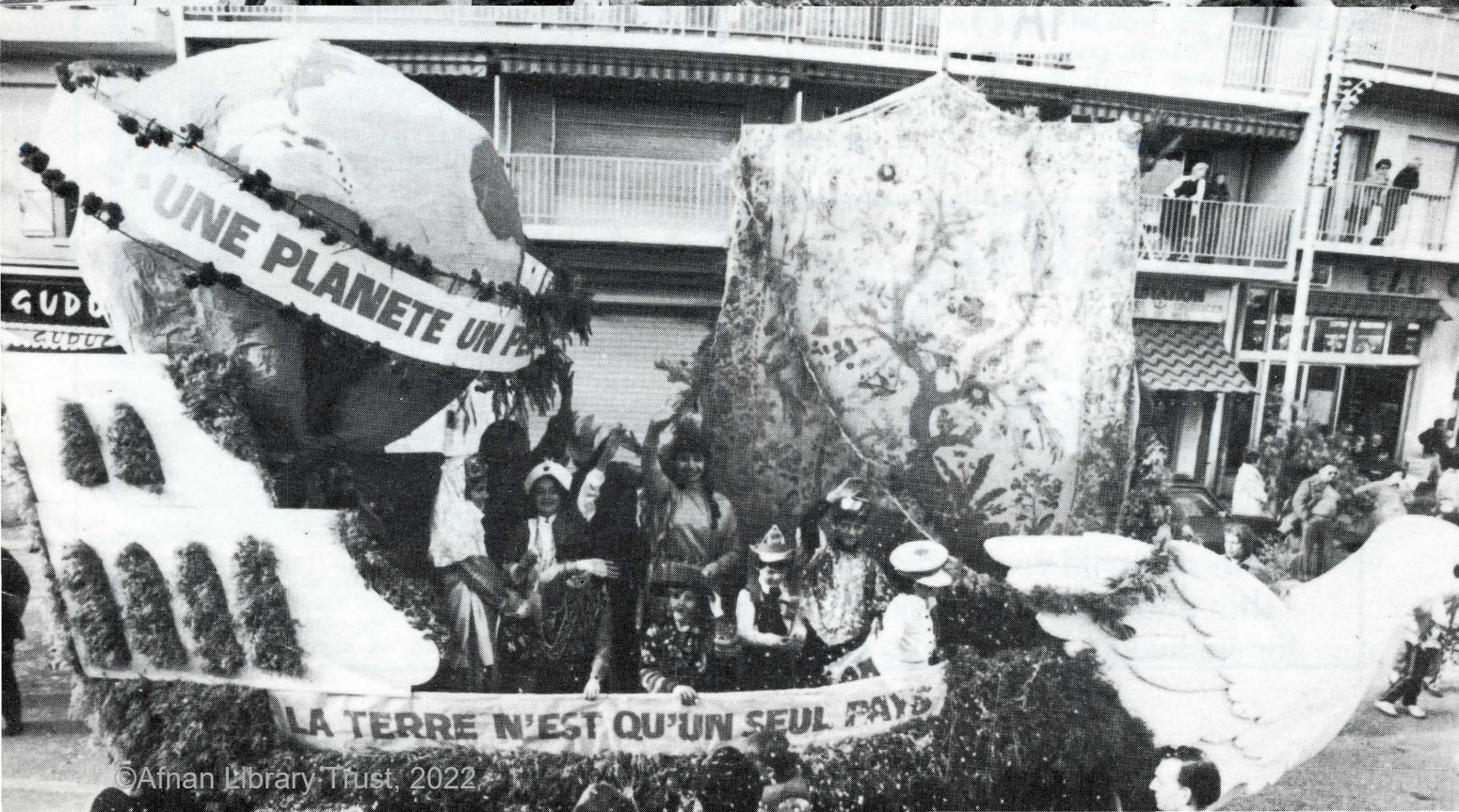


The Bahá'í Journal

Volume One

Issue Number 4

July 1984





From the Editor

Dear friends,

In this issue we look at the possibilities for summer proclamation, at how a young believer became attracted to the Faith, and have a feature about our approach to teaching.

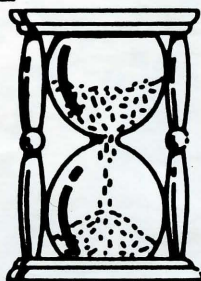
An issue that seems to be causing some feeling among certain believers at the moment concerns the manner of delivering the Baha'i Journal. The staff have received several letters and more spoken complaints about the present clear poly-wrapper. In many ways the Journal is heavily constrained by financial considerations and we have chosen our options with great care and within a strict budget. The only alternatives to a clear poly-wrapper are an opaque poly-wrapper, which our printer does not do, an extra piece of plain paper to cover the front of the Journal - which would add over £120 per issue to postage costs as we are now at the weight limit for 12½p, or manilla envelopes - which would cost over £130 plus the cost of labelling them. Unless donations to the Fund undergo a rapid and drastic increase, or you are prepared to have a much smaller Journal, it would appear that we are stuck with clear poly-wrappers!

Warmest Baha'i love,

THE EDITOR

DEADLINE

JULY 18



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

Dearly loved Friends

With the approval of the Universal House of Justice Mr. Hadi Rahmani has been appointed as the assistant of Mr. Salim Nounou, for Huquq'ullah, in Europe. Kindly inform the Persian Friends about this appointment.

With loving Baha'i greetings

The Trustee of Huquq'ullah

A. Varqa

مقوق الله

مقرب از پیام بیت العدل اعظم الهی :

...از این بیت رسیده اند که ایدارتر عابعد و قهای
ارتبه با داد حقوق الله چه رابطه و نسبتی دارد و اگر کسی نیت
داد حقوق الله به ترعات خیریه جبت مشروعات سازه
بردارد آیا از تقدیم حقوق الله معافست یا نه حکم دیگری دارد
... داد حقوق الله از خرافات دنییه اهل جهات چه که
حکمش در کتاب ستطاب اندکس منصوص است و
بانش در لوح شتی معین و مذکور هیچ مؤمن مخلفی که واجب
شرائط معین باشد از داد حقوق الله مستثنی نیست حق
نص کتاب امتناع از داد حقوق الله بنزله نیست محسوب
و خطاب "من خان الله یحان بالعدل" در حق این نقض
مکتوب ... این حکم حکم به شهادت قسم اعلی دارای مصاح و حکم
لا تکفی است سبب تطهیر اموال است و دفع خیران و وبال
بهشت لغوت و عزت است و علت خیر و برکت
انفاقی است که نسبتش الی الله است و خدمتی است که نه
ارتفاع امر الله ...

The Baha'i Journal is published monthly by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United Kingdom, and printed by Headley Brothers Ltd, Invicta Press, Queens Rd, Ashford, Kent.

Copies are distributed free of charge to all Baha'i homes in the United Kingdom.

The Baha'i Journal is for circulation amongst Baha'is only.

All material should be sent, before the deadline, to the Editor, Baha'i Journal, 27 Rutland Gate, London SW7 1PD.

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.

Summertime Proclamation

Opportunity comes knocking!

Summer is with us (though this is probably just a rumour!) and in between stocking up the larder for Wimbledon and the Olympics there are a great many proclamation opportunities unique to this time of year which present themselves to the active Baha'i community.

Summer is traditionally the time of summer fairs (fayres) and carnival processions - great opportunities to (if you will pardon the expression) parade the name, and some of the ideals of the Faith, before thousands of people.

Even if you do not consider this to be a befitting treatment of the Faith (as some do not) I ask you to bear these points in mind: 1. Name one other method, which is readily available to you, by which you can present the name Baha'i before these people. 2. These parades etc. can be

great fun and, by their encouraging people to work together for a specific tangible goal, can bring more unity and comradeship to your community. 3. It can act as a focus by which several communities may work together - remember if it is a county fair it is just as much their fair as yours, even if it does take place in your community. 4. The Baha'is are part of the community, and participation in events like this can help to illustrate that we are not aloof and distanced from others. 5. By meeting other float/stall holders, because you have something in common, it is relatively easy to actually teach these people.

O.K., let us suppose that your community has decided to go ahead with this project - how do you go about it? Fair stalls and carnival floats each have specific problems, so let us deal with them one at a time.

Firstly the parade: There is always an organising committee and it is necessary to contact them well in advance of the event. You need something for your float to travel on - you could use a car or small van that belongs to a Baha'i, but if you can use a lorry or trailer of some sort with a large flat area, you have greater scope. The organising committee will usually allocate you one should you wish, or at least put you in touch with a local company who may have one available. This is often free, but it always goes down well if a "small donation" is made to the driver. Go and see your vehicle and measure it up - note where there are holes or lugs on which you can tie things (remember you can't just nail things onto it). Now plan your float.

