



BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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June 1975

CONVENTION

Friends gathered outside the Convention Hall in Ealing



RIDVÁN MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

Occasion Most Great Festival we contemplate with thankful hearts achievements first year Five Year Plan election this Ridván five new National Spiritual Assemblies, four in Africa one in Asia.

Despite worsening plight moribund civilisation, evidences gathering clouds widespread opposition Divine Message, believers throughout world forging ahead accomplishing goals.

Three hundred eighty-six pioneers already settled, one hundred and fifty-two preparing proceed posts.

New worldwide travel teaching programme designed by International Teaching Centre now being launched by National Spiritual Assemblies in consultation Counsellors.

Beloved Hands Cause advancing vanguard Army Light lending constant loving guidance, encouragement, protection friends labouring Divine Vineyard.

World Centre Faith richly blessed through acquisition Holy House Master birthplace Shoghi Effendi within walls 'Akká, will early witness on consecrated soil slopes Mount Carmel initiation excavation foundations permanent seat Universal House Justice, and in Italy, signature contract marble required majestic edifice.

At this critical juncture human history three major objectives Plan and its specific goals, present distinct insistent challenge to each individual Bahá'í, adult, youth, child; to each Bahá'í family; to each local community and above all, to each local Spiritual Assembly whose development is vital success Five Year Plan and progressive unfoldment Divinely ordained Bahá'í society.

May remaining three-hundred ninety-five pioneers speedily arise and army volunteers respond newly launched Travel Teaching Programme.

National, local Assemblies, individual believers, urged contribute unstintingly time effort outpouring material resources support every phase implementation Plan coming year.

Appeal believers every land join us prayers, supplication Blessed Beauty guide, sustain, protect His devoted followers in their dedicated efforts, purify their souls, raise His banner, serve His Cause.

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

TRAVEL TEACHING

As we approach the threshold of the second year of the Five Year Plan, it is evident that the need for travelling teachers as indicated in the message launching that Plan is acquiring greater urgency and importance.

During the past year steps have been taken to revise the functions, broaden the base and strengthen the work of the Continental Pioneer Committees and to bring them into much closer collaboration with the Continental Boards of Counsellors. Already, with their assistance an army of pioneers has moved and is moving towards its objectives, and a general readiness has been evinced by the friends, particularly the youth, to serve as itinerant teachers.

The strenuous efforts being made to fill the pioneer goals by the mid-way point of the Plan must now be paralleled by well-considered and determined efforts to swell to a mighty river the stream of those friends who will travel to foreign lands to reinforce the efforts of those who are labouring so valiantly to expand and consolidate the widely scattered Bahá'í communities and to proclaim the Message of Bahá'u'lláh to every stratum of society.

At our request the International Teaching Centre has evolved a plan, which we have warmly approved, comprising specific goals of international collaboration in the field of travelling teaching. This plan is now being sent to the Continental Boards of Counsellors who will, in turn, present it to the National Spiritual Assemblies, whose task it will be to implement it. In consultation with the Counsellors each National Spiritual Assembly is to work out specific proposals which it should then present to the other National Assemblies with whom it is to collaborate, so that, as soon as possible, actual projects can be worked out and set in motion, thus inaugurating a process which should rapidly gather momentum and be prosecuted with undiminished vigour in the years ahead.

The Continental Pioneer Committees should be kept closely informed of all projects so that they may know how best to reinforce the flow with those many volunteers who will undoubtedly arise outside the framework of the specific projects now to be conceived. It is our hope that, as far as possible, travel teaching projects will be self-supporting or can be assisted by the National Funds involved, but where necessary, the International Deputization Fund is available to assist. Whenever assistance from the Deputization Fund is required, the request should be made to the Continental Pioneer Committee, giving details of the project. If the sum required is small the Committee may be able to help immediately, otherwise it will pass the request, together with its recommendation, to the Universal House of Justice for consideration.

We sincerely hope that in the forefront of the volunteers, the Bahá'í youth will arise for the sake of God and, through their driving force, their ability to endure inhospitable and arduous conditions, and their contentment with the bare necessities of life, they will offer an inspiring example to the peoples and communities they set out to serve, will exert an abiding influence on their personal lives, and will promote with distinction the vital interests of God's Cause at this crucial stage in the fortunes of the Plan.

We shall offer our ardent prayers at the Holy Shrines for the confirmation of the efforts of all those who will heroically respond to this call.

25 March 1975

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

The challenging call to the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom is to raise travel teachers, during the four remaining years of the Plan, for **TWENTY COUNTRIES**, seven in Africa, five in the Americas and eight in Europe. (Full list on page six.)

THE BAHÁ'Í FUND

There is only one Bahá'í Faith and there is only one Bahá'í Fund. Its source is 'the body of the believers'; its flow started when the first believer who wished to make a material gift to Bahá'u'lláh gave his or her precious offering so that the Faith would be helped to go forward; its flow continued and grew as more and more souls joined the ever-increasing ranks of the 'army of life'; its flow became stronger as more hearts became 'on fire' with love for Bahá'u'lláh and His Cause and longed to give of their material resources, and in so doing, demonstrated the measure of their faith.

As the Cause progressed and entered into the Formative Age when the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh began to be fulfilled, local spiritual assemblies and National Assemblies were formed, and eventually the Universal House of Justice was established. The Fund, as it ever will, remained the same but different 'patterns' took shape.

