



# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

Published by  
The National Spiritual Assembly of  
the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom.  
27 Rutland Gate, London S.W.7.

For circulation among Bahá'ís only.

No. 226

Mulk 131

February 1975/4

## NEW ACQUISITION – HISTORIC PROPERTY

JOYOUSLY ANNOUNCE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION LENGTHY DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS RESULTING ACQUISITION BY PURCHASE HOLY HOUSE CENTRE COVENANT 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ BIRTHPLACE BELOVED GUARDIAN SHOGHI EFFENDI STOP HISTORIC PROPERTY ADJACENT BARRACKS MOST GREAT PRISON COMPRISES LAND AREA APPROXIMATING SEVEN THOUSAND SQUARE METRES INCLUDES OTHER STRUCTURES WITHIN COMPLEX ASSURING

PERMANENT PROTECTION HOUSE VISITED BY MANY PILGRIMS TURN CENTURY SCENE HISTORIC VISIT FIRST GROUP WESTERN PILGRIMS STOP PLANS BEING PREPARED RESTORATION HOLY HOUSE BEAUTIFICATION GROUNDS AS ADDITIONAL PLACE PILGRIMAGE WORLD CENTRE WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES FUNDS PERMIT STOP OFFER HUMBLE THANKSGIVING BAHÁ'U'LLÁH THIS GREAT BLESSING.

14 January 1975

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE



## 650 PIONEERS – BEFORE THE DOORS ARE CLOSED

To the Bahá'ís of the World.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

The striking progress made during the first eight months of the Five Year Plan and the urgent needs of the work as disclosed in a survey made by the International Teaching Centre impel us to raise anew the call for pioneers made at Ridván, increasing the number from 557 to 933. The details of the allocations are now being sent to your National Spiritual Assemblies for immediate action.

The eager response of the friends to the initial call has already resulted in 279 pioneers settled or in process of becoming so. The remainder are urged to arise as quickly as possible before the confusion and chaos which are engulfing the old order disrupt transportation and communications and cause doors which are now open to be closed in our faces. It is our ardent hope that most, if not all, of the 933 posts will be filled by the

midway point of the Five Year Plan, which coincides with the Anniversary of the Birth of the Báb, on 20 October 1976.

We renew our plea to individual believers, as well as to National and Local Spiritual Assemblies, to give generous support to the International Deputization Fund, which will not only be an essential factor in the speedy settlement of this urgently needed army of pioneers, but will also stimulate and assist the flow of travelling teachers, whose labours will provide strong reinforcement to the work of the followers of Bahá'u'lláh in all parts of the world.

Our prayers for your guidance and confirmation are offered at the Sacred Threshold. May Bahá'u'lláh inspire those who arise and guide their feet in the path of His service.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

13 January 1975

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE



## REVISED PIONEER CALL FOR UNITED KINGDOM

Country	No.	Goal Filled (1 February 1975)	Progressing
<b>AFRICA</b>			
Botswana	2	—	—
Ghana	3	—	—
Lesotho	2	—	—
Nigeria	2	—	—
South Africa	0	Pat and Christine Beer	Filled
Sudan	2	Mansur Shah	Returned to U.K.
Gambia	1	—	—
Sierra Leone	0	Clive and Joyce Collins	Filled
<b>AMERICAS</b>			
Guyanas	1	—	—
Jamaica	1	—	—
Trinidad	0	Dennis and Doreen Anderson	Early August
Falkland Islands	2	<b>NEW ASSIGNMENT</b>	
Windward Islands	0	Barbara Nurse	—
<b>ASIA</b>			
Hong Kong	1	Quentin Lewis	Early Summer
India	0	Charles and Yvonne Macdonald	Filled
Sri Lanka	1	—	—
<b>AUSTRALASIA</b>			
Fiji	1	—	—
Gilbert and Ellice Is.	2	<b>NEW ASSIGNMENT</b>	
Solomons	2	—	—
New Hebrides	1	<b>NEW ASSIGNMENT</b>	
New Caledonia	2	—	—
<b>EUROPE</b>			
Belgium	0	Habib and Wilma Habibi	Filled
Finland	1	<b>NEW ASSIGNMENT</b>	
Portugal	0	John and Jena Twiname	Early Summer

**TOTAL REQUIRED:** Twenty-eight more devoted souls before the doors are closed in our faces.



*Friends gathered at Teaching Conference, Leicester, 7/8 December 1974*



## TEACHING CONFERENCE

7/8 December 1974 — LEICESTER

In opening the conference, John Long, Chairman of the National Assembly, welcomed Counsellor Betty Reed and other members of the Auxiliary Board and all the friends who were able to attend. He mentioned that of those National Assembly members who had offered to pioneer at Convention, Charles Macdonald and his wife Yvonne had already left for India, George Bowers and his wife Elsie had been in the process of making pioneer arrangements when a call had come to them for service in Haifa, where they would be going in early 1975, and Abbas Afnan, with his wife Shomais, would soon be going to one of two posts.

Mr Long asked the friends whether they realised that the rest of Europe looked to the United Kingdom, which was not only the largest Bahá'í community on the continent, but by far the largest, the next in size being that of Belgium.

Our community had achieved a Six Year Plan, a Two Year Plan, a Ten Year Crusade and a Nine Year Plan and we were now embarked upon a Five Year Plan in which local Assemblies were assuming even greater importance.

The Chairman of Teaching Conference this year was Shahram Mottahed, Chairman of the National Teaching Committee, and he introduced the form which the conference would take — each major national committee was given time to explain their role and to put forward their plans. It is evident from the steadily growing maturity of the committee members and the strengthening of committee structure that these bodies will contribute in great measure to the development of our Faith. There was direct contribution by a large number of Bahá'ís to these sessions and the work which is being done in all spheres became a reality to those present, but the need for more emphasis to be given to the children was put by Alicia Cardell in an impassioned plea that the children be involved in every aspect of Bahá'í life.

For the NSA session, a new approach was used at this conference: instead of one member presenting a report, all members were brought to the platform, and after a short talk by the NSA Secretary, Philip Hainsworth, questions were answered from the body of the hall by various members of the National Assembly. It was fascinating to see all the members of our National Assembly together in action and it is hoped that this will be a feature of future conferences.

Betty Goode, National Treasurer, opened her session by paying tribute to her mother, Jean Pitcher, who had rendered such great service to the Cause and had worked for it until the very day of her death.

Betty stressed the need for universal participation and said that there was a need for every single believer to contribute directly to the National Fund — that if we unite in giving it will "do something wonderful for this country".

She was joined on the platform by Mary Hardy, who explained the Capital Projects Fund — she said that we must not depend upon the rich ones in the community to provide this extra money, needed so badly to buy properties quickly before their value inflated even more. She said that if only half the British community were to give £1 per week, the goal of £150,000 so urgently needed, and needed quickly, would be achieved in three years.

This conference was an invigorating one in that it showed the large number of individual Bahá'ís who had an outstanding contribution to make — perhaps we do not appreciate the strength we may have if we give ourselves wholeheartedly to the work of our Faith.



Youth Department Session

But of all the outstanding contributions to this lively conference, perhaps the most exciting was that of the Counsellors' session, led with her usual dynamism by Counsellor Betty Reed. With her on the platform were David Lewis, who spoke of the Covenant and the need to remain firm in it, as by doing so we shall ride through the waves of calamity; Mary Kouchekzadeh, who, in speaking of the insecurity of the present day, reminded us of the Guardian's words years ago when he told the Bahá'ís to remain firm and not to let anything deter them from their responsibilities; and Pat Green, who spoke of the guidance given by the Universal House of Justice. Beman Khosravi and Ruth Riding, who were unable to be present, had sent their greetings to the conference.



*Counsellor Betty Reed addressing the Conference. With her on the platform are Auxiliary Board Members Patrick Green, Mary Kouchekzadeh and David Lewis.*

Betty Reed opened her own talk with a frank appraisal of the present world situation and its great deterioration during past weeks, during which the White House had announced that the United States had passed into a state of recession, thus underlining the seriousness of the world economic situation. She outlined the economic, political, social and moral crises of the present time and mentioned certain other factors which were having an immediate effect upon the world situation, not least that pertaining in the Middle East. She followed this outspoken survey with a plea for the Bahá'í community to become aware of their responsibilities, and used diagrams to show the importance at this time in promoting the growth of the Faith. She said that we must realise the importance of Bahá'í community life, that every individual has a part to play in establishing that community life and that we must realise the importance and recognise the authority of local Assemblies.

During the course of the conference the following cable was sent to the Universal House of Justice:

"JOYOUS GREETINGS UNITED KINGDOM FIRST NATIONAL TEACHING CONFERENCE FIVE YEAR PLAN EMPHASIS INCREASED MATURITY COMMUNICATIONS ALL LEVELS ADMINISTRATION STOP COUNSELLOR BETTY REED STRESSED URGENCY DEVELOPMENT BAHÁ'Í CHARACTERISTICS COMMUNITY LIFE CONTEXT WORLD SITUATION EMERGENCE OBSCURITY STOP CONFERENCE EAGER EARLY FULFILMENT GOALS CONSCIOUS SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE IMPLORE PRAYERS HOLY SHRINES."

to which the following reply was received:

"ASSURE ARDENT PRAYERS DIVINE ASSISTANCE ACHIEVE HIGHEST HOPES TEACHING CONFERENCE STOP RAPID EMERGENCE FIRMLY FOUNDED UNIFIED EFFECTIVE NATIONAL BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY ATTRACTING EVER GREATER REGARD FELLOW COUNTRYMEN SUREST PATH ATTAINMENT GLORIOUS DESTINY RENDERING SERVICE FAITH COMMENSURATE BOUNTIES SHOWERED UPON COMMUNITY BY MASTER GUARDIAN."



**What is it?** As well as the ordinary day-to-day running of the Faith, which means money for teaching, proclamation, the upkeep of the Ḥaẓīratu'l-Quds, the National Office, support of pioneers and a thousand and one varying things, we now have what is called the "Capital Projects Fund". What is this, and what does it mean?