What are you trying to convey? Is there a special theme to the parade? Is there another Baha'i community with a float already designed and made that you could use? These and other questions should be decided on very quickly - there is always a last minute rush on the day, and you really need to have things well organised if the float is to look good.

Mobilise all the resources of your



Colourful and big - the best way to attract. This banner can be seen by everyone, especially as it is above head height - the balloon race has taken second place to proclamation.

community - perhaps your children's class could make paper flowers or something similar. Do you have a good artist available? Your float does not necessarily have to be the best - indeed it would have to be very professionally made to beat some of the floats that groups such as the Lions or Round Table produce. Take for example the float pictured below, plenty of paper flowers, lots of people in different national costumes and a banner "Ye are all flowers of one garden": nothing special, but the picture appeared in two local papers whereas the prizewinners had hardly a mention. The occasion was the Queen's Silver Jubilee and it just caught the spirit of the event.



Now, where are you going to get your costumes? Well, you would be surprised at how much you have at home that, if not already suitable, can be easily adapted. Take the "international group" of Baha'is on the cover - a sombrero from your last trip to Torremolinos (or at least Aunt Gladys's) and an old blanket, combined with a guitar makes an acceptable Mexican. Ask your neighbours and friends, even those at work, if they have something suitable. If all else fails and you still need that extra special something, most large towns have a costume hire shop which you could use. Your only real limit is your imagination.

Stalls and exhibitions present some different problems. Again you should contact the organising committee well in advance and see what you will be provided with (tables etc.), where will the event take place, inside or out? If it is outside then you will have to ensure that your stall is weatherproof - it is bound to rain (well, probably not, but you should prepare for the worst).

Exhibition stalls can, if you are not



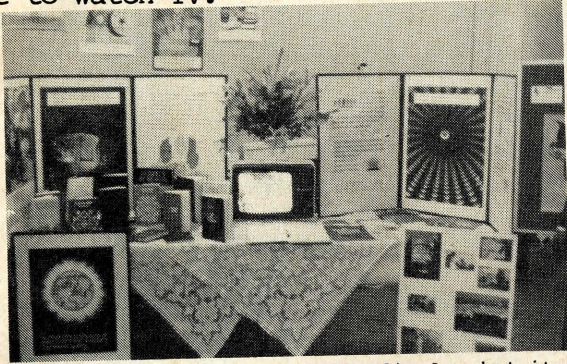
careful, be very expensive and you should carefully work out your finances beforehand. The main advantage of a stall is that you can easily talk to people and have some form of two-way communication, and, as you are not moving on, you can convey much more information and let the public read it at leisure.



Plenty to look at but where is the excitement which could draw people to it - they're all looking at the karate next door!

You should ensure that you have an exhibition which is pictorial, interesting and not too heavy. A text-only display is ignored if there are nice big colourful pictures to look at elsewhere. Try to ensure that you have a nice, quiet relaxed corner - it is difficult to talk about world peace and the spiritual nature of man with the karate club smashing bricks next door - action attracts much more readily than something static. Find out if you can

have electricity - you may need to use lights, or possibly you can have video or a computer-generated display - people love to watch TV.



Plenty to look at in this colorful display but its so crowded that items cover each other up and one does not know where to start looking. Too much can be worse than tooo little. Try to design your stall as a single item that leads an enquirer from one point to the next.

Try to plan out your stall well beforehand. Ensure that your exhibition fits into place easily, and does not look messy. Ensure that a good supply of books (to give away) and pamphlets are available. If you are using visiting Baha'is on your stall, ensure that they have the address of the local Baha'is, the times and dates of any forthcoming meetings or events and firesides.

Ensure that there is an adequate supply of Baha'is at hand to deal with enquirers. You will sometimes find a Baha'i stall with insufficient numbers manning it, so valuable opportunities are wasted. However, do not have so many people there that any enquirers are scared off.

It should be remembered that the function of many of these events is to make money for charity - Baha'is may therefore feel obliged to sell something. You could sell teas, or strawberries and cream. (Very seasonal!) This could be another way of teaching. One community at their local May Fair each year had two stalls, one a Baha'i exhibition and the other a balloon race - which when the prizes were awarded, gave another opportunity for local publicity.

Under no circumstances should any opportunity for proclamation be lost. As Baha'is we embody in our lives many things which others only talk about. For example, at a recent show on racial harmony, the Baha'is missed a great opportunity - what greater display of harmony can be shown than by a married couple, he English, she Indian,

performing traditional Indian dances. The impression it could have created would have been tremendous - this is the sort of thing local papers love to print.

One idea for Baha'is in various areas would be to pool resources so that the costs of exhibitions or carnival floats are shared ; it would be cheaper for all concerned and the quality could be much higher than otherwise. As summer draws on, the Journal will hopefully receive reports (and pictures) of communities participating in these events. This article may give some ideas, and help the friends realise that you can do it! If not, the loss will be tremendous - during the Edinburgh Festival an estimated 100,000 people had an opportunity to see the Baha'i float. Now you try to tell that many people about the Faith personally!



Please Note

Applications are invited for the post of Treasury assistant at the Baha'i Publishing Trust.

The successful applicant will be responsible for the development of the new permanent office of the Treasury being set up by the National Spiritual Assembly at the Baha'i Publishing Trust in Oakham, Leicestershire. Other duties will include acting as an assistant to the Manager of the Baha'i Publishing Trust.

Qualification and experience is preferred but training may be given to a suitable candidate. Salary - conditions by agreement according to qualifications and experience.

Applications in writing to the Manager, Baha'i Publishing Trust, 6 Mount Pleasant, Oakham, Rutland, Leics. For further information please telephone 0572-2780.

Flat available at Baha'i Centre, Edinburgh suitable for single person. One large bed/living room, kitchen, bathroom with shower, also pay phone. The rent is £80 per month and includes all amenities bills. There are no formal caretaking duties. For further information ring Paul 031-554-2446 or Kate 031-332-8952

SHIRAZ PROJECT

Dear friends,

In the name of the birthplace of the Primal Point and the martyrs of that holy city, we embark on a collective activity with the help of all the friends in the U.K. This project is a sponsored cycling event combined with travel teaching, on behalf and in sympathy with our friends in Iran. Samuel (aged 12), Fleur (aged 11), Gabrielle (aged 10, who will be riding on my bike) and I will be cycling from York to Llandrindod Wells - approximately 300 miles - where we will be joining the Summer School.

We would appreciate the support of the friends who wish to cycle along with us at various stages, but they should contact the National Youth Committee who will ensure that not more than three Baha'is join the main party at any one stage and that they make their own private arrangements.

We would like to ask all local secretaries or treasurers to help in finding sponsors on our behalf. Contributions should be sent soon afterwards to the treasurer of York LSA, Mrs M J Evans, 6 Villa Grove, York. Please send two copies of all sponsor forms with the cheques or postal orders (no cash please). A list of the sponsors will accompany the donations which will be sent to the Universal House of Justice through the National Assembly. The deadline for collections will be 20

October (Birth of the Bab) and should reach the Universal House of Justice by 12 November (Birth of Baha'u'llah). We hope such a priceless present on behalf of our devoted friends in Iran to our beloved Universal House of Justice will match in essence the love, devotion and sacrifice which we all share in our hearts with our friends in Iran.

We also hope that under the guidance of the National Proclamation Committee all the friends will take this opportunity to publicise this event with press releases and adverts all over the country, especially those en route. We are willing to meet the friends on the way and wherever possible give talks, attend meetings and join your activities.

We have already been in contact with friends and families in Iran and they will be arranging prayers at the start of each day of cycling. It would be wonderful if all the Iranian friends, particularly those in contact with their twin assemblies, could let them know the details of the cycling and ask them to arrange prayers for the success of the project as well as for the advancement of the Faith. You could arrange similar prayer meetings to coincide with theirs, and pray that Samuel and Fleur can pedal all the way!

Daryoush Mazloun (on behalf of the York community). Please contact me for any further information on 0904 37609.

PROGRAMME (12 - 25 AUGUST)

DATE	TIME	FROM	TO
Sun 12	12 noon	York	Selby
Mon 13	9.30 a.m.	Selby	Doncaster
Tues 14	9.30 a.m.	Doncaster (via Rotherham & Dronfield)	Chesterfield
Wed 15		REST	
Thurs 16	9.30 a.m.	Chesterfield	Derby
Fri 17	9.30 a.m.	Derby (via Ashbourne)	Stoke-on-Trent
Sat 18		REST	
Sun 19	9.30 a.m.	Stoke (via Stafford and Newport)	Telford
Mon 20	12 noon	Telford	Bridgenorth
Tues 21	9.30 a.m.	Bridgenorth (via Kidderminster)	Worcester
Wed 22		REST	
Thurs 23	9.30 a.m.	Worcester (via Bromyard)	Leominster
Fri 24	9.30 a.m.	Leominster	Penybont
Sat 25	9.30 a.m.	Penybont	Llandrindod Wells

Children's Page



Living the Bahá'í Life

"Strive that your actions day by day may be beautiful prayers."