THE LOCAL FUND is money donated by believers to a local spiritual assembly, and is used for administering the Faith in the area under the jurisdiction of the local assembly. It goes towards the cost of teaching, proclamation, hire of rooms and the thousand and one activities carried out by the local assembly. In addition, part of the local Fund is set aside and donated to the

NATIONAL FUND which is money donated by local assemblies, groups and individual believers in a country or area which is under the jurisdiction of a National Assembly. It is used for administering the Faith in the area for which the National Assembly is responsible, but unlike the local Fund it has to cover a very wide range of uses, all of which are for the benefit of the entire body of the believers in that country or area. For example, it has to pay for the secretariat of the National Assembly which is in constant touch with both local assemblies and all the believers. It has to support the upkeep of the main headquarters — the

Haziratu'l Quds and National Office; it has to pay for Journals and Newsletters; it has to support the work of the 'arms' of the National Assembly — the committees; it is used to pay for the many things which are entailed in 'running' the Faith and which are almost too numerous to mention. Regular donations are sent by National Assemblies to the

INTERNATIONAL FUND which is money donated by National Assemblies, local assemblies, groups and individual Bahá'ís from the whole world. The pounds, the dollars, the francs, the pesetas, the lira, the rials and all the other currencies used in the countries of the world come flowing into that wonderful reservoir of 'wealth' which is so special, and which alone has a spiritual foundation. This Fund administers the Cause the world over, under the infallible guidance of the Universal House of Justice, and only those 'trustees' know exactly how the money is used. Needless to say, it is used for the promotion of the Faith throughout the world.

From the foregoing it is immediately apparent that these Funds are of vital importance, are inter-dependent on one another and should have the support of every follower of Bahá'u'lláh.

In addition to these 'housekeeping' funds of the Faith, there are others which the friends are asked and encouraged to support, which are as follows:—

INTERNATIONAL DEPUTISATION FUND

This fund helps to support pioneers at world level and is, therefore, administered by the Universal House of Justice. Its name indicates just what it is. Friends who long to pioneer but who cannot go themselves, often contribute to this Fund, and in so doing 'deputise' another Bahá'í. Similarly, local assemblies may wish to send a pioneer but are unable to release anyone, so they 'deputise' another Bahá'í by donating to this Fund.

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

Many National Assemblies have been given goals of buying land for Temples, or buildings for Haziratu'l Quds, and have also been given goals to help other National Assemblies in this respect. Money required for this sort of project needs to be donated in addition to the monies needed for the every-day running of the Faith, and that is why a special fund is launched. In the United Kingdom we call this fund the 'Capital Projects Fund'.

TEMPLE FUNDS

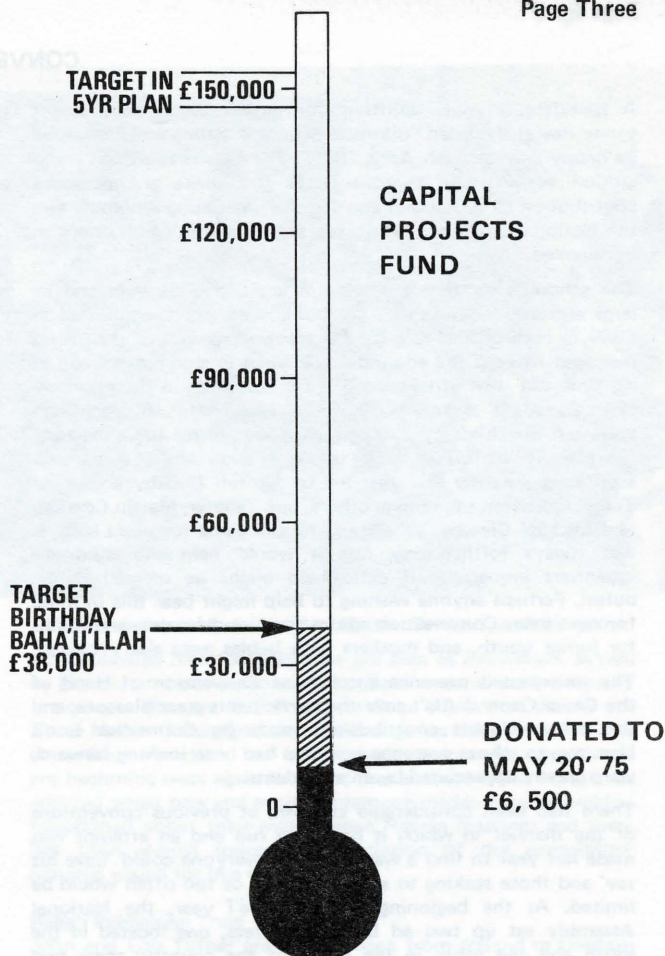
At this stage in the development of the Faith only a few Houses of Worship have been built, but wherever they are, the cost of their upkeep falls mainly on the National Assembly in whose country they stand. The House of Worship for the United Kingdom is the one for Europe, which is in Germany, and it is hardly fair to expect the German community (which is smaller than the community in the United Kingdom) to pay entirely for the upkeep of this precious Temple. It is, therefore, important that we take a share of this responsibility and assist our 'sister' Assembly in Germany as much as we are able. The National Assembly allocates each year a sum of money for the German Temple, and everyone should try, from time to time, to send a donation to the Frankfurt Temple Fund. It is also possible to make donations to the other Temple Funds.

CONTINENTAL FUNDS

These are the funds which help to assist the Continental Boards of Counsellors and their Board members in their work. It is the European Board of Counsellors which is the main concern of the United Kingdom, and it is, therefore, the EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL FUND about which we probably think most. The National Assembly sets aside a certain sum of money each year for this Fund, and, in addition, supports several of the other Continental Funds. Some individual believers like to support these funds.

From time to time the friends ask which are the most important Funds. The answer really is very simple — they are all important otherwise they would not exist. The Faith has to be administered; it has to develop; it is essential that it goes forward on all 'fronts'.

It would be an impossible situation, for example, if there was no money in the National Fund to enable the Faith to function and



go forward, and yet there were local assemblies with money in the bank. Similarly, how tragic it would be if the work of the Cause came to a halt at the World Centre for lack of funds, and yet there was money in the National and local Funds. This is why on occasions it is necessary for appeals to be made, both by the National Assemblies and by the Universal House of Justice for money, when the situation reaches 'danger level', so to speak.

