

Volume One Issue Number 6 September 1984



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE YOUTH

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National Spiritual Assembly

As requested at the last National Convention the National Assembly has investigated the ways by which a policy of Life Assurance could be set up with the National fund as the recipient of substantial funds in the event of death.

One such policy has been agreed with a large international Life Assurance office and details may be obtained from the National Office.

The policy would have a death benefit payable directly to the National Fund, it would not form part of the estate of the policyholder, would not suffer any tax deductions, would not be taken in account for Capital Transfer Tax and the payment would not suffer from probate delay.

Anyone between the ages of 12 to 70 may apply. The minimum monthly cost is£15.25.

The death benefit grows substantially. For example, the £15.25 for a 20 year-old would establish a life assurance of £10,500; this, with a conservative growth in the Company's investment, would reach £15,740 in 20 years and nearly £30,000 in 30 years. (note. The actual growth in these particular funds has been more than double that quoted)

For a very small extra, the death benefit can be doubled for death by accident. After 15 years there would be a substantial cash alternative.

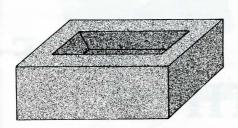
CAPITAL GOAL FOR WESTERN ISLES WON!

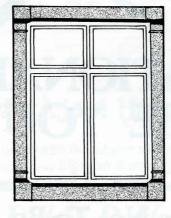
The National Spiritual Assembly is very happy to announce the purchase of 27 Francis Street, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, for the sum of £23,300. The property is located in the most advantageous position close to the centre of town, and convenient to the main bus stops and other modes of transport.

The property needs some renovation and repair but will in time provide adequate accommodation for a Baha'i couple who could act as caretakers for the Local Assembly. We are therefore appealing for an Iranian couple to pioneer to Stornoway and serve the Faith in this manner. If an Iranian family arises to seize this opportunity, they will be helping to fulfil the hopes of the National Assembly to have an Iranian family in every district in the U.K. A letter of application should be sent to the National Office.

One more Capital Goal to go - the Shetland Islands.

Have you made your pledge yet?







INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE YOUTH

THE YEAR AHEAD



The International Year of the Youth is fast approaching. If we, the Baha'i community of the United Kingdom are to make the most of our opportunities during this year we must plan now. The National Assembly has therefore instructed the Journal to publish these broad outlines of the proposed Baha'i contribution. They are subject to final revision but are here to give the community some idea of what is being planned. (For other information on this year please see the Youth Page article "An opportunity not to be missed" on page 14).

Preparation for the year

- a. Every Local Spiritual Assembly and Group should collect names of every Secondary School in their district. They should write to the Headmaster or Headmistress explaining the national campaign to inform all the youth of the U.K. of the contents of the United Nations Charter of Human Rights, to increase their awareness of their rights and responsibilities as world citizens.
- b. Arrange for a time to visit the schools to address morning Assembly and to present a prepared package for each one. They may also ask to hold a discussion meeting during religious instruction classes or history, current affairs etc.

Each package will contain a copy of the Charter and an invitation to participate in an essay contest the title of which will be announced shortly. The closing date will be 9 July 1985.

Two pamphlets will be given, explaining the Baha'i attitude on peace and human rights, and reasons for the campaign.

The project will be launched in January, and carried out from January to July with national publicity. M.P.s and other notables will be asked to participate.

- c. July August: international exchange of youth travel-teachers to visit non-Baha'i youth groups.
- d. 12 November, the Birth of Baha'u'llah: large dignitary dinner in prestigious venue to award the essay prize (notables to judge the essay, etc.)
- e. October November: tree-planting project in co-operation with the Forestry Commission ask the Commission for the trees to plant in specified areas of the country. Each area to have a team of youth (both Baha'i and non-Baha'i) to plant an area of trees as symbols of peace and world unity.

"Keep Britain green and alive - Plant a tree in 1985"

Work with Forestry Commission, Men of the Trees, ecology groups etc., the National Trust, National Coal Board, and other organisations as appropriate. Contact with other youth groups for manpower and support.

This is an outline timetable for the Baha'i participation in the Year of the Youth. It is only a guideline as details have yet to be finalised, but it should give you an idea of the sequence and timing of the events.

SUMMER 1984

Obtain list of schools in your area. Pray for the success of the forthcoming campaign.

AUTUMN 1984

Send letters to school stating the purpose of the campaign to be held during the Year of the Youth. You should offer them a) A speaker for their morning assembly, prefferably a youth. b) A copy of the UN Charter of Human Rights for each youth. c) The option of in-depth consultation during Religious Education classes. d) Information on the essay contest.

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1984

Arrange dates for the visits to the schools. Prepare the material. Train the youth to give the talks in the school assemblies. They should be fully aware of all aspects of the Year of the Youth activities and of the UN Charter of Human Rights.

JANUARY-APRIL 1985

Visit the schools to give assembly. At the same time the staff and pupils of the schools should be informed of the essay competition.

MAY-JULY 1985

Follow-up visits should take place in this period. Additional lecture on Human Rights should be offered to the school and meetings arranged with other organisations. Schools should also be reminded of the essay competition.

9 JULY 1985

Deadline for all essays. They should be collected on this date from the schools.

It would be an advantage to do this through one of the teachers at the school.

JULY-SEPTEMBER 1985

Youth travel-teachers should exchange visits with other (non-Baha'i) youth groups in other countries.

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1985

Tree planting project in co-operation with the Forestry commission.

12 NOVEMBER 1985

Large dignitary dinner to award essay prize.



Please Note

A piece of information which due to postal difficulties arrived late.

There will be a week long deepening school held on the Island of Bardsey, North Wales 15-22 September. The cost of this school is £45 all inclusive. For further details please contact Jennifer Baylis, Plas Isaf, Mountain Lane, Penmaenmawr, Gwynedd.

A previous deepening held on the island was both enjoyable and educational for all concerned. It was also successful in teaching many people about the Faith.

The meeting, scheduled for 7 October, between the National Assembly, the national committees, the Continental Board of Counsellors and the Auxiliary Board Members has unfortunately had to be cancelled.

NEW NATIONAL TEACHING CTTEE. NUMBER 01 225 1601

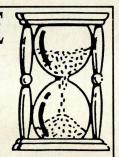
From the Editor

Dear friends,

One of the problems with this issue, and previous ones, has been the lack of contributions from the friends. It seemed at times that little or nothing was forthcoming. There was however a great rush of material which arrived after the deadline. This is not good practice. You would not be able to do this with any other magazine or paper so please do not do this with the Journal. Each issue has the deadline printed clearly in it, and we must enforce this if we are to improve the standard of the Journal in the future.

Many of the items submitted for inclusion in the Calendar of Events arrive days after the deadline and would have taken place before the next issue is distributed. From now on the Journal staff will not accept any material at all which has been received after the deadline.

SEPT 12



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

Contributions should be sent as early as possible, material for the Calendar of Events should really be sent two months in advance to ensure that it is included in the appropriate issue. Judging by the Calendar, relatively little is happening in this country. Please ensure that your events are advertised in the Journal to ensure maximum support. Once the event has been successfully concluded let the Journal have a report of what happened to share the good news with other communities and individuals throughout the country.