'Abdu'l-Bahá

75 years ago . . .

on the day of Naw-Rúz (March 21st) 1909, the remains of the Báb and His companion who was put to death with Him, were finally laid to rest by 'Abdu'l-Bahá on Mount Carmel. For 60 years the remains had been hidden and transferred from place to place to protect them from enemies of the Faith. It is on that site that today we can see the magnificent Shrine of the Báb rising like a "crown of beauty" in the midst of the gardens.

On that same day 'Abdu'l-Bahá received a telegram from the Bahá'ís in Chicago, America, announcing that they had decided on where the House of Worship would be built, and what it would look like. That was a very special day indeed.

WHO WAS

ASÍYIH KHÁNUM? She was the saintly wife of Bahá'u'lláh, given by Him the title of the "Most Exalted Leaf." She was the daughter of a nobleman and she had a very kind, gentle and loving nature and devoted her life to Bahá'u'lláh. She was the mother of the Greatest Holy Leaf, Bahá'íyyih Khánum.

Asíyih Khánum was exiled with Bahá'u'lláh from Tehran in 1853 and accompanied Him on all His long and perilous journeys which finally led to the Prison City of Akka. She died in 1886 and Bahá'u'lláh said that she was His "perpetual consort in all the worlds of God."

Dear Children, Welcome back to the Children's Page! We now have a place in the new Bahá'í Journal and I'm looking forward to hearing about your ideas and news. Much love to you all, Carolyn.

from the bookshelf

This section is to introduce you to some of the Children's books, written by Bahá'ís, that are available from the Bahá'í Publishing Trust.

This month I have chosen a book by Arthur M. Weinburg - "The Refuge and the Cave" - which my two girls (aged 7 and 10) and I enjoyed reading together very much.

The story starts with the three main characters, two boys and a girl who come from very different backgrounds, being brought together by chance.

They are forced to spend quite some time together even though to begin with they dislike each other. They find themselves involved in strange and wonderful adventures which are based around a mysterious cave.

I won't tell you any more except to say that the book is really very exciting and has many "hidden meanings" which come to light as the story unfolds.



For New Believers

SEARCH

The girl wandered into the garden of the large victorian house - "Well Hello, its lovely to see you, come on out and join everybody." Her hostess had urged in a warm, yet refined american accent, after she had arrived at the house.

It had been suggested to her brother by one of the daughters of the house that he bring "his sister" to this gathering, but the sister in question had been otherwise engaged so his other sister, being at a loose end had decided to come instead. It was certainly a lovely day for a garden party she thought, surveying the long garden with groups dotted here and there.

A girl with a loaded tray smilingly offered her a drink and a nearby group introduced themselves and she joined in on their conversation. Later on food was carried out from the humming kitchen to be cooked over a home constructed barbecue - sausages, hamburgers and the speciality of the house - their barbeque sauce, lovingly and carefully concocted. One or two people strummed guitars and groups laughed together as they tried to remember the words of a song.

As the afternoon wore on the garden gradually emptied and people drifted indoors, sitting or standing around chatting in the various rooms of the house. The normally shy girl found it easy to talk to the people here- they were very friendly. Often she had remained on the sidelines at parties finding it difficult to think of ways of breaking the ice without seeming awkward or intruding.

As early evening approached she and her brother decided they ought to return home and, after thanking their hostess and calling "Goodbye!" in various directions they left. Whilst walking home the girl thought about the afternoon and how much she had enjoyed it - the company certainly matched the weather.

Various other opportunities presented themselves to visit the house and family. The girl carried on visiting after her brother had returned to his college in

the north. Gradually she learned more about what helped to create the wonderful atmosphere of warmth in the place. The house seemed to be like a friendly magnet - she always wanted to be there when she wasn't.

She had been going to Friday evening confirmation classes at her church regularly for several weeks and while she sat on the hard benches of the choir stalls in the church with the rest of the class, listening to the vicar talk she looked around her thinking "Well where is it then - where's my blinding flash of spiritual inspiration? I should be feeling something if I'm, supposed to be a Christian - but I'm not, why?"

There seemed to be much more inspiration and food for thought to be found at the Friday evening meetings she would go there when the confirmation classes were over to listen to the animated discussions and the interesting people who came to give talks at these "Firesides" as they were called.

She found out over a period of time that they were known as Baha'is - followers of a Messenger of God called Baha'u'llah - meaning "The Glory of God". She also realised that many of the things they talked about agreed with what she felt deep down - there there should be no prejudice of any kind between people, that men and women were of equal station - they were described in Baha'i Writings as being like two wings of a bird - a bird cannot fly with only one wing - a lovely way of explaining it she thought. The idea that all the major religions had come from one source - from one God but that each Messenger had appeared at a different time, in history renewing spiritual teachings such as prayer and bringing new social teachings to suit the age man was living in at the time. Some of Baha'u'llah's social teaching it appeared were to do with a system of world government and economics to provide a basis for a united world "Hmm", she thought, "saves all the bother of fighting over who has what and it would make it much easier to feed everyone".

More and more the girl began to realise that there was nothing that she disagreed

with and when someone said during a fireside that if you believe in Baha'u'llah and his teachings then you, should become a Baha'i she thought, "Well I do, so perhaps I ought to".

There was a problem however - her father - her brother had become a Baha'i a few months, earlier just before returning to college and her father had been very displeased - presumably thinking that these Baha'is were some kind of religious nuts who were going to turn his eldest son into a mindless zombie with no control over his own future. She decided she would have to wait till she was 18 and had left home before saying she wanted to become a Baha'i. However things didn't turn out quite as she planned because she got what she had been

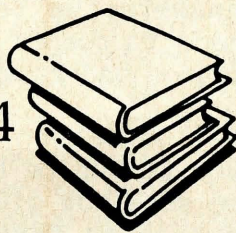
waiting for a few months earlier - it wasn't exactly a blinding flash of spiritual inspiration but it was a very strong and urgent feeling that she should become a Baha'i now. After a couple of days she decided to pluck up courage and ask her father if she could become a Baha'i and to her surprise and delight he said "Yes, as long as it doesn't interfere with your academic or domestic commitments".

It was a very happy girl who announced to her friends at the house that evening that she wished to be a Baha'i and they were equally happy to welcome another member of the growing Faith.

Rebecca Maude

Bahá'í Youth

BAHA'I BOOKS 4



In the last three issues of the Journal we have tried to give you some guidance about Baha'i books in order to help you with your deepening and personal teaching. This series will continue, but for the moment we need to go over a few points.

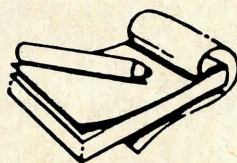
First of all, some of the books we have listed are now unfortunately no longer in print and they cannot be purchased, these include: "All Things Made New", "Eight Major Religions in Britain" and "The Baha'i Faith Religion Renewed and the World United." Of course, it is always best to have your own copies of books because you can keep them for as long as you like, you can write your own notes in the margins and you can keep bookmarks in your favourite passages. The Baha'i Publishing Trust and Bookshops are not the only places to get books from. You can buy books from your local Baha'i book agent - ask who it is if you do not know (More on this in the next Journal).

If you cannot buy the books you want then you must borrow them and for that there is the community's Baha'i Library, if

they have one, and if they do not then you can suggest at the next Feast that a community library should be started. Finally there is your public library. If they do not have a copy of what you want on their shelves they can get hold of one for you for a small fee. The more you use your local library for Baha'i books, the more likely it is that they will put Baha'i books on their shelves for other people to read!

Another thing is that some of the books we have listed are published abroad and it sometimes takes a while to order them, so if you have ordered one that comes from U.S.A., Canada, India or wherever, be patient.

Most books can still be ordered from the Baha'i Publishing Trust at 6, Mount Pleasant, Oakham, LE15 6HU.
Happy Reading!



Please Note

The Westminster Baha'i Community is starting a lending library. Part of its function will be to provide books that contacts to the weekly fireside at the National Centre can borrow. The library will also be open to all Baha'is. We would like to appeal to the friends to donate to this library - which could meet a real need in the Baha'i Community as a whole - any books they may have spare.

Not Just A Numbers Game

At certain times of the year, when the pressure is on, and especially at a key point in a Plan, we may well ask ourselves, what is it all about? Why all this feverish counting of heads?