**Capital Goals of the Five Year Plan:** When the Universal House of Justice in its Naw-Rúz message outlined the goals of the Five Year Plan, as well as expansion goals — by increasing the number of local Spiritual Assemblies — we were given goals to provide capital for the acquisition of land and properties, a large part of which are to assist other National Assemblies, to expand our own Publishing Trust and to provide text books for schools and colleges. The capital needed was carefully worked out and the goals and the estimated capital required are as follows:—

Temple Site in Barbados .. .. .	£2,400
Temple Site in New Hebrides .. .. .	£20,000
Temple Site in Cyprus .. .. .	£10,000
Endowment in Cyprus .. .. .	£1,000
Ḥaẓīratu'l-Quds in Nicosia .. .. .	£10,000
Ḥaẓīratu'l-Quds in Thorshavn .. .. .	£8,000
Ḥaẓīratu'l-Quds in Malta .. .. .	Some money available
Four Ḥaẓīratu'l-Quds in United Kingdom .. .. .	£40,000
Expansion of the Publishing Trust .. .. .	£40,000
Text books for schools and colleges .. .. .	£4,000
	£135,000
Margin for inflation .. .. .	£14,600
	£150,000

**Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh:** At its meeting on December 20/21/22 the National Assembly studied these goals, and it was decided to phase these projects. Those which must be achieved as soon as possible were placed into Phase 1, and these are:—

Temple Site in Barbados .. .. .	£2,400
Temple Site in New Hebrides .. .. .	£20,000
Endowment in Cyprus .. .. .	£1,000
Expansion of the Publishing Trust (first part) .. .. .	£10,000
Margin for inflation .. .. .	£4,600
	£38,000

Then the National Assembly set a target date for the donation of £38,000 required for Phase 1 of the goals, which is **November 12, 1975, the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh.**

**What are you doing about it?** From news we have received, some communities have consulted very seriously as to how the total £150,000 can be raised, and the local Assembly of Winchester suggested to the National Assembly the following plan:—

**Target:** That 1,000 believers each contribute £1 per week (or £4 per month) to the Capital Goals Fund, for a period of, say, three years.  
 This would realise £1,000 x 1 x (say) 50  
 = £50,000 per annum  
 = £150,000 over three years (1977)

If after six months the contributions amounted to only half the target, the existing contributors would know that to reach the target, they must double their contributions.

This is certainly one way of looking the challenge "in the face", although this might not take fully into account the spiritual strength of "universal participation". Just at the moment, however, the major challenge to every believer is to raise:

#### £38,000 by Bahá'u'lláh's Birthday.

So far, from contributions from local Assemblies and individual Bahá'ís, £3,000 has been donated. Now we need another £35,000.

To raise the sum of £150,000, perhaps it could be suggested that this sum represents £50 from every believer in the United Kingdom, over and above normal donations made to the National Fund.

To raise £38,000 for almost immediate use, means in a similar manner that this represents about £12 from every believer, above normal donations. Some believers have already given much more than either £12 or £50. Has the time come (as time for achieving our goals goes rushing by) when each of us needs seriously to consider ways and means of raising either £12 or £50?

Can we work a bit extra?

Can we go without something?

Can we sell our talents?

Is there anything we have that we can sell?

Can we postpone buying that new vacuum cleaner/radio/television. . . ?

What can we do for Bahá'u'lláh?

All of these questions are surely going to be uppermost in the minds of all the lovers of Bahá'u'lláh.

Bahá'u'lláh wrote:

"O Son of Being! Walk in My statutes for love of Me and deny thyself that which thou desirest if thou seekest My pleasure"

(Arabic Hidden Words, 38)

'Abdu'l-Bahá wrote:

"Human attitudes must not be limited for God is unlimited and whosoever is the servant of the threshold of God must likewise be free from limitations"  
 (Promulgation of Universal Peace)

"God does not ask from any soul except according to his ability. This contribution must come from all villages and from all the believers of God"

and

"In brief, O ye friends of God, rest assured that in place of this contribution, your commerce, your agriculture and industries shall be blessed many times. Whosoever comes with one good act God will give him tenfold. There is no doubt that the living Lord shall assist and confirm the generous soul!"

(both quotations from "Tablet to East and West" 1909)

#### WE WILL NOT FAIL

With deepest love to you all,

The National Treasurer:

Betty Goode,  
 8 Knowle Road,  
 Stafford.

هَقُوقُ'لَلّٰهْ

و در لوح سمندر ازل کلام اهل نازل قوله تعالى :

فِي الْحَقِّهِ الْمَرْحُوقِ الْهَيِّ الْمَرْبُورِ كِيْهِ اسْتِ بِرَجْمِجِ اِدَايِ اَنْ لَّا زِمِ حَيْكَلِ اسْتِ  
 سَبَبِ نَعْتِ وَ بَرَكْتِ وَ خَيْرَاتِ وَ مَا يَكُونُ مَعَ كُلِّ نَفْسٍ فِي كُلِّ عَالَمٍ مِنْ عَوَالِمِهَا  
 الْغَنَى الْكَرِيمِ . انتهي



## UNIQUE GATHERING

### Counsellors meet the Northern Friends

A meeting planned so that the European Board of Counsellors could meet some of the 'local' friends during their bi-monthly consultation, held in January in Manchester, turned out to be a much wider gathering. Bahá'ís from all over the North of England were joined by friends from Scotland, Ireland and the South in what was one of the most spiritually uplifting meetings experienced during the past few years. In order that they might consult with the Counsellors, the National Spiritual Assembly had scheduled their meeting to coincide and the Counsellors had asked the NSA that one of their members should chair the general meeting with the friends.

The National Assembly asked Philip Hainsworth to perform this task and in introducing the Members of the Board he was able to draw upon his experience of many years to bring to the notice of those present the great services already rendered by the Members of the Board. After reviewing briefly the history of the formation of the Board of Counsellors, which will perpetuate the work of the Institution of the Hands of the Cause in the years to come when there will be no longer any Hands, he brought to the notice of many who may not have known, the long services of Dorothy Ferraby, the present Secretary of the Board, who was largely responsible for keeping together the British Bahá'í Community during the difficult years of the second world war; her services as Secretary of the British NSA and her contribution to the work of the Faith as the wife of Hand of the Cause John Ferraby. He said that he felt sure that Betty Reed would need no introduction to those present — she had carried out her duties as Secretary of the British NSA with terrific dynamism and was well loved by all the friends in this country. He then introduced Anneliese Bopp, who had been Secretary of the German National Assembly, and Louis Henuzet, who had been a member of the Belgian NSA, giving us the news that Mr Henuzet would be present at our Annual Convention in Ealing later this year. Erik Blumenthal, the fifth member of the Board of Counsellors, had sent a message of regret that he could not be present.

Two of the Counsellors addressed the meeting. Louis Henuzet spoke of the Five Year Plan, and, in doing so, said that the Bahá'ís represent all mankind and know that the only salvation for its future is the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh; that we must accept this with great humility, knowing that it is beyond our human capacity to achieve this destiny which has been given to us by God and

by Bahá'u'lláh without help — it is Bahá'u'lláh Who gives us the strength to achieve this destiny, without His help we wouldn't be able to do a single thing to help mankind.

His talk left no doubt in the minds of those present of the responsibility which was theirs in this present time of crisis — to bring the shelter of the Faith to the rest of mankind.

Before introducing Anneliese Bopp, Philip Hainsworth mentioned that there were three times as many people present at this gathering (300) as there were Bahá'ís at the start of the Six Year Plan; that amongst those present were people whose parents had met 'Abdu'l-Bahá and whose grandparents had met Bahá'u'lláh, and said that there was enough power within the little group present alone to change the face of society throughout the United Kingdom.

Anneliese Bopp, speaking for the first time in Manchester, stressed the great importance of local Assemblies and said that as the Assemblies become a reality to the Bahá'ís themselves, so they will become a reality to the people outside the Bahá'í community where these bodies are established. With the aid of diagrams she demonstrated the very small emphasis which is given at the present time to religion and showed how, in the future, religion would permeate all spheres of society — industry, science, education, the arts, etc., and how different would be this new world order where the Faith surrounds all spheres of human activity with the life giving current of God. She stressed that Bahá'ís should learn to turn to the local Assemblies as children turn to their parents.

The larger part of this unique gathering was not the addresses from the platform, but the informal mingling of the friends with the Counsellors, and there was a refreshing atmosphere of informality which added to the joy of the occasion. A feeling was expressed by several people of how pleasant it was to meet in comfortable surroundings and to sit in comfortable chairs — could it possibly be that material comforts have some contribution to make to the happiness of an occasion? Certainly the thanks of all who attended went out to the Board of Counsellors for making the meeting possible, and to the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Manchester for providing such warm and outstanding hospitality, which hospitality, said the NSA Secretary in expressing thanks to Manchester, was well known to believers and searchers alike.



*Interior view of Kiel Auditorium during the first United States national Bahá'í Conference on the Five Year Plan, August 29 – September 1, 1974, when more than 10,000 believers gathered in St. Louis to dedicate themselves to achieving the goals of the Plan.*



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS



**ECUADOR:** The National Spiritual Assembly has reported the recent enrolment of fourteen Indian believers of the Saraguro tribe in the province of Loja. "This is a very significant achievement," the report stated, "because this group has remained intact in tradition, customs, garb, and it retains a strong sense of identity." First enrolments among the Saraguro tribe were reported by the National Assembly in January 1969.

**ETHIOPIA:** The very active and united community of Massawa has been assigned by the National Assembly the goal of acquiring their local Ḥaḥratu'l-Quds and Endowment. . . virtually every single believer has pledged at least ten per cent of his income, thus ensuring the fulfilment of the assigned goals. In the same town, two Ethiopian friends have offered a loan to their local Assembly, to guarantee and expedite the purchase of their Ḥaḥratu'l-Quds, and the loan is to be gradually repaid; another believer has donated a plot of land which, although at the moment under dispute, due to recent events in the country, is hoped to be free and transferred in the name of the Faith shortly. In other cities of Ethiopia, where the goal of acquiring many Endowments and Centres in their surrounding areas should be achieved, substantial pledges are already made and a good part of it has already been received by the Local or National Treasurer.

