

The Bahá'í Journal

Volume One Issue Number 3 June 1984



TO THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UK

CONVENTION TELEX WARMLY APRECIATED. RESOUNDING VICTORY 90 DAY CAMPAIGN ENDOWS BRITISH COMMUNITY GREATER CAPACITY PROMOTE ALL INTERESTS FAITH. URGE MAINTAIN INDEED INCREASE MOMENTUM VIEW ACHIEVE BY DETERMINATION SEVEN YEAR PLAN WIDE SPREAD INTEGRATED NETWORK FIRMLY FOUNDED VIGOROUSLY FUNCTIONING EFFICIENTLY CONDUCTED LOCAL ASSEMBLIES. SUCH A VITAL UNIFIED DEEPLY ROOTED ESTABLISHMENT BEST PROVISION FURTHER UNFOLDMENT GLORIOUS DESTINY BRITISH BAHAI'S ATTRACTION UNTOLD BOUNTIES. CONFIDENT DEDICATION RESOLUTIONS GREATLY BLESSED COMMUNITY WILL PROVE EQUAL CHALLENGES OPPORTUNITIES CRISES FACING MANKIND. ASSURE ARDENT PRAYERS SACRED THRESHOLD GUIDANCE GRACE CONFIRMATIONS.

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

National Convention in Harrogate
Report starts page 5



THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

Telex received 13 April 1984

To National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the U.K.

FURTHER OUR MESSAGE 10/11 APRIL, JUST RECEIVED DISTRESSING NEWS EXECUTION BY FIRING SQUAD IN EVIN PRISON TIHRAN FOLLOWING BELIEVERS:

MR. KAMRAN LUTFI, 32 YEAR OLD UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, IMPRISONED 5 MAY 1983, MR. RAHIM RAHIMIYAN, 50 YEAR OLD BUSINESSMAN, IMPRISONED 5 MAY 1983 MR. YADU'LLAH SABERIAN, 60 YEAR OLD PRINTING PRESS MANAGER IMPRISONED 9 FEB 1982.

SINCE EXECUTIONS NOT ANNOUNCED AND BODIES UNCEREMONIOUSLY BURIED WITHOUT FAMILIES RELATIVES BEING INFORMED, EXACT DATE EXECUTIONS UNKNOWN. FEARFUL OTHER BAHAI PRISONERS RECEIVED SAME FATE.

NOW ESTABLISHED FACT THAT 'ABDU'L-HUSAYN SHAKIRI-HASANZADIH WAS ALSO EXECUTED BY FIRING SQUAD INSTEAD OF DYING MYSTERIOUSLY IN PRISON AS REPORTED.

DUE OMINOUS TURN BAHAI SITUATION IRAN REQUEST YOU PROCEED PUBLICISE RECENT PERSECUTIONS INCLUDING INFORMATION REGARDING TORTURES PREVIOUS MESSAGE.

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

Telex received 11 April 1984

PERSECUTION FRIENDS CRADLE FAITH PERSISTS, TAKING EVEN MORE INSIDIOUS TURNS. IN MARCH AT LEAST THREE PRISONERS DIED UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, TWO IN TIHRAN AND ONE IN BAFT, KIRMAN. BODY OF NUHSIN RADAVI, 55 YEARS OLD SHOWED EVIDENCE OF HANGING. OTHER TWO 'ABDU'L-HUSAYN SHAKIRI-HASANZADIH, 64, AND NUSRATU'LLAH DIYA'I, 61, WERE BURIED WITHOUT FRIENDS RELATIVES BEING INFORMED.

ARRESTS CONTINUE WITH LEAST AMOUNT PUBLICITY. SINCE LAST REPORT 17 JANUARY, ALTHOUGH SOME BAHAI PRISONERS RELEASED, 111 HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, MOST OF WHOM WERE MEMBERS OF SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES BEFORE THEIR DISSOLUTION LAST YEAR. NUMBER OF BAHAI'S IN PRISON IRAN TOTALS 704.

ACCURATE INFORMATION IN HAND DESCRIBES TORTURES PERPETRATED AGAINST SOME VERY PROMINENT BAHAI'S. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE BAHAI SEVERELY TORTURED UNDER EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES FORCED CONFESS TO FALSE CHARGES. OTHER SIMILARLY TORTURED RESISTED PRESSURES EXERTED ON THEM TO MAKE FALSE PUBLIC CONFESSIONS FOR BENEFIT RADIO TELEVISION.

IMMEDIATELY INFORM APPROPRIATE OFFICES YOUR GOVERNMENT IMPRESS UPON THEM NECESSITY CONTINUE EXERT PRESSURE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT CEASE ATROCITIES AGAINST INNOCENT BAHAI'S. FURTHER PRESS PUBLICITY MAY BE NECESSARY LATER WHEN MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE.

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

Received 17th April 1984

TO THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UK

KINDLY EXTEND LOVING COMMENDATION ALL PIONEERS YOUR 90 DAY CAMPAIGN AND ASSURE THEM ARDENT PRAYERS SACRED THRESHOLD THEIR BEHALF.

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Friends,

The following letter was sent to one of the European National Assemblies and contains so many noteworthy items that we wish to share it with you.

N.S.A.

Haifa, 1. September 1983

Dear Baha'i Friends,

Europe has suffered so appallingly in past centuries from persecutions and conflicts inspired by religious differences and fanaticism that there has been a revulsion against religion. Many Europeans have become sceptical, scornful of religious practices, and reluctant either to discuss religious subjects or to give credence to the power of faith. This turning away from religion has been powerfully reinforced by the growth of materialism, and has produced a combination of physical well-being and spiritual aridity that is having catastrophic results, socially and psychologically, on the population.

This intellectual and emotional atmosphere creates problems for the Baha'i community in two ways. Its effect upon a large proportion of the non-Baha'i population makes it difficult for Bahais to convey the Message to others. Its effect upon the Bahais is more subtle, but no less harmful; if not consciously combatted, it can lead the believers to neglect those spiritual exercises which are the very fountainhead of their spiri-

tual strength and the nourishment of their souls.

Baha'u'llah has stated quite clearly in His Writings the essential requisites for our spiritual growth, and these are stressed again and again by 'Abdu'l-Baha in His talks and Tablets. One can summarise them briefly in this way:

1. The recital each day of one of the Obligatory Prayers with pure-hearted devotion.
2. The regular reading of the Sacred Scriptures, specifically at least each morning and evening, with reverence, attention and thought.
3. Prayerful meditation on the teachings, so that we may understand them more deeply, fulfil them more faithfully, and convey them more accurately to others.
4. Striving every day to bring our behaviour more into accordance with the high standards that are set forth in the teachings.
5. Teaching the Cause of God.
6. Selfless service in the work of the Cause and in the carrying on of our trade or profession.

These points, expressed in other words, have already been conveyed to the friends in Europe by the Counsellors, but the House of Justice wishes to stress them, because they represent the path towards the attainment of true spirituality that has been laid down by the Manifestation of God for this age.

It is striking how private and personal the most fundamental spiritual exercises of prayer and meditation are in the Faith. Baha'is do, of course, have meetings for devotions, as in the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar or at Nineteen Day Feasts, but the daily obligatory prayers are ordained to be said in the privacy of one's chamber, and meditation on the Teachings is, likewise, a private individual activity, not a form of group therapy. In His talks 'Abdu'l-Baha describes prayer as "conversation with God", and concerning meditation He says that "while you meditate you are speaking with your own spirit. In that state of mind you put certain questions to your spirit and the spirit answers: the light breaks forth and the reality is revealed".

There are, of course, other things that one can do to increase one's spirituality. For example, Baha'u'llah has specified no procedures to be followed in meditation, and individual believers are free to do as they wish in this area, provided that they remain in harmony with the teachings, but such activities are purely personal and should

under no circumstances be confused with those actions which Baha'u'llah Himself considered to be of fundamental importance for our spiritual growth. Some believers may find that it is beneficial to them to follow a particular method of meditation, and they may certainly do so, but such methods should not be taught at Baha'i Summer Schools or be carried out during a session of the School because, while they may appeal to some people, they may repel others. They have nothing to do with the Faith and should be kept quite separate so that enquirers will not be confused.

The House of Justice is confident that if the believers throughout Europe will conscientiously strive to increase their spirituality in the six ways outlined above, and become aware in their inmost beings that in all their services they are but vehicles for the confirming power of God, they will attract the hearts of their fellow citizens and penetrate the miasma of materialism that veils the sight of so many of their countrymen. Effort, activity, unity and constant reliance on the power of Baha'u'llah will assuredly overcome all obstacles.

Use of the symbol of the Greatest Name

Many of the friends have sought advice on the use of the Greatest Name, and the National Assembly would like to share with you the clarification which has been made by the Universal House of Justice.

1. The symbol which is the design made by the great calligraphist Mishkin-Qalam (Ya Baha'u'l-Abha) and the design on the ringstone are both symbols of the Greatest Name, and both should be shown extreme reverence. In certain circumstances it is preferable to use the ringstone symbol rather than the Mishkin Qalam design which is obviously an example of Arabic calligraphy. The National Assembly has recently used this ringstone rather than the other one for a non-Baha'i publication which requested a 'Greatest Name' symbol.

2. In a letter to Japan, 25 March 1974, the Universal House of Justice wrote: "Although there exists an instruction that the symbol of the Greatest Name should not be used on gravestones, no

instruction has been found prohibiting the use of the symbol of the Greatest Name on any other particular item, such as jewelry, books or pamphlets. However, the Greatest Name should not be used in an undignified manner. Nothing has been found which would prohibit a believer from manufacturing and selling items using the Greatest Name, provided that the manner in which the Greatest Name is used is dignified".