Counting heads is not an end in itself, though in our more desperate moments we may feel that it is. Forming 256 L.S.A.s, 100 Groups and opening (and maintaining) every District are not ends in themselves either. Nor, indeed, is intensified personal teaching an end in itself. No, these things are all means to an end; and the end is what the Faith is aiming at, what we committed ourselves to when we became Baha'is: the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth; because we cannot say "I believe" without its corollary "I serve". First, faith: "Here am I, here am I"; then action: "Behold me standing ready to do Thy will and Thy desire and wishing naught else except Thy good pleasure." It is God's good pleasure that we teach His Cause. He has told us it is our first duty; but when we love Him it is far more our joy and privilege. We have something so infinitely precious to impart to mankind - that God has kept His promise, that His Kingdom will be established and His Will done on earth as it is in heaven, and that the means to achieve it are to hand. What more marvellous information than that could we ever impart to anyone? The love for God, for Baha'u'llah and for the Master which burns in our hearts and lights up our faces, how can it fail to enkindle the hearts, the souls and the minds of all those whom we meet? Even if the immediate response seems to be nil, we have sown a seed - delivered the Message - and that is all we are required to do. God will do the rest and who knows what the end will be?

When we have this complete love and utter conviction in the ultimate victory of our Faith, then does teaching indeed become a gift. We give the gift of knowledge of the Faith to others but we, too, receive a gift: greater confirmation. There is a spiritual principle here: obedience to command is part of it, of course, but seeing it merely as a grim duty and resenting the

"pressure", is likely to have no good effect on us and probably little on anybody else. Nobody is going to feel excited if our presentation comes from obedience only: but when our teaching comes from our own deep love, complete faith and excitement at having found the pearl of great price, ah! then will our words carry conviction and stir the hearts of our hearers. "Increase my love for Thee, my ardour for the beauty of Thy oneness". Ardour. Ah yes! When we have an increase in love, we certainly gain in ardour! "Teaching teaches the one who teaches" is a spiritual fact, not only on the spot in subtle ways but also in the more obvious one that if we cannot answer the questions put to us we have to go home and study the books to find the answers: we receive the gift of being made to deepen ourselves - and knowledge brings understanding.

Let us return to the question of goals and let us be honest with ourselves. If we were not given goals, would the Faith spread as fast or as widely as it has done? Even if we did teach without any encouragement, our efforts would be uncoordinated and haphazard, uncertain in result. The orderliness is part of the success. The Guardian frequently used the word "systematic" and system is necessary for progress in any sphere of activity, from baking a cake to planning a school curriculum. Systems are planned in order to help us to achieve our objectives more easily and with a minimum of wasted effort, by stages, bit by bit and smoothly. If you said to a child of five, "You are to obtain a doctorate when you are thirty - now, learn!" he would be quite unable to do so. In the same way, if the Guardian or the Universal House of Justice had said to us, "You have to establish the Kingdom of God on earth - now, teach!" we, too, would be quite unable to do it. We would be paralysed by the magnitude of the task and total lack of any guidance; we would give up before we had even started, as the small child, faced with rooms full of books to be studied, would simply lay down his pencil and cry. If we find it hard to win the goals we are given in systematic small doses, we could never establish the Kingdom of God on earth

without any guidance whatever!

The goals we are given are not beyond our capabilities. The Universal House of Justice must think we can achieve them or they would not have given them to us. With such confidence in our abilities, to strengthen our resolve, how can we possibly fail?

As was said earlier, forming LSAs here and Groups there and opening every district is not a matter of counting heads. This is simply the way it works, the mechanics of the thing. What we are actually doing is building the foundations of the Kingdom of God in our own particular district. We, ordinary, insignificant, unimportant, humble, we, have been chosen to do this task. Out of all the people, town or village, God has chosen us. Why us? Why me? What have we - I - done to deserve this tremendous honour? Well, the truth is we haven't done anything. It was an outright gift from God because He could see before He gave it to us, what was our potential for love and service. In His spiritual army He needs soldiers who are A1, not C3. "My God, my Adored One, my King, my Desire! What tongue can voice my thanks to Thee? I was heedless, Thou didst awaken me..." We might add, "O God, help me to stay awake and not to weary in well-doing. Let me not barter away this Youth for the vanities of this world or the delights of heaven! - don't let me become gradually and imperceptibly materialistic so that my faith wanes and my scale of values is slowly turned the wrong way up".

If you gather a crowd together in the dark, in the middle of a field, and they all strike a match at once, there is a bright patch of light where you are standing but the rest of the field is in darkness; but if you spread out all over the field and then strike your matches, the whole field is illuminated and people can see where they are going. If we think of the LSAs as lamps, perhaps we could say the Groups are candles and the isolated believers are matches. What, only matches? Ah, but it takes a match to light a candle and indeed, the candle cannot be lit without it - so a match is a very important person!

So our Divine Institutions are seen as points of light in a darkening world and

when the total breakdown of society comes - which we know it will - not only the Baha'is but the entire outside world will turn to them for guidance, for help, for stability and understanding. Then they will demonstrate, in a disintegrating situation, the love, the unity and the qualities of leadership which they are struggling so hard now to achieve: everything that is implied in the term "vigorously functioning". The Guardian tells us that "The first quality for leadership, both among individuals and Assemblies, is the capacity to use the energy and competence that exists in the rank and file of its followers"; and the Master tells us that "...each human creature has individual endowment, power and responsibility in the creative plan of God". Three things each one of us has: endowment, power and responsibility. What are you good at? Does the assembly know you are good at it? Have you offered your endowments to the service of the Cause? Is the Local Assembly making use of them?

"Teach ye the Cause of God, O people of Baha", Baha'u'llah commands us, "for God hath prescribed unto everyone the duty of proclaiming His Message, and regardeth it as the most meritorious of all deeds". It is God Himself Who has commanded it, not just the National Assembly!

The Universal House of Justice has called for a campaign of spiritualisation "allied with intensified personal teaching" (underlining mine). Our community proclamation efforts have been excellent but they are not what is meant by personal teaching and they are not enough. Personal means personal - the individual, each one of us. Each one of us has endowment, power, responsibility. God has given each one of us some kind of endowment: He has enriched us, given us support. The minute we resolve (note: resolve, not think vaguely we might if we have nothing more important to do) to open our lips and make mention of the name of our Lord (note the guidance as to what we have to talk about) the hosts of Divine inspiration will descend upon us (note: He will put ideas into our minds when we need them) from the heaven of His name, the All-Knowing, the All-wise (note: the inspiration comes from God and not from ourselves). Not content with this, God will assist all those who arise to serve Him in this way by causing the

Concourse on High to descend upon us "each bearing aloft a chalice of pure light". Gracious God! with such promises of help and guidance in our teaching, how can we fail in it? - and of such a gift (teaching) how can we deprive ourselves? All we have to do is make an effort - overcome our shyness or whatever it is that prevents us from obeying the command and fulfilling our first duty. Once we make the effort and mention His Name - once we try - the assistance comes rushing and it is that much easier next time. Teaching is born of conviction and conviction depends on knowledge, understanding and, most important of all, love. When we love God and His manifestation, then anything is

possible and we shall surprise ourselves by what we can do. Increase of love comes from prayer, reading the Writings, studying the life of the Prophet, obeying His laws and His commands - and teaching.

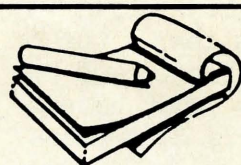
Dearest friends, if we will only believe this and act on it; prepare ourselves with "precedent prayer" and then go out with Baha'u'llah holding our right hand and the beloved Master our left; go out with complete faith that we shall be led to at least one person to whom we can "deliver the Message", then we shall be guided. There is no doubt of this. Try it - the method never fails!

(Madeline Hellaby)

Young Manager of the Year

Mr Gordon Kerr, a Baha'i from Oakham, Rutland, and currently Manager of the Baha'i Publishing Trust, has been presented with a special prize by the British Institute of Management. The award was made following a postgraduate course in management at Leicester Polytechnic, where Mr Kerr gained a Diploma in Management Studies with distinction and was nominated top student.

In making the presentation of a beautiful pendulum clock at a special dinner where Mr Kerr and his wife Maureen were guests of honour, the president of the B.I.M. (Leicestershire Branch) described Mr Kerr as an "outstanding student and most worthy winner who had not only demonstrated academic brilliance but, through his hard work and willingness to help other students, had shown the qualities needed for successful management in Britain today". The president also spoke at length about Mr Kerr's beliefs as a Baha'i, his journeys abroad as a travel teacher and the work of the Baha'i Publishing Trust. About 150 people, representing the various branches of industry and higher education, attended the presentation at Leicester University, many of whom heard of the Faith for the first time. Many questions were asked during the course of the evening and some of the guests requested further information and literature.



Please Note

See the Olympics this summer (on TV) but before you do, get yourself in shape. If you are tired, listless, nothing to do, nowhere to go, under 65 years of age then you qualify for this summer's "Youth Project" at the Baha'i Publishing Trust, between 10 - 22 July.