**HAITI:** As part of a teaching trip to St. Louis du Nord and Port de Paix, a public meeting was held in each town. The main publicity was an invitation written out with chalk on a blackboard which a man carried through the town. In St. Louis du Nord over 300 people including the local authorities attended the meeting. . . afterwards, about fifty people, including the notables, thronged around us, eager and seeking. They pleaded with us to stay one more day, and exacted a promise that the Bahá'ís would return. They asked where they could get books and who was the Bahá'í representative in town. The meeting lasted almost four hours.

The meeting in Port de Paix was held in the Town Hall which the Mayor consented to our using after we explained the Faith to him in some detail. Over 100 people attended; seekers stayed with us until close to midnight when lights go out in the town. A young journalist presented a list of twelve questions to which he wanted answers to include in a report to be published in a special edition of the regional newspaper. Because our departure was at 5 a.m., and we were guests at a midnight meal after the meeting, I found myself writing out the answers for him at 3 a.m. by the light of a kerosene lamp. He met us at the bus stop to collect the answers and bid us goodbye — it was not yet 5 a.m.!

We prayed that Bahá'u'lláh would turn our too-short, insufficiently-prepared efforts into results worthy of His Cause.

**HAWAIIAN ISLANDS:** The Bahá'í International Youth Conference held in Hilo, August 4–8, 1974, was the subject of a lengthy article which appeared in the 'Honolulu Advertiser'. The article, written by the Hilo news reporter for the paper, stated in part:

"Throughout last week, tourists and residents alike watched the large gathering of young people pass by. Many of them walked, often arm-in-arm or holding hands, to their destination. Some spoke English. Others who didn't smiled as if they understood anyway. Police, accustomed to at least some minimal trouble with conventions, especially those attracting young people, were left with virtually nothing to do — there were no stunts to stop, no fights to break up. Inquisitive outsiders had their no doubt redundant questions answered and their false impressions patiently corrected. . . As a practising agnostic of many years, we had to be impressed."

In forwarding this report, the National Assembly commented: "Another interesting note on the events of that week was the appearance in the Hilo 'Tribune' of a paid advertisement titled 'Christ or Bahá'u'lláh?' which sought to discredit Bahá'u'lláh as a Manifestation of God and uphold the supremacy of Christ as mankind's only Saviour. It was testimony that the Bahá'í Message did get across to the people of Hilo."

"Proclamation in the Hawaiian Islands has reached an all-time high. The success and the great spirit generated by the International Youth Conference and the excellent follow-up meetings held on various islands have resulted in it becoming more and more difficult to find anyone who can read, in the islands, who has not seen (or heard) the word 'Bahá'í'."



*Float entered by Bahá'ís of Hawaii in the Aloha Week Parade.*

A November report stated: "Just a few weeks ago, and shortly after the National Assembly, for lack of funds, decided not to enter a float in the 'Aloha Week' Parade, the 'Aloha Week' Committee called and asked permission to take pictures of the Bahá'í float being constructed and decorated, for use in a film that is being made. When the committee learned that the Bahá'ís did not intend to enter a float, they postponed the final date for entering designs and begged us to participate. The wheels started turning, the National Assembly consulted, discussed the matter with the Continental Board of Counsellors and the Public Information Officer, and then reversed its decision. Someone donated the necessary funds and at this moment the work is under way. Tomorrow the float chassis — the structure on which the float is built and by which means it is transported — will be moved to the pier where the floats will be decorated. These many floats we have entered in the 'Aloha' Parades have not only been tremendous proclamation for the past six years, but have served as wonderful unifiers of the Bahá'í community itself. Everyone who participates (or even places a flower in position) feels united with the others and a good time is had by all. A film company from Japan will be showing these floats in Japan this year, and a television channel here in Hawaii, will televise the parade as well as show the Bahá'í float being constructed."

A later report stated that the Bahá'í float won second prize in the schools and churches category: "Theme of this year's parade was Makahiki, the time after the harvest when the ancient Hawaiians relaxed and gave thanks for their blessings. The Bahá'í float represented a Hawaiian warrior blowing the conch shell to the mountains, to the valleys and to the seas, announcing the call to unity and peace. Besides having the words 'Bahá'í Faith' in flowers, the float also displayed a Hawaiian phrase meaning 'The Call of Unity and Peace'. The float was seen over television on the islands. The parade was also videotaped for showing over television stations in Japan and the United States. The building of the Bahá'í float was made a special feature over local television. The Bahá'ís who manned the float represented ancient Hawaiians making flower leis (garlands), making poi (a Hawaiian food), and fishing."

**KENYA:** Mrs Florence Mayberry visited Kenya where she met with the Central and East African Counsellors, following her appearance, as a representative of the International Teaching Centre, at the conference sponsored by the Continental Board of Counsellors for the southern Africa zone, held in Salisbury, Rhodesia, August 23–25. On the following day, September 1, she addressed a general meeting of the friends at the Bahá'í Centre in Nairobi.

Word was sent at short notice throughout Kenya that a visitor from the World Centre would speak. Pioneers came in from 400 miles distant; African believers, despite transportation difficulties, from 100 miles away. Approximately 80 friends attended in all. A number who were unable to attend came to the airport to bid farewell to their guest.



**PANAMA:** A new believer from the Teribe group in the central provinces has recently enrolled in the Faith. He is the first representative of the Teribe tribe to embrace the Cause.

A programme of continued beautification of the gardens surrounding the Panama Temple is underway. Recently more than 1,000 plants, 50 flowering trees and many handsome palms — mostly gifts from the believers — have been placed in the gardens and on the hillside.

Rocks weighing up to half a ton have been placed along the wing walls of the Temple to hold gravel, sand and topsoil, thus creating natural-looking planters in which flowers and decorative shrubs have been planted.

"The resulting added beauty has been commented upon by many visitors and friends," the National Spiritual Assembly reported.

**PORTUGAL:** Setubal, a city situated about forty kilometers south of the capital, has a community of approximately one hundred believers. Recently the Spiritual Assembly, in collaboration with the National Teaching Committee, sponsored a large-scale proclamation event in the city. Prior to the event attractive, colourful posters were prominently displayed throughout the town. They depicted a photograph of the earth and the challenging phrase: "Have you heard of Bahá'u'lláh?" In addition, a large banner, five meters in length, was placed in the principal square of the city, advertising the date, time and place of the public meeting. A report received from the Spiritual Assembly states:

"To make arrangements for displaying the banner, the Bahá'ís visited the Town Hall where they spoke to the President (Mayor) who lovingly and in writing conceded the required authorisation, this document being the first official authorisation which we have in our possession.

"The principal newspaper of the city, which already had at various times published articles and news about the Faith, announced the meeting beforehand and the following week published a report about the proclamation.

"An 'open letter' presenting the Faith in a clear and simple manner and inviting people to attend the meeting was distributed during the day; to carry out this work, members of other communities came to Setubal and gathered in the local centre where they said prayers and were organised into groups before going into the streets to distribute the invitations."

Approximately 150 people attended the meeting held in a hall which was offered without cost for the occasion. A reception committee greeted guests at the entrance, indicated the book and literature display, and escorted visitors to their seats. The programme consisted of slides, musical selections played on a Persian instrument, and a talk which commanded the undivided attention of the audience. At the conclusion of the meeting the Bahá'í hosts, identified with badges, made themselves available

to answer questions asked by the guests. Many small conversation groups resulted.

The community reports that the proclamation effort has begun to bear fruit as witnessed by the increase in attendance and interest at the weekly meetings held at the local centre.

**RHODESIA:** A Bahá'í woman in Lesotho had wanted to be a school teacher, but did not have the opportunity to train for it. Each day herdsboys passed her house in the morning and evening. As they stopped to rest, she began to teach them Bahá'í prayers and some school subjects. This has continued and in addition she teaches a children's class once a week. Thus the Faith and her readiness to serve it fulfilled her desire.

**SPAIN:** A nation-wide television programme was broadcast on July 26 featuring different religious communities existing in Spain. Among the few chosen for the programme was the Bahá'í Faith. The four-minute report included an interview with the National Assembly Secretary and showed part of a Nineteen Day Feast at the National Centre. "Día Prometido" (Promised Day), a recording Bahá'í musical duo, were also shown reciting a long quotation from the Writings with their own musical background. A recording of the whole programme was made. This was the first time Spanish Television ever mentioned the Bahá'í Faith. Curiously enough, they did so on their own initiative — after the Universal House of Justice had given Spain this goal as one of the goals of the Five Year Plan.

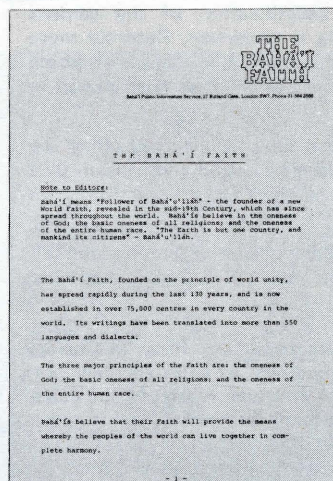
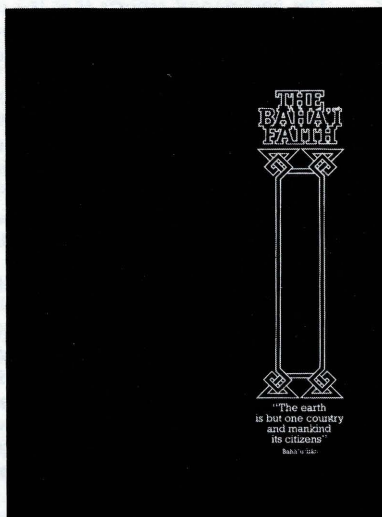
**TOGO:** A successful conference in Lomé was followed by a public meeting. Advance publicity consisted of radio and newspaper announcements, and 200 large posters were displayed throughout the town. Teaching teams were formed to invite the populace to the meeting. The response was far greater than expected — although provision had been made to seat 175 people, 300 attended! Interested seekers lingered until after midnight asking questions and eighteen of them, mostly high school and university students, accepted the Bahá'í Revelation, making a total of twenty-two during the course of the weekend.