The Guardian wrote:

"We must be like a fountain or spring that is continually emptying itself of all that it has and is continually being refilled from an invisible source. To be continually giving out for the good of our fellows, undeterred by fear of poverty and reliant on the unfailing bounty of the Source of all wealth and all good — this is the secret of right living."

and through his secretary he wrote:

"He hopes that the friends will display a certain amount of faith and courage and not fear present economic conditions. We should not let financial considerations hamper our work and discourage us in rendering our services. Giving lavishly during days of plenty cannot be termed sacrifice. It applies only to our activities when depression and economic difficulties seem to block the way. . .

Whatever we sacrifice at present is to assure the welfare of humanity and ourselves as members of it in the future"

Betty Goode, *National Treasurer*
8 Knowle Road, Stafford

(When sending donations to the various funds there is no need to write different cheques or postal orders. One will do. It should be made out to 'NSA of the Bahá'ís'. The National Treasurer allocates the money to the various funds as instructed by the donors, internally.)

All monies, ABSOLUTELY ALL MONIES, whether for 'In Tune', summer schools, the Sales Committee or any other payment to the National Fund MUST be made out to the NSA OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS.

The bank will not accept cheques made out in any other way and all such cheques must be returned to the sender, involving a tremendous waste of time and money.

This ruling does NOT apply to the BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST which has a separate bank account, but this is the ONLY exception.

NATIONAL TREASURER

CONVENTION 131

A sparkling, joyous, uplifting Convention began on a bright sunny day at the Ellen Wilkinson School in Ealing and continued its happy way through April 26/27. The organisation and background work of an event such as this make an enormous contribution to its success and for this the Ealing Assembly and the National Secretary, who were together responsible, were to be thanked.

The school is set beside a pleasant green playing field and its large entrance hall was used for book sales, which amounted to £869 (a record) and as a general meeting room, but the ushers managed to keep the ensuing noise down to a minimum and at no time did this intrude upon the proceedings in the assembly hall. Excellent arrangements had been made to teach and entertain the children, although, as always seems to be the case, the majority of this work fell upon the shoulders of a few self-sacrificing parents; this year led by Marion Cleasby and Irene Taafaki, assisted by, among others, Sue Benatar, Martin Cortazzi and Michael Cleasby. Whenever the call came for extra help, it was always forthcoming, but it would help the children's organisers immensely if extra help might be offered at the outset. Perhaps anyone wishing to help might bear this in mind for next year. Conversation rooms for non-delegates, and rooms for junior youth, and mothers with babies, were also provided.

The unexpected presence throughout Convention of Hand of the Cause General Ala'i gave the participants great pleasure, and the many valuable contributions made by Counsellor Louis Henuzet, to whose presence everyone had been looking forward, were greatly appreciated by all attendants.

There had been considerable criticism at previous conventions of the manner in which it had been run and an attempt was made last year to find a way in which everyone could 'have his say' and those seeking to speak too long or too often would be limited. At the beginning of last Bahá'í year, the National Assembly set up two ad hoc committees, one located in the south and the other in the north of the country; these two committees deliberated for several hours and submitted to the National Assembly many ideas for the running of Convention. These ideas and suggestions were sifted through by the National Assembly and many of them were taken up and sent to the delegates some time before Convention.

'Standing Orders' were provided for the Convention chairman by the National Assembly, as follows:

- a) Whenever a new subject is opened the Chairman will call upon the National Secretary to state whether the matter has been already dealt with by the National Assembly.

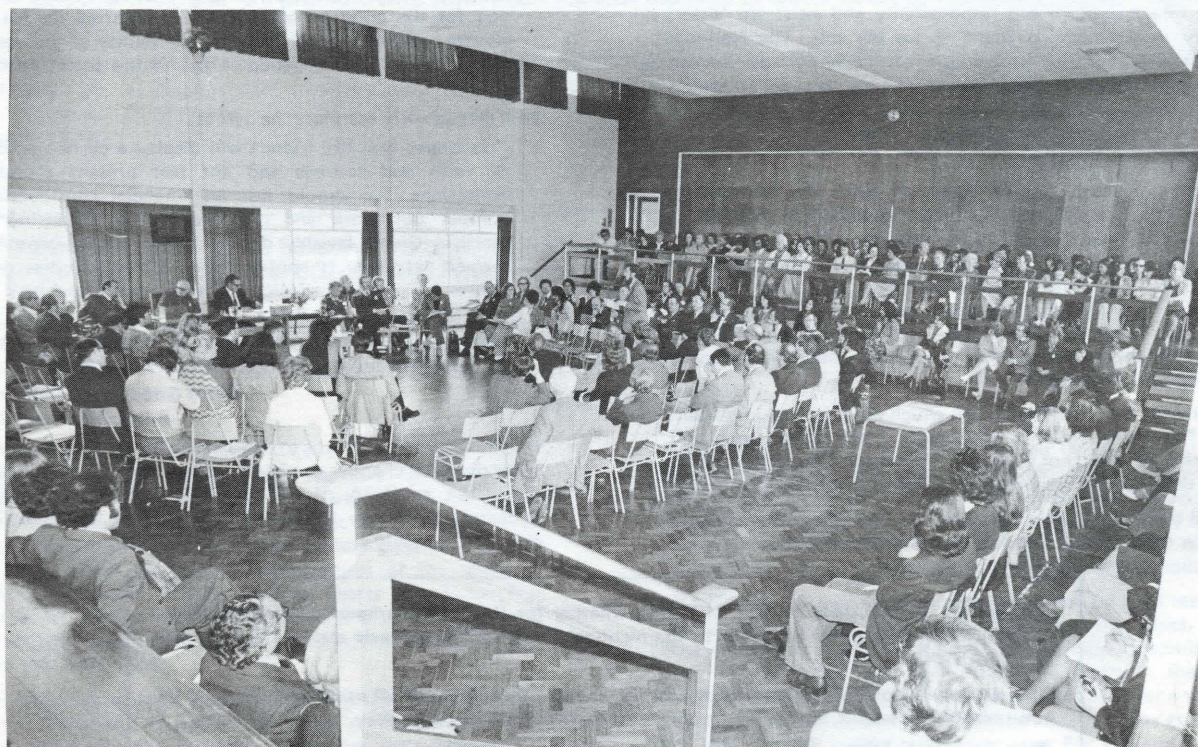
- b) All the resolutions from the Unit Conventions will be available under broad headings and when a subject is raised, Convention will first hear what has already been recorded in these resolutions. The delegates will then not need to spend time on repeating what has already been recorded in the Unit Conventions.
- c) When a delegate proposes a certain resolution, the Chairman will ask for someone to speak in support of it and then seek to find out if there is anyone not supporting it. This will also help to cut down on unnecessary repetition.
- d) Anyone proposing some resolution may speak for four minutes and then he will be advised that there is one more minute left to finalise his presentation. Those supporting or speaking about the subject subsequently will be allowed only a maximum of three minutes with a warning at the second minute. The delegates should support the Chairman in enforcing this ruling but Convention may vote to extend the period if they wish to hear more from a particular speaker.
- e) The Chairman will be asked to draw attention to any repetition.
- f) No delegate may speak a second time on any one subject until all other delegates wishing to speak on that subject have had their opportunity to do so.