Volunteers are needed to assist with gardening, maintenance, cleaning and decoration of the Trust premises in Rutland, Leicestershire. Sleeping bag accommodation and food provided. If you would like to help for three or more days and have some fun into the bargain, please ring Nerci Mahbouby on 0509-506757, 6.30 - 8.30 p.m.



HMMM



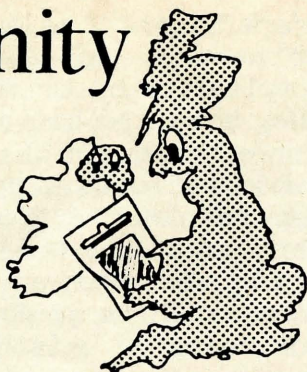
The following is an extract from the "Madeira Island Bulletin", which was also picked up by "Private Eye"! It is typed exactly as it appeared in the paper.

BAHA'I PRAYER

"Exalted art Thou above my praise and the praise of anyone beside me, above my description and the description of all who are in heaven and all who are on earth!

Hello Eddie Higgins who has to be one of the best pianists in the world. (Opinion shared by Folke Stalhamar of Sweden)".

Community News



HARLOW

On March 24th a baby boy was born in the district of Harlow and was named Daniel Alexander Bartleman. Harlow was the goal of Epping Forest to be opened and Doreen (his mother) made a special request to the health authorities to have her baby in that hospital. In May of last year, however, the district was opened by a nurse, Naghmeh Teymourian, who is working in the hospital Daniel was born! Who can say we didn't try to win the goals.

LONDONDERRY

A non-Baha'i audience recently had the chance to hear about last year's Fifth International Convention in Haifa - at their own request.

The Foyle Camera Club asked Dr Iain Palin to show some of his many slides of the event at a recent meeting.

The members were, of course, mainly interested in the technical side of how the various pictures were taken and what materials were used, but the beauty of the Holy Places and the international nature of the gathering made their presence felt leaving the audience with some of the "spirit of Haifa".

BEXLEY

On April 7th a Baha'i wedding took place in a Bexleyheath catholic church. The Baha'i bride, Mahnaz Friuztash from Salisbury married a local Catholic boy, Howard Smith; and the Baha'i ceremony was combined with the Catholic ceremony, due to the kind permission of the local priest.

During the ceremony, the Baha'i wedding vow was recited together by the bride and groom after the formal vows had been taken in front of the priest and a Baha'i

wedding prayer was recited by the Chairman of the Local Spiritual Assembly.

Afterwards, the official register and the Baha'i marriage certificate were signed together by the two families.

The local press showed a great deal of interest and published a photograph and a long report of the event.

Wedding first

ST THOMAS More Church, Long Lane, Bexleyheath, could be the first English Roman Catholic Church to have a conducted Baha'i wedding.

The unusual wedding took place last Saturday when Baha'i bride Mahnaz Firuztash married Howard Smith, of Danson Road, Bexley.

The couple met four years ago when they were studying at City University, London.

Mahnaz, 25, came over from Iran nine years ago. Her mother is still out there, but her father is dead.

Chairman of the Bexleyheath Baha'i Assembly, Mr

John Stedman, of Herbert Road, said: "The Baha'i wedding service has never been recognised as legal in England so we are delighted about this wedding."

At the ceremony, the couple recited a single sentence Baha'i vow. Afterwards Mr Stedman said a Baha'i wedding prayer.

The couple then signed the Catholic marriage certificate and a Baha'i wedding certificate.

Fr Reynolds said: "I was very happy to do the service. It just meant a very short part was added to the Catholic ceremony."

CHELMSFORD

On 29th April, the Baha'is in Chelmsford and the neighbouring communities found a new way of proclaiming the Faith. Four Baha'is and one non-Baha'i formed a running team to take part in the Chelmer half marathon, a distance of just over 13 miles across country roads around Chelmsford and Danbury. The team wore T-shirts with the words "Baha'i World Unity" on them which were seen by thousands of competitors and spectators. All the team members improved their personal best times, in spite of the fact that one run with flu and another with a sprained ankle!

The team hope to take part in more half marathons in near future.

OXFORD

A Baha'i was asked to speak on a panel by the Advisory Council for the Churches, at Jesus College, Oxford on Tuesday. The Baha'i was invited to have dinner with the Conference and sat next to the Bishop of Bolton whose name was Calliford. He asked many questions through the meal and he appeared to be very impressed with the Baha'i view.

There were two other speakers on the panel a Roman Catholic and a Social worker who went round hospitals spreading her Faith.

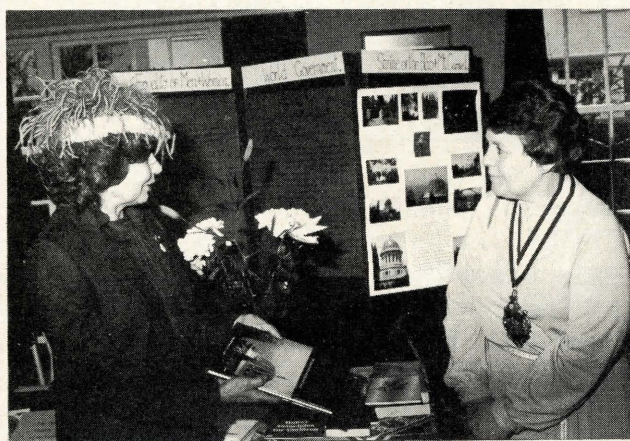
The Bishop of Bolton was the Chairman and also in the audience were 67 students ranging from 17 years to 28 years old who were hoping to go into the church as ministers, also 2 vicars.

The Baha'i, during his 10 minute talk pointed out how the Faith affected his job. Following this was a brief outline of the history. During the question period, after the talks, the Baha'i had many more questions than any other speaker, at one point there were eight people waiting to ask a question - all for the Baha'i!

The Baha'i in question is employed at Jesus College as the Deputy Steward, and at the end of the meeting was able to give out leaflets, whilst mentioning that the Baha'i Faith upholds unity of God, recognises the unity of His Prophets and inculcates the principle of the oneness and wholeness of the entire human race.

SOUTH HAMS

Mary Hardy and Roger Prentice, N.S.A. members, gave a most inspiring talk on "Beyond Disarmament" at a Public meeting in the small country town of Totnes, Devon, during March. Over sixty people attended, this included 25 potential Baha'is. The Mayor of the town, Councillor Mrs. Val Austin, was presented with the book "The Crown of Beauty". She was highly delighted with her gift and asked numerous searching questions.



The Rev. Merfyn Temple who is cycling round Britain to deliver a Prayer for

Peace in every major town passed through Totnes in April. He was offered hospitality by the Baha'is of South Hams. They escorted him along the streets of Totnes (on foot) flanked by Multi-denominational supporters and a banner depicting Mother Therese's prayer. They arrived at the Guildhall by noon to be met by the Mayor of Totnes. Rev. Temple encouraged the group to recite the Prayer for Peace in unison and to continue to say it everyday at noon. He left for Plymouth the next day and in spite of all the steep hills in Devon he looked very fit and happy as he jumped on his bike. He had only cycled 280 miles so far...

ARUN

It was rainy, blowy and cold on Saturday 31st of March, the day of the Public Meeting in East Preston/Littlehampton, organised by the Baha'i Group of Arun with the help and support of the community of Adur. Yet, the event was very well attended and by an overwhelming majority of non-Baha'is, over 50 of them and 22 Baha'is. About 20 apologies had been received from other non-Baha'is who were held up by previous engagements, commitments or ill-health. Others were hindered by the sudden change of weather.

The speaker at the meeting was Professor S. Bushrui, chairman of the N.S.A. of Lebanon, visiting Professor of English literature at the University of Oxford. He chose as the subject for his talk: "PEACE... One heart at a time", the Baha'i approach to World Peace and Unity, thereby enabling the local communities to make good use of the proclamation campaign logo on posters and invitations.

Local Branches of Amnesty International, World Federalists, Quaker Friends and others were invited. A few of them came. Most non-Baha'is were there in response to personal invitations sent them by Marie-Therese of the Adur community who has for nearly 6 years worked as a Health Visitor in Littlehampton. She had, the day before, taken leave of her employment to join the French Baha'i Community. The meeting was her opportunity to invite her friends, colleagues and clients, (nurses, midwives, Health Visitors, mothers and fathers) to come and hear more about her Faith, the reason behind her departure from her job and England. She introduced the meeting as her farewell gift to them,

which she - together with her Baha'i friends present - was warmly extending to all. Professor Bushrui conveyed and beautifully "wrapped the gift" with his own eloquence in a warm, entertaining and moving way. The appreciation was obvious and the atmosphere joyful and loving. Interesting exchanges and more individual teaching continued as all present mixed socially and shared refreshments. During the meeting about £18 worth of books were sold to non-Baha'is.