3. In a letter to this National Assembly, 15 November 1967, the Universal House of Justice wrote: "The ringstone emblem is one form of the Greatest Name. While the beloved Guardian has called attention to the sacredness of the Greatest Name and has asked that it should always be placed in a dignified position, we do not find any instruction absolutely prohibiting the use of symbols of the Greatest Name on any particular item such as jewelry, books or pamphlets. We feel that the friends should exercise the greatest discrimination and good taste in its use".

4. From a longer letter from the Universal House of Justice the National

Spiritual Assembly of the United Kingdom, 13 November 1974, we find a quotation from the beloved Guardian which said: "... there is no reason why the word 'Baha'i should not appear in the centre of a nine-pointed star on the tombstone of dar... but the ringstone emblem should not be used, nor the Greatest Name. Shoghi Effendi feels it is better not to put the Greatest Name on Baha'i graves. It is not forbidden to do so, but inappropriate".

The House of Justice continues: "We are asked to call to your attention the

Guardian's ruling that placing the Greatest Name on gravestones is not a befitting use of this sacred symbol. You are asked to ensure that this does not take place in the future".

The National Spiritual Assembly trusts that all these points will be carefully considered when the friends are engaged in making jewelry and so on, and when considering the design of memorial stones for graves.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY



The faces are the same but it is a new National Spiritual Assembly, pictured here immediately following the announcement of the results of the election. From left to right they are Mr Roger Prentice, Mr Charles Macdonald, Mr Simon Mortimore (chairman), Mr Phillip Hainsworth, Dr Iain Palin, Dr Wendi Momen (treasurer) Mrs Betty Goode, Mrs Mary Hardy (secretary), Dr Ridvan Moqbel (vice-chairman).

National Convention in Harrogate & the 90 Day Campaign

National Convention this year marked the end of the Second Phase of the Seven Year Plan and the launch of the Third Phase. It came at the end of the 90 Day Campaign. Many of the usual faces were absent, the Board of Counsellors being represented by Agnes Ghaznavi, a counsellor largely unknown in this country.

Convention had all the makings of an

exciting time during which many important plans could be laid, and the successes and failures of last year examined and learnt from.

Many people had pinned great hopes on the 90 Day Campaign. The National Assembly had been confident at the start that all the goals could be won, but were also aware that it would need a "miracle" to achieve them all. However the goals were

not all won, and to many eyes the "miracle" did not happen. We finished the year with 196 Local Spiritual Assemblies, 60 short of our target. Of the 489 districts in the United Kingdom some 34 were unopened at Ridvan. However if we look at other aspects of the Campaign we can see that perhaps the "miracle" did occur, that perhaps the long awaited upsurge in the fortunes of the Faith in this country is about to happen. The believers were for the first time in many areas devoting all their efforts to the winning of the goals. There has been a marked increase in those enquiring about the Faith, not as yet a real increase in those accepting the Faith (though it can not be far off) Should the Momentum begun in the Campaign be carried over to the remaining two years of the Seven Year Plan there can be little doubt that we can win all our goals.



The Mayor of Harrogate being shown the display of books in the bookshop before meeting the friends on Saturday night.

less time seemed to be spent on the more irrelevant details. Convention Chairman was Dr Ridvan Mogbel, and the Secretary was Mary Hardy, assisted by a recording secretary. The Annual Report, which had been given to the delegates on arrival was used as a basis of much of the consultation as it highlighted many of the areas which should be of concern to Baha'is in this country.

Counsellor Ghaznavi gave an excellent talk on the Friday morning on the qualities and attributes necessary for those serving on the National Assembly. The talk, as many delegates did not arrive until Saturday, was repeated before the election took place.

Saturday night brought the Civic Reception with the Mayor of Harrogate. He was presented with a copy of "Door Of Hope". Sadly he was unable to stay for the slide show "The Glorious Future of Mankind" which is very impressive. It is a shame that this is not available on video as more of the friends could use it in their teaching work (the form it is in now requires hundreds of pounds worth of audio-visual equipment).

Sunday continued the consultation with the delegates before drawing to a successful close. The Convention did not have a great feeling of excitement at the beginning as some people had hoped but many felt that the tide had indeed turned and that the Faith should begin a steady

Continued on page 8

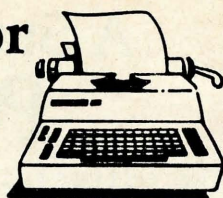


Counsellor Agnes Ghaznavi addressing the friends during the Saturday morning session.

And so to Harrogate. The convention was not as well attended as in previous years, with over 500 in attendance. It seemed that the hall was quite empty at times, the greatest attendance being for the official photograph and the Saturday night Civic Reception and slide show.

The consultation was lively and informed,

From the Editor



Allah'u'Abha!

Dear Friends,

(A reward for all those who get to the end of this!)

I have now been Editor since the beginning of March and have had sufficient time to get the feel of the job and the community - or at least that part of the community which communicates with the Journal.

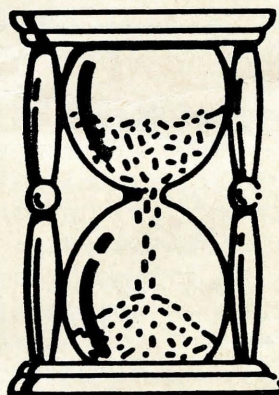
I have been impressed by the warmth and kindness of many friends, by the growing standard of maturity and trust in the type of contribution we receive, and by the sheer volume of community news items. The editorial staff have received quite a number of complimentary letters, but it is interesting to note that much of the adverse criticism finds its way to editorial ears by word of mouth and is often passed on from anonymous sources.

A publication that gets no criticism is probably not worth reading because it fails to excite or prod its readers into action. If you have a criticism to make please write in - without any sort of feedback we cannot know if we are communicating in the right way. If we do not know where we are going wrong we can not put anything right. If we are not revolutionary enough for some it is because insufficient pressure for change has been brought to bear on us. We exist to serve the community as a whole - we cannot please everyone all the time. The same article is admired by some, rejected by others.

Of course, the community must also bear in mind that the Journal can only consist of what is sent to it and what its meagre staff produce for it. At present we consist of three very busy young male editors in their early thirties who can devote a couple of evenings a week to their editorial work and a handful of valiant typists, all young Persian women, who tap away through the volumes of material presented to them. We operate from a file in a borrowed filing cabinet

in a borrowed office on borrowed typewriters and on a borrowed word processor. In many ways it is a miracle that a journal gets produced at all! Our application form has brought in a host of offers, but they will take a little time to work through. Believers can help us in several ways - by keeping community news items to 1 A4 page maximum, by labelling envelopes COMM NEWS/LETTER TO EDITOR/CALENDAR/FEED BACK/YOUTH/CHILDREN/FEATURE, and by being patient if they send in a feature of any size as there is seldom room for more than 2 or 3 in each edition. We cannot advertise houses for sale, even in goal areas, nor print calls for pioneers to named places - please send these items to the appropriate committee. We have had a number of distribution requests. These are invariably matters of addresses and as such should be directed to the Department of Records - the Journal Staff themselves do not handle distribution. If you want back copies please send an A4 S.A.E. to us at the National Centre and we will be pleased to supply you with whatever we have available. Please remember to keep to the deadline for material, which is printed in each issue.

DEADLINE

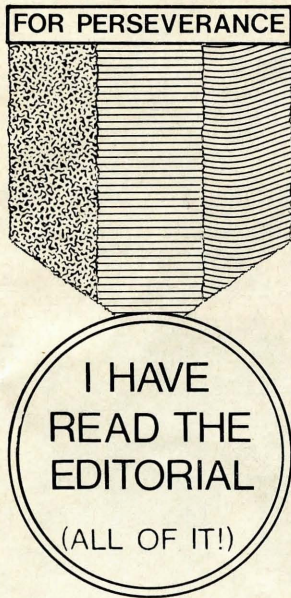


12 JUNE

No material received after
this date can be considered
for inclusion in the next issue.

Conspicuously absent at present is a response from children or their parents. We have had a total of three youth responses - one from a non-Baha'i. I have a nagging suspicion that the children and youth are not reading the Journal or even being told that there are items in it which may be of interest - of course I could be wrong and I am willing to be corrected on that score.

As always, you can help by praying for us and by giving more to the Fund - but you know that already. Meanwhile, if you are left with a feeling, having read the Journal, that you have eaten yesterday's cabbage re-warmed and re-served, consider whether you are simply regurgitating your own yesterday's apathy. It is from you that we await exciting developments. And if you have read to the end of this editorial you deserve a medal.



A warm June to you all,
The Editor.

A Statement of Policy

The editorial board wish to draw to the attention of the friends the following points:

DEADLINES In order to increase standards of presentation and efficiency the Baha'i Journal is being printed by an outside printer. This means that our deadlines for receipt of material for inclusion must be strictly adhered to. If material is late for whatever reason it may be considered for the following issue.

CONTENT It would be appreciated if material submitted was either typed or neatly written and that the matter of the dignity of the Faith was kept in mind.

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY The Editor reserves the right to reject, cut or alter any contribution submitted for publication in the interests of deadlines, topicality, appropriateness, standards or dignity.