Soon we shall be improving our format - giving the Journal a more professional look. Then we shall need your vital contributions even more! Especially vital in improving the appearence of the Journal are photographs. If you have an event, please take a picture to send with your report. It would be preferable if it were black and white, but good quality colour prints with plenty of contrast are perfectly acceptable.

In this issue we have two articles which really need your feedback. One is "Not by Force of Numbers" which has a questionnaire at the end of it. Please let us know what your feelings are on this approach, as it is a bit of an experiment. The other article, for new Baha'is, asks for you to send in your problem experiences as a Baha'i living in the Old World Order, and how you dealt with them.

Hopefully the next issue will be full of your contributions in the form of letters, community news, photographs, notice of forthcoming activities, feedback from this issue etc.

The Editors await

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.

Following the "great Polywrapper debate", the National Spiritual Assembly has instructed the Editor to ensure that the carrier sheet with the address on shall be placed over the front cover, allowing only the Publishing Trust page to be viewed. If certain individuals prefer to have their copy sent to their local secretary, this will be done on request. Please notify the Records Department (and not the Journal staff) in each case, so that the mailing label can be altered.

Not by the force of numbers...

NOT BY THE FORCE OF NUMBERS, NOT BY THE MERE EXPOSITION OF A SET OF NEW AND NOBLE PRINCIPLES, NOT BY AN ORGANISED CAMPAIGN OF TEACHING - NO MATTER HOW WORLDWIDE AND ELABORATE IN ITS CHARACTER - NOT EVEN BY THE STAUNCHNESS OF OUR FAITH OR THE EXALTATION OF OUR ENTHUSIASM, CAN WE ULTIMATELY HOPE TO VINDICATE IN THE EYES OF A CRITICAL AND SCEPTICAL AGE THE SUPREME CLAIM OF THE ABHA REVELATION. ONE THING AND ONLY ONE THING WILL UNFAILINGLY AND ALONE SECURE THE UNDOUBTED TRIUMPH OF THIS SACRED CAUSE, NAMELY, THE EXTENT TO WHICH OUR OWN INNER LIFE AND PRIVATE CHARACTER MIRROR FORTH IN THEIR MANIFOLD ASPECTS THE SPLENDOR OF THOSE ETERNAL PRINCIPLES PROCLAIMED BY BAHA'U'LLAH.

Shoghi Effendi

When it comes to individual teaching, many of us miss so many opportunities. We feel ill at ease, feel shy and sometimes doubt our knowledge of the Faith, fearing the embarrassment of being unable to answer a question.

Of course, the best way of overcoming our fears of teaching is to study, to deepen and to teach. But actually telling people of the Faith is only one part of teaching. Teaching can be nerve-wracking but thank God there are other ways - the most important of which is by example. If we can become true exemplars of the Baha'i way of life we have become excellent teachers.

The problem with becoming true exemplars is this - we know what the standards are, we only have to look to 'Abdu'l-Baha for that, but we all probably feel inadequate and incapable, perhaps even to the point of giving up. We can't give up. We have made a contract with God when we signed our declaration card. This wasn't just acknowledging the stations of the Bab, Baha'u'llah, 'Abdu'l-Baha, Shoghi Effendi and the Universal House of Justice. It was agreeing to become part of the campaign to bring about a new world order, one where we can all live in harmony with one another. If only the rest of the world were aware of this magnificent blue-print for world peace. We must therefore find ways of offering it to them in an acceptable form. This may be difficult because of certain "atheistic tendencies" in society which may be aroused because our blue-print has "religion" firmly attached to it.

Our best form of teaching is therefore by example (for an illustration of this please read the article on new believers) but we cannot afford to miss any

opportunity with this approach as if large cracks show, the impression given may be one of a facade only.

To evaluate our effectiveness we have a multiple choice questionnaire (such as you might find in "Cosmopolitan" or a similar magazine) for you to fill out. You could fill it out just for fun but it would be preferable if you entered into the spirit of the thing and answered the questions honestly and thought about your score.

- When you have a social gathering do you
 - Invite people from all backgrounds and religions,
 - Invite only people from your own culture,
 - c. Invite only Baha'is
- 2) At school or work do you
 - a. Associate with all people, racially and culturally,
 - b. Form a group of friends that you feel comfortable with,
 - c. Not mix at all.
- 3) When there is a person in your school or work who is sick, do you
 - a. Send him or her the card with the Healing Prayer,
 - b. Send him a normal Get Well card,
 - c. Don't send anything at all.
- 4) When you are out and about and you see someone doing a good deed, do you
 - a. Smile, and think that was great, but go on,
 - Run back and acknowledge his or her action,
 - c. Couldn't care less.
- 5) When someone is rude to you, do you
 - a. Return the rudeness

- b. Thank them and go your way.
- c. Just walk off.
- 6) Someone you know has asked you if you would please work his shift, as he has to go to his sister's wedding. Do you
 - a. Say yes, but only if you get paid,
 - b. It will be my pleasure, after all what are friends for, and don't worry about the money.
 - c. Tell them to ask someone else.
- 7) One of your friends has asked you for a lift home in your car. Do you
 - a. Take him home with pleasure "call on me anytime" sort of attitude.
 - b. Yes, I will take you home, but it will cost you £... in petrol money.
 - c. Couldn't care less.
- 8) You have an extra bedroom and you hear that a friend has nowhere to go. Do you
 - a. Welcome him gladly,
 - b. You only take Baha'is,
 - c. Tell him or her your aunt is coming to stay.
- 9) Are your best friends
 - a. Of your culture,
 - b. Of another culture and religion,
 - c. Or only Baha'is.
- 10) When there is a large Baha'i social gathering ie. picnic, Naw-Ruz, Ayyam-i-Ha, do you
 - Make an effort to bring as many people as you can, from all cultures,
 - b. Go by yourself,
 - c. Can't be bothered going or taking anyone.

Now please add up your scores.

1) A. 3, B. 2, C. 1.

2) A. 3, B. 2, C. 1.

3) A. 3, B. 3, C. 1.

4) A. 2, B. 3, C. 1.

5) A. 1, B. 3, C. 1.

6) A. 2, B. 3, C. 1.

7) A. 3, B. 2, C. 1.

8) A. 3, B. 2, C. 1.

7) A. 3, B. 3, C. 1.

8) A. 3, B. 2, C. 1.

7) A. 3, B. 2, C. 1.

If you scored 30 points you are doing well and are possibly even inspiring others in your community. You should be a point of attraction to non-Baha'is and it should prove fairly easy to actually teach the Faith.

If you scored 10 - 25 there is perhaps room for improvement, but the situation is not bleak. Suggested reading to help you become a purer light would be "Personal Teaching - How To Make It A Way Of Life" (available from the Baha'i Publishing Trust) or similar books.

If you scored less than 10 there is room for improvement. Consider this section from "Prescription for Living" which is recommended reading on personal teaching.

"We need help, intimate, personal help, most desperately. Before peace comes without, in the great arena of men's joint life on this planet, a measure of it must first come within. How can we enforce new laws, support far-reaching international policies, drive forward unitedly towards our goal of world cooperation and co-ordination, freedom from want and freedom from fear, unless we ourselves each set our own compass on something firm to steer by and seek to know what is a human being's real place in the scheme of things, what are his potentialities, what is required of him? And let each one ask himself, what can I do myself?