HORSHAM

This year was the 10th Anniversary of the formation of the first Local Spiritual Assembly in Horsham which was a momentous occasion for all of, especially for the 3 members who had pioneered to Horsham to form the first L.S.A. ten years ago. It was even more uplifting to have 5 local Baha'is in the Assembly.

After the re-formation of the Assembly this Ridvan, it was decided to make this 10th Anniversary an issue of local interest. The Editor of the local Newspaper was informed of this occasion, the purpose of the Local Spiritual Assembly and the diversity of the occupations of its members was also outlined. It was mentioned in the letter that this joyous occasion had been marred by the news of the recent execution of a Baha'i Professor in Iran, who was a close friend of the Persian family in the community. Also mentioned was the recent communication with the local M.P. and the Minister of State in the Foreign Office Mr. Luce.

Ten years in area

THE first local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i faith was formed in Horsham ten years ago.

The Local Spiritual Assembly is the administrative body within the Baha'i community which exists in every locality and is composed of nine members elected every year by the local Baha'is.

All the local members live in and around Horsham and their work spans a wide variety of occupations which include: insurance, local council, student, architect, shop assistant, civil engineer,

microbiologist, home help, and a busy housewife.

The meeting for the formation of the Local Spiritual Assembly took place recently at the house of one of the local Baha'is in Norfolk Road, Horsham. It was marred by the news of the secret execution of several Baha'is in Iran because of their religious belief. One of the executed, the young university professor, was a close friend of one of the local Baha'is of Horsham.

Mr. Peter Hordern MP has been in contact with the Baha'is of Horsham and with Mr. Luce, Minister of State in the Foreign Office, on the previous arrest and persecution of the Baha'is in Iran seven weeks ago.

NORTH DOWN

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Spiritual Assembly of Bangor. Since then it has changed its name to North Down, owing to the local government boundary changes. Lady Kathleen Hornell pioneered to Bangor and by 1959 there were enough believers to form a Spiritual Assembly. The original members were Christina Baillie (now Pasquali and serving in Newtownabbey); David Brown (deceased); Gladys Brown (now permanently in hospital in Ards); Ivy Dominick (currently in hospital in Down); Billie Glass (deceased); Kathleen Hornell (deceased); Dorothy Kennedy (now Bruce and serving in England); Grace Pritchard (still serving on the same Spiritual Assembly) and Winnie Whelan (deceased).

GLASGOW

Glasgow's seven Faiths held a presentation in the McLellan Galleries on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 12th, 13th and 14th June. The people offering this event were Baha'is, Hindus, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs and Christians (both Roman Catholics and Protestants). The purpose of the Presentation was to illustrate how people of different Faiths work together as an expression of their faith and worship of God. How we can share friendships across the boundaries between religions and between cultures; how we can learn from the other person's understanding of God; how we can learn from each other, whatever our Faith, new dimensions to faith and worship.

The Presentation was the culmination of several months of meetings and activities centred on the International Flat in Glasgow's Hillhead area, where the seven religions have shared experiences, insights and hospitality in the belief that all involved do so in a genuine desire to worship God, to know His Will and to live by it.

During the course of the three days, there were cultural events organised by the various Faiths. On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, there was the Jewish Choral Society, the Sikh Shabbard Kirtan, the Glasgow Deaf Choir, Baha'i Singers, a display from the Hindu Temple and reading from the Quran. There were regular

happenings throughout the day, such as videos, slides and school performances and members of all Faiths represented were available to answer questions and to talk informally about their beliefs and religions.

The theme of the activities throughout this year has been "Faith and Worship". Each month the members of one of the Faiths have shared their insights into the meaning of faith for them and into how it is expressed in the context of the worship of their Faith. The participants believe that faith and worship are at the heart of the traditions and activities of each Faith.

NORFOLK

Recently, Baha'is from Norwich, Yarmouth, North Norfolk and South Norfolk, took part in a most profitable event.

The friends from these areas offered their services to Burlingham House, a

More than 60 young believers and several of their friends attended the first All-Ireland Youth School which was held in Newcastle, County Down. The school, held on 16 - 18 March was a stimulating event, aided greatly by Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh's illuminating

home for the mentally handicapped in the goal district of Broadland, and organised a party for the residents. During the evening a series of games, musical entertainments (including a good old sing-a-long) and general good fun was enjoyed by all concerned.

At the end of the evening the Baha'i musicians played and sang "The Nightingale of Paradise", which created much interest among the staff who were supervising that evening. Due to a trumpet mute being left behind after the party a visit was made by the warden to the Stalham Pottery, the home of the Baha'i co-ordinating this event to return it. While the warden was at Stalham he expressed a wish to know more about the Faith from himself and his staff.

All the friends who took part in this event felt that it was so valuable and perhaps the best of all the work that has been done in Broadland. No advertising! No hall to book! No speakers to find! Just, giving to other human beings.

talks on Shoghi Effendi's World Order Letters. The event was a great success and it is hoped that more All-Ireland events will be held in the future, thus helping to reform the bonds of love and fellowship between North and South.



International News



Dearest friends,

I went to Convention as I was a delegate. It was the best convention ever. There were 50 delegates, three Counsellors and three Auxiliary Board Members. At the time for casting the votes for the new National Assembly the room was decorated with masses of red and white roses, and as a centre piece, a lock of hair from the head of Baha'u'llah, which was mounted in a gold frame and was held up during the devotions. It was then taken

to a small room and laid on a great heap of red rose petals (a beautiful Persian carpet on the floor) and we were invited to enter the room two or three at a time in order to pray and pay homage. A Persian man stood at the door and sprinkled our hands with rose water as we went in. He told us after that he went to the largest rose grower in Auckland and asked for broken roses to buy. At first this was refused but after telling the owner what he wanted them for he gave him a sack which contained 700 red roses and only charged him 5 dollars, so I rather think Baha'u'llah provided them for the occasion. We then went back and cast our votes, with the result that the previous 9 members of the National Assembly were re-elected.

(Extract from a letter from Ken Brett in New Zealand).



The pilgrims from Swaziland. Princess Gcenaphi is seated second from left with Chief Johannes Dlamini standing directly behind her.

Princess Gcenaphi of Swaziland was received at the Baha'i World Centre as a pilgrim on 19 March accompanied by Chief Johannes Dlamini and a group of 19 other Baha'is, including native believers and pioneers, from Swaziland. The arrival of such a large group of pilgrims from an African country was noteworthy in itself, but the visit of the Princess marked the first time a member of a reigning royal family had come on pilgrimage to the World Centre. Princess Gcenaphi is a daughter of the late King Sobhuza II; her young brother is designated to succeed his father when he becomes of age.

Amatu'l-Baha Ruhiyyih Khanum, who had met the Princess and her father during her tour of Africa some years ago, held a reception at the Master's House in honour of the royal visitor and her fellow Baha'is from Swaziland.

The occasion was memorable not only for the spirit of loving welcome and joy that Ruhiyyih Khanum injected into it, but also for the vibrant responses of the honoured guests, who enthralled the gathering with singing, traditional dancing and the playing of drums.

ZAIRE

Impressed by the practical help extended by the Baha'is in a pilot project among the pygmies in Goma, on the west coast of Zaire, a local man investigated and enrolled in the Faith. In a letter recently sent to the World Centre, Mr Kalubi Kabasela reported that this community, "previously ill-favoured and oppressed, and whose pygmy inhabitants were beggars", now had "larger and higher huts" equipped with sanitary W.C.s, breed animals, which was "unheard of before", and that "they who hardly ever washed" were clean in appearance. Even a new name was adopted by the pygmies - Bayanda, which means "the ancients and owners of the lands". Youth in Goma demonstrated that they could "recite the rules of hygiene in French, count to 100, write the alphabet and do mental arithmetic, which "were all miracles for this ancient tribe of nomads from the great forests".

Mr Kabasela stated that "never has any church shown interest or given such assistance to the awakening, the development, the evolution and the growth of this people. This was a lot, and precisely what I was searching for to be useful in the programme of God. This is what led me to declare myself as a Baha'i last winter".

KIRIBATI

Among the sixteen teachers attending the Nine-Day Institute, part of the Pilot Teaching Project, Baha'i women were especially effective in reaching the inactive and non-Baha'is. Following the Institute, the teachers were assigned islands for six-week periods. A few of the results reported were: "Inactive Baha'is started to attend meetings and for the first time a meeting house was full and the Baha'is are considering building a bigger centre"; "a whole island teaching conference was to be held...in a brand new 'maneaba'... other villages brought food for the three-day conference but it turned out to be a seven-day conference"; and "a team of two girls...visited the big island of Tabiteuea... particularly attracted the

youth of other churches... pastors also took part in the village activities for them".

A touching experience took place while the two girls were on Tabiteuea - a young girl wanted to join the Faith. Her father not only would not permit it, but, when she wanted to remain with the Baha'i teachers, her father came to bring her home with a big stick with which to beat her. The girl told him that "she was willing to die of wanting to be a Baha'i". The father had a change of heart, gave his consent to her enrolment and they went home together.