**VIRGIN ISLANDS:** Two pioneers who recently settled in St. Thomas were delighted that their fireside was attended by a woman who had read 'Thief in the Night' and was afire with the Faith. Feeling strongly that more people should hear about the Cause, she called the moderator of a popular radio programme and arranged for the pioneers to speak about the Faith on his programme the following week. Instead of the ten to fifteen minutes originally allocated to interviewing the pioneers, the interview extended over a period of three hours and fifteen minutes, "even usurping some of the time allocated to final baseball scores and late news!" the report stated. "The questions were excellent and the atmosphere was sympathetic." Arrangements were made for the radio interviewer to meet informally with the Bahá'ís for further discussion because "he was quite excited about the Faith and wished to continue the questions long after we signed off the air at 11.35 p.m."



*CONFERENCE IN INVERNESS, held at the home of Counsellor Betty Reed, with representatives from the National Assembly, National Teaching Committee, Youth Department, UTC2 and the Overseas Goals Committee, and from the island communities of Orkney, Shetlands, Western Isles and Mull. Measures were discussed to send travel teachers to the Arctic and Sub-Arctic and to receive similar teams from Iceland and Scandinavian countries. The Five Year Plan as it affects the island communities was also discussed at great length.*





The Public Information Committee has been greatly encouraged by the response to the information kits it has produced, a sample of which was sent to each community. Judging by the sales so far, it seems that there was truly a need for this sort of thing, and the folder has been generally very well received. It is sincerely hoped that this material will prove invaluable in all your proclamation activities, particularly so far as the press are concerned.

Feelings seem to be rather mixed with regard to the design. Some are very taken by it, and others are very put off by it. The latter fall into two categories. First, there are those (individuals and communities) who just do not like the design, and for that reason only, say that they will not use the folder. Second, there are those who do not like the design, but understand the reasoning and need for a unified approach, which creates a "corporate identity", and therefore intend not only to make use of the folder, but adopt the logo for other uses such as letterheads.

Personal taste in this matter, however, is somewhat irrelevant. The design was accepted by the PIC after much consideration and research. Furthermore, it has been approved by the National Assembly, who have recommended its use throughout the country. Obviously, no-one can be forced to use it, but in this case, the end result is far more important, and now that this particular design has been adopted, we should all give it our support and use it for our communications needs.

Folders, with contents at 35p, and empty at 15p, plus VAT, can be obtained from:

Sales Department (PIC Folders),  
c/o 27 Rutland Gate,  
London, SW7.

Two members of the Public Information Committee reported on our activities at Teaching Conference, with special emphasis on the publicity seminars which have now been prepared. The first of these seminars took place at the Durham Winter School in December and we are hoping, during the course of the year, to have sessions throughout the country for press officers and anyone else who is interested in publicity. The seminars have been carefully prepared with projected slides to enable those attending to have a better understanding of publicity through the various media. This will result in increased ability of those dealing with it to make the necessary approaches with much greater success. The Universal House of Justice, in its Five-Year Plan letter, said: "The proclamation of the Faith, following established plans and aiming to use on an increasing scale the facilities of mass communication, must be vigorously pursued." Any community or unit holding one-day or week-end schools are urged to let us know well in advance so that we can plan to hold the seminars wherever possible. It should be understood that it will not be possible to hold them at every event, but we would like to cover as wide an area as we can.

Please continue to send your press cutting to us, remembering to state the name of the community, the event covered, the name of the newspaper, the date the publicity appeared and the number of column inches. We are especially interested in seeing publicity gained through approaches which are different from usual. Our grateful thanks to those who keep us regularly informed.

We are listing books which contain references to the Bahá'í Faith and are taking steps to have incorrect statements altered. We would be grateful if you could inform us should you come across such references to the Faith. We have already covered the main standard reference books.

## NATIONAL CONVENTION 26 – 27 APRIL 1975

The Ellen Wilkinson Comprehensive School  
(Ealing Girls' Grammar School)  
Ealing

North Ealing Tube Station (Piccadilly Line)  
[Two minutes' walk]

West Acton Tube Station (Central Line)  
[Five minutes' walk]

Two minutes by car from Hanger Lane.

Details of all kinds of accommodation will be notified;  
ample parking facilities; restaurants and hotels in the vicinity.



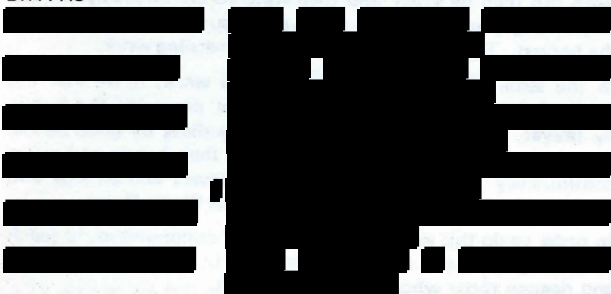
## NOTICES

Material for the next issue of the Journal should be sent to the Editor,

Lois Hainsworth (Mrs)  
27 Rutland Gate,  
London SW7

Deadline: March 10, 1975.

## BIRTHS



## MARRIAGES

22 August, 1974: Olive Smeatham to John Sydney Smeatham, in Carlisle.  
28 December, 1974: Fiona Dunn to Keith McDonald, in London.

Found in the Teaching Conference Hall — two Persian booklets, a copy of "The Sufferings of Bahá'u'lláh", square silk Paisley pattern scarf and a nail file. — enquiries to Leicester LSA.

## BAHÁ'Í NEWS

Those friends who are regular subscribers to the "Bahá'í News" will have noticed the exciting new style, content and appearance of this excellent magazine. Unfortunately, because of the increased cost of production, and particularly postage, it has been necessary to raise the price for one year's subscription to £2.20.

The National Assembly of the United Kingdom has agreed to increase the number of copies ordered from America, so if there is anyone wishing to become a new subscriber please write to: D. Mehrabi, Carmel, New Scapa Road, Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, Scotland.

**MANCHESTER BAHÁ'Í CENTRE**  
requires a CARETAKER

An elderly person is required to be resident caretaker at the Manchester Bahá'í Centre. Rent-free accommodation will be provided, and duties will include responsibility for care and maintenance of the Bahá'í Centre, its gardens and property in general. For further information contact:

Mr David Grant,  
Secretary, Manchester LSA  
Flat 4L  
128 Palatine Road,  
Manchester M20 9ZA  
Telephone: 061-445 9243

**IRISH SUMMER SCHOOL**  
Newtown School, Waterford

2 — 16 August 1975

Registrar: Mrs Val McGinley  
267 Ragoon Park  
Ragoon  
Galway



*Jean and Arthur Pitcher (who died on 18 January 1967) photographed on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.*

## OBITUARY: JEAN PITCHER

Born in the year 1891 in Birmingham, the "city of 1000 trades", daughter of a 'fishing tackle maker', Sarah Jane Pitcher, or Jean Pitcher as she was known, had always possessed a questing mind. She adored school and even when quite a tiny child was determined to become a schoolteacher, an ambition not easily fulfilled at that time for children of working-class families, but one which she joyfully achieved.

Teaching children who were so poor that even in winter they were clad only in rags and without either shoes or stockings, and later when, because she married and had to leave the teaching profession, for such were the laws about women in those days, made her conscious of the many social injustices of life, and she became a campaigner in many spheres for a better world. Later she joined the Suffragette movement.

Just after the second world war, disillusioned at having lived through three wars, she was accidentally put in touch with the Bahá'í Faith, and was invited to attend a number of meetings in Birmingham, which was then one of the newly-formed local Spiritual Assemblies in the Six Year Plan. Always polite, she decided that instead of writing a curt letter of refusal, she would meet the Bahá'ís and tell them in person not to send her any more invitations. At this meeting her ever-questing mind responded immediately to many of the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, and she began to study the Faith in earnest. She and her daughter were formally accepted into the Faith early in 1948.

During her years as a Bahá'í she served the Faith in many and varied ways. Soon after her acceptance as a Bahá'í she became Chairman of the Birmingham Spiritual Assembly; she served on several committees, including the Child Education Committee; for a number of years she was "Bahá'í World" representative for the British Isles and she also handled the despatch of Bahá'í News. In the early 1950s she and her husband moved to a village near Harlech in North Wales, and she was instrumental in obtaining Coleg Harlech for one of the best-loved Summer Schools.

One of her greatest joys was when both her husband and son-in-law were accepted into the Faith. Another pleasure was when during the Suez crisis, she and her husband were asked by the National Assembly to house in their home in that quiet part of Wales, the National Office.

During the Nine Year Plan, in 1966, she and her husband joined her daughter and son-in-law as pioneers to the goal town of Stafford, where she became a member of the newly-formed Spiritual Assembly.

Her last service to the Faith in her earthly life was when at the age of 81 she was officially appointed by the National Assembly as assistant to her daughter, the National Treasurer. Although in great pain, crippled and immobile with arthritis, and with a failing heart, her great joy was to watch for the postman each day, to see how much "lifeblood" had come pouring in, and to send, often with her own little messages of love, receipts to the friends. She was able to do this to the end of her life. She died peacefully in her sleep on 5 November 1974 and her body was laid to rest with that of her beloved husband, in their pioneering post, a staunch and unfailingly faithful servant of Bahá'u'lláh.

M.B.G.