Please try to adhere to these brief guidelines. Should you wish further guidance you may phone Richard Boyle at the National Office (01-584-2566)

مقوق الله
مقوب از پیام بیت العدل اعظم الهی :
... از این هیئت پرسیده اند که آیا تبرعات بعد از قیام
از بهر بابا و حقوق الله چه رابطه و بستنی دارد و اگر کسی نیت
داد و حقوق الله به تبرعات خیریه جبت مشروطیات با نزه
پردازد آیا از تقدیم حقوق الله معافست یا آنکه حکم دیگری دارد
... داد و حقوق الله از خزانة دینیة اهل بهاست چه که
حکمش در کتاب مستطاب اقدس منصوص است و
بیانش در الواح شش معین و مذکور هیچ مؤمن مخلصی که واجب
شرائط معین باشد از داد و حقوق الله مستثنی نیست حتی
نص کتاب اقتناع از داد و حقوق الله نیز در خیانت محرم
و خطاب "من خان الله یحیی بالعدل" در حق این نفوس
مقوب ...
این حکم محکم به شهادت قسمل اعلی دارای مصالح و حکم
لاکھنی است سبب تطهیر اموال است و دافع خسران و وبال
باعت لغت و غرت است و علت خیر و برکت .
انفاقی است که نسبتش الی الله است و خدایتی است که نه
ارتفاع امر الله ...

From page 6

growth with more tangible results than in recent years. If the yardstick by which a convention is to be judged is the spirit it engenders in those present and the quality of consultation, then this convention was most assuredly a success.

Many of the friends have been waiting for "something" to happen, that the Faith would suddenly take off and that perhaps entry by troops would begin. The lesson to be learnt from the 90 Day Campaign, and reiterated at Convention is that if a miracle is to happen we must make it happen. Most assuredly the Faith will eventually attain that pre-eminent position foretold in the writings but if we are to see it before long it is we who must do the work.

It will be interesting to see the way in which the United Kingdom Baha'i community arises to this challenge during the next year. There is no doubt that we can win great victories, so let us set-to together and, aided by the Concourse on High, win the Plan.

One World Week

One World Week is, as the advert says, a week of study and action organised each year by the World Development Movement (WDM). Many of you are already aware of WDM and have probably participated in, if not actually organised, the One World Week activities of last year. Those of you fitting this group will then know that WDM is not only concerned with study and self-education, but is quite a friendly and fun-loving group.

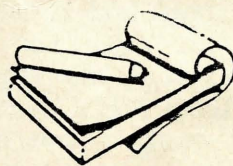
One World Week itself was instituted by the Churches Committee of WDM. The Churches Committee is just one group which is a member of WDM. We Baha'is are also, on the national level, members of WDM. This is why the National Assembly has encouraged us in the past to join and participate in our local WDM groups both on a personal and Local Assembly level. Have we done this?

WDM is important to us a Baha'is. It is true that many of its members are staunch members of their churches, but WDM is not a Christian effort. The main aims of WDM are to 1) self educate members on development issues, 2) extend that education to the general population, 3) write their MPs and EMPs on specific development issues, 4) influence practises of large concerns in developing countries by a) becoming minor share holders in those Companies, and b) through a cousin organisation, Traidcraft, set up direct trade arrangements with groups of people in those countries. These, however, except for points 1 and 2, are not why WDM is important to us. WDM shares with us a basic economic belief. We call it work, they call it development. As Baha'is we do not in general believe in Charity as the means of benefitting the "Third World". That is giving something for nothing. True aid to underdeveloped peoples takes the form of teaching them trades, etc., by which to earn a living and then ensuring a market for the resultant products. We believe that work properly done is equivalent to worship. We know that part of our self esteem comes from a job well done, be that as a Doctor, Lawyer, Dustman or Dishwasher.

We also know that we cannot expect people to be interested in our beloved Faith until they are personally self-sufficient economically. That is why we do not have missionaries, but pioneers, who live with, work among, and try to teach people on every level. Pioneers perform a very special function, but we in this country also have a part to play. Aid to the "Third World" is very much more valuable when it develops a country's human and non-human resources then when it simply takes the form of Charity. This is the primary message of WDM. That is why we should try to support it, or form our own groups in communities where there is not WDM group (just think of the teaching and proclamation possibilities).

Also of interests to us is the Week of Prayer for World Peace, the same week as One World Week, 21-28 October. Some of you will know of Rev. Temple who is doing a pilgrimage for peace by cycling around Britain. You will all be aware that we have been asked to support his effort in every way possible. Did you know that the National Assembly is also associated with Week of Prayer for World Peace? October 20 is the date to celebrate an inaugural service for the week, and is also the anniversary of the birth of the Bab. It is hoped this can be included at the Inaugural Service at Westminster Abbey on 20 October. What can we do in our local communities?

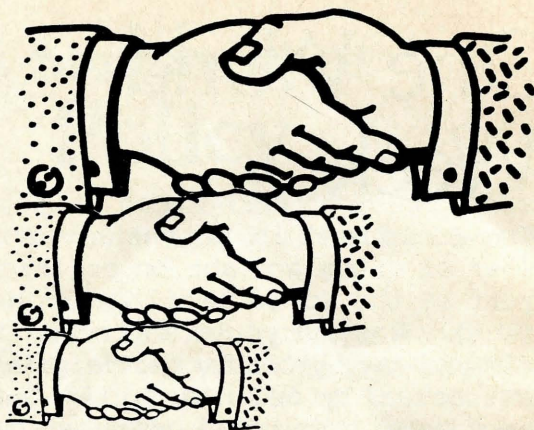
The last points to be made are that this years One World Week has the theme of "Women and Children First?" We must do something and/or participate in WDM organised activities. The theme has so many possibilities. Please think about this, and take the ideas to your Feasts and each other. But please do participate.



Please Note

A vacancy exists for an individual or a couple as caretakers of our Baha'i centre in Bangor. Any applications or requests for further information should be directed to Dewi Hughes, 2 Mount Pleasant, Gallt y Foel, Deiniolen, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

For New Believers



INTER-RELATIONSHIPS

Part three

For the youth, especially, there are problems- the youth being moral, are brought into direct contact with people of their own age who are often quite shamelessly immoral. Now the Faith attracts people who are naturally demonstrative and affectionate, and in the usual atmosphere of good humour and harmony such behaviour can only be encouraged. Whenever Baha'is meet or part there is a flurry of embraces, but this is not always an advantage. People looking for attention and security warm to this kind of atmosphere like moths to a candle- they never actually learn anything about the Faith or contribute to its advancement- they hang around- and we really cannot make provision for spectators who stand on the touch-line, we have a world to build and we need the bricks and the bricklayers, so everyone who comes along must put their shoulders to the wheel and push. With respect, then, to relations between members of the opposite sex- this can all be a little disconcerting; In the old world such affection as is demonstrated between Baha'is would mean something very different there, and, acting on the usual assumptions, a boy or girl can receive a fairly upsetting surprise. What might be exclusive to a young family or to the occasional entente between a couple of opposite sex is common-place within the Baha'i Community- love is given and taken freely with no animal overtones and forms another strong basis for our relationships. We must be firm with those who mistake our all-embracing love for a pass or deliberate advance, we must be aware of this problem and not seek to bring it upon ourselves by too much exuberance. After all, it is the most natural thing in the world to be interested in an attractive girl who sits beside you and engages you in intimate conversation, giving you her full attention and such lovely smiles, but, boy, do you get a shock when you discover that she is not

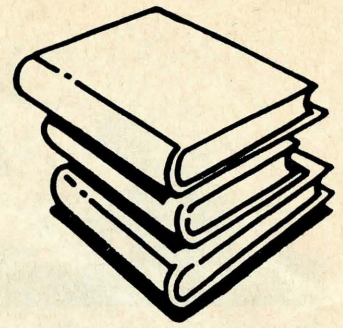
only like that with every other lad in the room but all the girls and older people as well! It is a bit of a blow to the ego to discover that it is not your personal charm that brought her to you- but her personal charm that attracted you to her. The Baha'i courtship is a bit of an anomaly in the present day, it is perforce spiritual in nature- seeing as we are obliged to be chaste: "You run and I'll run after you".

So there are big problems involved in relating to other people- both declared Baha'is and undeclared (Non-Baha'is). And there are even bigger ones for the people operating entirely in the old world. What, then, is wrong? What is the fundamental cause of our misery? If we were to realize the true station of the human being, we would be filled with such awe at our fellows that we would never utter a destructive word, never countenance a negative thought, never brook an infringement of courtesy, still less commit outrage upon outrage, allow famine and epidemics to ravage half the world while the other half suffers from diseases arising from gluttony and excesses of every kind.

We must, then, turn to the spiritual standard set by Baha'u'llah, for none of us has any meaning except in respect to this standard and if we cannot have any meaning then nor can our relationships. In expounding this divine standard, Abdu'l-Baha outlines the qualities required to be possessed by us in Faith for every man p77. "Be a Baha'i..." It is this standard that we must have as a prerequisite with any commerce with our fellows. This is our task- to achieve this standard and achieve it now. If we cannot act in this manner towards those comparatively few people we make contact with, how may we unite and govern a planet?

Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to establish God's Kingdom on Earth.

Bahá'í Youth Page



Bahá'í Books 3 The Covenant

A Covenant is a solemn and binding agreement between two parties. God has made a covenant with humanity - a covenant renewed through history with the appearance of each Manifestation. God has promised never to leave humanity without guidance and God never breaks promises. Humanity's part of the bargain is to obey God's laws and commandments, which have been given for our benefit, and we have the choice to keep our side of the agreement or to go back on it. This Covenant is called the Great Covenant and is fulfilled by each Manifestation when He comes, including Baha'u'llah.