The chairs for the delegates were set in a horseshoe arrangement which meant that they could see each other, instead of in the usual rows when almost everyone has to look through the back of someone else's neck!! Another bonus with this particular hall was that the acoustics are so good that it was unnecessary to use microphones — most delegates were clearly audible to all the others, although the onlookers could not always hear everything which was said. The advantages of working without microphones and the delays resulting from the need to use them became more obvious as Convention proceeded. A system of lights to indicate the length of time each delegate spoke was also very helpful.

After the roll call, Convention Officers were elected as follows:

Chairman:	John Long
Vice-Chairman:	Ted Cardell
Secretary:	Philip Hainsworth

A Messages Committee was appointed to formulate replies to letters and telegrams to Convention and its members were Tony Conroy, Habib Hazari, Ed Povey, Marion Weinberg and Ann Vickers.



Delegates and friends assembled at Convention, showing the horseshoe seating plan for delegates, with Convention Officers and National Assembly members across the front of the hall. Most of the onlookers cannot be seen, as they are seated on the stage and balcony to the left and right of the picture.

The Supplementary Annual Report from the National Assembly was presented as follows:—

The Position of the Community at Riqvân

Ninety-nine local assemblies were recognised last year in the United Kingdom with two others in Cyprus and one in Malta. **Shetlands** had to lose their Assembly during the year due to insufficient numbers to maintain it and it could not be re-formed this year. The Assemblies of **Blackpool** and **Llanelli** were also lost. Ten new assemblies were formed in the year or at Riqvân, so the total number of assemblies is now 106. Twenty-eight adult pioneers (and two youth) moved in to save the fifteen assemblies and bring seven groups up to strength during the two weeks preceding Riqvân and only three of these are in their posts temporarily until replaced. **Nicosia** was re-established but **Famagusta** and **Malta** have lost their assemblies and will need much attention during the year ahead. All the newly-appointed committees have met and are getting to grips with the many problems which face them. It is essential that the strengthening of the communities should continue through the year with all the teaching and service committees fully aware of the situation, so that the days of 'last-minute' rescue-operations are gone for ever. The spirit engendered in the few weeks prior to Riqvân augurs well for the future, and tribute should be paid to those who arose so selflessly in response to the National Assembly's call, but the work of expansion and consolidation needs to progress in every community until the danger of lapsing is completely averted. The thirteen responsibilities given to every assembly last year have called for a much greater effort and, on the whole, the assemblies have benefited immensely but at least one quarter of the assemblies are numerically very weak; others are not yet really functioning as assemblies, and few can be said to measure up to the high standards set by the Master and the Guardian, and repeatedly re-stated by the Universal House of Justice.

New Believers

The distressingly low number of new believers enrolled during the year, as mentioned in the Annual Report appeared, during the month between the last two meetings of the National Assembly, to reflect a malaise which was only shaken off in some areas, in the two weeks leading up to Riqvân. The rate of declarations in that month dropped to about fifty per year, or the worst since the late Nineteen-forties when the community was one tenth its present size. Are the people too involved in their materialistic pursuits to listen, or are we not teaching? The adverse reaction to 'mass teaching' attempts has been echoed from Iceland and Germany where many of the new believers have, as in this country, become completely inactive or left the Faith. The time is coming when the people will turn to the Faith 'in troops'; is it not yet the time, or need we modify our approach? Convention must address itself to this vital issue.

Business in Hand

There are other problems yet to be solved.

Due to reasons none could foresee we have not yet been able to put our **Sales Organisation** on to a footing that will satisfy the legal requirements insisted upon by our auditors and we regret that there are no items for sale at this Convention. The plans for a **Newspaper**, recommended at last Convention, are well advanced but not yet ready for release. The selection of the communities where the **local Hazîratu'l-Quds** will be established, has not yet been completed. The allocation of specific goals to some of the **London Boroughs** has not been made. The area of co-operation with the NSA of France in **Guernsey** has not yet been defined, and the land and properties in **Cyprus** and **Malta** have not yet been located.

'Days of World-Encompassing Trials'

In a letter to a believer in 1948 the beloved Guardian wrote through his secretary that, "It is not surprising, in view of the gloom overhanging the entire world, . . . that the British Bahá'ís should sometimes reflect the state of their countrymen. . .". We should not be surprised therefore if the discord and disillusionment with which we are surrounded occasionally invades us at our weak points. As we close our ranks, as we learn to work together with love, as we refuse any suggestion of compromise and as we follow exactly the clear path demarcated in our Writings, we gain that strength to meet the many attacks which come from 'within' as well as those more obvious ones which come from 'without'. The rising number of personal problems, the withdrawals, the resignations from committee appointments, the excuses made for not attending assembly or committee meetings and even the lack of progress made in these meetings combine to indicate that our weak points are many. The friends need reminding that 'growing points' always have the hardest task.