**ICE-BREAKER '75:**

Before you plan your holidays for 1975 please read about an exciting project due to take place this summer. This project is called "ICE-BREAKER '75" and includes teams of Bahá'ís, from two fronts, joining forces to travel-teach. It is planned that Bahá'ís from the United Kingdom will team up with Bahá'ís from Iceland and the Scandinavian countries specifically to travel-teach on the homefront. Similarly, the Scandinavian friends will be joined by friends from the United Kingdom to travel-teach in the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions. "Ice-breaker '75" is being organised by two national committees; the NTC for the homefront projectors and the OGC for the travel-teachers going abroad. Areas for the teams teaching on the homefront will be delineated at a later date, but will definitely include Orkney and Shetland.

Here is your opportunity to give your holidays to Bahá'u'lláh and to know that you are contributing directly to the ultimate success of the Five Year Plan.

If you are interested in participating in "Ice-breaker '75" on the homefront, please contact NTC Secretary:

Mrs Wendy Thorne,  
2 The Gillies,  
Rannoch Drive,  
Mansfield, Notts.

Further details will then be sent to you directly, together with any advice you may require to enable you to take part in the project.

All offers to participate in the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions should be sent to the OGC.

The NTC wishes to point out that "Ice-breaker '75" is open to Bahá'ís of all age groups.

**PRESENTATION OF THE FAITH THROUGH THE ARTS:**

Another exciting project being examined by the NTC for the summer is the possibility of a presentation of the Bahá'í Faith through the arts. The British community has gained, over the years, many talented believers who, the NTC feel, could combine to produce an attractive and dignified presentation of the Faith through music, song, dance, poetry, etc. It is hoped that if this project comes to fruition many communities will take advantage of such an enterprise by hiring a suitable hall for the show and giving local and extensive publicity for the event. It is expected that the projectors will be fully self-supporting or assisted by the NTC, leaving the local communities free to concentrate on preparation and follow-up work.

Such a project would make the Faith a 'newsworthy item', attracting the attention of radio and television, whilst proving an effective national teaching event should the follow-up work be well organised. The NTC will keep you informed of any developments regarding this project.

**TEACHING ASSISTANCE:**

To help the friends in the teaching work two new publications will soon be available to all communities. The first of these publications is entitled "TEACHING GUIDELINES" and includes relevant quotations from our Sacred Writings and suggestions for the organisation of the teaching work. The friends will find in Teaching Guidelines a means of creating greater understanding in the community and a more unified spirit for the spread of our precious Faith.

"ARISE IN HIS NAME" is the title of the second publication, which is aimed at motivating would-be travel-teachers with the fire of the love of God and the power of conviction.

**TEACHING THE BLIND DEPARTMENT****Tape Library**

We have begun to assemble a library of tapes of the Bahá'í Writings and books on the Faith. We have ordered several books on tape from the Bahá'í Service for the Blind in the USA, but as these will be read by American readers we have confined ourselves to those books which we feel will be acceptable in this form on account of their American authorship or associations. Other books we are arranging to have specially recorded for the library. We have already asked three volunteer readers to record books for us.

**Change of address**

Please note that the secretary has changed her address:

Kari-anna Christopherson  
68 Briardale  
Stevenage  
Herts SG1 1TR  
Telephone: Stevenage 55983

**TRAVEL TEACHING DEPARTMENT**

Preparation for Spring  
by

A resident gardener

At this time of year we should start thinking of sowing the seeds in preparation for early bumper crops. It is essential that the ground first be newly dug, and then gently broken down; the seeds can then be sown, and then watered continuously. In this way strong seedlings will appear, and you will be surprised at the harvest. This is very hard, but very rewarding work.

In the same way, and by the same hard work, if we sow the seeds of Bahá'u'lláh's Faith now, by first preparing the public by prayer, and breaking down their prejudices by good deeds; then sow the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh in their hearts and water continuously with love, strong new believers will emerge and the harvest will be that of Bahá'u'lláh's new World Order.

In order to do this we need people to visit communities, to teach in small groups and as individuals, both to introduce the Faith and deepen those who already know of it.

Travel teachers are needed NOW, so if you have a few days to offer Bahá'u'lláh, please let us know and we will arrange a trip for you. Please contact:

Peter Stratton,  
14 Bloomfield Road,  
Maidenhead,  
Berks.  
Telephone: Maidenhead 25082.

**THE FUND**

There are three ways to make contributions to the FUND

**1 Directly to the National Treasurer:—**

Mrs Betty Goode  
8 Knowle Road,  
Stafford  
Tel: Stafford 62157

**2 By Bank Giro, directly to the Bank, which is**

The National Westminster Bank  
186 Brompton Road,  
London SW3

Our account no. is 18188443

**3 By Post Office Giro. Our number is 43 301 4008****POINTS TO REMEMBER**

- A All cheques and postal orders should be made payable to 'NSA of the Bahá'ís; please NOT to 'Betty Goode'.
- B They should be crossed.
- C It is not wise to send paper money or any money through the post unless it is registered.
- D Receipts are sent automatically for money sent directly to the National Treasurer, unless the donor specifically requests that one not be sent. With the increasing numbers of friends, it helps the Treasurer if a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed for the receipt. It really does save much work and is greatly appreciated. Receipts are not issued for Giro payments.

**PAYMENTS BY COVENANT**

Friends wishing to donate by Deed of Covenant, please write directly to the National Treasurer.

**FOR THE PERSIAN FRIENDS**

Huququ'lláh payments are handled by:

Mr John Long  
2 South Street,  
Oakham,  
Rutland.

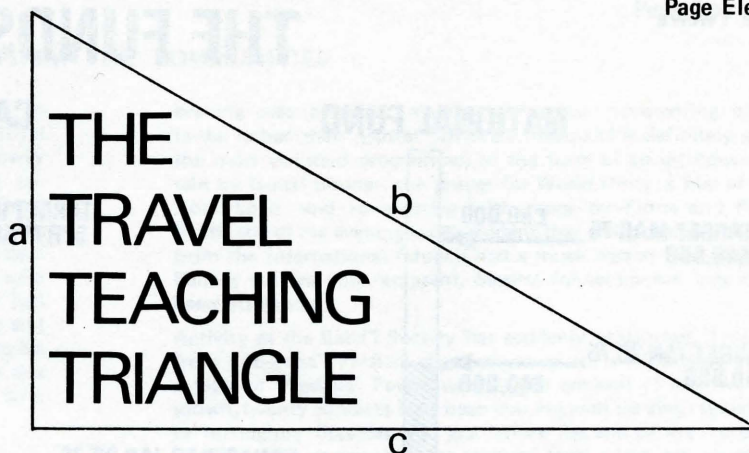


Travel-teaching is a triangular process, involving

A — the Community

B — the Travel-teacher

C — the National Teaching Committee, the bridge between A & B.



To ensure the full use of energy there must be complete understanding and communication between the three sides of this vital triangle. The line of communication is the side C, the National Teaching Committee.

#### Responsibilities of the Triangle

**Side A** The host community. It assesses its needs, plans carefully in advance, informs the National Teaching Committee of its needs, of its plans. The communities are in a position to know what they need, when they need it. They are in a position to offer hospitality and/or accommodation, and to give detailed directions to the travel-teacher.

**Side B** The travel-teacher. What does travel-teaching mean? Is the emphasis on the word 'travel'? Is this the aim of the teacher — just to travel? No, the term is a composite one. It is a balance of sacrifice and service. Sacrifice of well-earned holidays, often of comfort and privacy, and of one's ideas in consultation with the host community. It is a service envied by the beloved Master Himself who longed to be able to travel: 'O that I could travel, even though on foot and in the utmost poverty, to these regions and, raising the call of 'Yá Bahá'u'l-Abhá' in cities, villages, mountains, deserts and oceans promote the divine teachings. This, alas, I cannot do. How intensely I deplore it. Please God ye may achieve it. . . ' (Citadel of Faith. p.29) He travelled to 'promote the divine teachings' and He advises us to follow in His footsteps. 'They (the teachers) must be embodied spirit, personified intellect and arise in service with the utmost firmness, steadfastness and self-sacrifice. In their journeys they must not be attracted to food and clothing. They must concentrate their thoughts on the outpourings of the Kingdom of God and beg for the confirmations of the Holy Spirit. . . ' (Tablets Divine Plan. p.48)

Such is the station to which a travel-teacher aspires.

**Side C** The line of communication and encouragement between A & B.

#### Relationship between communities and travel-teachers:

The New World Order that we are striving to build must have as one of its basic, creative principles just that word 'order', and in no area has there been such misunderstanding and often disorder as in that between communities and travel-teachers. 'Abdu'l-Bahá clearly expresses three conditions we must fulfill in order 'to dispel the darkness of the world of Nature' (Bahá'í World Faith, p.425) and in the relationship that exists between travel-teachers and communities, these three conditions are of vital importance.