BOLIVIA

After many years of effort, work and striving, Radio Baha'i at Caracollo made its first broadcast on 31 March 1984. At 11.00 a.m., from 80 to 100 people met at the radio building to participate in this inaugural event. The many important people who spoke prior to the airing of an hour of broadcasting prepared by the radio personnel were Counsellor Athos Costas, who explained the goals, aims and purpose of the radio station; Mayor Rene Fernandez, who congratulated the Baha'is with his best wishes for their success; Mr Pedro Rodrigues, the sub-prefect of the Province, who in his address, recognised the high aims of the Faith; and the Director of CADEA (Land and Cattle Center for the Development of the "altiplano"). Full coverage by television and the press added still more honor and esteem to the Faith.

A celebration dinner held that evening in Oruro was attended by prominent persons who expressed happiness over the station and willingness to assist with the work of Radio Baha'i.

Until 23 May, Radio Baha'i operates every day from 6.00 - 8.00a.m., after which it will broadcast prepared programmes for four hours a day. Reports were received that the broadcast had "strong and clear signals in Huayllamarca, Inquisivi Province and the La Paz Department" and that "the Baha'is there were running from house to house to learn how to set their radio receptors in order to listen to Radio Baha'i. They were only broadcasting the identification, the

PERU

The "New Era Cultural Association," acting on behalf of the National Spiritual Assembly of Peru, has signed an agreement with that country's Ministry of Education to collaborate in carrying out literacy and post-literacy activities through Radio Baha'i of Lake Titicaca in the Department of Puno.

Technical experts and materials from an alphabetization unit and an audio-visual education team will be provided by Puno's board of education, while Baha'is will supply air time, and the facilities of Radio Baha'i of Lake Titicaca.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Baha'i community of the Solomon Islands chose to mark the 30th anniversary of the Faith in the islands by the planting of 30 trees. Tree planting in the Solomon Islands is a subject of great interest at the moment due to the partial deforestation of some of the islands by logging companies. Thus it was hoped that the Prime Minister himself would come and at least say a few words on the day.

The first Baha'is in the Solomon Islands were Mr & Mrs Alvin Blum who arrived on 1st March 1954 with their daughter. The National Assembly was first elected in 1971. The Faith has now spread to some 60 communities throughout the islands.

TONGA

A Baha'i youth on Tonga, Mr Sione Tu'itahi, who recently returned to the islands after studying in the U.K., is not only the National Spiritual Assembly's representative in the Tonga Youth Workers' Association (TYWA), a national non-governmental and non-religious body, but is also a member of this organisation's executive committee and sub-committee for the International Year of Youth. "This ensures that not only will the Baha'i youth actively participate in all the International Year of Youth activities in Tonga but will also contribute towards the future development of youth in Tonga; it is a great challenge and opportunity for Baha'i youth to proclaim the Faith of Baha'u'llah".

Already Baha'i youth are planning their

participation in a one-week celebration approved by TYWA to take place around mid-1985. There will be close camaraderie with non-Baha'i youth in activities such as sports, singing and traditional dancing contests, garden projects, joint religious services, and a float.

Baha'i participation in TYWA already bore fruit when Mr Tu'itahi was among four youth "selected by the TYWA and the Ministry of Education, which is responsible for youth affairs, to represent all Tongan youths in an invitation from the Youth Development Headquarters, Prime Minister's Office of Japan. The invitation included a two-week tour of Japan last January. They joined 300 Japanese youth in a goodwill cruise to the Pacific to promote international understanding and friendship among youths of Japan and the Pacific". When the Japanese cruise liner stopped in Tonga, the Baha'i youth were able to host a lunch at the National Centre, exchanging gifts, ideas, music and giving a talk on the Faith to the Japanese youth.

More international news on following page.

Please Note

An assistant as a housekeeper is required due to loss of a mother in a Baha'i family. Please contact Mr Mohabati, tel. 073089 2241 for further information.



AMUSING NEWS FROM ARDS

We've been having some very funny things happening to our public meetings. One of them was advertised as "Science and Religion - the wings of one bird" to be held at the Old Crow, Comber! Another was "A Baha'i look at self-sufficiency". Unfortunately the weather was atrocious and the Chairman had to announce that our speaker on self-sufficiency could not get transport!! Finally last week we had another public meeting entitled "A Baha'i look at Vegetarianism". In came two enquirers called Mrs Bull and Mrs Bullock!!! We are wondering what is in store next. Later we had a party and Mrs Bull came.

time, and local selected music... using the three main languages of Bolivia: Quechua, Aymara and Spanish".

NEW ZEALAND

Dearest friends,

I went to Convention as I was a delegate. It was the best convention ever. There were 50 delegates, three Counsellors and three Auxiliary Board Members. At the time for casting the votes for the new National Assembly the room was decorated with masses of red and white roses, and as a centre piece, a lock of hair from the head of Baha'u'llah, which was mounted in a gold frame and was held up during the devotions. It was then taken to a small room and laid on a great heap of red rose petals (a beautiful Persian carpet on the floor) and we were invited to enter the room two or three at a time in order to pray and pay homage. A Persian man stood at the door and sprinkled our hands with rose water as we went in. He told us after that he went to the largest rose grower in Auckland and asked for broken roses to buy. At first this was refused but after telling the owner what he wanted them for he gave him a sack which contained 700 red roses and only charged him 5 dollars, so I rather think Baha'u'llah provided them for the occasion. We then went back and cast our votes, with the result that the previous 9 members of the National Assembly were re-elected.

(Extract from a letter from Ken Brett in New Zealand).

FRANCE

For the first time the Baha'is took part in a carnival parade in the Cote d'Azur. (See cover for photo). The Baha'i communities report that this activity was an enriching experience and stimulated all the friends from Marseilles to Nice. The Municipality of Cavalaire gave the Baha'is a trailer to use and the float itself was conceived by an eminent architect of Nice. It was given an enthusiastic welcome by the public, as well as by the authorities of the town and the committee for the event. When the prizes were distributed, the Mayor praised the Baha'i float with the singing children.

The Baha'i entry took part in another parade held the following Sunday in Sainte-Maxime. The same success was encountered. As a result of the interest in the Faith that these events aroused, there were many requests for information, and pamphlets were distributed in response. About 70 persons, including the Mayor, his advisers and the municipal staff who helped with the completion of the float, have been invited to a Persian meal and small feast on 6 May. The Baha'is in the area look forward to an even more eye-catching float next year.

You Write....



Dear Friends,

In September I am starting a postgraduate degree course at Birmingham University and would like to ask for your help. For my thesis I am hoping to write a history of the Baha'i Faith in the United Kingdom, and I would like to base it on first-hand evidence.

I would, therefore, be very grateful if any friends who became Baha'is in this country more than ten years ago could send me their stories. What I would like to know is, (i) how they first heard of the Faith, (ii) what it was that finally convinced them to make their declaration, and (iii) any changes they have noticed in the Faith in this country since they became Baha'is.

I would be pleased to hear from as many people as possible and will, of course, reply to all who do write to me.

With thanks and Baha'i greetings.
Phil Smith

Dear Sir,

'Colonisers'! Please note.

A quote from 'O' level Biology notes: "When new plants or animals arrive in a new habitat and make their home there, they are said to have colonised the habitat. A species can only be said to have successfully colonised a habitat when it has reproduced. The first successful colonisers are termed pioneers".

With loving Baha'i greetings,
Helen Franks,

Dear Baha'i Friends,

Untapped energy - Another way to serve the Faith

Having been in the one-parent family situation for many years, I know all about coping with the numerous difficulties that accompany this status, and just recently I've felt the strain of my way of life even more. However, I suddenly decided to attempt a constructive plan in order to help society as a whole, the Baha'i Community, and lastly myself, because serving, thinking and doing for others, we forget ourselves and consequently grow stronger spiritually.

There must be a large section of one-parent families within the U.K. Community, all trying to do their best and play their part in serving the Cause, but also these same human beings need companionship, a social gathering, which cannot always be found at meetings, geared as they are to teaching the Faith. How marvellous, yet simple, if one could 'share a walk', a cup of tea, a meal out, an outing, with someone who can truly appreciate what it means to live in isolation within society or a Baha'i Community, caring though it may be. Many people haven't the confidence to join a club, even such an organisation as Gingerbread, others may not be able to finance attendance at Summer/Winter School, Teaching Conference, National Convention, etc., in order to try and move round meeting people. Their own Community may be small and ill-equipped to help with transport to the various events scattered over the large U.K. community.

I fully appreciate the need to teach the Faith, the Faith comes first, before the individual. But there are many individuals who, if they came together collectively, would in the longer term be far more effective servants of Baha'u'llah.