And as you ask yourself that question, put before your eyes today's reckoning, the reckoning that faces the whole world in a very simple little mathematical formula:

Credit: a new world religion, constructive, historical, proven, on supply, ready for use.

Debit: a new world weapon; atomic force, destructive, historical, proven, on supply, ready for use.

With all the consequences it entails the choice is entirely up to



Summer School Success

More than 130 attended the Scottish Summer School, held at Jordanhill College of Education, Glasgow.

The theme of the school was "AD to BE" and the topics were taken in the context of the transition from the Christian to the Baha'i Era. The sessions were designed to give novel, interesting and informative ways of looking at the subject.

One session, "Its Magic!" illustrated methods an anthropologist may use when investigating and categorising the beliefs of Baha'is, with the audience playing the roles of anthropologists in some disarmingly deceptive experiments. "Thinking about God" dealt with the theological aspect of the transition between eras. It is a (sadly) rare thing to hear a Baha'i speaker talk, as on this occasion, on the present state of the Church with such love for the body which carried the Spirit of Christ for 2000 years with such love and with such longing that it may come under the wing of Baha'u'llah.

Several sessions were devoted to the field of social and economic development. From one talk, given by a Church of Scotland educational and agricultural worker, it became apparent that the Church is also in a period of transition, working out afresh their future with those people previously seen as being in need of Christianising and westernising, as the values of non-Christian religions become more respected and appreciated.

Another session considered individual and community education for world citizens. Most of the topics considered at the school were presented in such a way as to make clear the links between the Faith and the rest of the world. One such session was devoted to a closer investigation of the development of industry, social policies and political philosophies since the early 19th century. This session called into question the more "superficial" aspect of Baha'i historical belief - that before 1844 mankind was still in the dark ages and then suddenly radio, the motor car, brain surgery etc appeared as if out of nowhere. Although not casting doubts on the incredible influence of the Baha'i Revelation, it did make the audience pause for thought on the stilted, shallow appreciation of history that Baha'is sometimes spout (with perhaps detremental effect on our teaching efforts).

Perhaps one of the most encouraging aspects of the school was the lengths and the originality which some speakers went to to get their points across. One session was opened by a tribal shaman, resplendent in black bearskin and brandishing a spear! Another session was visited by a Dalek, and another, on consultation, had the audience trying to survive and eventually return to Earth after crashing on the far side of the moon.

The children attending the school were fully taken care of with three parallel programmes, all on the theme of "Love" but each geared to the special love each agegroup (4-7, 8-11, 12-14) will have to deal with. Other children's activities included a treasure hunt, swimming, sessions on drama and sketches and acting as an LSA.

There are however many lessons still to be learned by those attending such schools. One of the most important is for parents who are going to bring their children to the school to book beforehand - even if attending as non-residents. This is vitally important, especially with the younger children as adequate provision has to be made for them. Unfortunately some parents became perhaps a bit upset about the "hard line attitude" of the school committee. The schools are designed to be fun and educational, but rules have to be made inorder that things run smoothly. All registration requirements are announced well in advance and those wishing to attend must read them. After the third day there was physically no room for any more children. Some of those who could not be accommodated in the classes were looked after by their parents but others were just left to fend for themselves!

Those wishing to attend future Baha'i schools must realise that the rules are there for the benefit of all. The non-Baha'i college staff (or whoever is responsible for the venue) often do not

FRIENDS, RELATIONS AND PROBLEMS

This article is a difficult one from an author's point of view. It has been written from one point of view — the author's — and covers only those problems he has encountered. It cannot be considered a definitive answer. The problems each Baha'i faces are unique to them in many ways. Everyone who reads this article should be able to identify with one or more of the instances quoted. Everyone will have their own experiences — and you are invited to share these with the Journal. Hopefully we shall be able in future articles to cover a much wider range of the problems new Baha'is (and even those who have been Baha'is for a while) face. The advice given can only be the author's suggestions. It must remain for you, the individual believer, to decide on your course of action in any given situation.

Every new Baha'i knows how hard it is to meet society eye to eye and come away unscathed. The reactions of friends, etc. to your 'impending sainthood' as it has been called before now can be bewildering and hurtful.

A Baha'i once gave a talk to a large secondary school's morning assembly. The reaction of the children was good, but the reaction of the R.E. teacher was far more interesting. "You and I" he said "are freaks! To be a truly religious person in society today is rare indeed".

This statement gives a good insight into the way many people see us. In this country only 3% of the population regularly attend church (the actual percentage varies from area to area). So Baha'is must be in the minority. The values which we as Baha'is adopt are perhaps strange and puritanical to the majority of society. The children at the school certainly looked askance when informed - "no nookey!" (their words), and treated the speaker as if he had two heads or five legs - as a freak.

Our problem is, to a great extent, how to show our fellow men and women that we are quite normal. The objective is to prove to our friends that we are still basically the same person. Friends often react in strange ways to our acceptance of the Faith. There are those who will be interested, those who couldn't care less, and those who will be downright cynical and even hostile. One should show equal love to all three and treat

them all the same.

Those who are interested should be taught openly, but not in front of others. The hostility must be lived with - for a while at least. If they are truly your friends they will not totally abandon you because of the Faith.

The first thing friends will notice when one becomes a Baha'i are the "negative" points, such as not drinking alcohol. The more "positive" points such as changes in attitude and tolerance etc. will come slowly and be less noticeable. Of course we all develop at different rates and it may be that in some cases the change will be dramatic and noticeable, but in the majority of cases it is a slow evolution.

These more "negative" aspects are bound to cause trouble and confusion, at least at first. For example, what does one do about those who do drink and yet are friends? The ground rules should be a) if you are tempted to compromise the Baha'i standards, you should walk away, b) neither should one be seen in the company of those whose reputation would tarnish yours and thus that of the Faith. As to how one reacts to friends who drink - well, they are still your friends and as long as rule a) is not in danger, treat them as friends. Show them love and do not ignore them, as this will get the Faith a bad name. This love should be genuine - they are after all your friends. Even if they are hostile towards you show them love - no more and no less than anyone else. Show them too much and they may believe you are trying to "buy them off".

If you try desperately to change your friends, you will meet only failure. Let them come to the Faith naturally. Always be ready to offer it as a gift, but do not try to cram it down their throats - you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink!

One of the traps it is easy for new Baha'is to fall into is "evangelising" for the Faith. With the first rush of

enthusiasm it is all too easy to get carried away and pressurise one's friends into becoming Baha'is. In the majority of cases this will put them off you and the Faith. Who wants to be friends with someone who only wants to tell you about their religion? Take it easy. Remember if they are your friends there will be plenty of opportunities to teach them once they have accepted you as a Baha'i, and once you have learned more, the circumstances are bound to be more favourable.

The important thing to remember is that most of these people are not ungodly (who we are told to avoid - rule a) but rather they do not understand. It is up to you therefore to gently educate them. Do not tell them that they are wrong - that will only stiffen their resistance.

Baha'is have to live with one foot in the New World Order and one in the old. It is a difficult position to occupy but one should always strive to move towards the New. There can be no doubt that at some point one will have to draw the line when dealing with non-Baha'is, and this can be upsetting and painful for both sides. The rule must be - do not compromise your Faith's standards. Would you trade it in what is merely temporary satisfaction? As Baha'u'llah says in the Hidden Words "Abandon not the everlasting beauty for a beauty that must die, and set not your affections on this mortal realm of dust". But we should look at some more specific problems.