**First Condition:** Firmness in the Covenant of God, so that 'confirmations of Bahá'u'lláh may encircle from all sides, the cohorts of the Supreme Concourse may become the supporters and the helpers, and the exhortations and advices of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, like unto the pictures engraved on stone, may remain permanent and ineffaceable in the tablets of the hearts. . . ' (Tablets Divine Plan, p.18)

**Second Condition:** Fellowship and love. 'Should one soul among the believers meet another, it must be as though a thirsty one with parched lips has reached to the fountain of the water of life or a lover has met his true beloved.' (TDP. p.19)

**Third Condition:** The aim of the teacher.

. . . intention of the teacher must be pure,  
 . . . his heart independent,  
 . . . his spirit attracted,  
 . . . his thought at peace,  
 . . . his resolution firm,  
 . . . his magnanimity exalted and in the love of God a shining torch.  
 Should he become as such, his sanctified breath will even affect the rock! (TDP. p.20)

#### BACK TO THE TRIANGLE

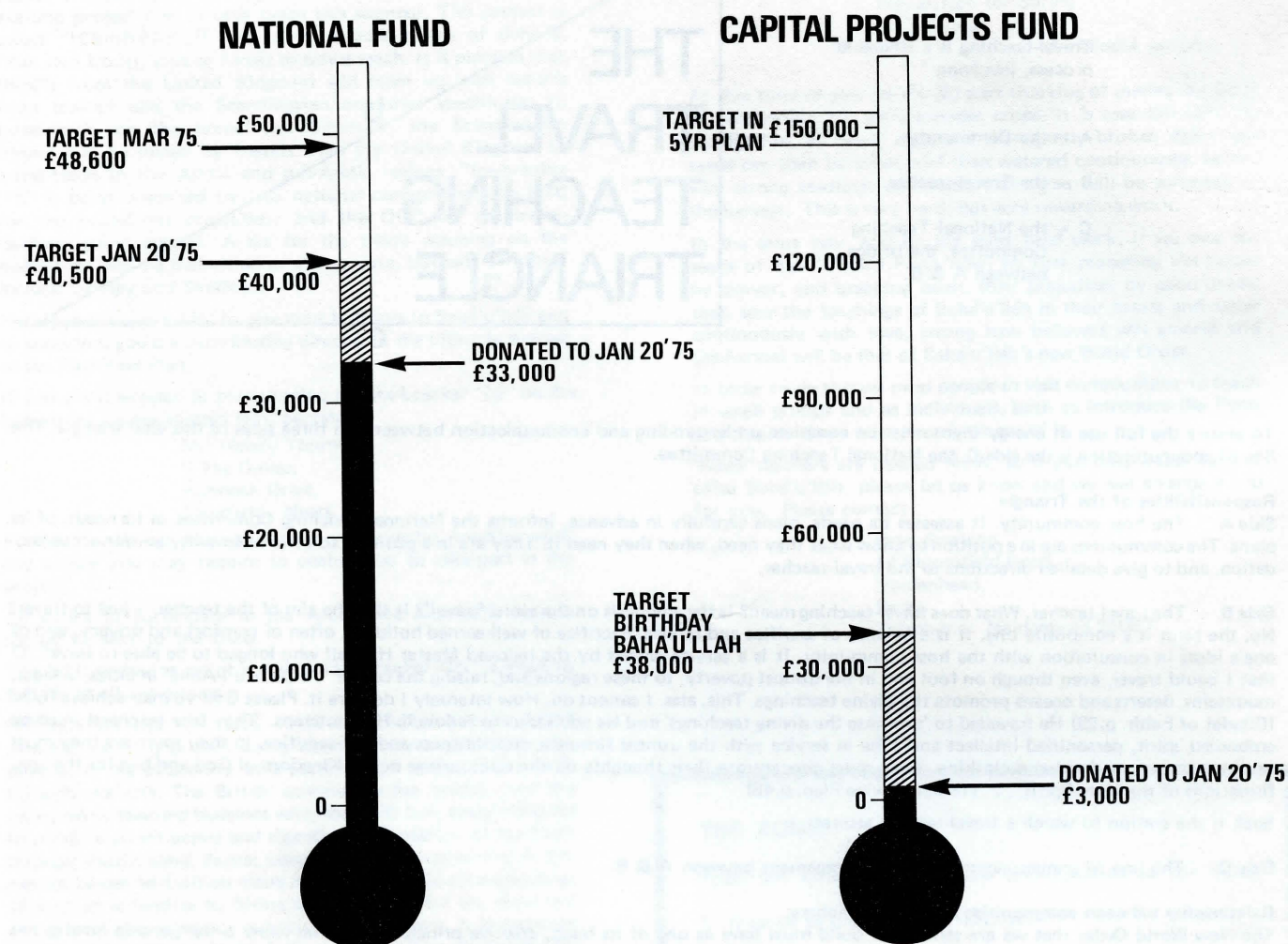
Travel-teachers, communities, National Teaching Committee working, then, together under these conditions, calling on each other's strengths attract the power in this Cause which enables us to perform the seemingly impossible. Without this love, this attraction for each other and unless we strive to fulfill the advice given by 'Abdu'l-Bahá on the three conditions, then the issuing of directives on travel-teaching, on behaviour, on hospitality is a dead thing. The spirit guiding our co-relationship must spring from every heart spontaneously. We must become aware of each other's needs and strive not to upset the delicate relationship which exists, especially in the areas of dish-washing, cooking, general tidiness, conservation of hot water, courtesy, consideration for the property of others. All very ordinary things. Nevertheless done together they are fun and service, and this co-operation and thoughtfulness releases that spirit of unity so carelessly imprisoned by our selfish egos. The travel-teacher has often arrived from a long distance. He or she is tired, in unfamiliar surroundings, has given up a well-earned rest to travel-teach. This must all be deeply appreciated. The host, on the other hand, is often someone who has to work hard for a living while trying hard to be a Bahá'í. These two factors are conducive to tension between the two, the community and the travel-teacher. The love of Bahá'u'lláh alone will merge them into a workable and successful whole. In the diverse conditions existing in our land, conditions of conventionality and permissiveness from the 'hippie' community to the church-going faithful, there is no doubt that we also need a diversity of travel-teachers. This diversity, motivated by the aims outlined by the beloved Master, used with wisdom by the National Teaching Committee, welcomed into the stronghold of a community deepened in the love of God and His Covenant, such diversity will reap rich rewards.

'Abdu'l-Bahá pleads with us to uphold among ourselves the principles of love and unity that we are so eager to give to a waiting humanity so that 'the power of the Bahá'í Cause may appear and become manifest in the world of existence'. In no area can we prove the power of attraction more effectively than in the triangular one of travel-teaching.

(Reprinted from the New Zealand "Bahá'í Newsletter", July 1974)



# THE FUNDS



## AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT

Several local Assemblies and Groups have hired various film programmes and have not yet paid for the hire. These amounts will help the National Fund considerably and it will be appreciated if these outstanding payments could be made without delay.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This committee has been given the following terms of reference by the National Spiritual Assembly:

1. To expand the contact of the Faith with various bodies which deal with religious education, such as Colleges of Education, Departments of Education in Universities, Local Education Authorities and the Schools Council Religious Education Committee.
2. To prepare and/or commission Bahá'í contributions for submission to various publications issued by these and other bodies concerned with religious education.
3. To complete suitable material for instruction in the Faith to be made up in Compendia for different age groups.
4. To assist, and provide with materials, Bahá'ís in the teaching profession. To develop materials, such as leaflets, booklets and textbooks to be produced by the Publishing Trust, including books suitable for the Bahá'í education of Bahá'í children, and to publicise and make these available to the Bahá'í community.
5. To develop a correspondence course to be made available to enquirers.

Its members are Peter Jenkins (Chairman), Dennis MacEoin (Vice-Chairman), Terry Smith (Secretary), Barbara Smith (Minuting and Correspondence Secretary) and Jim Talbot (Treasurer).

The Committee has prepared a 'Bahá'í Statement on Religious Education' which has been submitted to the National Assembly for its consideration. If the statement is approved, the intention is to send it to the bodies referred to in the first term of reference, some 300 in all. A bibliography on the Faith has been compiled and is now with the Reviewing Panel. It will be sent to Universities and Colleges of Education. Some members of the Community have already been approached with a view to their writing articles for submission to certain publications of a serious nature (Term of Reference No. 2 refers). It may be there are other Bahá'ís who would like to write such articles and it will be appreciated if they will get in touch with Terry Smith, The Gables, Sheldon Corner, Chippenham, Wilts. A list of publications considered suitable for articles will be sent to anyone offering to write one. Work has started on the Compendia (Term of Reference No. 3) which will be resource material, but this is a complex operation and may take some time to complete. It is appreciated that local Assemblies are anxious to have material to assist them in their contacts with schools and Local Education Authorities, but until it is available would suggest to them that the excellent publicity folder, prepared by the Public Information Committee, would be very useful as a statement of Bahá'í beliefs. The committee is looking into the question of a Correspondence Course (Term of Reference No. 5).



## NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

**BEDFORD:** After trying unsuccessfully throughout 1973 to get a date from the council to plant a tree, in 1974 the Bedford community was able to choose their own spot on the lovely embankment of the River Ouse, and with wonderful co-operation from the Parks Department a chestnut was planted on November 12. The 'celebrity' who planted the tree was Norman Bailey, wearing two "hats" as an internationally-known opera-star and chairman of the Bedford LSA. Among those who braved the dark and chilly afternoon were NSA member Ted Cardell and his family. Two local papers had sent reporters and photographers and the event was well reported, with photographs, in the local press. The celebration of Bahá'u'lláh's Birthday was completed with a pot-luck high tea for everyone, followed by a fireside, at the home of one of the Bedford Bahá'í families.



*Norman Bailey tree planting in Bedford*

**BRIGHTON:** On Sunday 3 November in Saltdean, Brighton, a 'first' was experienced. A different type of Feast was conducted, for the Brighton community allowed the Bahá'í children, through their children's classes, to run completely this particular Feast, the Feast of Power (Qudrat) as it was aptly named. The children chose the readings and prayers, which they read. It was, however, during the social part of the Feast, that the children made a difference. They put on a play depicting the title of the Feast. The play was called "The Power of Moses" and told the story of the power conflict between the Pharaoh of Egypt, Moses and God. After this performance, the children served the refreshments which were not only organised by them, but mostly cooked by them, including cakes and biscuits. The children were asked to put on their play again when the Bahá'í Society organised the celebration of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh at Sussex University, when several non-Bahá'ís and members from other communities were charmed.

**GLASGOW:** On Saturday 5 October, the Scottish Bahá'í community was blessed with a visit from Hand of the Cause of God Abu'l-Qasim Faizi. Mr Faizi addressed over eighty of the friends, gathered from all over Scotland including Stornoway, Mull and Aberdeen, on the challenges facing every Bahá'í and the Bahá'í community as a whole. Punctuating his address with many examples and humorous anecdotes drawn from his vast experience and knowledge, he stimulated the friends to ask many searching questions, all of which received lucid answers.

After a rendition of songs by Nahid Tahzib, the friends were able to become acquainted with Mr Faizi. Many of the friends were also able to take advantage of a further questions and discussion session held at the Tahzib home, which continued until 1.30 am! On behalf of all the Scottish friends, the Glasgow community would like to express its deep appreciation of Mr Faizi's visit at such short notice.

