathered for three consecutive nights to study; in Langenhain, where, at one Sunday meeting, the attendance surpassed three-hundred; in Ulm, where fifty attended. Most of these were youth who met with the beloved Hand for three nights and in Esslingen-Stuttgart where over 150 people were present.

In Luxembourg, the next country visited, he met the friends in two meetings after which he said he would never forget the sweetness of those memorable days. In Austria he visited believers in Vienna, Graz and Linz. He attended a conference held for all the Bahá'ís in Austria where, he said, he was unable to record his "inner feelings and impressions of so much spirituality and enthusiasm".

On 24 October he returned to the Holy Land.

HAND OF THE CAUSE JALÁL KHÁZEH VISITS FRIENDS IN BOTH EAST AND WEST

Hand of the Cause Jalál Kházehe flew to New Delhi and Bombay, India on 25 July and on the next day he went to Bangalore to attend the Youth Conference there. On 27 July, he had a press conference in Bangalore, and on the next day he opened the Youth Conference as representative of the Universal House of Justice and stressed the significance of youth conferences held throughout the Bahá'í world, and the importance of the role of the youth. During the Conference, plans were made for the youth to do team teaching in universities in India after the Conference and also during the year.

On 3 August, Mr Kházehe left for Tokyo, Japan where he stayed until 13 August, visiting some of the local communities and encouraging the friends.

From 26 August to 3 September, Mr Kházeḥ attended the summer schools of Sydney, Nova Scotia, Juneau, Alaska and Godrich, Ontario, Canada. He then travelled to the United States where he visited Teaneck, New Jersey; Hartford, Connecticut, as well as New York City. The Local Spiritual Assembly of New York held a reception for Mr Kházeḥ in New York City on the evening of 11 September. On the evening of 12 September, Mr Kházeḥ met with Bahá'ís at the Cabin in Teaneck, New Jersey. The following evening he met with the Bahá'ís of Hartford. Wherever he travelled Mr Kházeḥ brought to the attention of the friends the urgent needs of the Cause and stimulated and encouraged them in their activities. Mr Kházeḥ arrived in the Holy Land on 20 September, and after a brief stay in the Holy Land he returned to Irán.

BAHÁ'Í INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR on:

"The Family in a Changing Society — Problems and Responsibilities of its members".
London: 18 - 31 July, 1973

Mrs Lea Nys and Mrs Shomais Afnan, the Bahá'í observers, had excellent opportunities to talk to the distinguished participants and present some aspects of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh related directly to the Seminar's questions.

The high respect and constant kind attention they received from the most distinguished personalities as well as the co-operation of the staff were remarkable.

The Seminar also gave them the opportunity of presenting a written statement stressing the rights of children, the role of the family, the significance of marriage and the obligation of parents to promote the oneness of mankind through example.

AUSTRALIA: A new Opera House has recently been opened in Sydney, Australia and during the first week at the Opening Festival the Bahá'ís were invited to participate in relation to a "Family of Man" Service. The Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly had represented the Bahá'í national community on the Planning Committee.

Hand of the Cause of God H. Collis Featherstone was treated with great dignity and courtesy by the officials, and was seated amongst such other VIPs as the Cardinal, the Papal Nuncio, and the Heads of the Presbyterian Church.

The Service programme listed the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Australia as members of the Committee for the special service which was closed by the Bahá'í representative who read a Bahá'í prayer for unity to a hushed audience from a stage which was surrounded by several hundred people of many races, all in national costume, while the nine South Pacific countries all held their national flags.

The Bahá'í Community was also invited to be represented at the opening of the Opera House by Her Majesty the Queen.

The event lasted approximately two and a half hours, and was to be televised that evening. However, as it was condensed into a one-hour programme, and so many of the items of the afternoon were so well presented, we were very anxious to see what would be left out! But the television programme showed the presentation of the Bahá'í book by the National Secretary, and later in the programme a close-up was shown of "Bahá'í World Faith", followed by the announcement that Mrs Kay de Vogel would read a Bahá'í prayer for unity. The entire prayer was televised, and was shown in many parts of Australia that night!

BOTSWANA: Over 100 souls declared their faith in Bahá'u'lláh! Thus the National Spiritual Assembly reported the immediate results of their recent Youth Conference, and in a subsequent report wrote: "This Conference was a momentous occasion for several reasons — it was the first successful Youth Conference held due to the wonderful activity of the youth, and the first Bushman Bahá'í youth (who joined our ranks on the evening previous to the Conference) was present and actively participated in the teaching activities."