In obeying Baha'u'llah as the latest Manifestation, we Baha'is are no different from the Jews who obeyed Moses, the Christians who obeyed Christ, and the Muslims who obeyed Muhammad. Each of the Manifestations appointed a successor or central figure to whom the believers had to turn on their passing: Moses - Joshua, Christ - Peter, and Muhammad - 'Ali. However, no written record survived of such successions and human nature inevitably gave rise to disagreement and differing interpretations.

This has not happened in the Baha'í Faith. For the first time in humanity's history, a clear, uncontestable, written testament concerning the succession of divine authority has been given to us. This is the Lesser Covenant and we must all understand. If we recognise Baha'u'llah as God's most recent Manifestation, then we have a clear duty to obey Him as the voice of God. Baha'u'llah appointed His eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Baha to be the Centre of His Covenant on His passing, in the Tablet of the Branch and the Kitab-i-Ahd or Book of the Covenant, among others. Therefore, whatever 'Abdu'l-Baha wrote in that capacity had the authority of God. In His turn, 'Abdu'l-Baha clearly

designated His grandson Shoghi Effendi as Guardian of the Cause and the one to whom all Baha'is should turn, and after his passing to the Universal House of Justice - all unmistakably recorded in 'Abdu'l-Baha's Will and Testament.

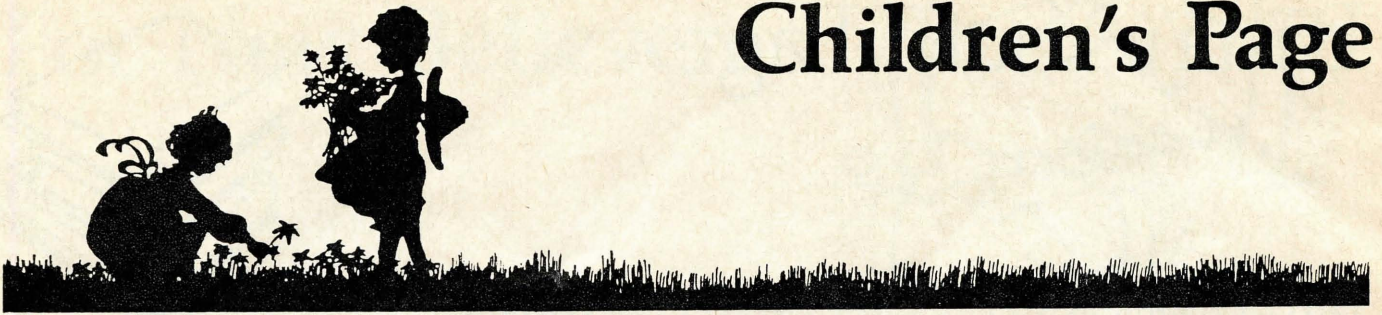
Today and for the foreseeable future - at least the next thousand years - the Universal House of Justice is the unerring voice of God. Whatever it pronounces as an Institution is God's Will and God's Word. Perhaps it is about time we all acted as though we believed this to be true. If God spoke to us would we not shake in our shoes and do our utmost to fulfil every last word God uttered? Well, God does speak to us...

Below is a small list of books that should form an essential part of your Baha'í library and which should be a basis for your personal deepening on the subject of the Covenant.

1. The Covenant of Baha'u'llah: Baha'í Publishing Trust, U.K., 1963. This vital volume contains sections on Expectancy, Fulfilment and Denial, and includes the texts of the three works listed above.
2. The Power of the Covenant: Parts 1 - 4: NSA of Canada, 1976. A superbly written series of booklets dealing with Baha'u'llah's Covenant, Covenant-breaking, opposition, and Our Covenant with Baha'u'llah.
3. The Covenant and Administration: Baha'í Publishing Trust, USA, 1971. This deepening compilation contains sections on the Covenant, 'Abdu'l-Baha's Will and Testament, and the Administrative Order.

Once upon a time in the British Baha'í community, declaration was made dependant upon reading, learning and accepting 'Abdu'l-Baha's Will and Testament - how many of us read or know it these days?

Children's Page



On the 23rd of May each year we celebrate the Declaration of His Holiness the Bab. The story of that declaration is a very moving one and you should try to read about it for yourself or ask your parents to read it to you.

At the beginning of the last century there were two wonderful, pure-hearted teachers called Shaykh Ahmad and Siyyid Kazim. They knew that God would send one of His Holy Messengers, or Manifestations, very soon, and so they told all their followers to watch for His coming and seek Him out.

One of the followers of Siyyid Kazim was a young man named Mulla Husayn. When Siyyid Kazim died, Mulla Husayn obeyed his teacher's words and set out with two companions to find the Promised One. Before he went on his journey, Mulla Husayn fasted and prayed to be guided. His search took him to the holy city of Shiraz where he did not enter but waited at the gate, sending his two companions on ahead.

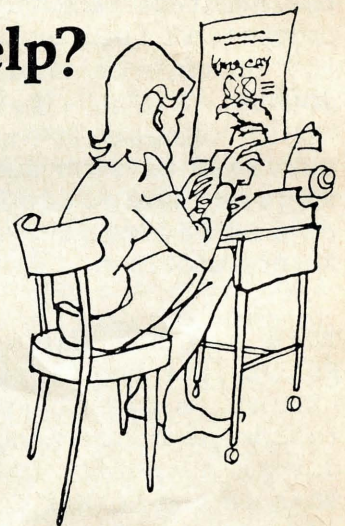
A few hours before sunset, Mulla Husayn was approached by another young man with the most beautiful shining face, and wearing a green turban that showed He was a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad. This strange young man greeted Mulla Husayn with a warm embrace and invited him back to his house as if they were close friends. Mulla Husayn was concerned for his two companions but the young man told him to leave them in God's care.

Once inside the young man's house, Mulla Husayn felt very happy but could not explain why. Without knowing it, Mulla Husayn had found the Bab! The Bab served tea, and afterwards Mulla Husayn got up to leave but the Bab persuaded him to stay and pray with Him. Mulla Husayn prayed to be led to the Promised One. The Bab asked His guest what he had been given by his teacher Siyyid Kazim, and

Mulla Husayn repeated that the Promised One would be from the family of Muhammad, that He would be between twenty and thirty years old, that His knowledge would not be from books but from God, that He would have perfect health, and that He would not smoke.

"Behold, all these signs are manifest in Me!" replied the Bab. Mulla Husayn did not understand. Yet there was something else Siyyid Kazim had told him about the Promised One - that He would, without being asked, explain the chapter about Joseph in the Holy Book of Muhammad. Without being asked, the Bab began to explain the very chapter, and Mulla Husayn knew that he had met the Promised One. All night, Mulla Husayn sat enchanted, as the Bab chanted God's new teachings. The Bab had declared, and Mulla Husayn was His first believer.

Can You Help?



One thing that the Journal needs is a proper editor for the Children's Page. Anyone who is willing to undertake this vital job is asked to contact the Editor. The job would entail writing material and deciding on the illustrations and layout of the page. The actual artwork can be done by the regular artists on the Journal staff. The job can be done from home and would take perhaps three hours per month.

امسال نوروز برای احبای ایرانی مقیم انگلستان رنگی دیگر داشت • بدعوت محفل مقدس ملی پیش از پانصد و پنجاه نفر از احباب از نقاط مختلفه بریتانیای کبیر، پس از زیارت مرقد مبارک حضرت ولی امرالله، در سالن با شکوهی در شمال لندن جمع شدند تا عید صیام و نوروز ۱۴۱ را جشن بگیرند •

با وجود اینکه برنامه اصلی در ساعت دو و نیم بعد از ظهر شروع میشد، احبا از ساعت ۱۱ صبح دعوت شده بودند تا تا فرصت کافی برای دیدار دوستان داشته باشند • جلسه با تلاوت چندین مناجات شورانگیز و روحانی آغاز شد و با خیر مقدم ناظم محفل مقدس ملی ادامه یافت • سپس جناب ادیب طاهرزاده عضو هیأت مشاورین قاره‌ای نطق دلنشینی ایراد و یاران الهی را به قیام و خدمت عاشقانه برای پیروزی و اتمام اهداف نقشه هفت ساله تشویق نمودند • قسمتی از سخنان ایشان ذیلا درج میشود:

در این ایام پر آشوب که چنین وقایع ناگوار و ناهنجاری احبای موطن جمال مبارک را محاصره نموده وظیفه هر فرد مسئول بهائی آنست که فرصت را مغتنم شمرده و در اذای جانفشانی یاران ایران قدری از وقت خود را نثار امر مقدس نماید • این حد اقل جبرانی است که ما می توانیم در قبال از خود گذشتگی آنان انجام دهیم، زیرا در ایامی که احبای ایران مأمور به جانفشانی شده‌اند ما احبای غرب مأمور به ایثار وقت و مال شده‌ایم •

ما همواره در مجالس و محافل به ذکر شهدای ایران مشغول هستیم و شرح از خود گذشتگی آنان را که چگونه دأوطلبانه و دلیرانه جان خود را جهت استقرار صلح اعظم الهی فدا مینمایند میشنوم • لکن باید بدانیم که تنها عاملی که به آنها قوت میدهد که چنین مشتاقانه بمیدان فدا شتابند، انقطاع از ماسوی الله، و توکل تام به آستان مقدسش است •