For example, what should one do about friends bringing alcohol into your house. The key word here is "moderation". As long as it does not cause any of the problems associated with excess alcohol, it is perhaps O.K. "Perhaps" is the word use, because you must decide what your standards are. The Baha'is themselves are somewhat mixed up at times over such points. For example at Baha'i schools with a disco, the lights are often turned up anddown, as there are conflicting views of what the standards of behaviour should be - it happened at the Scottish summer school a few days ago! You see, the Baha'is are unsure of the standards (at least outwardly) themselves. The motives may be pure, but sometimes the appearance is otherwise (rule b). So how do you approach your friends on this subject?

Be patient! A non-Baha'i was once heard to say "You Baha'is! I don't understand You can't drink, you can't smoke, you can't have sex, you can't take drugs, and now you can't even eat!" (It was during the Fast). "So how do you enjoy yourselves?" Shortly after attending a Baha'i party, where no-one did any of those things (except eat!) he was heard to enthuse about the party, which he enjoyed more than any other party in years. You see, it may be strange to the outside world, but when they take time to experience the Baha'i view they can understand it. Often they may begin to adopt Baha'i standards, as it makes more sense to do so!

It is important that non-Baha'is see you as one of them but you must also remain apart. You must be approachable - how else are you going to make new friends? 'Abdu'l-Baha did not isolate himself from any section of society and neither should you. Once your friends and acquaintances know that you are a Baha'i you should teach - by example. (For more on this see the article "not by the force of numbers" elsewhere in this issue). But you must remain apart - so that people can see that you are not compromising your standards or beliefs - and maintain the good name of the Faith. Of course to teach by example takes a great deal of effort. It is difficult to maintain the standards of the Faith - we must try to be like 'Abdu'l-Baha. As one grows and develops in the Faith one gradually lives according to these standards.

As an example of how effective this method of teaching can be we shall look at one young Baha'i and her successes at her work.

After briefly, during the normal course of conversation, giving those at her new job some idea of the Faith and its precepts, she has hardly mentioned it. However, by living a Baha'i life and freely associating with all those present she has taught to such an extent that her workmates almost automatically know what the standards of the Faith are. When she does something which is truly Baha'i, she is often asked "I suppose you did that because of your Faith?" and has been told that she is lucky because she has the Faith to help support her (spiritually). She is one of the most popular people in her work - a fact which is perhaps remarkable when one learns that she has only been there for less than a month. Many of her co-workers have expressed interest in attending Baha'i meetings.

Many of the problems which arise from family and friends are caused by fear fear of the unknown. What is this strange religion you've got into (or maybe... that's got into you!) Today we hear of many strange cults and sects which have terrible reputations i.e. Moonies, Children of God, etc. With all these rules (can't drink, have strange meetings etc.) many people, especially parents, can become quite worried. Who knows when you will come home shaven headed in saffron robes! Time is the great healer here. As they see you slowly changing (for the better!) their fears will become eased and they may even become interested in the Faith itself.

Parents can respond quite negatively to Because they do not the Faith. understand it, they see it as a challenge to their authority, or even because it goes against their own religious or political beliefs. However, they can become very proud of the fact that their children have "taken a stand" and have their own standards which are beneficial (in the main, to their point of view). In one family where the children became Baha'is, the father was very scathing and cynical towards the Faith in front of the children. However, he was really fiercely proud of the fact that his children were Baha'is and would tell many of his friends about the Faith, even though he will probably never become a Baha'i.

Being a Baha'i is not easy today. There are many problems to be faced. One should always remember that in time even the most vociferous opponents of your becoming a Baha'i will calm down and may even accept the Faith themselves. But in the interim period the Baha'is must strive to live the life and love their fellow-men.

NTC number 01 225 1601

FROM PAGE 8

care for the "Baha'i spirit" but are more worried about small children wandering into places where they may get hurt. Many of the problems sprung upon the school committee would only be presented to Baha'is and not to an outside organisation. For the good of the schools in the future all must learn to follow the rules, for if we have problems like these now how can we hope to cope whan the community is any larger?

However when all things are considered the Jordanhill school must be considered an outstanding success and things must bode well for the two Welshschools which are currently taking place.

SECRETARY WANTED

There is a vacancy for an experienced secretary at the National Office. The job entails replying to letters, dealing with telephone enquiries and other general office duties.

Applicants should have good typing skills and an excellent command of English. They should be knowledgeable in the Faith and be able to work under pressure, meeting short deadlines. Experience with word-processing equipment is desirable but not essential. Applications, in writing with full C.V. detailing Baha'i as well as secretarial experience should be sent to the National Office as soon as possible.

There are still places available for those wishing to attend the North Sea Border Conference. The conference, which attracts Baha'is from many European countries will be held at the Blackfriars Hall, Norwich on 7-9 September.

The theme of this important conference will be "The Future of Mankind". The speakers include many leading lights of the Faith in Europe including Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh.

Those wishing to attend should book at the earliest opportunity, or at least let the organisers know that you are intending to participate so that they may make arrangements for the correct number of participants. Booking forms were sent out with the last issue of the Journal, or contact the registrar, Mr Tony Macarthy on Norwich

Children's Page

Hello!

Back to school soon! Do you enjoy your lessons at school? There are probably many subjects that you like but do you sometimes think of all the other things that you learn through being with many children? For instance, learning to share, helping younger children, learning to cooperate with others, learning to be friends with children who come from different countries - this kind of learning is what Baha'u'lláh says is most important and shouldn't just be learnt while we are at school but is something that we should continue to learn and work at all our lives!

love from Carolyn

Living the Baha'i Life

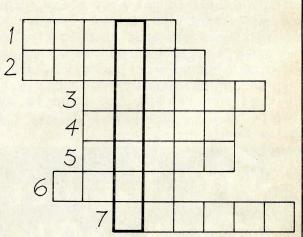
Pray to God that thou mayest become . . . a lover of men and well-wisher of humankind 'Abdu'l-Baha



QUIZ

CLUES:

- 1 Bahá'í Shrines stand above this city in Israel.
- 2 The name of the Bahá'í New Year
- 3 A beautiful garden in Baghdad it is also the name of a Baha'í Anniversary.
- 4 The English name for the Bahá'í Month "Rahmat".
- 5 Baha'u'lláh teaches that if all people did this, the world would be a much happier place!
- 6 This young man was very brave and devoted he delivered Bahá'u'lláh's Message to the Shah of Persia.
- 7 This city in Persia is where the Báb lived when He gave His Message to Mulla Husayn.



colouring with?

"When My Wish Came True"

By Lou Turner

When I was a little girl I had some nice things to play with, and one or two lovely dolls with white faces and golden hair. But there was something that I wanted and wished for very much. Do YOU sometimes wish for something that you would like? Well . . . the special thing that I wanted was another doll, but different from the others. The doll I longed for was a BLACK one! It seemed as if I had waited for years and years before my big wish came true. Perhaps it wasn't really very long but I had to be patient. At last, on my eighth birthday my Mammy and Daddy gave me the most beautiful doll in the world!