NEPAL: The National Spiritual Assembly reports that Bahá'í activities have recently received fresh impetus as a result of the steadfast service and universal participation amongst the friends. Regular weekly classes are held in four towns, the ones in Birganj having an attendance "immensely increased". In the same area, four new Local Assemblies will be formed next Rídván; in the Biratnagar area two will be formed. In addition to this ten new localities, including six groups, have been opened to the Faith.

UNITED STATES: Coming together at the Rodeo Grounds of the Mescalero, an Indian town which nestles in pine forests high above the desert lands of Alamogordo, New Mexico, over fifty Bahá'ís from throughout the Southwest joined their friends on this Apache reservation to participate in a weekend of love and unity.

The generosity of the Mescalero Tribal Council in making it possible for the Council Fire to be held in such an ideal spot was matched by those Indians who guided the Bahá'ís as they erected a tepee in true Apache fashion and built an arbour to serve as shade during the daytime activities, and also the Indian women, Bahá'í and non-Bahá'í alike, who stood over a huge hot campfire for countless hours kneading and cooking dough to make basketsful of Apache fried bread for an evening meal.

The Council Fire was officially opened on Friday evening with the friends gathering for song and prayer around the campfire. On Saturday, a Taos Pueblo Indian Bahá'í, serving as a sensitive and competent master of ceremonies, introduced Bahá'í guests who offered the beautiful Message of Bahá'u'lláh through song and speech. Throughout the glorious weekend the theme of unity of all peoples and their harmony with the world of nature was reaffirmed and the coming of Bahá'u'lláh announced.

ZAMBIA: The Bahá'í community was assigned a choice location for its booth at the Agricultural Show held in Lusaka this year. The community is fortunate to have enrolled an architect, an artist, several engineers, an electrician, a seamstress and a carpenter, and they set to work on the corner booth situated near two entrances to the Jubilee Hall and directly below a restaurant. A screen was incorporated overhead on one side of the booth where films of the dedication of the Panama Temple were projected. The films not only drew large crowds of strollers, but customers in the restaurant would lean over the rail to look at the films. Altogether, more than 57,000 people visited the show; 3,500 pieces of Bahá'í literature were distributed, and there were 350 requests for further information about the Faith registered. More than twenty visitors to the show are now Bahá'ís, and follow-up teaching meetings with visitors to the Fair are still being held.

NOTICES

BIRTHS

- 8 October 1973: Shirin Wendy, daughter to Carole and Bryan Huxtable, in St. Austell.
- 9 October 1973: Vashti Rachel, daughter to Judy and David Bateman, in Bangor, N. Wales.
- 27 November 1973: Marianne, daughter to Sally and Brian Shepherd, in Inverness.
- 14 December 1973: Sedrhat Attar, son to Wendi and Moojan Momen.
- 24 December 1973: Christopher Stephen, son to Carol and Stephen Wierzbiicki, in Londonderry.

MARRIAGES

- 12 November 1973: June Smith to Nicolas Sanders, in Stornoway.
- 1 December 1973: Vida Astani to Malcolm Lake, in Sheffield.
- 9 January 1974: Alma Fontana-Mariana (not a Bahá'í) to Azizullah Pour-Khorsand, in Havering.

REINSTATEMENT OF VOTING RIGHTS: Sohrab Eshraghi, October, 1973.

REMOVAL OF VOTING RIGHTS:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Mavis Streets | March, 1973 |
| Helga Phillips | March, 1973. |
| Judi Ingham | April, 1973. |
| Charles Duncan | September, 1973. |
| James Shaw | October, 1973. |
| Susan Riches | November, 1973. |
| Rhona Wilson | January, 1974. |

SERVICES AVAILABLE FROM THE AUDIO-VISUAL COMMITTEE OF THE NSA

Many useful items in the different aspects of deepening, teaching, display and proclamation are offered by the Audio-Visual Committee either by direct sale or for hire. An outline is given below of the various services and materials available from the appropriate departments of the Audio-Visual Committee with addresses from whence further details and information may be obtained.