شایسته آنست که همواره ناظر به فانی بودن ایام عمر بوده و سعی در آن نمائیم که وقت خویش را وقف خدمت امر عظیم و عزیزش نمائیم و این فرصت را که از روی فضل بما اعطا شده غنیمت شمرده به پیروزی کلمه الله قیام نمائیم، چه که دست احبای ایران بسته و دستهای ما اکنون باز است • لهذا، در این موقعیت خطیر آخر دومین مرحله نقشه هفت ساله، باید کمر خدمت بسته به نیت مهاجرت پراکنده شویم و به تبلیغ و تاسیس و خدمت محافل بپردازیم زیرا قدرت نفوذ امر، نه با ازدیاد افراد، بلکه با ازدیاد موسسه‌های امری مانند محافل و لجنات ظاهر میشود •

بفرموده بیت‌العدل اعظم: ”... اجتماع یاران ایران در يك نقطه ضرورت ندارد و چه بسا تولید مشکلات نماید چنانکه اگر ایرانیان بهائی از لحاظ تعداد، بر یاران محلی غلبه نمایند نادانسته مشکلاتی را بوجود آورند که احیاناً باعث توقف و تأخیر پیشرفت امر مبارک در آن نقطه گردد و آئین جهان گشای جمال ابهی را در نظر نفوس سائره امری محدود و مخصوص ایران و ایرانیان جلوه دهد و باعث تضییع وقت و دلسردی یار و اغیار شود ...“

لهذا بیایید عاشقانه قیام نمائیم تا قبل از به انتها رسیدن آهنگ مطرب، چنگی برنیم دفی بزیم، نغمه‌ای بسرائیم و گوی خدمت از میدان بر باییم •

پس از نطق ایشان سبب گلی از میخک‌های سپید که از طرف لجنه امور ایرانیان تهیه شده بود به احبای عزیز تقدیم گشت و بدنبال آن برنامه موسیقی دلنوازی اجرا گردید • این مجلس بسیار گرم با سخنان جناب دکتر رضوان مقبل عضو محفل مقدس ملی بهائیان انگلستان خاتمه یافت •

لجنه امور ایرانیان نامه زیر را بحضور مقدس بیت‌العدل اعظم الهی تقدیم نمودند:

”ساحت مقدس بیت‌العدل اعظم الهی

متجاوز از پانصد و پنجاه نفر از ستاینندگان اسم اعظم با قلبی مملو از محبت و شکر و ثنا به آستان جمال اقدس ابهی و اطاعت و عبودیت بساحت منیع بیت‌العدل اعظم الهی پس از زیارت مقام منور ولی عزیز

امرالله و نهادن روی و جبین بر آن تربت، مقدس نورا و طلب تأیید و توفیق از رب جلیل در حفله روحانی
یوم اول شهرالبهیا سنه ۱۴۱۱ بدیع که بر حسب تمهیدات مشاورین عزیز امرالله در قاره اروپا و بهمت
محل مقدس روحانی ملی بهائیان انگلستان بخصوص بیاد شهدای محبوب و یاران ستم دیده عزیز در
مهد امرالله با حضور جناب ادیب طاهرزاده و عده ای از معاونین و اعضا^۶ محفل ملی تشکیل شده
بود اجتماع نمودند *

پس از ادای خیر مقدم بوسیله جناب سیمون مورتر ناظم محترم محفل ملی، مشاور عزیز با بیانی بلیغ و
تبیینی مؤثر دوستان را که به آزادی جان و وجدان در این اقلیم بهره مندند به همتی جدید
و عزمی متین و عهدی محکم برای خدمت به عتبه سامیه الهیه و شرکت در انجام و اتمام اهداف نقشه
۷ ساله و جبران محرومیت یاران عزیز ایران در این ایام فداکاری و قیامی عاشقانه و انفاق و تبرعات
و فیر دعوت و تشویق فرمودند *

یاران پس از استماع آیات الهیه و اندازات مشفقانه معهد اعلی و فوران شعله انجذاب و محبت در
قلوب آنان همگی برای طلب تأیید بدان شطر متوجه و ناظر که عنایات و تأییدات الهیه شامل این
آوارگان کوی جانان بخصوص نفوس مقدسه‌ایکه قبلا و همچنین در این مجمع روحانی جهت حجت قیام
نموده‌اند گردد * مجلس با بیانات جناب رضوان مقبل عضو محفل مقدس ملی، مشحون از تشویق و
ترغیب احبای الهی بخد مت و فداکاری خاتمه پذیرفت *

مکتوب ایادی امرالله جناب دکتر علی محمد فرقا علیه بهاءالله در مورد ادای حقوق الله در این کنفرانس
در بین شرکت کنندگان توزیع گردید * قسمت هائی از این مکتوب جلیل ذیلا مرقوم میگردد :
_ شاید بعضی از دوستان چنین تصور کنند که ادای حقوق الله فقط وسیله‌ای مادی جهت انتشار و
ترویج امرالله و توسعه امور خیریه و عام المنفعه است ولی اجرای این حکم بفرموده قلم اعلی متضمن
حکمت‌های عدیده میباشد : سبب حصول برکات الهی است، محك ایمان است و موجب ثبوت و رسوخ
در میثاق ربانی، تلاشهای مادی ما را موزون و متعادل میسازد و ما را بعوالم خوش معنوی پیوندد
میدهد *

- تادیه حقوق الله رمزی از عشق الهی و نشانی از تعلق فرد بهائی به جامعه انسانی است ... مطالبه
حقوق الله طبق نصوص قاطعه الهیه ممنوع است ولی ادای آن فرض و واجب *
- محاسبه حقوق الله طبق نصوص الهیه بر مبنای سنجش ارزش مال با واحد طلا صورت میگیرد یعنی پس
از بلوغ وجوه نقدیه و یا اموال مازاد بر حوائج ضروریه (از قبیل خانه و اثاث البیت و وسائل کسب و
غیره) به قیمتی معادل نوزده مثقال طلا، باید نرده در صد آن محاسبه و مشخص گردیده و بابت
حقوق الله منظور گردد *

- در این سنوات که در نشریات امریه مطالبی راجع به اهمیت حقوق الله انتشار یافته، بعضی از دوستان
که در مشروعات متنوعه امریه مشارکت میفرمایند چنین تصور فرموده‌اند که میتوان تبرعات مختلفه را به
جای حقوق الله محسوب نمود و در این مورد نیز سئوالی از ساخت بیت العدل اعظم الهی بعمل آورد ...
اند و آن مقام منبع طی مرقومه مستدلی موضوع را کاملا تشریح فرموده‌اند و احبای عزیز را متوجه
ساخته‌اند که آنچه از اموال ناس بحقوق الله تخصیص یابد احدی جز مرجع امر حق تصرف در آن را
ندارد، حتی تصرف خود شخص در سهمی که از اموال او بحق راجع است جائز نبوده و به منزله
خیانت در حقوق الله محسوب میشود ولو جهت تبرع بسائر مشروعات امریه باشد * بنا بر این ادای
تبرعات باید بعد از احتساب و پرداخت حقوق الله صورت گیرد نه قبل از آن *

از یاران عزیز تمنا میشود که در موقع شرکت در جلسات امری برای حفظ امنیت لازم است که معرفی نامه‌ها^۷
خوبش را همراه بیاورند * متأسفانه در کنفرانس نوروز امسال تعداد زیادی از احباء بدون کارت آمده
بودند و باعث مختل شدن امور ثبت نام گشتند *

Community News



CANTERBURY

On the third day of his Peace Pilgrimage, the Reverend Merfyn Temple visited Canterbury. At noon the Peace Prayer was read in the cathedral by representatives of different religious groups and nationalities including the Baha'is.

In the evening, at a crowded public meeting, Reverend Temple spoke of the disunity in the Christian Churches regarding peace. Pointing to a Baha'i pamphlet he had held throughout the meeting, he said that one could look to the Baha'is as being the only religion that had a definite policy for peace and unity. He said that right from the earliest days Baha'u'llah had stressed, in his writings, peace as a positive teaching and belief. Later on in the talk he said that the only people he could rely on to support his aims and help with his travels were the Baha'is and the Quakers.

This final statement was stressed a week later when the Baha'is and the Quakers joined together in the Friend's meeting house in Canterbury for a service of prayers for peace. The Baha'i readings and prayers followed the Quaker's normal Sunday meditation meeting and then the two communities had lunch together. This happy and memorable occasion cemented even further the bonds of fellowship and co-operation already existing between the two groups and there was a request from the Quakers that similar meetings be held in the future.

Through its involvement in One World Week and the Canterbury Peace Group (made up of all the local churches and peace organisations) the Local assembly was able to arrange a book exhibition at the university bookshop as well as in the goal area of Ashford during the 90 Day Campaign.

The presentation of Baha'i books to all the secondary schools in the Canterbury area (23 in all) has resulted in a Baha'i taking the morning assembly at the Canterbury Girls' Grammar School, and an invitation to address the fourth formers at an Ashford public school.

BABERGH

On 16 March an act of commemoration was held in East Bergholt for the martyrs in Iran. Thanks to a local headmaster (who later read a prayer during the programme) the event was held in a school hall, free of charge. Many Baha'is with personal experience of the tragedy of these martyrdoms gave moving and eloquent speeches. A representative of Amnesty International read a prayer at the meeting and Mr Ken Weetch, member of Parliament for Ipswich sent the following message-

"I wish to send through you a message of comfort and encouragement to all members of the Baha'i Faith in these very difficult times.