Children being entertained by Martin Cortazzi and his guitar.

As we emerge from obscurity we are seen as individuals, as well as groups, and our personal and collective activities are equally important. We give our thanks to Bahá'u'lláh that during our Three Month Campaign a definite change has been seen. The new committee structure has been widely welcomed; committees are beginning once again to report that almost mystic experience enjoyed when new and exciting plans are made; many assemblies telephoned about their most joyous Riqvân meetings and there has been almost universal appreciation of the preparatory material issued for this Convention.

Bahá'í Publishing Trust

John and Lou Turner are moving back from Ireland to Oakham so that John may give much needed assistance to our Manager, John Long. The Rutland Authority has given planning and building consents to the extension to our Mount Pleasant property, building has commenced and this will enable us to provide office space in which John Turner can work. The first supplies of a new edition of 'Hidden Words' will be brought to Convention and shortly afterwards bulk supplies of both cloth and paperback editions will be available. An initial delivery of Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum's new book 'A Manual for Pioneers' has been flown in by air from India to enable it to be on sale at Convention. A revised edition of the pamphlet 'Progressive Revelation' by Hand of the Cause John Ferraby will also be available at Convention and we are happy to announce that his famous book 'All Things Made New' has been revised to incorporate many changes made by the Universal House of Justice to bring it up-to-date, is now being printed, and delivery is expected by late August.

Yet another important book now in production is a new edition of 'The Dawnbreakers', delivery of this should be later in the autumn.

Looking Forward

Due to the reorganisation of most of the National Committees which took place in March and April, and the formation of a new International Travel Teaching Committee which will stimulate and direct a 'mighty river' of travel teachers to other lands and receive all those visitors from overseas, we do not expect any major changes in the committee structure, so there should be no lull after Convention. On the contrary, the picture is clear, the facts have been placed before the delegates in this Supplementary and in the Annual Reports, every resolution from the Unit Conventions (with the exception of one which did not send one) has been tabulated and is available for reference, and there is every reason to believe that from this Convention will surge out a wave of determination to meet every challenge and surmount every obstacle now facing the community.

Honoured with the participation in this Convention of Counsellor Louis Henuzet and infinitely blessed by the presence of Hand of the Cause, General Ala'í, the delegates of the Bahá'í community of the United Kingdom have a unique opportunity to galvanise the community which is now called upon to rise to new heights of dedication and service by the Universal House of Justice, and make this Convention one which will, in the words of the beloved Guardian, "inaugurate a new cycle of unprecedented achievement".

Betty Goode, the National Treasurer, then presented her report and said that she did not propose to take the friends through the Balance Sheet, but that anyone who wished to ask questions was free to do so. However, she drew the attention of the delegates to the fact that although our target of £48,600 from donations had not in fact been reached, the response of nearly £43,000, nearly £11,000 more than was donated last year was wonderful, and she said that in her estimate this deserved "a clap". She also drew everyone's attention to the donation of nearly £5,000 to the Capital Projects Fund, making total donations £48,000. She told of the youth, and how they had reached their own special target of £1,000. She paid tributes to the spiritual assemblies, to the youth, to the individual believers, and especially to the children all of whom had kept the 'lifeblood' flowing.

Among the economies being made, receipts will only be sent if a stamped addressed envelope is included. Second class postage MUST be used except in great emergencies and telephone calls are only made from the National Office during the cheap rate time.

She sounded her usual warning that the phenomena which yearly took place was starting again, which was that as soon as Naw-Rúz had been celebrated, the donations slowed down, and again she urged everyone not to let this happen, because the work of the Cause always became hampered through lack of Funds just when they were needed most. She formally thanked Kenneth Smith, our non-Bahá'í auditor and John Morphew, a Bahá'í who does all the tax covenant work for their most valuable assistance throughout the year.

There was consultation upon these annual reports to which General Ala'í contributed and then the Message from the Universal House of Justice was read. Following this, Counsellor Louis Henuzet was called upon to enlarge on some aspects of the Message and he spoke of the need for the United Kingdom National Assembly to consult with the National Assemblies of Canada, Persia and the United States of America in order to organise the travel arrangements for teachers who would be coming to the United Kingdom from those countries. Counsellor Henuzet felt that more important than this were the names of the countries to which the United Kingdom is to send teachers, because it was from the reservoir of believers here that the National Assembly must find volunteers to achieve these objectives. He said that it was the hope of the International Teaching Centre that a large proportion of travel teachers from this country would be able to move without financial assistance; but this must be provided where necessary, either by the National Assemblies concerned or through the International Deputisation Fund, controlled on its first level by the European Pioneering Committee and then, if this is not sufficient, the Continental Pioneering Committee will pass on requests to the Universal House of Justice for further help. He said that the United Kingdom had been asked by the Universal House of Justice and the International Teaching Centre to send believers to the following countries in the three continents of Africa, America and Europe: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Rhodesia, South West Africa, Upper West Africa, Canada, Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana, Trinidad and Tobago, Finland, France, Faroe Islands, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal and Sweden.

The Saturday afternoon session was opened with a message from the British Bahá'ís working in Haifa, of whom there is now a contingent numbering sixteen, who had wished to send their love and best wishes to Convention and to the friends in this country, which was presented by Barbara Lewis who had herself just returned to this country with her husband David from pilgrimage. The first part of this session was taken up by consultation with the outgoing National Assembly and great emphasis was laid at this time, and during the whole of Convention, upon the importance of properly functioning, healthy assemblies, and that teaching must go hand in hand with deepening within the assemblies.