1. **Hire of Visual Aids:** "Sue" Benatar, 65 Avon Drive, Bedford MK41 7UR.
Slide shows with tape cassette commentary; Film strip subjects with tape cassette commentary; 16mm film shows for optical sound projectors. Available with the film strip shows are mini projectors suitable for film strips and for 35mm slides.
Catalogues of all the programmes available can be obtained from "Sue" Benatar or from the Audio Visual Committee.
Ted Cardell has a mini exhibition available for meetings and special events and is prepared, with sufficient notice, to put on a very attractive film show with commentary. Application should be made to Ted Cardell at Manor Farm, Great Paxton, St. Neots, Hunts, for these services.
2. **Deepening Material:** Victor Priem, Riga, Primrose Drive, Ripon HG 4 1EY, Yorkshire. (Telephone: Ripon 2611)
Available on loan and prompt return is requested.
PROJECTS:— Laws and Ordinances; Bahá'í Marriage; Every Stratum of Human Society; The Universal House of Justice; A New Race of Men; The Inner Life; Acceptance of New Believers; The Bahá'í Fund; The Reality of Man.
QUESTIONNAIRES: on the Central Figures of the Faith and the Bahá'í Community.
3. **Sales Department:** John Reeve, 44 Highbank, Brighton BN1 5GB.

Photographs of 'Abdu'l-Bahá;	B/W Photos of the Temples;	Calendars;
Coloured Postcards — Temples, etc.;	Greatest Name Cards;	Stickers;
Coloured Photographs — Temples;	Greatest Name Plaques;	Greeting Cards;
Prayer Cards & Plaques;	Invitation Forms;	Reel tapes;
Slide Sets;	L.P's;	Cassettes;
Film Strips;	General Posters;	Bus Posters;
Ringstones, synthetic;	Rings;	Pendants;
Badges, Buttons;	Mini Teaching Cards;	Charts;

Sales List No. 4, with amendment sheet, will be sent on receipt of your name and address on a white label or card, with a 3p stamp.
The following additional items have been introduced fairly recently:—

Item 430A	Greatest Name Plaque — Acrylic — 3 Colours:	£1.18 + VAT
434B	Prayer Plaque — Acrylic, Crimson "Be Generous. . ."	£1.18 + VAT
454C	LP "Windflower" 9 Selections:	£2.50 + VAT
463A	1 Enamel lapel badge "Bahá'í":	20 + VAT
471	Map, Journeys of the Báb, 40 x 30", flat-folded	£1.00 + VAT
445A	Wall Calendar 1974, 10p incl. VAT + postage.		

Orders over 4 units post free. Group and/or Community orders are preferred.

Item 445A	Pocket Calendar Cards 1974. 3 for 7p including VAT, orders over 6 units post free.		
470	Acrylic Pendants — various colours, with chain:		55 + VAT
	4 Different types folded cards with coloured picture of Bahá'í House of Worship.		
	Suitable for Naw-Rúz Cards, or Note-cards (with envelopes):	Set of 4	20 + VAT

Special Note: All items are subject to VAT. Please do not send a remittance with the order (exception — Wall and Pocket Calendars Item 445A detailed above).

- 4. **Hire of Cassettes:** Terry Pickles, 33 Kendrick Road, Reading, Berkshire. (Please note that this address is different from that printed on the catalogues).
A selection of about fifteen cassettes of talks on Bahá'í subjects by well known teachers and Hands of the Cause. There are also half a dozen home-produced cassettes and others are on their way from America.

COMMUNITY NEWS

BANGOR (N. Wales): The first Bahá'í meeting to be held in Caernarfon was organised by the Bangor Community on 15 December. Seven non-Bahá'ís attended the meeting at which the slide show, 'Carmel, Mountain of God', was shown, followed by songs, an introductory talk and informal discussion. Many people have now heard the name 'Bahá'í' as teaching in the town with a small exhibition stand preceded the evening meeting.

On 5/6 January a very enjoyable weekend school was held in Bangor. This included a day's teaching in the town with a stand of posters and leaflets, conveying the message of Bahá'u'lláh, and invitations were given to interested people for a public meeting held on the Saturday evening. Eleven non-Bahá'ís attended this at which an excellent slide programme was shown by our Danish friends, Anne and Annie. Joy Behi gave an illuminating introductory talk which was then followed by the very entertaining, prize-winning puppet show performed by Jackson from Northern Ireland. Discussion and then songs by Chris and Anne followed and some of the contacts present expressed their enjoyment of the evening and said that they would probably attend future firesides.