"I have, on previous occasions, protested to the British Foreign Office, to the Iranian Embassy and elsewhere about the brutalities and crimes inflicted upon members of the Baha'i Faith in Iran. These injustices are very serious indeed and I shall keep up my pressure and take every opportunity I can to try and get something done. Other M.P.'s of course, join me in this from all parts of the House of Commons.

"Your faith must be strong in times like these and I am sure it will be. My thoughts are with you always and my only regret is that I cannot do anything more substantial to stop these crimes against your members being perpetrated."

Although attendance was not as large as had been hoped, the event attracted a great deal of interest and was reported in the local paper.

A music seminar was held in Babergh from March 23 - 25 which over 20 musicians from various parts of the country attended. This was a pilot scheme involving competent musicians who spent the weekend being positive about their art. Not only was music of a high standard produced but ideas were

exchanged about the future role of Baha'i musicians in society.

Over 40 musicians (Baha'i and non-Baha'i alike) took part in a workshop at a local boarding school on the Saturday morning. In the afternoon visiting musicians accompanied a local esperanto musical group in a concert for the Eastern Federation Esperanto Association. The evening was devoted to musical exchanges.

Such was the success of the weekend that a second seminar has been arranged. (See Calendar of Events)

GRAVESHAM

In response to correspondence in the local newspaper, generated by a letter sent to the Iranian authorities by the local Community Relations Council, the Gravesham Baha'i community held an exhibition in the Anglesea Shopping centre on the persecution of the Baha'is in Iran, followed by an open evening in Northfleet. Eight non-Baha'is attended and stayed behind afterwards for an informal discussion and refreshments. The evening was so successful that it finished much later than had been expected.

Although the local newspaper did not send a reporter to the meeting, the community relations reporter, who is a leader of the local Muslim community, phoned the Baha'is and wrote an excellent report of the meeting which subsequently appeared in the paper.

On 24 March the Baha'is organised a coffee morning and musical evening in aid of Princess Anne's Save The Children Fund Appeal for a children's nutrition centre in Bangladesh. Despite pouring rain the events were well supported by the local Baha'is. Some £40 was raised for the appeal.

SWANSEA

The Baha'is in Swansea held a buffet lunch to celebrate Naw Ruz. Invitations were sent to many social and educational departments as well as the police and personal friends. Despite bad weather some 18 non-Baha'is attended this event which was enjoyed by all. An exhibition

and display of Baha'i literature were also on view.

During the past two months the Baha'is have taken a slide show and given talks to six local organisations.

NORTH DOWN

For the first time in Ireland a request was made to the North Down Spiritual Assembly by a member of the Christian, and a member of the Jewish Faith to have a Baha'i Marriage Ceremony. After consultation with the bride and bridegroom and family, an order of service was arranged which included Baha'i prayers readings from the Old Testament by a friend of the bride, Jewish scriptures read by the bridegroom's parents, and a poem read and written by the bride and bridegroom.

The wedding took place on April 17 with the help of a Board Member known to the bride, and there was a beautiful atmosphere of unity among all those present.

CASTLEREAGH

Two believers in Castlereagh, Hushang and Patricia Jamshidi, were asked by a clergyman who is a friend of long standing to speak on the Baha'i Faith at his church on Sunday March 25th.

The church, in Comber, Co. Down, was a local congregation of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, the Irish affiliate of the Unitarians.

The congregation of some 90 people heard a twenty minute talk on progressive revelation and the identity of moral and ethical teachings of Christ and Baha'u'llah, together with selected readings from Baha'i scriptures.

At its conclusion the minister arose to say that he agreed with every word that had been said. The reaction of the congregation was also warm and friendly.

At the end of the service the minister asked the Baha'i speakers to join him in standing at the door of the church to shake hand with the people as they left.

DUNGANNON

An exhibition was held in Dungannon, a goal area, on the Baha'i Faith from April 2nd to 7th and attracted over 100 visitors.

ABERDEEN

The most beautiful and important thing in our community is our children and to every meeting we have here in Banff and Buchan they bring an added vitality. We now have 14 children in the community and lots of our social events centre around them.

For Intercalary Days there was a party and presents, for Naw Ruz a visit to Aberdeen's famous Winter gardens, for Ridvan we are going to make paper roses to take to an old folks home in memory of the roses filling Baha'u'llah's tent in between these holy days they have sent messages of peace in bottles (with the permission of the Coastguard) and had a bonfire.

It is vital that our children grow up remembering their Baha'i childhood as a special, wonderful time spent in a community surrounded with love - if we fail them then from where will spring this new race of men.

NITHSDALE

One of the believers in Scotland found herself very ill in hospital over Naw Ruz, so she decided to have her own celebration. Dozens of daffodils were ordered and presented to the staff and doctors on her ward, with a card thanking them for their kindness and for making the ward such a happy one. She then made sure the door to her room (which opened onto the main corridor of the ward) was left open, spread her locker and bedside table with sweets and fruit and invited every nurse, doctor, patient, porter or visitor who passed by in for something to eat and an explanation of the reason for the celebration. This very courageous friend is Mary Mehrnoosh who, although seriously ill, is actively engaged in teaching the Faith in such a way that no-one will be able to forget.

International News



BURMA

A "Key Believers" Training Class was held in Kyetsudaw, Burma on 21-23 January with the specific permission of the Government. Representatives of the Divisional Religious Officer of Pegu and of the Kyetsudaw Local People's Council attended the sessions. Ninety-five Baha'is, mostly of Buddhist background, came from twenty local communities to attend the deepening. Discussions on the lives of the Bab and Baha'u'llah, the Covenant, the station of 'Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i Administration, Baha'i family life and the Baha'i way of life were all recorded on tape and forwarded to the Divisional Religious Officer of Pegu.

MOZAMBIQUE

On 1st March this news was cabled to the World Centre; "...Glad tidings of a great day in the religious history of Mozambique. On an appeal from Ministry of Justice, all religious institutions have come together to help victims of flood and cyclone in south Mozambique. The first meeting held 23 February, over 25 different institutions represented. Baha'is taking active part in programme which coincides with Ayyam-i-Ha..." Baha'is helped by collecting clothing, food and materials, making monetary donations, visiting affected areas to give moral support and to study needs, and by asking communities outside Mozambique to help.

HAWAII

In response to the January 2nd message from the Universal House of Justice about the crisis in the International Fund, the National Assembly of Hawaii held special meetings on all islands, setting an extra goal of US\$6,000 to be raised by Naw Ruz. The response was double the amount suggested; \$12,000 was raised in six days and annual contributions will be increased by one-third in next year's budget.

HAITI

Cablegram received by the Universal House of Justice on 12 March from National Spiritual Assembly of Haiti.

"Joyously announce official recognition Faith as non-governmental organisation, published 'Le Moniteur' March 5, 1984. Incredibly, news (was) broken to Baha'is and guests via official of the publication invited to gala reception in honour visit Mme. Lea Nys, in front of high government officials, press, mayor, etc. on 9 March".

CANADA

Cablegram from Association for Baha'i Studies to the Universal House of Justice on 25 March 1984:

"Grateful Baha'u'llah stunning success first symposium 'Baha'i Faith and Islam'. As Master said of Montreal -- found all doors open, no adversary, ideal power Kingdom removing every obstacle. Conference distinguished by nine outstanding scholarly presentations, hospitable welcome members McGill's Institute Islamic Studies who participated as chairmen, and attendance highly appreciative audience of 140 persons. Acting director Institute warmly encouraged Association consider regarding event as first in series symposia this subject, and extended invitation return McGill for this purpose next year... Plan publish full proceedings as first in series, generate body scholarly literature gradually clarify this vital relationship".

LIBERIA

Liberia held a teaching institute to prepare teachers to do mass teaching at the vilalge level, building their confidence and determination. The trainees who completed the course committed themselves to six weeks of travel teaching in villages throughout Liberia. The seven-day institute involved four daily classes plus outside study time. Evenings were used to learn songs, games and short stories to be used in teaching children in villages. The National Teaching Committee and the Auxiliary Board for Propagation collaborated in the institute.

Initial reports from various regions show the fruits of the efforts. In Bassa County there are 27 new believers and three new Assemblies. In Bomi County, at least 27, and three new Assemblies. In the Bong Mine area 14 have enrolled and one new Assembly is formed, and in Region III there are 57 new Baha'is and 3 Assemblies -- a total of 125 new believers and ten new Local Spiritual Assemblies.

European Parliament Makes Written Declaration

Despite recently being out of the news the European Parliament still remembers the Baha'is, mainly through the local proclamation work done by the individual Baha'i communities

The declaration was tabled by Mr. Marshall, one of the Euro-MPs from this country, and 103 others.

On the continued persecution of the Baha'is in Iran.

The European Parliament

- A. believing that religious freedom is a fundamental human right
- B. recalling that many opponents of the Shah's regime received political asylum in the European Community.
- C. conscious of the welcome given by many to the down-fall of the Shah,
 1. Regrets the failure of the Iranian Government to grant all its citizens freedom of worship;
 2. Deplores in particular the continued persecution of the Baha'is;
 3. Believers that this persecution is a barrier to an improvement in relations between Iran and the Community;
 4. Instructs its President to send this written declaration to the President of Iran; the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference.

For entry in the register on 20 February 1984 pursuant to Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure.

Bahá'í Youth

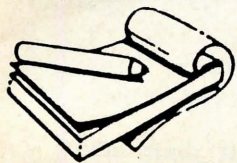
I know how it feels when you want to take part in the 90 days campaign over the weekend but there is always that one long homework to do and you must go to visit your aunt Floe for Naw-Ruz. I had just this same problem; my English teacher had set the class a two month autobiography project. I wrote about the Faith throughout and provided a pamphlet to go with it, but I devoted half of the last chapter to the martyrs.