**GUILDFORD:** During November we played an active part in the town's 'International Welcome Fortnight' when various organisations in the town get together each year to welcome new overseas students, nurses, au pairs, etc. We had a party at the International Centre, and took part in a 'World Spirit' evening when various religions attempted to convey something of the spirit of their own particular Faiths. Although this

evening was attended mainly by people representing other faiths rather than neutral observers, the Bahá'ís definitely gave the most polished programme, in the form of an introductory talk by Guitti Bonner, the prayer for World Unity, a film of the Holy Land, and terminating with songs by Fiona and Paul. At the end of the evening it was evident that other representatives from the International Council had a much clearer idea of what Bahá'ís believe and represent. Several follow-up evenings have been attempted.

Activity at the Bahá'í Society has suddenly blossomed. Trouble from non-Bahá'í Persians discouraged us for a while, but, after a table at Freshers' Fayre, when a fair amount of interest was shown, twenty contacts have been coming with varying regularity to fortnightly firesides, and just before the end of the Autumn term the first declaration was received from a first year student. We are hoping that he will have made the way clear for others to follow. Library books are still on the move, and telephone enquiries come with satisfying regularity. Weekly firesides at the Boyett home are well attended, and some contacts are now also coming along to the deepening meetings. There is terrific potential at the local hospitals, but until we have a Bahá'í inside the hospital we are unable to use facilities for public meetings, etc. Is there no Bahá'í nurse or administrator who could come to Guildford?

**IPSWICH:** With noble support from friends in Colchester, we celebrated Bahá'u'lláh's birthday with a dinner for Bahá'í and personal friends. This proved an excellent idea and was well supported by those we asked and much enjoyed by everyone. Ted and Alicia Cardell were guests and Ted's talk on "Divine Education" was particularly enjoyed by friends who hadn't previously heard a Bahá'í speaker.

Following this we had a public concert given by Sylvia Schulman. This was the first public meeting in the town for some time. We were able to get a reasonable hall and piano. As many posters were put around the town as we could make, and personal invitations were sent out. We approached the local paper with details and were asked to give full information on the Faith with details of the pianist. A preview of the concert was published and the recital itself was beautiful. Much has been written of Sylvia's talent, all most worthy praise. Attendance was disappointing, but it has made many more people aware of the Faith in the town.

We have the full backing of the unit committee and unit in a campaign later on to get our numbers back to full Assembly status. We would like to thank all those who gave their support and time to help us.



*Brighton children after their performance in "The Power of Moses"*



**LEICESTER:** Last July, Mary, Gwen and Bill Prince were invited by the Methodist Fellowship Group of Glenfield, a village just outside Leicester, to go to their meeting on Tuesday, October 22, to sit on a panel of members of other religions to give their views on 'Living in a Multi-Racial City'. Mary and Gwen were able to go and, when they arrived, they found that only one other member of the panel was there, a Methodist Minister of Highfields, Leicester, who took the chair. He knew both of them as he was also a member of the same Inter-Faith Group in Leicester. At the beginning of the meeting he asked Mary to give a brief explanation of the Bahá'í Faith. Afterwards there were many questions about the Faith which lasted for nearly three-quarters of an hour! Then we began the planned part of the meeting when we joined the chairman in answering how we felt on living in a multi-racial city. The chairman said at the end of the meeting that he had found always that Bahá'ís were the only people who mixed with other Faiths and races and really treated them as equals, and were truly humble people. About twenty non-Bahá'ís attended.

**ORKNEY:** Following the proclamation effort of last summer using a converted van, the community (with the help of Keith Neville, who is now pioneering in Moray) enthusiastically set out on a new course of action to proclaim the Faith in the country parishes and the islands. A nucleus of the community formed themselves into a group and produced a show called "For All Seasons", the idea being to get across the principle of progressive revelation. Readings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Bahá'í and other songs, colour slides, a short talk and home-produced visual effects were incorporated into the show.

Personal invitations together with a booklet, "The Bahá'í Faith" were sent to every household in the parish where the show was to be held. In some cases this numbered over 200 and a lot of aching fingers were encountered on the way. We also went to each parish to say prayers and visit the local minister to explain what we intended to do. In every case so far the minister has accepted a Bahá'í book.

So far two parishes, Deerness and Evie and one island, Burray, have been visited; the maximum turn-out being at Deerness where six non-Bahá'ís attended. This is good by Orkney standards where only nine people attended a party political meeting in the same hall.

Betty Reed and Viv Bartlett gave us lots of encouragement and we are grateful to them for helping us get the project started.

Another important event took place on 19 November when Jackie Mehrabi gave a talk on the Faith to the Young Wives' Guild of the Church of Scotland in Kirkwall. The talk was well received and we are sure it helped clear up a few misunderstandings which some people had about the Faith.

**RUGBY:** In November we held a survey in the town centre to discover people's opinions on some of the principles of the Faith. This was followed by a meeting with the Mayor when the 'Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh' was formally presented to him in his parlour. This was a very successful meeting and was followed by a press notice which, although brief, served as an introduction to the Faith.

This was in preparation for a Teaching event later in the week before which prayers were said for one hour. This event was advertised as a "Bahá'í Musical and slide show", and consisted of an introductory talk by Steve Vickers followed by an excellent slide show by Barney Leith, which included slides of Haifa and succeeded in making us all think about the creation and continuation of the world.

The 'Dawnbreakers' rounded off the evening with a very enjoyable show, and the whole atmosphere was so elevating that we had one declaration.

The event was a great success and was well supported by Bahá'ís from surrounding areas, and we thank everyone who helped.

**SHEFFIELD:** We participated in the Annual Sheffield Show over the August Bank Holiday, and Ted Cardell's mini exhibition with dolls from different parts of the world caught the eye of many hundreds of visitors to the Show. Curious children pulled along their parents to see the dolls, and thus the parents heard the Faith.

All the efforts of the community are centred around our goal town, Doncaster, and a special teaching fund for Doncaster has been launched. Daily, each and every believer in Sheffield says the 'Remover of Difficulties' for Doncaster. On Saturday, 28 September, a car-load of Bahá'ís went to the goal town and

conducted a survey, based on which activities and plans could be made for Doncaster. Ten out of eighty-nine people interviewed had heard of the Faith. This survey will be repeated in a year's time to assess the progress of the proclamation work.

Another highlight was our Autumn weekend event: Oct 26-27. Two radio stations and newspapers announced the event, and invitations were personally delivered to homes around the venue - the Lantern Theatre. The entertainment included the 'Dawnbreakers', the 'Hummingbirds', Adam Thornes' slide show, Jackson Ingram's puppets, and Croft and Rondell's songs in Esperanto. Also Dr Richard St. Barbe Baker privileged us with an impromptu talk.

**SLOUGH:** The first week-end school, arranged by the youth of Unit 15, took place in Slough and Cippenham on 23/24 November. After street proclamation, Pat Green from Birmingham gave a public address on "Have you time for your world?" On 23 November and the following day many friends joined us for a deepening day which included workshops and talks given by Pat Green on "The Individual" and Trevor Finch on "Inter-Relationships". Many thanks for all those who supported a most enjoyable occasion.



**SOLI HULL:** Bahá'í exhibitions are held at an old manor house in the centre of the town every six weeks and there is always a fairly good response.

**SOUTH LAKELAND:** The fact that there has been no report from Kendal (now South Lakeland) for a long time does not mean that we have been idle. Quite the contrary, in fact: we have been so busy the secretary has not had time to write one!

We spent some weeks absorbing the Five Year Plan and thinking how best to put into practice the many facets of its requirements as they affect this area. Gradually, we have got ourselves sorted out and are now trying to put into operation plans for deepening and expansion over a wide area. On the expansion side we have the NSA assignment of opening Barrow district (we hope to do this by next Ridván); the UTC has asked all the Assemblies in the Unit to try to open another district by next Ridván, so we are also working in Copeland, but owing to distance we are concentrating on the small town of Millom. We have the responsibility of forming a local Assembly in Lancaster district.

We had a session for the whole community to consult on the Plan in workshop groups which then reported their ideas; we also picked up a lot of useful suggestions at the subsequent Unit Conference. The LSA decided it needed a whole day to get on top of all this, so we met from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm one Saturday and had a very fruitful consultation. The secretary had worked out a large chart of the Five Year Plan, the NSA assignments, our UTC's requests and our own goals and plans so far, listed under the eight headings taken from the Universal House of Justice's Naw-Rúz Message; also all the suggestions were co-ordinated under the same headings. All were displayed so that we could see at a glance the requirements and the ideas; this proved a very useful stimulus to our discussions. Since then we have been busy working out and implementing the various plans made on that day - and there are still plenty of suggestions we have not had time to deal with.

**WATFORD:** A recent teaching programme in Watford was more successful than our usual firesides and public meetings. In a small way, we planned the events and the publicity together as a single operation. In one week we had a fireside with a speaker on the Monday, a public meeting with a speaker on the Tuesday, a fireside on the Thursday and a fireside with a slide show on the Friday. We placed advertisements in the local paper for five





*Bahá'í tent at Barsham Medieval Faire*

consecutive issues, in the belief that a series of small advertisements would attract more attention than a single large one. We also put up a poster at the Central Library where the public meeting was to be held. Altogether eight non-Bahá'ís attended one or more of the meetings.

One brilliant suggestion which we gladly agreed to was to mention in the advertisements the programme about the Faith on Capital Radio on the Sunday before our meetings. By chance (or was it chance?) our advertisements referred to the Return of Christ, and the radio programme turned out to include a talk by David Hofman on just this theme. Probably many people who were not prepared to come out to a meeting at least listened to this programme after seeing our advertisements.