The following day incorporated a variety of subjects for deepening and consultation. The community was joined for the weekend by friends from Liverpool, Denmark, Northampton, Northern Ireland, Aberystwyth and many areas throughout North Wales. Special thanks to George Bowers, who gave an excellent talk on the subject of Bahá'í Administration, and to the friends from Denmark and Northampton who lovingly gave so much help with the arrangements for this weekend weekend.



The mayor of Poole photographed with Muriel Brown, Gloria Momen and John Edwards at the exhibition during which she was presented with "THE PROCLAMATION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH". The event was reported in the October Journal.

North Wales has been blessed recently with declarations and pioneer moves. Four declarations took place at various meetings in Bangor — three from friends living in Caernarfon and one from Penmaenmawr. The Bangor community welcomed Joy and Ruhi Behi and their daughters Marie and Lisa who have pioneered all the way from India. Another addition to the community in Bangor was provided by the birth of Vashti Rachel Bateman on [REDACTED] — the proud parents are Judy and Davey.

As an illustration of how quickly the Faith is growing in N. Wales — in January 1973 there were approximately nineteen Bahá'ís resident in the North Wales area; in January 1974 there are approximately forty-two resident Bahá'ís!

BRENT: Recently the Brent LSA organised a Jumble Sale/Auction and raised £37.60p for the National Fund. Some of the friends from Harrow also joined us in this venture. Everyone left happy; getting rid of their "White Elephants" and obtaining something useful instead. We feel this may be food for thought for other communities.

Ed. note: It must be stressed that ventures of this nature must take place only with the participation of Bahá'ís. Non-Bahá'ís must always be excluded from jumble sales, American auctions, etc., as their participation would involve their contributing to the Fund, which is against Bahá'í Law.

CHESTER: Last summer we felt we would really like to draw attention to the Faith, so we thought that by releasing 130 gas filled balloons, people would surely notice, — the significance of 130 being to represent each year of the Faith. Then we looked at our meagre fund and thought the idea would be much too costly. However, we decided to go ahead and make enquiries and found the enterprise to be within our resources, balloons and gas costing less than expected.

We purchased 300 pamphlets and borrowed three large posters, which we attached to a large van. Then we contacted each of the local newspapers and were thrilled when each one printed a small, but very informative article about the Faith, and invited everybody to the riverside the following weekend where we were releasing the balloons.

The day of the great launching came: in the morning balloons were being filled and having a "new concept" card attached to them with an invitation to a public talk that evening, and the address and telephone number of the fireside. Unfortunately, the gas ran out after filling only sixty-five balloons, but our spirits were not deflated, and everybody cheerfully blew up the remaining sixty-five. We all joined together in prayer for about fifteen minutes and then everybody set out to the riverside, either squashed between balloons in the van or squashed into private cars or on bicycle or by foot; everybody eager to tell the whole town of our "Most glorious Faith".

When we arrived at the riverside we did indeed draw attention: whether people were attracted by the warmth and friendliness of the Bahá'ís or whether they were curious about the balloons we do not know, but the afternoon was a real success. Gas filled balloons floated skyward and others were given to passing children; people approached us and asked about the Faith and the afternoon was only brought to a close when heavy rain began to fall. Then, gradually, everybody returned to the house to join those who had stayed to pray.

The evening talk was a success and was attended by some non-Bahá'ís who seemed very impressed. Of course, our weekend was only made possible by the support of our wonderful neighbouring communities which showed us all that anything can happen when Bahá'í friends join together in a spirit of love and unity to spread the word of Bahá'u'lláh.

We would recommend this activity to any community, however poor, because the total cost was about £7.50 which was well spent when we considered the two newspaper articles and the number of waiting souls we reached by this activity. Besides, we all agreed it was fun!

EDINBURGH: World Religion Day was celebrated quietly this year, with a devotional using the scriptures of various religions and talks on those religions, given at the home of some of the friends. Several non-Bahá'ís attended and were very interested.

Despite opposition from some political and some other evangelical students, mainly in the form of defacing of Bahá'í posters on the notice-boards, the University firesides have been



Travel teaching is fun! Most of the members of two teams which visited Orkney, together with some of the local Bahá'ís.

showing an improvement in the number of contacts. The fact that the Bahá'í Group is a recognised University Society, with its own room in the Societies' Centre is an advantage in proclaiming the Faith in the University.