After reading and marking the final result, my teacher had obviously been impressed by the Faith and the news of the Martyrs for he wrote about how he would like to know more about the Faith and if I could lend him some books, which I did.

What I am trying to get across is: do not think that you cannot help the campaign by not being able to attend youth teaching trips and so on; try to throw in a few facts about the Faith in your work-not just until the end of the campaign but afterwards as well. So always act like a Baha'i and say you are a Baha'i.

AFTER ALL "WHAT IS A BAHAI?"

NERSEY RASTAN - 14



Please Note

The following vacancies exist at the World Centre.

BUILDING TRADES: A number of specific building trades are needed urgently; training and several years of experience are preferred: Stone Mason, Painter, Driver.

SECURITY STAFF: The job requires shift work, physical fitness and the ability to learn some Hebrew. Men only should apply, and should be single. The terms of service will be between eighteen months and two and one-half years.

GARDEN HELPERS: Friends with experience in gardening are welcome for six months terms; physical fitness is important, and due to the nature of the work and local customs, only men should apply. These short term positions require the individual to furnish his own travel expense to and from the World Centre.

Lifeblood of the Cause

Ways of making contributions to the Fund:

1. Directly by cheque or postal order. Please post to the National Treasurer, Dr Wendi Momen, [REDACTED]

All cheques should be made out to NSA of the Baha'is and **not** to Wendi Momen. Receipts are only sent if a SAE is enclosed.

2. By Bank Giro directly to the bank which is National Westminster Bank, 186 Brompton Rd, London SW3 LHH, code number 60-04-04, account no 18188443. Please write clearly on the paying in slip who has sent it and, if it is a Local Assembly, put the name of the Local Assembly.

3. By Post Office Giro. Our number is 43 301 4008. Please write clearly who has sent it.



The following is an extract from the Mourne Observer. It appears exactly as in the paper. Strange how some people miss what is almost literally under their noses.....

A FILM ABOUT THE SECOND RETURN
OF JESUS CHRIST

ENTITLED

*'The Thief in the
Night'*

TUESDAY 3 APRIL

at 8.00 p.m.

In Elim Church, Downs Road, Newcastle

DON'T MISS, PLAN TO ATTEND

BAHAI FAITH

'Believe in the Unity of Mankind' and the
relinquishing of all prejudices, i.e. Prejudice
of Religion, Race, Class, Nation, Colour,
etc.

THERE WILL BE A TALK AND
DISCUSSION ON

Equality of Man and Woman

in Newcastle Leisure Centre

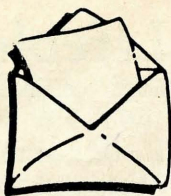
ON WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL

at 8 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

For further information Tel. Newcastle 22334.

You Write....



Dearly loved friends, Allah'u'Abha!

It is with some hesitation that I write this letter to you, regarding the new National Baha'i Exhibition; for I have no desire to cause offence, or to give unhappiness to any soul, not to engage in swopping insults. However, I feel that I have a right to express my opinion. The exhibition is, in the main, a beautiful proclamation of our beloved Faith, yet there is one picture which appears in a most prominent position that is causing comment among non-Baha'is, and agitation to many Baha'is beside myself. I refer to the the scantily-dressed young girl, whose picture, beautiful as it is, is, in the words of one of my non-Baha'i friends, "a strange thing to find in a religious exhibition, especially a religion which teaches the equality of men and women as a fundamental principle". This principle, of all the principles of the Faith, is perhaps the hardest for many of us to fully accept, yet we must try to make it part of our lives, and show it in our conduct - for it is surely terribly dangerous to neglect any of the Teachings of Baha'u'llah. As Baha'is, we have a duty to show an example to the people - to be foremost in our application of these new and revolutionary laws of conduct, to "dare to be different" - and thereby show people that we have a better way of life to offer.

Sadly, a certain amount of astonishment has been expressed at the fact that I, an English girl, should feel that this picture is in any way offensive. To be sure, I grew up in a society where the female body is constantly degraded by pornography, and advertising of this kind, in varying degrees of severity. This is painful enough in the non-Baha'i world, but to find such attitudes within the Faith is more distressing. In the Faith, we are enjoined to purity and chastity of mind and heart - and this applies to men as well as to women.

For us, it is vitally important that we cleave to this law, and surely we are deserving of respect in this regard - and not of accusations that we are unhealthily prudish, or even, may God forbid,

'jealous' of such a picture. Pictures of this kind, however well-intentioned their use, cannot help to foster this purity which is required of all of us - and surely the adults in the Faith should attempt to get a good standard and example of Baha'i decency to the young, many of whom are crying out for such a standard, having found no such thing in their lives so far.

I earnestly pray that this will be taken in the spirit in which it is meant,

Your loving friend,
Sarah Mellard

Dear Baha'i Friend,

It was interesting to read in the "Journal" of the action taken in support of the Baha'is in Iran by Euro-M.P. Dr Otto von Hapsburg.

I think this is worthy of comment from the historical point of view, as Dr von Hapsburg is a member of the House of Hapsburg which ruled the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Indeed were the Austrian monarchy to be restored he would have a claim to the throne.

This makes him the lineal descendant of the emperor Franz Joseph to whom Baha'u'llah wrote* ("Open thine eyes, that thou mayest behold this glorious Vision...") with no obvious response.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Iain S. Palin

*Proclamation of Baha'u'llah page 43.

Dear Friends,

We have recently moved to Dumbarton and are the only two believers in the district, which used to have a Local Spiritual Assembly ten or so years ago. We are trying to construct a small archive of all Baha'i efforts, which have been put into Dumbarton. For this reason we appeal to any friends, who have lived and served in this community to get in touch with us at the address below. Nothing is too small for us to be interested in!

George & Faranak Ballentyne,
35/6 Merkins Ave.,
Dumbarton G82 3EA.

Dear Friends,

It is inspiring to hear of the successes of recent conventions and various Baha'i activities. I would like to mention something which is not so inspiring, but which will, I hope, help us at future gatherings.

After a few apparently successful Baha'i social events, it has been discovered that, although most of the Baha'is present thought that everyone was enjoying him - or herself, some non-Baha'is felt alienated. In my experience, this has usually happened with spouses of Baha'is, but perhaps the same has been true of shy or new Baha'is.

I do not wish to make a big issue of this matter; I simply hope to make the friends aware of this kind of situation, and to offer a few suggestions for preventing it from developing:

1) Remember that Baha'is may need help to make their non-Baha'i spouses feel "at home".

2) If you have ever been shy or felt out-of-place, look out for the same signs of uneasiness in others and try to help them relax.

3) If you are full of happiness, share it with someone else.

Many Baha'is always say the right thing at the right time. Perhaps one of them could make more suggestions to those of us who haven't yet acquired that skill?

Betty J. Ortiz
Kingston-Upon-Thames

Department of Records

Declarations & Registrations

Youth

Miss Hilary Burroughs	(Bath)
Miss Helen Franks	(Coleraine)
Mr. Behnam Taidi	(Oxford)
Mr. Fardin Derakhshan	(Wandsworth)
Miss Saloumeh Al Nadaf	(South Norfolk)
Miss Tanja Al Nadaf	(South Norfolk)
Mr. Omid Beheshti	(Havering)
Mr. Seena Fazel	(Kensington & Chelsea)
Miss. Katayoun Karimi	(Hamilton)
Miss. Zhamac Zamiri	(Monmouth)
Mr. Andrew Farmery	(Grimsby)

Adults

Mr. Christopher Appleby	(South Norfolk)
Mrs. Carole Evans	(Vale Royal)
Mr. Philip Grise	(Bournemouth)
Mrs. Roma Grise	(Bournemouth)
Mrs. Freda W Houston	(Dungannon)
Miss Sharon Caroline Jupp	(Brentwood)
Mr Percy Marks	(Enfield)
Mr. Graham Norgate	(Waveney)
Mrs. Rose Norgate	(Waveney)
Mrs. Susan Mitchell	(Epsom & Ewell)
Mr. Colin McEwan	(Mull)
Mrs. Margaret Buchanan	(Solihull)
Mrs. Kena Bunton	(Kerrier)
Mr. Ken G. Bunton	(Kerrier)
Mr. Andrew Cochrane	(Liverpool)
Mr. Michael McMullan	(Ipswich)
Mrs. Jeanie Milestone	(Isle of Man)
Mr. Mark Roberts	(Stewartry)
Miss. Nalini Unny	(Wakefield)
Mrs. Suzanne Corrie	(Bournemouth)
Mr. Robert Law	(Mendip)
Mr. David Oberman	(Bournemouth)
Mrs. Marilyn Cassey	(Milton Keynes)
Mr. David Silverstein	(Allerdale)
Mrs. Brenda Walker	(Epsom & Ewell)
Mr. Raymond Wolverson	(Rotherham)
Mr. Julian Black	(Leicester)
Ms. Clare Blanchard	(Leicester)
Miss Stella Chivers	(Gillingham)
Mrs. Kathleen Glennie	(Waveney)
Miss Patricia Bundy	(Chichester)
Mr. Russell Smart	(Argyll & Bute)
Mrs. Vera Knight	(South Wight)
Mr. Timothy Allen	(Grimsby)
Mr. Terubentau Abera	(Grimsby)
Mr. David Graham	(Stewartry)
Mr. Alan Higgins	(Norwich)
Miss Christina Sinclair	(Argyll & Bute)
Mrs. Elizabeth Curry	(Durham)
Mrs. Lyn Jones	(Arfon)
Mr. Paulette Range	(Ipswich)
Mr. M. J. Brian Spósito	(S. Wight)
Mr. Douglas Hall	(Lanark)
Miss Rosalind Leitch	(Merton)
Mr. David Macisaac	(Colchester)
Mrs. Beryl Blythen	(Broxtowe)
Mr. John Dickinson	(Monmouth)
Mrs. Jean Dovey	(Mendip)
Mr. Toni Geidesz	(Carlisle)
Miss Jenny Hill	(Banff & Buchan)
Mrs. Cynthia Phillips	(Chester)
Mr. Gerald Williams	(Arfon)
Mr. Colin S. Birch	(Hounslow)
Mr. Peter Graham	(Western Isles)
Mrs. Barbara Spósito	(South Wight)
Mrs. Sally Strong	(Arun)
Mrs. Marion Wyld	(Glasgow)

This year we are very fortunate to have the fourth European North Sea Border Conference in the United Kingdom.