She had eyes that opened and closed - like a real baby - and she was

so pretty, with her smooth brown face and dark arms and legs. I named her Jacqueline and oh, how I loved her. My Mother made her some new clothes, exactly like my own. A little pink dress and a tiny coat and hat. I took her with me whenever we went out visiting and Jacqueline was kept safe and sound until I grew up and had a little child of my own.

Many years later, I became a Baha'i and then I found that I had another wish in my heart. I longed to go to Africa on a teaching-trip. Again, I had to be patient, and quite a long time went by. Then, one day, this wonderful dream came true and



I was in a 'plane flying off to AFRICA. I cannot tell you how excited I felt, especially when we went to the villages. The Africans loved to listen to us talking about Baha'u'llah. It was very hot of course, and the people live in little mud houses which are dark and cool. There were lots and lots of children, and one day we were all sitting together, singing Baha'i songs. Everyone was happy and smiling, and then I noticed one little girl who was looking rather sad because there was no room for her on the wooden bench, with the others. I put my arms around her and sat her on my knee. After a little while I saw that she had fallen fast asleep, with her head resting against me. She looked so lovely with her dark brown skin and tight little black curls. As I looked at her, sleeping in my arms, who do you suppose I thought about? Yes. I remembered my beautiful Jacqueline; my parents' loving gift to me on my eighth birthday all those years ago!

Once again, a dream had come true and it was God Who had guided me to it and had given me the happiness of holding a real, live little African child in my arms!





Bahá'í Youth Page

"UNDOUBTEDLY, IT IS WITHIN YOUR POWER TO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO SHAPING THE SOCIETIES OF THE COMING CENTURY; YOUTH CAN MOVE THE WORLD".

The Universal House of Justice, 3 January 1984.



An opportunity not to be missed!

This month we switch our attention from books to the role of youth in the forth-coming year of the youth.

The United Nations Organisation has designated 1985 as "International Year of the Youth" to highlight the specific needs and aspirations of young people; "Youth" being any young person between the ages of 15 to 25. The themes of the year are Participation, Development and Peace.

Participation implies that young people;

- -are recognised as being capable of deciding on matters which concern their own lives;
- -have the opportunity to make such decisions;
- -feel satisfied that their contribution has been valued.

Development in the International Year will:

- -allow opportunities for young people to increase their understanding of human relationships, from the personal level through to the international level;
- -encourage young people to participate in programmes leading to an enrichment of the quality of people's lives in developed and, especially, developing nations.

Peace is essential for life itself. It is necessary:

- -to educate young people for peace;
- -to recognise and encourage young people's potential for securing peace;
- to promote international understanding and co-operation between young people.

The existence of the year is evidence of the international community's growing concern with the situation of youth and also recognition of the important contribution young people can make in shaping and designing the future of humanity.

With this in mind the main objectives of the year are:

- a) to heighten awareness of the situation of youth and of their needs and aspirations among decision makers and the public;
- b) to promote policies and programmes relating to youth as an integral part of social and economic development;
- c) to enhance the active participation of youth in society and in particular the promotion and achievement of development and peace;
- d) to promote among youth the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples;
- e) to encourage co-operation at all levels in dealing with youth issues.

In the UK the government has asked the Youth Service Organisation to establish co-ordinating committees in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The aim is that the entire country should be served by local IYY committees in 1985.

All of this links closely with the Universal House of Justice's letters dated 20 October 1983 and 3 January 1984.

In their letter dated 3 January 1984 the House of Justice stated:

"how apt, indeed how exciting, that so portentious an occasion, the "International Year of the Youth" should be presented to you, the young, eager

followers of the Blessed Beauty, to enlarge the scope of your endeavours in precisely that area of action in which you strive so conscientiously to distinguish yourselves, for in the theme proposed by the United Nations - "Participation, Development, Peace" - can be percieved an affirmation that the goals pursued by you, as Baha'is are at heart the very objects of the frenetic searchings of your dispairing contemporaries"

You are advised to study carefully these letters in order to discover our responsibilities, now and in the future, in the service of society and Baha'u'llah.

The opportunities that the Baha'i youth have been offered in 1985 cannot be emphasised enough. The sooner the Baha'i youth begin actively participating in the organisation of projects and events on a local level the better. The aforementioned opportunities can best be taken advantage of by joining local International Year of the Youth committees set up by your local council or, if one has not been set up, write to the following address for further information: Organising Secretary, IYY Office, S7 Chalton Street, London NW1 lHV.

For more details on the <u>Baha'i activi</u>ties contact Chris <u>Lee</u> or Kishan Monacha



Please Note

A special workshop to design classroom materials for use in teaching the Baha'i Faith in schools, at primary and junior secondary levels will be held in Leicester at the beginning of October.

Those Baha'is with experience in the fields of teaching and education who feel that they could make a contribution to this important project are invited to contact the Baha'i Publishing Trust for further information and details of venue.

Telephone: 0572-2780 (office hours) or write to The Baha'i Publishing Trust, 6 Mount Pleasant, Oakham, Leics, LE15 6HU.

NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY

The number of newspaper articles received at the National Office for the first 5 months of 1984 are as follows:-

England	Total	Ad	Ads.		Perse- cutions	
January February March April May	55 73 65 36 11	6 2 3 2 1	11% 3% 6% 5% 10%	8 24 13 7 4	15% 33% 20% 19% 30%	
Total	241	14	(6%)	56	(23%)	
Northern Ireland	53	15		7	13%	
Scotland	9	0		1	11%	
Wales	23	0		3	13%	
Tota	al 325	29	(9%)	67	(21%)	

Grand total for the entire UK 566

The figures reflect only the number of articles <u>received</u>. It is more than likely (though proof is lacking!) that many more articles actually get into papers but are never received at the Centre. (The figure for January to June 1983 was 600).

One way of maintaining interest would be to have paid advertisements in the paper. Perhaps a way of increasing the cost-effectiveness of these would be for several communities to contribute to the cost of an advert in a regional paper - thus all concerned could benefit. Examples of such papers are the Yorkshire Evening Post, the Belfast Telegraph, the South Wales Echo. There is also a chain of regional papers called the Evening Post - perhaps you could place an advert in these. The costs can be quite reasonable if spread across several communities.

But it would appear that not many communities are using this means of publicity as only 14 examples have been received ast the National Office this year.



BROXBOURNE

Broxbourne has only 5 believers at the moment, yet the Baha'is there are actively teaching. In March an exhibition of books and posters was held at he local library. As a gesture of faith the Baha'is prayed every morning and evening for this to be successful, an activity which some communities neglect. Their prayers were answered when ameeting was organised by a group of non-Baha'is who wished tohear more about the Faith in person.

YORK

On 30 June the Baha'is in this famous city took part in the Lord Mayor's Parade.

The theme of the parade was "York through the ages" and the Baha'is decided to look to the future. At the back of the float was a huge royal blue banner sporting 10 inch high gold lettering simply saying "The Baha'i Faith".

The centre piece of the float was a 10 foot by 6 foot model of the Micklegate Bar, one of York's most famous landmarks. This was made from scrap materials and cost relatively little considering that most of it can be used again. Hundreds of paper flowers finished the decoration of the float.