After the tea break began the most important work of Convention — Tellers for the election were appointed as follows: Paul Jenkinson, Graham Jenkins, Rocky Groves, Quentin Lewis, Beatrice Smith, Tom Eyton, Ronald Taherzadeh and Ann Vickers.

The result of the election became known during the Saturday evening session and it was found that the members remained the same except for George Bowers, who had been called to Haifa, and Abbas Afnan, who would shortly be pioneering, being replaced by friends from Northern Ireland and Scotland. During a working lunch on Sunday officers were elected and so our National

Assembly for the coming year is:

John Long:	Chairman
Barbara Lewis:	Vice-Chairman
Philip Hainsworth:	Secretary
Betty Goode:	Treasurer
Ted Cardell	
Joe Foster	
Mary Hardy	
Keith Munro	
Enayat Rawhani	

After the dinner break on Saturday a session had been planned for the Counsellor and Board members and delegates and friends alike were happy that General Ala'í was also there to contribute.

Consultations on Sunday were held with the incoming National Assembly and the new system of consultation was seen to be working efficiently. During the afternoon one of the delegates asked if Marion Hofman, who had been present throughout Convention and who was felt to be one of the 'mothers' of the British Community, might speak on pioneering. Although Mrs Hofman had not been previously advised she rose to the occasion with the sincerity and spirit for which she is so well known and so very much loved by all those who are acquainted with her, and her soul-stirring words on the subject of pioneering will long be remembered by those present. She drew particular attention to the immeasurable debt of gratitude which is owed by the community to a Bahá'í who is not British, Eskil Ljungberg, who in August 1953 arose to answer a call for a pioneer in the Faroe Islands made by the beloved Guardian and who is STILL THERE. He is the longest serving Knight of Bahá'u'lláh in Europe and was 90 years old on 20 May this year — Eskil, in far away Faroes, must surely have felt the love which surged out to him from the hall in Ealing and it was immediately decided to send a special greeting to him from Convention.

It should be stated here that the National Assembly had ruled that this Convention should be one of consultation and not of historic talks nor pioneering calls and for this reason a desk had been set up in the entrance hall to which those who felt the urge to pioneer during the course of Convention were directed.

A request was then made for a ten-minute spontaneous devotional which took place immediately.

Not a few people were seen to leave their places after this and Marion's call for pioneers and several offers were made.

During the course of Convention messages were sent and received as follows:

To the Universal House of Justice:

JOYFUL RIDVÁN GREETINGS FROM CONVENTION
BLESSED PRESENCE HAND CAUSE ALA'I COUNSELLOR
HENUZET BOARD MEMBERS LEWIS KOUCHEKZADEH
KHOSRAVI STOP DELEGATES FRIENDS DEEPLY MOVED
CONVENTION MESSAGE STOP STRONG FEELINGS UNITY
DETERMINATION EMPHASIS DEEPENING INDIVIDUALS
NURTURING ASSEMBLIES PAVING WAY SUCCESSFUL
PROSECUTION REMAINING GOALS PLAN STOP
ASSURING CONTINUED LOVING OBEDIENCE BESEECH
PRAYERS HOLY THRESHOLD INCREASED DEDICATION
SACRIFICE LIVING BAHÁ'Í LIFE.

BAHÁ'Í LONDON

WARMLY RECIPROCATATE CONVENTION RIDVÁN
GREETINGS ASSURE ARDENT PRAYERS SACRED
THRESHOLD UPSURGE SPIRIT DEDICATION BRITISH
COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT ALL GOALS PLAN
UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

To the International Teaching Centre:

LOVING RIDVÁN GREETINGS BELIEVERS UK
CONVENTION REALIZING EMPHASIS IMPORTANCE
TEACHING 'ABDU'L-BAHA'S WILL TESTAMENT UNDER-
TAKE GREATER INDIVIDUAL GROUP EFFORTS
TRAVELLING LIVING BAHÁ'Í LIFE SPREADING
MESSAGE BAHÁ'U'LLÁH REMEDY DISEASE AFFLICTING
MANKIND STOP BESEECH PRAYERS HOLY SHRINES
BAHÁ'Í LONDON

DEEPLY GRATEFUL HEARTWARMING MESSAGE
REFLECTING FIRM RESOLVE FULFIL HIGH DESTINY
TEACHING FIELD ASSURE FERVENT PRAYERS DIVINE
ASSISTANCE MUCH LOVED BRITISH COMMUNITY
INTERNATIONAL TEACHING CENTRE

CONGRATULATIONS ADMIRATION MAINTENANCE
ASSEMBLY NICOSIA LOVING BAHÁ'Í GREETINGS TO
ALL FRIENDS ALSO CONVEY SAME FRIENDS
FAMAGUSTA LIMASSOL

CONVENTION

DEAR KNIGHT BAHÁ'U'LLÁH YOUR EXEMPLARY
DEVOTION SACRIFICE STEADFASTNESS BELOVED
FAITH GREATLY INSPIRED CONVENTION DURING
PIONEERING APPEAL STOP ASSURING PRAYERS
MAY BAHÁ'U'LLÁH BLESS SUSTAIN ASSIST YOU
DEEPEST BAHÁ'Í LOVE

CONVENTION

THANKS THANKS MAY GOD BLESS THE CONVENTION
AND YOU ALL, DEEPEST BAHÁ'Í LOVE

ESKIL

Devotionals for Conventions were arranged in advance by the
communities of the Isle of Mull, Orkney and the Western Isles.

Convention was closed by Counsellor Louis Henuzet who spoke
of the spirit of dedication needed to meet the appeal to us for
overseas pioneering goals to be met within the next few months
and for the pioneers needed for the home front.

Report by Lois Hainsworth

Please note that copies of the official photograph may be
obtained from 'Sue' Benatar, 65 Avon Drive, Bedford, at a
cost of 50p, which must accompany the order together with a
stamped addressed envelope. Proceeds will go to the National
Fund.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS OF THE
HANDS OF THE CAUSE OF GOD

Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum

"WHERE ARE GOD'S HEROES...?"