The Spiritual Assembly have been able to book for the forthcoming Unit Convention the very room in the Theosophical Society where 'Abdu'l-Bahá spoke in 1913; it is hoped that such a spiritual boost will be valuable for the Convention.

Plans are being made for a Deepening Weekend to be held in Edinburgh on the weekend of 2-3 March, on the theme "The Bahá'í in Modern Society". Sessions with talks and discussion are planned on "The Bahá'í and Politics", "The Bahá'í and Social Problems", "The Bahá'í and Sex", and "The Bahá'í and Contemporary Culture".

GUILDFORD: On Sunday, 9 December, we held a One Day School at the International Centre. In spite of fears of a petrol crisis nearly seventy friends came during the day, undoubtedly drawn by our guest speakers, Mary Kouchekezadeh and Hassan Sabri. In the morning Mrs Kouchekezadeh gave a talk on the significance of the Laws and Ordinances of Bahá'u'lláh, dealing specifically with those laws at present applicable to the West. Her talk was chaired by Edgar Boyett, chairman of the LSA.

A very tasty lunch was provided by the ladies of the Guildford community, and profits from this were sent to the National Fund together with donations from people who attended the school.

In the afternoon Hassan Sabri gave a humorous and touching talk on the life of the Guardian: he was chaired by Carolyn Branson-Makki. After his talk, Hassan led consultation on pioneering, stressing the importance of moving to fill goals in our own country as well as abroad. There are many small groups forming in the Guildford unit and with a few selfless moves these could all become Assemblies with very little difficulty. As the day wore on a beautiful atmosphere developed, and it was with some sadness that those present who had heard Hassan Sabri for the first time realised that we are shortly to lose him again to Africa, although there is consolation in the fact that our own Auxiliary Board Member, Mary Kouchekezadeh, will be with us again soon.

We have been getting a great deal of publicity in the local Press recently by reporting any interesting firesides, deepening meetings and visits to other communities, averaging about two each month.

The Bahá'í Society is holding fortnightly firesides and have a handsome noticeboard in the Students' Union showing quotations from Bahá'u'lláh. Public meetings at the University have been temporarily suspended until there is more interest as we were tending to get non-Bahá'í Persians coming along to dispute rather than question. The LSA is holding once-fortnightly deepening meetings, and weekly firesides. For Teach-Your-Neighbour Weekend Mrs Naz Delshad is having a party at her home on Sunday afternoon; which is also her thirtieth wedding anniversary, although her husband is out of the country!

Bahá'í books in the library are moving much more, and we are trying to trace an African who has been telling travellers on the Aldershot-Guildford line all about the Martyrdom of the Báb; he claims to be a Bahá'í, but obviously can't know about declaration cards!

HAVERING: On Wednesday, 9 January, 1974, at the home of Mrs Beheshti, a Bahá'í Wedding took place between Miss Alma Fontana Mariana (non-Bahá'í) to Mr Azizullah Pour-Khorsand, visitors to our community.

On Saturday, 19 January, 1974, the Havering community celebrated World Religion Day with a public meeting at the Collier Row Community Centre, a programme of readings and music from all the great religions was arranged by Mr Cyril Scanes, leading up to a talk on the Bahá'í Faith by Mr Qudrat Jamshidi.

In September last year the Bahá'ís of Havering presented the Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh to the Mayor of Havering, Alderman Stanley Heath-Coleman. Three members of the LSA, Mrs Joan Scanes, Mr Cyril Scanes and Mr Habib Khursandi, were warmly received by the Mayor and Mayoress and spoke for twenty minutes to them about the Faith in which they showed considerable interest. The Book is now in the Havering Reference Library.



(Photograph by courtesy of the Heywood Advertiser)
Badi Lenz with the chairman and secretary of the Heywood Civic Society.

HEYWOOD: As a result of the Heywood Secretary's teaching the Faith, she was invited to join the Heywood Civic Society, and was asked to provide a speaker for their annual general meeting. This took place on 17 January and Badi Lenz, a founder member of the Swiss organisation, Waldluti (People of the Forest), gave an inspiring talk on the need for trees, and how members of the Bahá'í world-family drew inspiration from the writings of Bahá'u'lláh.

It was a special evening for the local Bahá'í secretary because she was elected to the committee of the Society, and later appointed along with the Reverend A. Shackleton to represent the society at a meeting in the Municipal Offices to discuss the future of Heywood and its twin town of Peine in Germany.