Norwich, a historic and beautiful city, has many connections with the Northern European countries including the Flemish weavers who, in centuries past, brought their cloth-making expertise to East Anglia. In 1984, this fine city has been chosen as the centre for the conference. The conference itself will be held in the Blackfriars Hall where, to this day, the East Anglian Dutch Community hold their annual service.

This year many of the Dutch, Belgian and other European friends will be taking advantage of the cheap week-end ferries to take part in the full and varied programme on the theme "The Future of Mankind". Speakers from home and abroad, including Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh, who has agreed to attend this year's conference, will address the friends on this topic. Mr. Shakibai's slide presentation "The Glorious Future of Mankind", to be shown on the Saturday evening, in the presence of local dignitaries, will be part of an important proclamation programme during the conference.

Children's classes and activities will be available. Please bring your children and let them meet their European counterparts.

It is interesting to note that this kind of cross border event is a goal of the Universal House of Justice. So don't miss this great opportunity to visit a beautiful city, take part in an inspiring programme, meet and make friends with the European believers, and help win this important goal for Europe.



NORWICH

NORTH SEA BORDER CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 7TH 8TH 9TH

Marriages

- 2/3/84 - Lai HongLoh-Farokh Kohbod
- 9/3/84 - Terry Beverton-M. Beverton
- 29/3/84- Peter Hulme-Zarin Hedayatpour
- 3/4/84 - John Kissick-Ann Skelton
- 7/4/84 - Howard Smith-Mahnaz Firuztash
- 7/4/84 - Forouzan Golshani-
Rezvanieh Mazloom
- 7/4/84 - Shidan AdlParvan-
Farzaneh Mazloom
- 21/4/84- Suha Rowhani-Shohreh Youseffian
- 27/4/84- Leslie Gornall-Maheen Baraghi

In Memoriam

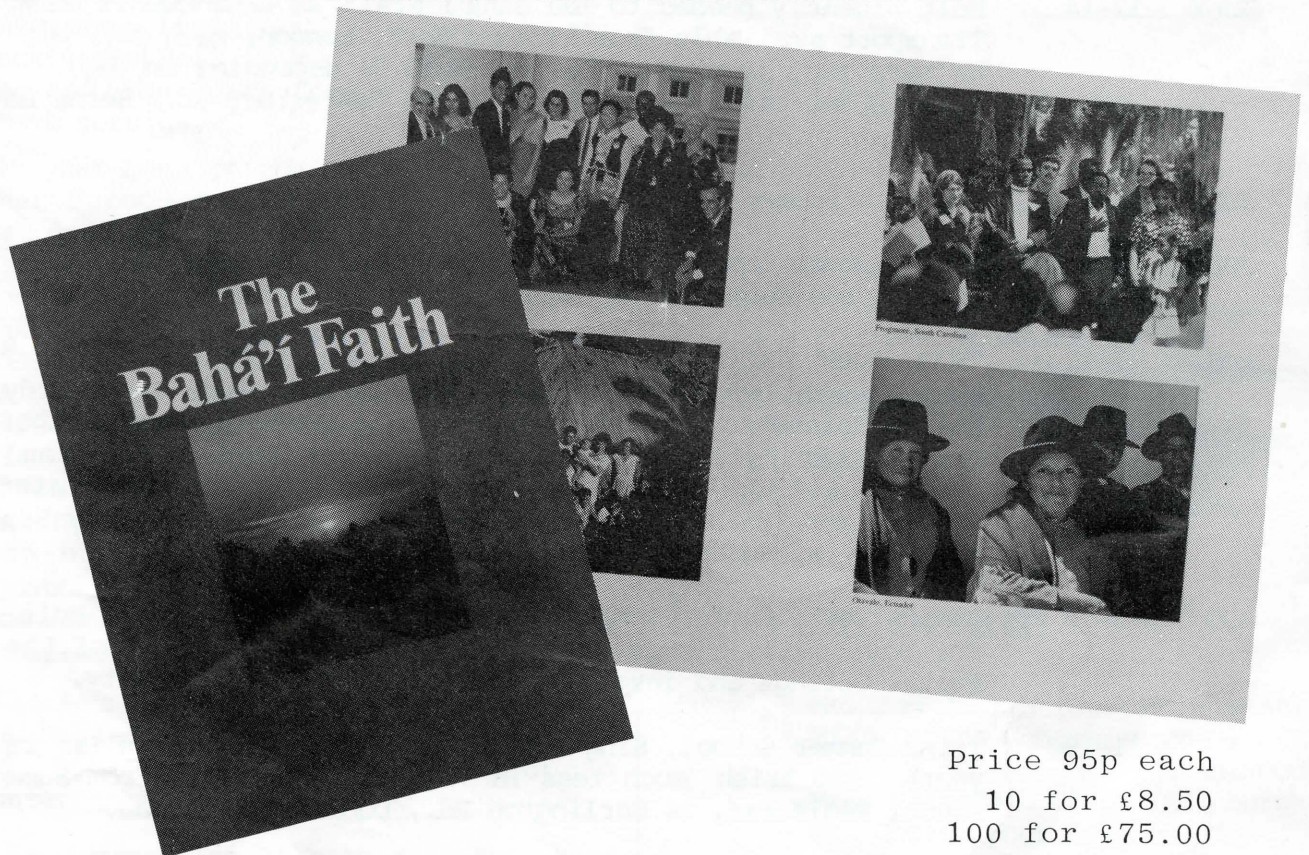
- March - Mr. Ian Mellin (Stoke-on-Trent)
- Miss Davina Gungabissoon
(Brentwood)
- Mrs. Elizabeth Clark (Edinburgh)
- Mr. Christopher Kempson
(Aberconwy)
- Mr. Homayoun Moquarrabi
(Bristol)
- Mr. Jack Tomlinson (Taff Ely)
- Mr. Reginald Coulson
(Manchester)
- April - Mrs. Floria Mohabaty
(East Hants)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JUNE 9 Help needed to man Baha'i float in CROYDON CARNIVAL. Firesides after procession. Details from Jenny Mahdi, 01 681 0188.
- JUNE 30 - Music Seminar for all competent musicians and singers (see
JULY 1 Community News for details of previous seminar) Phone Ipswich 683548 for details.
- JULY 5 Novel proclamation approach - "A Baha'i view of disability" - a talk by Paul Booth, part of an evening on coping with handicaps. Teachers' Centre, St Peter's Lane, Canterbury. 8 p.m.
- JUNE 30 - Swiss Summer School. Topic: "Baha'i Literature" (in English).
JULY 6 Speaker, Adib Taherzadeh. To be held at Tagungszentrum, Landegg, CH-9405 Wienach/AR, Switzerland.
- JULY 7-15 Italian Summer School, Southern Italy. Details and booking from Nura Mazzoni, Tel. 0971 43187 Potenza.
- JULY 12-14 Help urgently needed to man Baha'i stall at KENT COUNTY SHOW. Transport available from Rutland Gate, London, each day, but helpers must pay entry fee (£4.50, £3.50 depending on day). Details and offers - Mrs A. Kyne, 95 Canterbury Rd., Herne Bay, Kent.
- JULY 28-4 AUG Scottish Summer School
- JULY 29-4 AUG Swiss Summer School, Topic: Arts & Music (in English) Address and details, see above.
- AUG 7-11 "SOUL WARS" YOUTH CONFERENCE. Dealing with problems of being a Baha'i youth in today's society. Speakers include Mary Hardy, Philip Hainsworth, and Professor Soheil Bushru'i, among others. Cost: £37.80 full board, £20.20 half-board. Self-catering and camping, £14.40. Kitchen facilities available for self-caterers. SAE for more details. Nica Louie, 49 Sea Lane, Goring by Sea, Worthing, W. Sussex.
- AUG 9-12 Junior Youth Summer School, 29 Newtondale, Sutton Park, Hull For boys 8-11, aim is to give deeper understanding of the Faith. Outings and involvement in local Baha'i community.
- " 11-19 Irish Summer School, King's Hospital School, nr Dublin (as last year). £80 Irish (much less in Sterling). Details from Summer School Registrar, 24 Burlington Rd., Dublin 4, Ireland.
- " 18-23 Swiss Summer School, Topic: Shoghi Effendi (in English) Details and address as above.
- " 18-25 First Welsh Summer School. Details to follow.
- " 26-1 SEP Second Welsh Summer School. Details to follow.

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