NEWTOWNABBEY

Almost 50 lecturers and other teaching staff at the Ulster Polytechnic, Newtownabbey, including 6 professors have signed a letter to the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher expressing their concern at the persecution of the Baha'is in Iran.

The academics have also signed a similar letter to the Secretary-General of the

United Nations.

Both letters ask the people addressed to do all they can to draw attention to the plight of the Baha'is, who are suffering solely on account of their religion.

The letters are the outcome of a lot of work in the Newtownabbey/Carrickfergus area, who made contact with the staff and collected the signatures in a dignified way which allowed the Baha'i atttude to be demonstrated.

CROYDON

Croydon community took part in the local carnival on 9 June. The Baha'i float, which had as its theme "Uniting the world - one heart at a time" attracted a lot of attention as it paraded down the crowded streets. During the afternoon an old-fashioned fayre as held at which the community had an exhibition.



COVENTRY

Coventry community was surprised to receive an invitation from the Cathederal to send a representative to meet the Dalai Lama during his recent visit to the city. The Baha'i was able to have a few words with the Dalai Lama at a small reception to which were also invited the heads of all other religious and ethnic communities in Coventry. The opportunity was taken to renew friendships with them and to discuss matters with the Lord Mayor. That evening the Dalai Lama gave a lecture in the modern Cathederal. During his introduction the Vice-Provost mentioned the Faith by name as well as three other faiths as organisations which were working towards peace and understanding in the city. At the end of the lecture five children of faiths were invited to present flowers to

the Dalai Lama. Needless to say the Baha'is were first off the mark. Earlier that day the local radio station broadcast a 7 minute interview with a member of the local Assembly about the worsening situation in Iran.

Last year the Coventry Committee for International Understanding, to which the local Assembly is affiliated, invited the Baha'is to give a talk on the Faith. In the annual report, which is circulated widely to organisations and individuals throughout the city, devoted a whole page to an accurate and sympathetic account of the address. A church magazine which circulates in the western part of the city contained a smaller article because its editor, who had been in the audience, felt that it was a subject that his readers should be better informed about. The local Assembly now has a representative on the executive committee of CCIU, which is responsible for arrangeing exchanges and friendship links with Coventry's many twin towns around the world. It is hoped that this will create opportunities for proclamation work, possibly to youth from towns in the communist world.

BABERGH

The music weekends at Wolverstone Hall School may become a regular once-a-term activity - at the request of the school authorities. The programme of the last one was an attempt to cater for as many tastes and abilities as possible, and included sessions on the use of music, music therapy, harmony, percussion, guitar techniques, recording, improvisation and modes, vocal technique, stage presentation, music and the heart and folk music and dancing. Also discussed was the setting up of a music society.

As one of the aims of the weekend is to try and involve the pupils of the school in as many sessions as possible, the school governors allow the Baha'is to use the music department facilities free of charge. In addition to these large gatherings, held three times a year, it is hoped that small intensive study weekends will be set up in different areas, rather on the lines of masterclasses.

Two faults in the last music weekend should be remedied for the next time - one is the lack of a proclamation event, and the other is the lack of a pianist able to sight read accompaniments for the forlorn violinists, flautists and singers who hopefully brought their music.

If any Baha'is have suggestions or information about music in their area they should write to Elisabeth and Sam Smithson, Ipswich.

CAMBRIDGE

On Sunday 5 August a sponsored treasure hunt took place in Cambridge. Over 50 Baha'is as well as non-Baha'is took part in the 20 kilometre bike ride and it is hoped that over £500 will be raised towards the cost of building a school in Innga, Tanzania. Although it rained on the day the course was completed ahead of schedule, however the treasure has not yet been found!

The event was announced on the local radio station and an article appeared in the local paper. The youth in Cambridge are grateful to all those who took part in the event and helped it to be such a success and would be grateful if everyone would send in their sponsor money as soon as possible.

SOUTHAMPTON

The Baha'is of Southampton had an exhibition stall at the Southampton Show held 13-15 July. They were assisted by friends form the neighbouring communities of New Forest and Winchester. As a proclamation activity it was very successful and a large number of enquiries were recieved. The community feel, however, that the full measure of success cannot be judged immediately, but over the next few weeks.



CEREDIGION

On several occasions during the past few months the community of Ceredigion have felt that the station of the Faith is at last becoming recognised in the area.

The last of a series of lectures on world religions, given at the extra-mural department of Aberystwyth, was an accurate and sympathetic account of the Faith by a non-Baha'i lecturer.

The local Quakers have asked that their children be allowed to attend a Baha'i meeting, as part of a series of visits to other religious groups. With the support of the local Baha'is there was a friendly, warm meeting with music and readings primarily for the children. Following this one of the Quaker teachers has asked for material with which to follow up the meeting in their childrens classes.

Another small incident reported by the community was the visit to the Baha'i reading room, which is rented within a community association building, to ask for information as he intends studying the Faith as part of his course.

These are only a few examples of the unsolicited attention being paid to the Faith. They are due to continued proclamation and teaching work in the area, and are proof of the growing stature and awareness of the Faith in the outside world.

HAVERING

On 14-15 July the Baha'is in this London borough organised a stall in the local town show for the 15th year running. The town show is the largest in the area and it attracts a large number of people from the surrounding area.

The Baha'i exhibition has always included free books and posters giving details of the Faith. This year a colouring competition and treasure hunt were added to the stall. This brought a large number of people to the stall. Many leaflets were given out during the two days. About 500 entries were received for the coloring competition. Also £30 was raised from the treasure hunt which will be presented to local charities.

CARDIFF

The Cardiff Baha'is were inspired by reading in the Journal about Canterbury community's ties with the local Quakers. They therefore invited the Cardiff Society of Friends to join them at their annual picnic at Southerndown in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The weather was perfect and a tranquil spot was found under ancient apple trees. This proved to be an especially happy occasion as a harmonious dialogue between the two groups developed.

One young seeker, attending meetings with theQuakers, asked to join a fireside, as he was eager to learn more of the Faith.

KIRKLEES

About 50 people, the majority of whom were non-Baha'is, attended a barbeque in this community recently. Among the many activitites which took place were dancing and a carnival night atmosphere prevailed. The willingness of those who attended, most of whom had never met each other before, to join in with such gay abandon was a tribute to the organisation and spirit of the event.

The guests came from Morocco, San Francisco, Canada and South and West Yorkshire. The food, which was enjoyed by everyone was a combination of eastern and western specialities.

Some of the guests were friends the Baha'is had known for some time, but many had not met the Baha'is before. In the words of the local Baha'is "They had a taste of Baha'i fellowship and we feel they liked the flavour!"

LANCASTER

The Lancaster community has been very active in recent months. The year 141 began with a Naw-Ruz celebration held at Lancaster University, attended by Baha'is from many communities, but mainly by locals and students as well as staff from the University. The local Baha'is had prepared a magnificent feast for their fifty guests, who were told briefly about Naw-Ruz and were then entertained with

music and songs by Gregory Paul, formerly of France. Many people stayed on to talk about the Faith and took literature. The local paper carried an article and a photograph on two consecutive weeks.

In April a concert was held in the unopened district of Wyre, in the small town of Garstang. Seven local people came to hear of the Faith and enjoy the music. The event was well publicised through adverts in the paper and posters in local shops.