For many years Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum has longed to
sail down the Amazon to teach the people in that area, and after
many months of careful preparation she set off with her team
early this year. The following telegrams sent to the World Centre
give an indication of her progress:

"Following cordial visit with Governor Amazonas left Puerto
Ayacucho embarked Venado our private boat February ninth
travelled thirty-two days over 1,700 kilometers vast Venezuelan
Territorio Amazonas river system up Orinoco and Ventuari to
beautiful Tencua waterfall up Manapiari to San Juan de Manapiari
town up Marieta to Travesia Marieta village also many smaller
streams visiting sometimes twice thirty-eight villages and home-
steads contacting Guajibó, Piara, Maco, Makipitare, Puinave,
Yarabana, Curipaco and Yanomamo tribes holding many meetings
with Bahá'í villagers and new places stop Humble gifted friendly
intelligent people entire region inhabiting unbelievably beautiful
wilderness waiting receive lifegiving Message Bahá'u'lláh stop
Where are God's heroes dedicated self-sacrificing souls willing
respond fifty year long repeated call 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Shoghi
Effendi, House Justice, diffuse divine fragrances while yet time
one world's last untouched natural strongholds now threatened
withering breath steadily advancing materialistic civilization stop
Film progressing well; all eagerly anticipating forthcoming
similar trip Surinam; deepest love..."

19 March 1975

". . . Visit Bushnegroes great success spent four days Redidoti
on Sarakreek, first contact Aukaner Tribe paving way future
teaching efforts, and one week villages Surinam River, Saramaccan
Tribe, comprising main body believers Surinam stop opened two
new villages, elected first Local Assembly Kamaloos Village,
enrolled its Captain stop. . . New spirit enthusiasm devotion
animating Paramaribo Bahá'ís who with help travelling teachers,
newly arrived pioneer couple, will now forge ahead conquests
area soon electing independent National Assembly..."

13 April 1975

Dr Rahmatu'lláh Muhájir

The itinerant Hand of the Cause, the well-loved Dr Muhájir, is
presently making an extended visit to a number of countries in
Central and South America.

"Everywhere, it is truly a miracle to watch the dynamic and
broadening effect Dr Muhájir has on the Bahá'ís," the Continental
Board of Counsellors in Central America reported, "and the effect
on the public has also been stupendous. Here in El Salvador,
minor miracles occurred. The Ministry of Education opened its
doors and made possible talks to three different schools, two
groups of night students, and a television interview on education.
All this, plus a highly successful public meeting, newspaper
publicity, and two radio interviews in only three days!

"It is a newly-charged community that witnessed Dr Muhájir's
participation in no less than twelve distinct activities during his
68-hour visit," the National Spiritual Assembly of El Salvador
reported. "An estimated 1,600 people attended his five talks and
a far greater number were aware of the visit of the Hand of the
Cause and learned something of his message as a result of his
appearance on radio and television. All his talks were directed
fundamentally to youth and four of his addresses were co-
sponsored by the school system itself which seemed eager to give
moral and spiritual orientation from a Bahá'í and universal point
of view. The interest of the audience was intense and was reflected
in the many searching questions which arose following the talks.
Over 1,500 pamphlets were eagerly accepted.

Before proceeding to El Salvador, Dr Muhájir visited the believers
in Bolivia who reported: "For the Bolivian Bahá'ís, the visit of
the Hand of the Cause Dr Rahmatu'lláh Muhájir is always an un-
forgettable experience, and his fifth journey to this Andean
Republic was no exception. Amidst a busy schedule of interviews
on radio and television, public talks and travelling to a number of
Bahá'í communities in both rural areas and cities, Dr Muhájir also
helped launch a one-year international teaching project,
inaugurated a local Ḥaḡíratu'l-Quds, met with the National
Spiritual Assembly and brought inspiring words of encouragement
to pioneers, travelling teachers and hundreds of other believers.
As a result of his twelve-day visit to Bolivia, the Faith gained
much publicity and several articles were printed in local news-
papers."

Dr Muhájir also visited Nicaragua and Chile.

AUSTRALIA: An Australian district Scout Master recently
approached the National Spiritual Assembly requesting
permission to have the Boy Scouts and their parents attend a
service at the Bahá'í Temple on 23 February, 1975, to
commemorate the birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, the founder
of the world-wide Scout movement. The Scout Master felt that
the Temple was a neutral place where Scouts of all religious
backgrounds would feel free to attend.

Approximately fifty Scouts and their parents gathered in the
Assembly Hall of the House of Worship on 23 February and
heard a brief introductory address of welcome and an outline
of the Faith by Dr Peter Khan, a visiting member of the North
American Auxiliary Board, and then attended the Temple service
which consisted of readings from the Writings of the Jewish,
Christian, Moslem and Bahá'í Faiths. The Boy Scout District
Commissioner expressed himself as being deeply impressed with
the service in which two Scouts participated as readers. A
distinctive printed programme was designed and distributed by
the National Spiritual Assembly containing a reproduction of
the Temple, an outline of the devotions and the legend: "This
service is to honour Lord Baden-Powell and his contribution to
humanity."



Bahá'ís taking part in the Central African Republic parade

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: A few weeks before the national parade held to mark the anniversary of the establishment of the Central African Republic, the Bahá'ís were astonished to hear announced on the government radio station that the Bahá'í Faith and other major religious groups would be represented in this important annual event, the National Assembly reported. "As no preparations had been made and as we had never before participated, we considered asking to be excused, but after consultation and encouragement from the visiting Hand of the Cause Enoch Olinga it was decided that we should do our best to respond positively to this expectation of the government even if our participation would perforce be rather modest."