This is an example of how, when Bahá'ís become a part of the community in which they live, they frequently have the opportunity of putting forth the teachings. Publicity for this event was given for three consecutive weeks in the local newspaper — first to announce the meeting; then, on the day itself, a report with photograph of Mr Badi Lenz, and then a full report of the meeting with photograph the week after it took place.

LEEDS: Our community had the great privilege of a recital by Sylvia Schulman (Benatar) in the Exhibition Hall of the Civic Theatre. This is not the place for a musical critique of Sylvia's superb playing and exquisite artistry; suffice to say that her concert was enjoyed immensely by the Bahá'ís and the twenty-eight non-Bahá'ís who simply came to hear music. This is the sort of occasion which can be widely advertised and which will, by its very nature, draw an audience which might very well never come to hear a Bahá'í talk. Between some of her pieces Sylvia gave very interesting short talks dealing with the Teachings and Principles of the Faith and our community felt this to have been a highly successful evening, despite the bitter cold through which artiste and audience alike had to struggle to attend. We are deeply grateful to Sylvia for this service to the Faith in Leeds and would like to mention that she will be happy to repeat it for any community which is able to provide a good piano in a fair sized room.

Leeds University Bahá'í Society opened with an audience of about forty to hear a talk given by Richard St. Barbe Baker in which he reminisced about some of his travels. This, again, was an occasion where the personality of the particular Bahá'í was able to be used to 'draw' the public and we are most grateful to Mr Baker for coming so far to help the Society in this way.

MAIDSTONE: Totally amazing things are developing in Maidstone, Kent. Local declarations and moves to the area have brought the town up to LSA strength within the space of just one year. Now six youth have moved into a large house — and grown wings! We have been blessed with visits from many beautiful friends. The landlord was so impressed by our first month's tidying-up efforts that he reduced the weekly rent from £25 to (wait for it...!) £19!

Two firesides and a deepening meeting are being held in the town each week. We also hope to start a theatre-singing group based on the house at 374, Loose Rd., Maidstone.

OAKHAM: We were pleased to welcome Fiona Dunn in September and she spent a most profitable few days here. She had a very full programme and each of her audiences was so delighted that sometimes it was difficult to bring the proceedings to a close. One day she met the Press at the Honrose Factory. Full coverage was given by three local newspapers with photographs of Fiona singing in the machine room surrounded by staff. In addition to firesides she visited Old People's Homes and a primary school, where her singing was much appreciated.

RIPON: A recital given by Lois Hainsworth and Sylvia Schulman was held in Ripon Grammar School hall on 29 November with a programme of classical piano music and songs, and readings from the Bahá'í Scriptures.

The concert had been widely advertised throughout Ripon, a Cathedral city with a population of about eleven thousand. Display advertisements were put in the entertainment column of the "Ripon Gazette" two weeks running, and their reporter wrote a long and informative article about Lois and Sylvia, with a photograph of each, giving full details of the forthcoming performance. Printed posters were displayed in Ripon College of Education, the Grammar School, the Further Education Centre and the Public Library, and also in several popular shops and even the dentist's waiting room!

Although there was intensive publicity, it was the personal letters inviting friends, acquaintances and colleagues of the local Bahá'ís to the concert, and to their home afterwards for refreshments and to meet the artists, which produced almost half the audience. A considerable number of Grammar School boarders attended the concert, largely thanks to the whole school having been urged to do so by the Headmaster twice in morning assembly. It was stressed that admission was free and that there would be no collection.

The night of the concert was intensely cold, with snow on the ground, but there were about seventy people in the audience, including eight Bahá'ís, two of whom had travelled all the way from Newcastle in treacherous road conditions. The Headmaster and several of his staff were present, and the music master was most helpful in many ways, and volunteered to turn Sylvia's music for her.

The local Bahá'ís were delighted to meet a rural dean and his wife from Wensleydale, who told us that their son had recently become a Bahá'í. They said they were greatly impressed by the beauty of the Bahá'í scriptures, and accepted an invitation to the Bahá'ís' home after the concert.

Lois Hainsworth and Sylvia Schulman, who had so generously offered to give the concert, and Philip Hainsworth, who kindly selected and read the scriptures, were introduced by a Ripon Bahá'í, who spoke briefly about Bahá'u'lláh and the Bahá'í Faith. The concert was very beautiful, and was warmly received by everybody present.