"O ye friends of God! Today is the day of union and this age is the age of harmony in the world of existence. "Verily, God loveth those who are working in His path in groups, for they are a solid foundation.' Consider ye that he says 'in groups,' united and bound

together, supporting one another".
(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith, p.401)

Organisations such as Gingerbread, of which I was a member some years back, can be of great help to families, but one does outgrow their programmes. Just imagine what we could offer people that attend such an organisation!

With Baha'u'llah guiding us and our love for Him being extended to each other, sharing our problems, consulting, being happy together, having a 'fun day out' (just a shared picnic perhaps) would help release the untapped energy latent within all those lovely one-parent families.

I would very much like some feedback on this subject, please, either through the Journal or direct to me.

With loving Baha'i greetings.
Marian Rallings

Dear Editor,

Over the past few years, the Publishing Trust has been developing the system of BOOK AGENCIES. In each part of the country, one L.S.A. is allowed a larger credit, and carries a much larger stock of books, than the other L.S.A.s. This "BOOK AGENT" can then be invited to any large gatherings, and otherwise helps to make books available directly to the Friends.

In England now, there are only 2 remaining gaps: the South-West and most of East Anglia. Is there any Assembly which would like to become the Book Agent for:

- 1) Somerset, Devon, Avon, Wiltshire, Cornwall and Dorset.
- 2) Suffolk (except Waveney), Essex, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Lincolnshire.

Any Assembly which would like to become the official Book Agent for one of these two areas, could they please write to the Book Agency Co-ordinator, Mr. Patrick Vickers, [REDACTED]

In His Service,
Patrick Vickers,
Book Agency Co-ordinator,
Baha'i Publishing Trust

Department of Records

Declarations & Registrations

Youth

Miss Traci Humphrey (Banff & Buchan)
Mr Patrick Halahan (Grimsby)
Miss Ronette Westerman (Grimsby)

Adults

Mr Peter Burns (Anglesey)
Mr Andrew Clarke (Ipswich)
Mr Peter Robert Doe (Aberconwy)
Miss Annie Durrant (Aberconwy)
Mr Harry Gemmell (Bournemouth)
Miss Erica Hiddleston (Warwick)
Miss Mairianne Hughes (Kensington & Chelsea)
Mr James Murray (Swansea)
Miss Debbie Sharp (Kingston upon Hull)
Mr Nicholas D Wain (Slough)

Marriages

4/5/84 - Sepehr Hedayatzadeh - Sadaf Zahedi
12/5/84 - Nicholas Gavin-Juliet Waite
26/5/84 - Kenneth Finn-Barbara Reid
26/5/84 - Robert Law-Julie Gibson
2/6/84 - Eric Fosbrooke-Sandra Cochrane
Fuad Mehraban-Sima Anayati

In Memoriam

May - Mrs Atherton Parsons (W. Oxon)

Last month the Journal reported the death of Mr. Jack Tomlinson of Taff Ely. Fortunately the reports of his demise are somewhat exaggerated and he is alive and well. The editor wishes to apologise for any inconvenience caused by this erroneous report which we printed in good faith.

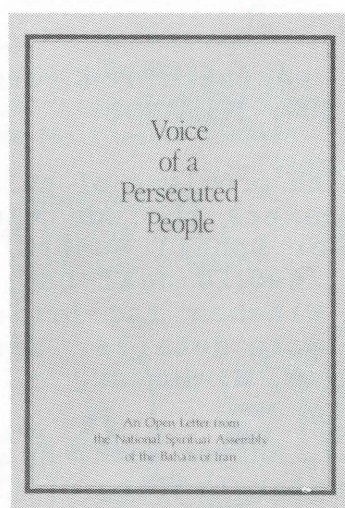
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JULY 4 Public talk entitled "Hope for the future"; speaker Dr Wendi Momen, 7.30 p.m., Library Theatre, Guildford Street, Luton.
- 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). Speaker, Adib Taherzadeh. To be held at Tagungszentrum, Landegg, CH-9405 Wienach/AR, Switzerland.
- JULY 6
- JULY 1 - 7 Danish Summer School, Bjodstrup Gamle Skole, 8660 Skanderborg. Registration forms available from National Office.
- JULY 7 - 15 Italian Summer School, Southern Italy. Details and booking from Nura Mazzoni, Tel. 0971 43187 Potenza.
- JULY 11 - 15 Fermanagh Camping Weekend, Castle Archdale Country Park, Fermanagh. Contact Edwin Graham, 84 Fortlea, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh BT74 6AJ.
- 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.

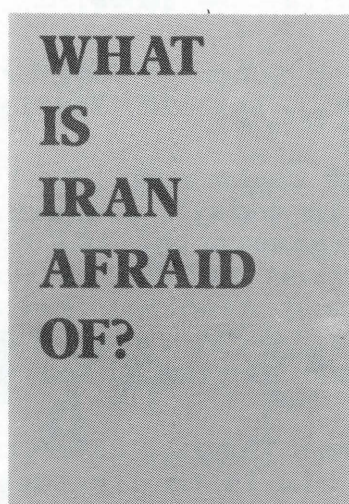
- JULY 22 - 23 Weekend School, Middlesbrough. "Social and Economic Development, the practical implications". 9 or 9 volunteers also needed to help with teaching in this important goal town on Saturday afternoon. Saturday at 7.30 p.m. concert/fireside by John Jameson and Martin Newman. Please come and bring your friends. Further details from Katherine Villiers-Stuart, Newcastle upon Tyne 2858687.
- JULY 28 - AUG 4 Scottish Summer School. Theme: A.D. to B.E. At the Jordanhill College of Education, Glasgow. An exciting programme including Baha'i family life, interracial unity, social and economic development, and inspiring sessions with the resident Counsellor, Dorothy Ferraby.
- JULY 29 - AUG 4 Swiss Summer School, Topic: Arts and Music (in English) Address and details, see above.
- AUG 3 - 10 Icelandic Summer School, Isafjordur. Registration forms available from P.O. Box 172, Isafjordur 400, ICELAND.
- 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.
- AUG 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.
- AUG 12-15 Faroese Summer School, details from Roy and Sue Philbrow, Undir Nesinum, 3850 Toftir, Faroe Islands.
- AUG 18-23 Swiss Summer School, Topic: Shoghi Effendi (in English) Details and address as above.
- AUG 18-25 Welsh Summer School I: Theme, relationships, relatives, rebellion. At Rock Park, Llandrindod Wells. A look at marriage, adolescence, racial harmony in our community plus much more. With varied workshops. Could you give a radio interview? If not, come along!
- AUG 25 - SEPT 1 Welsh Summer School II: Theme, "Must I? Tell me why?" Venue same as above. A programme to look at all aspects of development - at home, abroad, both spiritual and practical. Plus exciting trip to centre of alternative education.
- NOV 10 Preston, Lancashire - A Country Dance to celebrate the Birthday of Baha'u'llah, at the Preston Polytechnic Arts Centre, St Peter's Square, off Fylde Road. Admission £2 per person.

The Tragedy of Iran Today

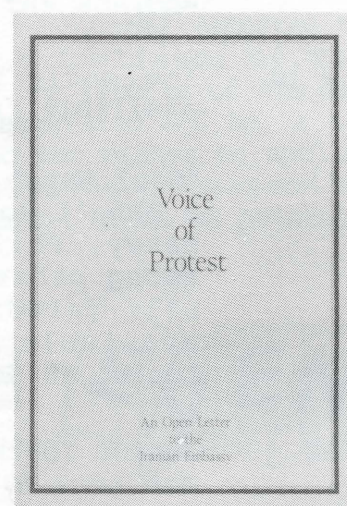
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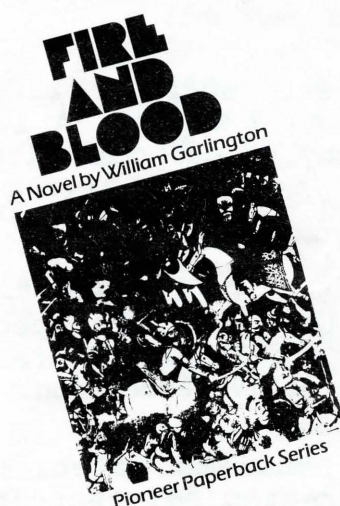


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FIRE AND BLOOD: A Novel by William Garlington

This is the fictional story of two brothers who witness the heroic events of early Babi history. A tale of gripping suspense, the novel brings to life the steadfastness, the courage, and the sacrifice of the first Bábais — as well as the fierce opposition of their enemies.

The book is especially suitable for youth. It is a charming introduction to the early history of the Faith.

"... Fire and Blood traces back to its spiritual source the vigorously heroic impulse whose reverberations continue to sound in the widely publicized persecution and martyrdom of Bahá'ís in contemporary Iran." — Roger White

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