On April 21st the Local Assembly was reformed after a lapse of several years, and much struggle to reform it! Even while the community did not have an Assembly, the Baha'is still held regular children's classes, feasts, weekly firesides, put adverts in the paper, had many articles printed in the paper etc.

In May, after a long period of preparation and trepidation, a Baha'i bazaar in aid of the International Fund was held. 25 adults and children attended, and over £120 was raised.

In June, the Rev. Merfyn Temple visited the University and the small town of Carnforth, just north of Lancaster. He was delighted to meet the Baha'is, welcomed them publicly in both places, started his talks with a Baha'i prayer, spoke highly of the Baha'is he had stayed with and met, and repeatedly cited them as examples of broadmindedness and This was particularly tolerance. significant in Carnforth, as the meeting was held in the Methodist Church. local ministers and about twenty members of the congregation were present, and many heard of the Faith for the first time. The ministers were very welcoming At the end of the meting, the indeed. Rev. Temple told one of the Baha'is that if his tour around Britain had done nothing else it had at least brought the Baha'is and Christians closer together.

Also in June a picnic was held on a beautiful day in the university grounds. A large group of friends gathered and contact has been kept up with all of them. In July an Interfaith Conference was held in the town. This is a national annual event where different religions are studied and discussed. One of the evening events was "A Baha'i Meditation", and the local friends went to support the

Baha'i contribution.

More than sixty people came to hear the prayers which were read and sung in several languages, and many took pamphlets and stayed to discuss the Faith. Many of the participants were R.E. teachers and wanted information on the Faith to teach in their schools. So far this year the Baha'is have determined to have at least one more concert, participation in One World Week, and the manning of a stall at the beginning of the University year in October.

IPSWICH

On Monday 2nd July, the Rev. Merfyn Temple called at Ipswich, towards the end of his "Peace Pilgrimage". Seven of the Ipswich Baha'i community were amongst those who gathered on the Cornhill, outside the Town Hall, to greet him on his arrival, on a cool and showery morning.

Shortly before midday, by which time about twenty people had gathered on the Cornhill, the Mayor of Ipswich opened the proceedings with a short address of welcome. The Rev. Temple then spoke: he explained that the "Peace Prayer" had its origins in ancient Indian writings, over 2,000 years old, and that the prayer had been introduced to the West originally by Satish Kumar. As the prayer did not belong to any particular religious tradition, it could be used by people from all religious backgrounds. "Peace Prayer" was then said by representatives from the Muslim, Hindu, Baha'i and Sikh comunities in the town each representative saying the prayer in the native language. The Baha'i lady taking part chanted the prayer most beautifully in Persian.ome of the Baha'is must have thought at the time that they she would never have heard a chant in Persian broadcast over Ipswich town centre! Following this, all those taking part in the event, including the crowd on the Cornhill, said the prayer together in English. The Community Relations Officer for Ipswich then expressed her good wishes to the Rev. Temple. Finally the Rev. Temple addressed those gathered again, explaining how this prayer had inspired him to undertake his pilgrimage around Great Britain. He spoke of the differing receptions he'd experience in

teh cities towns and villages on his route - of what the "peace" he was praying for had come to mean to him in real terms: as was demonstrated to him on his visit to Swaffham, in Norfolk, "peace" could mean peace from the noise of heavy lorries thundering through the town centre! Most important of all to him, however was the purpose behind what he was doing - and that, he decided, was provided by his grandson. He said we seek peace for the sake of our children and grandchildren - because we want them to grow up to live in a world safe from the threat of war.

The organisation of this event was led by the minister of the Ipswich Unitarian Church, with whom the Ipswich Baha'is have co-operated on previous occasions. After the ceremony, the Ipswich Baha'is invited the Unitarian minister and the Rev. Temple to have coffee with them in a nearby hotel, where a most

interesting and enjoyable discussion

quickly developed.

The discussion came round to the subject of the Baha'i Faith - not surprisingly, especially as the Rev. Temple has met many Baha'is in the course of his pilgrimage. He said in fact that the Baha'is were the only religious group that he could rely on to support him, and he was impressed that they are the only faith which presents a united front: the Baha'is explained the Faith could never

be divided into sects because of the Covenant of Baha'u'llah and 'Abdu'l-Baha. The Rev. Temple said he thought the Christians could learn a lot from the Baha'is; he wondered if there was anything the Baha'is could learn from the Christians. When it was time for him to go, he said "I really must read some of the Writings of Baha'u'llah!"

There was a picture and a report of the event in the local paper, the following day.

KINGSTON UPON HULL

On Tuesday 17 July the Baha'is in Hull obtained some good proclamation in their local paper, the Hull Daily Mail, which has a large readership. One of the Baha'is was interviewed and a large article appeared in the centre pages. The Baha'is felt that this will greatly boost the teaching efforts in the area.

During the past few months they have gained many new contacts and the weekly firesides are invariably attended by people investigating the Faith. The weekend following the newspaper article a dayschool was held based on "Individual Teaching". At a fireside following the school 4 non-Baha'is helped to crowd the venue to its limit.

International News

FRANCE

Three Cambodian Baha'is who had accepted the Faith in a refugee camp in Thailand were "discovered" during an intensive "Baha'i Week" in France in April. Shy, and with little knowledge of French, they had not yet found the Baha'is of France. Three public meetings with slide shows given by Mr Marco Kappenberger of Switzerland brought them out.

Hundreds of posters were displayed in the streets, radio announcements given on three programmes and dozens of personal invitations extended to activities sponsored by the Local Assemblies of La Celle St. Cloud, Saint Cloud and Alfordville during the visit of Mr Kappenberger to the area. Sixty minutes of tape-recorded programmes were made for radio stations and left for later use. Mr Kappenberger was also able to renew contacts with Gipsies of France, putting them in touch with French Baha'is.

GAMBIA

The National Women, Children and Education Committee of the Gambia, acting on information provided by Mrs Joan Hanlon, a Baha'i who works for the Non-Formal Education Service Unit, arranged for Baha'i participation in the recent Seminar on the Role of Women in Development, organized by the African Adult Education Association. The meeting was hosted by the Non-Formal Education Service Unit and the Women's Bureau of

the Gambia and was attended by women from a number of African countries.

Mrs Hanlon was accredited and introduced as a Baha'i; she also attended in her professional capacity. She was given many opportunities to make friendly contacts and to answer questins, and some attendees purchased Baha'i books from the small selection she provided. concerns of the seminar are pertinent to the work of the National Women, Children and Education Committee and also to future Baha'i development projects. A paper entitled "Women in Development: A Baha'i View" based on various publications of the Baha'i International Community was read by Mrs Neneh Touray and gave rise to lively questions. Other Baha'i women attended one session and offered light refreshments to the seminar participants. The Director of the Non-Formal Education Service Unit very cordially introduced the Baha'is and thanked them from travelling 400 km (round trip) to be with the seminar participants.

UNITED STATES

For the second time in two years the House Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Organizations has heard testimony about the persecution of Baha'is and repression of the Faith by Iran's Islamic revolutionary government. The National Spiritual Assembly reported that it was difficult to convey the highly-charged atmosphere of the meeting on 2 May 1984 when the Subcommittee heard the testimony of Congressman John Porter, Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, National Spiritaul Assembly chairman James Nelson and its vicechairman Wilma Brady, and Mr Said Eshraghi, son and brother of three martyrs of Shiraz. Dr Firuz Kazemzadeh, secretary of the National Assembly, was also on hand to answer questions.