Over thirty people came to meet the artists after the performance, some talked about the Faith, and one borrowed a book. As a result of the concert enquiries are still coming in, and the Faith has been discussed at the grammar school and at college.

The Ripon group offer their deepest thanks and gratitude to Lois, Sylvia and Philip for devoting so much time and effort to make the evening such a success, and for having made possible the first public Bahá'í event in Ripon.

RYDE (Isle of Wight): Our three day school got under way on 28, 29, 30 December with a varied programme of deepening; talks on the Founders of the Faith — then two sessions on the Covenant and workshops on such vital matters as 'Administration, Chairmanship and Poster-making', gathering in ideas from the participants.

There was good support from the Brighton friends, from Winchester and Southampton, and we had the bounty of an unexpected visit from Board member David Lewis and his wife Barbara, and we all were happy to see David looking well. We served all meals 'within' and 'shared' our most welcome visitors between us: we can but hope they were comfortable.

Saturday night was a combination of a Unity Feast and a social, with all the fun and the noise that a happy Bahá'í crowd can produce! We also welcomed some new non-Bahá'í faces and one hopes they may become contacts. It was hard work, but brought its own reward in its wake, and we do thank all our visiting and supporting friends for this once again.

SEVENOAKS: An audience drawn from inside and outside the Faith listened with the greatest interest to the two speakers at the Group's second public meeting at Queen's Hall, Bligh's Hotel, Sevenoaks, on Saturday 12 January.

Philip Hinton illustrated the 'Oneness of Mankind' from the Writings, tracing the thread connecting the great religions of the world throughout history, while Meherangiz Munsiff described how the Principles of Bahá'u'lláh could be related to everyday life to heal both personal and communal life. The effect on those present was so deeply felt that, as one non-Bahá'í put it, they were too overwhelmed to be able to think of any questions at the time! Hugh Blyth from Epsom then sang and played on the guitar his own thoughtful songs based on the Teachings.

The position of the Hall was excellent — on the approach to the town bus station and car park and many people must have seen the posters outside; there was some street teaching in the morning and the Group are most grateful for help given by Epsom, Brighton and Maidstone. Several useful contacts were made.

There had already been the heartening declaration just before Christmas of the secretary's nephew, but to the regret of the Group he had to leave for Barcelona the day after the meeting, and will be living there for the present.



The Ridván meeting for the election of the first Spiritual Assembly of Kirkwall, Orkney.



Some of the Stornoway friends photographed with Hand of the Cause Dr Muhajir.

STORNOWAY: June Smith and Nicolas Sanders were married on 12 November. This was the first Bahá'í wedding to be held in Stornoway and forty-five people came to the ceremony, more than half of whom were not Bahá'ís. The wedding had a highland flavour with Roderick playing his bagpipes, songs and eightsome reels. The local paper printed an accurate report of the wedding.

In December we were privileged to receive a visit from Hand of the Cause of God, Dr Muhajir. During his short visit he continuously encouraged and inspired the friends to fill these islands with the love and knowledge of Bahá'u'lláh. Not only did he spend much time with the Bahá'ís, but also visited and met with some of the island people, and received press coverage in the Stornoway Gazette. His visit coincided with that of Brendon O'Sullivan from New Zealand, who shared with us his news of the Bahá'ís in both New Zealand and the other countries he has visited.

In Lewis another locality has been opened to the Faith with the enrolment of our newest believer, Joanna Nicolson; this means that there are Bahá'ís residing in seven localities other than Stornoway.

In Stornoway, a deepening class and three firesides are held regularly every week, and also a public presentation of the Faith is given every Saturday evening in the homes of the Bahá'ís (a rotation system). In addition to these activities, a series of one day schools are being held approximately once a month.

In Samuel MacDonald's Harris Tweed Jacket Factory there are now seven Bahá'ís working, and another Bahá'í is working in Stornoway's main bookshop, where he is able to keep a modest supply of Bahá'í books. In addition to having an account with the British Publishing Trust this bookshop is in the process of opening a trading account with the American Publishing Trust.

SHEFFIELD: Friends from all parts of Yorkshire and from as far south as Oxford and as far north as Newcastle attended the weekend school held in Sheffield on 10/11 November.