**WAVENEY:** The Bahá'í Group of the Waveney District again manned a marquee at the Medieval Barsham Faire on 24/26 August. The gaily decorated and beflagged marquee contained an exhibition, the work of local Bahá'í artists, giving introductory information about the Faith and a display of Bahá'í books, and was strategically sited next to the popular tea-tent. The exhibition was well visited and many teaching opportunities arose. Some two thousand pamphlets were distributed among visitors to the Faire, estimated at over 25,000. Local and visiting Bahá'í musicians gave both scheduled and impromptu performances attracting large audiences and provided lively audience-participant entertainment, elegant Baroque music and spiritual songs which included mention of the beloved Faith. The Bahá'í contribution to the Faire, which as a whole presented a relaxed, friendly and non-commercial atmosphere, including widely varied stalls and events, was a centre of happiness and love, and favourable comment was received from visitors. The Bahá'í presence was reported in the largest East Anglian daily paper the following week. Over sixty Bahá'ís and children supported this venture including friends from Norwich, Ipswich, Woodbridge, Peterborough, Canterbury, Hammersmith and Henley, and two non-Bahá'í musicians from the Royal Military School of Music at Twickenham joined their three Bahá'í colleagues in Medieval costume. The Waveney Bahá'ís thank all these friends for their help and encouragement and look forward to an improved exhibit and greater attendance next year at this function which is greatly attended by youth in search of an alternative society, and provides an exceptional opportunity both to serve and to teach, and follow in the steps of valiant and much loved Prudence George who was the first believer to attend this Faire at its inauguration three years ago.

**WESTERN ISLES:** Our community recently had the pleasure of a visit from John and Vera Long and, during their four-day stay, they managed to visit many parts of Lewis and Harris and gave two slide shows for the friends which attracted a number of interested enquirers. John visited the local comprehensive school in Stornoway and was shown round by the Rector, who duly entered the fact that the Chairman of the Bahá'í National Spiritual Assembly had visited the school in the school log! An interview with the local press resulted in a short article covering the visit in the local paper.

Press coverage was also given to the celebration of the Birth of the Báb which began with a meeting on the Saturday evening, continued with prayers on a hill overlooking Stornoway on Sunday morning, and ended with a meal and a birthday party for one of the children.

Every Saturday, the community meets to make articles which can be sold for the Fund. This activity has already raised an appreciable amount and enables everybody to participate to a greater extent to contribute to the Lifeblood of the Cause.

A 'study pack' has been prepared for presentation to the eight secondary schools in the area. One has already been requested by a local religious education teacher! The pack contains post-cards, maps, pamphlets, a history of the development of the Faith in the Western Isles, a copy of the local Bahá'í magazine 'Communication', a selection of the writings in Gaelic and an introductory book. The Gaelic booklet, published as a goal of the Nine Year Plan, now occupies a central position in a display of Gaelic books in the local showroom of On Comunn Gaidhealach.

An invitation to accept an introductory book on the Faith, inserted in the local paper three times to date, has brought two replies.

Representatives of the community have attended the conferences in the Faroes and Inverness and the friends are gearing themselves to the challenge of their role in the Five Year Plan and the exciting field of service in Arctic and Sub-Arctic Europe.

## SHETLAND ISLANDS

The Editor wishes to apologise for a misrepresentation in the last issue of the Journal, when a report was printed of what was purported to be the first summer school in the Shetlands.

In 1956 the Faith had been in Shetland for three years, from the date when Brigitte Hasselblatt (Lundblade) first began her wonderful work there. That September the first weekend school was held in Lerwick. It was attended by the first Shetlander to declare her faith in Bahá'u'lláh, together with several other staunch Bahá'ís, eminent for their service to the Faith: Marion and David Hofman (with their children Mark and May), Daniel Jordan, Miss Marjorie Parker, and Charles Dunning (Knight of Bahá'u'lláh pioneer to the Orkneys).

In the following year the first Shetland Bahá'í Summer School was held from June 1 to 8 1957 at the Hayfield Hotel. Talks were given by several prominent Bahá'ís on such subjects as "The pre-eminent task of teaching the Faith" and "A close communion with its animating spirit". On 11 June a public meeting was held at the Town Hall, with Marion Hofman speaking on "Christ and Bahá'u'lláh", and slides of the Holy Land were shown.

Many are the names of those who in the early years contributed to the work in the Shetland Islands, so that here too it can be said, 'Blessed is the spot. . . and the island. . . and the heart. . . where mention of God has been made and His Praise glorified'.



# Bahá'í Publishing Trust

2 South Street  
Oakham  
Rutland

## URGENTLY NEEDED

Part-Time Assistant to the Manager of the Publishing Trust



### SPECIFICATION

A mature person

With proven business experience, preferably commercial.

Willing, and physically capable of assisting with manual work if necessary.

Willing to seek accommodation and reside in Oakham or its immediate vicinity and to be largely self-supporting irrespective of any salary received from the Trust.

Possessing a sound command of the English Language, especially written English.

Interested in augmenting own knowledge of publishing and print production.

Possession of a car would be an added advantage.

Having service to the Faith as the principle incentive in life.

Can be either male or female.

If the commercial experience were connected with publishing, this would be a bonus, as what is needed is experience in such matters as book-keeping, the making of VAT and other statutory returns, the surveillance of property maintenance and the making of transport arrangements.

Such as stock handling, building and dismantling racking, 'housekeeping' in the distribution centre or warehouses, packing and despatching, especially shipping consignments.

The Trust considers that the most likely source of such an assistant would be from amongst those who had retired early or been made redundant at an age at which it proves difficult to secure another job, or someone of like age whose own business has or is succumbing to the current financial stresses. As the amount of work available does *not* amount to a full-time job, probably not even half-time on a continuing basis, *nor* is it likely to become full time in the next few years, if an income more commensurate with full-time employment is a necessity, then another part-time job outside the Faith would have to be obtained, to supplement the salary from the Trust. Such a job would need to be one that would permit of priority being given to Trust work, e.g. an agency business such as selling insurance or cosmetics.

To be able to correct grammatical construction, punctuation and spelling in scripts prior to their being passed to a printer.

By travelling to and attending, for example, part-time or short courses at Leicester School of Printing.

An adequate mileage allowance would be paid when used for approved journeys on Trust business.

By service in this practical way rather than by seeking a job offering attractive financial incentives.

## "THE REVELATION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH"

Book Review by:

Hugh McKinley

" 'Put away the cups of Paradise and all the life-giving waters they contain, for lo, the people of Bahá have entered the blissful abode of the Divine Presence, and quaffed the wine of reunion, from the chalice of the beauty of their Lord, the All-Possessing, the Most High.' " (Bahá'u'lláh — Tablet of Ridván<sup>1</sup>)

In the Cradle of the Faith (Iran) there have been, for many years, books of explanation and commentary upon the Bahá'í Scriptures, giving the background of events and, most importantly, putting the Day of God in correlation with the final Prophetic Revelation: that of His Holiness Muhammad.

Now at last we — that is, the rest of the world not speaking the two languages of Revelation, Persian and Arabic — have before us a masterwork of the highest calibre in this first volume of a series of four under the above title, 'The Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh' by Adib Taherzadeh, whose grandparents accepted the Faith of the Báb.

"THE BEST-BELOVED IS COME..."

Commenting upon some of the most significant Tablets and Books revealed by the Founder of our Faith from the date of that first intimation of His Mission in the pestilential 'Black Pit' of Tihrán till His departure for Constantinople ten years later, in 1863, the author draws upon many of the early accounts of the Faith, the matchless commentaries of Ishraq Khavari, and other original sources and documents. He also includes passages from many of Bahá'u'lláh's Tablets hitherto untranslated, naming each one and giving the circumstances of its revelation and the name of the person to whom it was revealed.

There is also most imaginative inclusion of the writings of the beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, offering all readers — and delighting neophytes and veterans equally — the full splendour of the world-background against which the Lord of Hosts has descended to man, consummated the prophecies of the past, and inaugurated "the Day which shall not be followed by night, the Springtime which autumn shall never overtake"<sup>2</sup>: that cycle of human maturity which shall endure for half a million years into the future.

"The Writings of Bahá'u'lláh are extensive in their range and are revealed in various forms and styles, dealing with every aspect of human needs, both physical and spiritual, and opening before one's eyes great vistas of knowledge and wisdom, Yet His Writings are simple to understand, provided that the heart is pure and sanctified. The understanding of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh need not depend upon academic knowledge; the unsophisticated and the illiterate can recognize its divine origin and understand its teachings." From this brief quotation we may see that the language of Mr Taherzadeh is easy to follow, simple and vigorous. Never once does he violate the demands of commentary by the faintest shadow of interpretation; yet we are given the vividest picture of the kind of life, the type of country and the behaviour of society in which "Him Who conversed with Moses"<sup>3</sup> chose to reveal Himself just over one hundred years ago. Admirable notes, index and bibliography complement the priceless photographs of original Tablets, some of the 'revelation writing' taken down as Bahá'u'lláh spoke, and of a number of the early champions of the Heroic Age of the Cause of God.

Not least valuable for our Western world that has suffered thirteen hundred years of Christian misrepresentation and prejudice to delude it, is the correct explanation and integration of Islám — as well as note of the deviations that Revelation underwent — as divinely-ordained climax of the Prophetic Cycle and the social womb out of which "Him Whom God shall make manifest" appeared (in just the same way as Jesus Christ appeared out of Judaism).

Like his illustrious father, Mr Taherzadeh is an eloquent teacher of the Faith, a pioneer to Ireland for many years and the Chairman of the Republic's National Spiritual Assembly. This momentous and long-needed work, whose style and exquisite clarity must urge it into the hands of us all, is another proof and testimony of the unity of East and West prophesied in the Master's first address to a Western audience in London, from the pulpit of a Christian church, in 1911:

"... the East and the West will understand each other and reverence each other, and embrace like long-parted lovers who have found each other."<sup>4</sup>

THE REVELATION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH — Vol. I: Adib Taherzadeh .. .. £2.40p

Published by George Ronald, and obtainable through Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 2 South Street, Oakham.

### References

<sup>1</sup> Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh (U.S.Ed.) p.32

<sup>2</sup> God Passes By: Shoghi Effendi p.99

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.* p.97.

<sup>4</sup> 'Abdu'l-Bahá: H.M. Balyuzi p.141.