"For the second time in two years we won the respect, admiration and sympathy of everyone involved in the hearing, including the representatives of communications media", the National Assembly reported. "When Mr Eshraghi finished telling the heart-rending story of the martyrdom of his father, mother and sister, the atmosphere in the room was charged with emotion. Many cried openly; others fought tears".

Within a few hours the Voice of America carried the news and commentary in many languages, including Persian, to all parts of the world. The following morning many newspapers printed accounts of the hearing "which once again established that the Baha'is are cruelly persecuted in Iran on purely religious grounds, that all the charges brought against them by the clerical enemies are but a tissue of lies, and that humanity has the moral duty to speak up in their defense".

SWITZERLAND

Reports continue to be received of proclamation successes due to the book "Les Baha'is ou victoire sur la violence" ("The Baha'is or victory over violence").

In the past few months the author, Mrs Christine Samandari-Hakim, has given six lectures and one press conference in Switzerland, one lecture each in France and the United States and participated in a signature party at the International Book Fair in Brussels. The first edition of 4,000 copies has been sold out and a second revised issue of 2,000 is forthcoming. A German translation released in February has already produced seven newspaper articles and a radio interview of Mrs Samandari-Hakim.



Mme. Christine Samandari-Hakim autographs a copy of her book for a purchaser at the International Book Fair in Brussels (see July issue of Journal).

DOING ANYTHING ON THURSDAY NIGHT?

Why not let the Journal Know about YOUR regular firesides and give others the opportunity of sharing an evening with you?

The Westminster community organises weekly public meetings which are held on Thursday evenings at 8pm. Because they take place at the National Centre, they are not really a local affair. Contacts from all over London, and sometimes from outside London, come to these meetings. What they find on that one evening here at the centre comes to stand in their minds, at least at first, for the Faith as a whole.

It is therefore crucial that what they find here should be as near a true representation of the Faith as a whole as is possible. A committee, set up by the local Assembly is currently discussing how the Westminster community can contribute to that process from its own resources, either by better organisation, adding a homely aesthetic touch with flowers or, by obtaining as varied a selection of speakers as possible. The committee obviously welcome any suggestions from the friends as to how the meetings might be improved.

But...and it is a big but...there is a limit as to how much can be done without the help of the other communities in the London area. Baha'is are needed to attend the meetings in a spirit of service as well as friends eager to turn this proclamation opportunity into their personal teaching. A fireside in Westminster may not help a contact from Harrow, for example, who would like to meet Baha'is

who live in Harrow. Unless some friends from that area come to the meetings the contact, without contact with the Faith in their area may drift away. One of the most important functions of these meetings is therefore, to provide a central point from which the surrounding areas may obtain new contacts (as has often been the case in the past) or use it as a place for them to meet other Baha'is and hear different viewpoints.

Westminster community does not expect the Baha'i friends to learn much about the Faith that is new to them. They may not find a presentation which is geared to non-Baha'is particularly stimulating. But they will find seekers, an opportunity to teach, a chance to meet one of the many Baha'is who are passing through London en-route to their pioneer post or returning home after pilgrimmage, and a place where they can bring their own non-Baha'i friends as well. There can be few such chances to teach at the cost of a couple of hours, one or two evenings a month. For Baha'is it is an opportunity to learn about the Faith, not just by listening to someone talk about it but by putting it into practice.

Baha'is are therefore encouraged to attend and to contribute to the Thursday evening meetings whenever possible. They are held at 8pm every Thursday at the National Centre. It is important to be there early to welcome visitors and also to linger, at least for a short while after the formal proceedings have ended at 9-30 just to have the opportunity of getting to know the unfamiliar faces a little better.



SEPT 7-9 NORTH SEA BORDER CONFERENCE - SEE ARTICLE PAGE 11 FOR DETAILS

SEPT 9

One day school "Families" Organised by Lambeth community but held at 27 Rutland Gate, London SW7. Cost £l (including lunch). Bring and Buy sale also to be held. Details Kathy 01-673-8740 after 8pm. PLEASE NOTE this is a change of date.

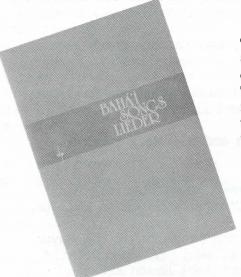
SEPT	11	World Religion Day Celebration, together with representatives of other faiths. Baha'i speaker, refreshments, music.
		Methodist Church, Chelsford (opposite County Hotel) 8pm.
SEPT	22–23	Weekend school on Isle of Wight. "I desire distinction for you" Sleeping bag accommodation provided. Meals at cost. Details 0983 873629 or 862484
SEPT	22–23	Weekend school Free accommodation available (bring your sleeping bag) Manchester Baha'i Centre. Further information contact Homyra Doostar tel
SEPT	26	Public meeting, Coleman St Community Centre, Southend, Essex. 8pm. Details Southend 232202.
SEPT	29	Fire and Snow in concert, Balmoral Community Centre, Salisbury Ave, Southend, Essex. Details Southend 232202
SEPT	30	Memorial meeting for Mr Reg Coulson and Mrs Mary Coulson. 3pm, Manchester Baha'i Centre.
OCT	2	Public meeting. Level 8, Physics Common Room, Physics Building, Imperial College, Prince Consort Rd, London W8. 7pm.
OCT	17	Public meeting on "Racial Unity" in the presence of the Mayor of Brent. Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, 8pm. Details and complimentary invitation cards conatact Hasan Afnan
OCT	19	Birthday of Bab celebration. Tickets £5 (adults) and £2.50 (children) Limited number of tickets available so book early. Contact Noura Tel 01-221-6280. (Venue same as October 2)
OCT	21-22	Weekend School "Social and Economic Development" Accommodation available 26 North Fort Street, Edinburgh. More details to follow.
NOV	2–4	"Spiritual Renewal Weekend" Live, work, study and pray together. Bring Advent of Divine Justice & prayer book. Accommodation and meals provided. Cost £3 per day. For details contact Mation Klyne, Tel
NOV	10	Preston, Lancashire - A Country Dance to celebrate the birthday of Baha'u'llah, at Preston Polytechnic Arts Centre, St Peter's Square, off Fylde Rd. Admission £2 per person.
DEC	27 - JAN 2	WINTER SCHOOL 1985 Trafalgar Hotel, Manchester. Limited space available so book early. Booking form and information from: Baha'i Schools Central Registration, 2 Culcheth Hall Drive, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire. WA3 4PS.

Public meetings at the National Centre, 27 Rutland Gate, Thursdays 8pm. Speakers - 6 Sept, Leslie Habibi; 14 Sept, Peter Hulme (Detatchment and Unity); 20 Sept, David Grant (Slide show on basic principles); 27 Sept, John Wade (World Order - the Baha'i concept)

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS ARE SENT IN AT LEAST TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE DEADLINE. CHECK THE INFORMATION - DATE, VENUE, WHAT IT IS, SUBJECT, WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS, COST (IF ANY), TIME AT WHICH IT STARTS ETC.

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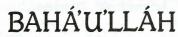
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