The theme of the school was "You and your responsibilities in the New World Order" and the talks tried to view the Faith from the standpoint of each individual believer. Speakers Martyn Beckett, Shahin Fathe-Azam, Bill Hellaby and Victor Priem took different aspects of this theme for their talks and the school concluded with a workshop discussion in which everyone participated.

Public meetings were held on the Friday and Saturday evenings and these featured the now-famous slide show of Adam Thorne and a very entertaining talk by Philip Hainsworth respectively.

The LSA would like to thank all those who participated and hopes to hold an even bigger school next year.

On Saturday 17 November the Sheffield community joined in the Lord Mayor's tree-planting week by planting a two-year old maple tree in the Old Burial Ground at Attercliffe in the East of the City. This part of Sheffield is situated adjoining the steelworks in one of the city's most grimy districts and it is hoped that the tree will not only publicise the Faith in a rather novel way, but will also play its part in enhancing the visual amenity of the area!

WATFORD: A delightful surprise awaited the Watford community when they arrived at the home of Mrs Nikanpour, hostess for the celebration of the birthday of the Báb.

Dr Ali Muhammad Vargha, Hand of the Cause, had broken his journey back to the Holy Land, after his travels in Guyana, Quebec, Trinidad, Martinique, Haiti, etc. His sister, our hostess, announced that after the devotional Dr Vargha would tell us of his travels.

He spoke for about an hour, and we were enthralled as we heard of the pioneers, the declarations and the spiritual qualities of people, many of whom are poor in material things, but rich in Bahá'í blessings. We heard of groups and LSAs in the islands of the Caribbean Sea and of the wonderful fact of a tribe of Red Indians who heard of the Faith through a non-Bahá'í.

It was a stimulating talk and we all felt spiritually enriched.

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REVISED CREDIT LIMITS AND NEW CREDIT TERMS

(Changes adopted by the National Spiritual Assembly on
20 January, 1974)

Recognising the impact of inflation and in view of the swinging new terms of credit now applied to us by our suppliers we are bringing into effect new credit limits and credit terms COMMENCING 1 FEBRUARY, 1974.

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(Note: On 28 January, 1974, Minimum Bank Rate was 12¼%, until this is changed this means that 14¼% p.a. interest would be charged.)

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Assemblies and Groups are especially asked to see that friends selling books are fully aware of this legal obligation.



Hand of the Cause
Dr Ugo Giachery

"SHOGHI EFFENDI — Recollections" by Ugo Giachery

Published by George Ronald £2
Obtainable from the Bahá'í Publishing Trust.

Relatively few Bahá'ís were fortunate enough to have met Shoghi Effendi; still fewer have had the privilege of working with him closely or seeing him for longer than a few hours during their pilgrimage. Perhaps we are still too close to his lifetime fully to recognise the immense contribution which he made to the growth of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

Dr Giachery's jewel of his reminiscences brings into sharper relief for everyone the personality of the gallant, self-sacrificing Guardian and gives an insight into the way in which he worked. Dr Giachery touches upon the way in which Shoghi Effendi functioned, his great kindness to all with whom he came into contact, his tremendous literary gifts, his wonderful leadership as king of our world and the great span of his multitudinous activities.

The larger part of the book is devoted to descriptions of the work on the superstructure of the Shrine of the Báb, with which he deals in great detail. There are also immensely interesting chapters on the International Archives, the embellishment of the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh, the Mansion of Bahjí and the work in the gardens. The appendices include valuable material on the genealogy of Shoghi Effendi, early descriptions of him, lists of plants used in the gardens, a glossary of architectural terms and other items of great interest. There are pages of photographs, some of them showing details of the architecture of the Shrine, and the beautiful frontispiece is a drawing by Reza Samimi of a photograph of Shoghi Effendi taken during the first months of his Guardianship.

In 1948, Shoghi Effendi appointed Dr Giachery as his personal representative for all the work in Italy associated with the erection of the superstructure of the Shrine of the Báb and this service brought him the immortal honour of having the south-western door of the original Shrine named after him as 'Báb-i-Giachery'. In 1951 he was appointed a Hand of the Cause of God.

Although the book does not set out to cover the same ground as the incomparable "THE PRICELESS PEARL" by 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum, it is a precious addition to all Bahá'í libraries. It is also a monument to the tremendous love and dedication which Hand of the Cause Ugo Giachery had for the beloved Guardian and which continues to captivate all who meet him.

Lois Hainsworth