An ingenious and inexpensive solution was adopted. The Bahá'í delegation was led by two men who carried a large placard reading "La Foi Bahá'íe". Following were nine ladies marching three by three and nine men marching in a similar formation. The women wore traditional African dresses made from the same material which all had contributed to buy. The men wore dark trousers and light coloured shirts. Each wore a diagonal red band across the chest as a unifying element of design.

As the Bahá'í delegation progressed through the streets it attracted a good deal of attention. Many spectators called out "La Foi Bahá'íe" or "Bahá'u'lláh" or sang snatches of the theme song from the Bahá'í radio programme.

Observers noted that the black and white believers marching together caused the greatest comment among the spectators; some cheered seeing three white pioneer women dressed in traditional costume marching with their African sisters. A white male pioneer marched among the men. This demonstration of the unity of mankind was commented upon by the radio announcer who gave a live broadcast. As the delegation passed before the dais on which the President was seated he rose, accompanied by all his ministers and distinguished guests, and applauded.

Two days later the pioneers who had participated in the parade were summoned to the Presidential palace where they were received by the Director-General of the Presidential Security Forces who said that the Head of State had asked him to convey to the Bahá'ís his personal appreciation for their participation in the parade. He stated that the President had been deeply moved to see such a tangible expression of solidarity. The friends explained that there had been no design to attract attention, and that their participation was a natural expression of the Bahá'í belief in the oneness of humanity. It was explained that Bahá'í pioneers live in unity with their fellow believers because they are not paid missionaries but must work in their adopted society and earn a living and participate in the work of the Faith on a voluntary basis like everyone else. The Director seemed most interested, and assured the Bahá'ís that he would include these facts in his report to the President. In closing the interview he again thanked and congratulated the Bahá'ís most warmly.

ETHIOPIA: An unprecedented degree of receptivity to the Faith is now apparent in Arussi province and particularly in the community of Assela where students are reported to be enrolling in the Faith in considerable numbers. "All we do is relay the Message and the students, beaming with exceeding joy and happiness, express their allegiance," one observer commented. "No longer does it appear necessary to present lengthy proofs from the Bible and the Qur'án because the students go directly to the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh by which they are strongly affected and enchanted. This is also true of Nazareth where, as of now, there are forty-two Bahá'ís. The believers of these two communities are in process of opening approximately forty new centres. . . we feel that there are hundreds of souls ready to embrace the Cause."

HAWAII: In May 1974, *Bahá'í International News Service* reported that the Legislature had approved a bill recognizing Spiritual Assemblies as marriage officiants. Heretofore licenses to perform marriage were granted to individuals on the same basis as to clergymen.

The bill has now passed into law and all twenty Spiritual Assemblies in the Hawaiian Islands have been issued attractive printed licenses, copies of which have been filed at the World Centre.

KHMER REPUBLIC (formerly CAMBODIA): Thirty new believers were recently welcomed into the Bahá'í community of the Khmer Republic. Daily study classes held at the Bahá'í Centre attract an attendance ranging between five and fifteen students.

ZAIRE: Auxiliary Board member Mr Peter Mutabazi of Uganda and three believers from Kenya recently visited the Banalia area of Zaire accompanied by two local friends. On several occasions the condition of the road was so bad that the team of travelling teachers had to abandon their vehicle and proceed to the villages on foot.

The friends met a great number of Bahá'ís in most of the villages they visited and, to their delight, were often greeted with "Alláh-u-Abhá" even before having uttered a word or identified themselves in any way. As the villagers do not often see travellers, the Bahá'í teachers were received with great joy.

The believers in several localities have built their own Bahá'í Centres, round-shaped structures with doors and windows and a conical roof. One such structure had nine doors.

The main subjects discussed were the goals of the Five Year Plan, the importance of community dawn prayers and the encouragement of women fully to participate in the work of the Cause.

MAKING LOANS TO OTHER BAHÁ'ÍS

Some years ago the National Assembly felt obliged to advise the friends that if any believer is approached to make a personal loan to another Bahá'í, he or she should seek the advice of the local assembly. This is for the protection of both parties as it is contrary to the Teachings for one Bahá'í to take legal action against another if, for example, anything should go wrong with the loan. If the proposed loan is, however, a substantial one for business purposes, as has been the case on a number of occasions recently, the Bahá'ís should take competent professional legal and financial advice, and follow it, before making such a loan.

National Spiritual Assembly

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

The Importance of Individual Teaching

"God hath prescribed unto every one the duty of teaching His Cause." (Bahá'u'lláh)

The last few years have seen an expansion of the Bahá'í Faith on a scale far greater than at any time since the original teachings of the Báb spread through his native Persia like a mighty rushing wind. At that time it was the fervour and devotion of the individual followers of the new Revelation that led them to teach their Cause on such a scale and with such enthusiasm as to make it possible; in the Nine Year Plan that same enthusiasm sprang forth and was harnessed to its most effective use in reaching the goals set by the Universal House of Justice. The attainment of these goals demanded from the Bahá'ís the work of each individual who had taken upon himself or herself the title of 'follower of Bahá'u'lláh'. So it is with the Five Year Plan: to the extent that each and every one of us performs his individual duties — and paramount here is the duty of teaching — will the Plan be triumphant. Of course plans on a local and national basis, teaching teams, projects, happenings, Bahá'í weeks, and so on, are important, but they are subsidiary to the genuine and sustained teaching of the individual Bahá'ís — these projects can only build on and complement that teaching; they can never replace it.

"Whereas plans must be carefully made, and every useful means adopted in the furtherance of this work, your assemblies must never let such plans eclipse the shining truth . . . that it is the purity of heart, detachment, uprightness, devotion, and love of the teacher that attracts the Divine confirmations and enables him, however ignorant he be in this world's learning, to win the hearts of his fellowmen to the Cause of God."¹

The teaching work of the individual is our basic means of spreading the glorious news of the coming of Bahá'u'lláh. Without it the Faith does not progress. Without it all the projects and plans come to naught, for they are nothing more than the means used to harness teaching enthusiasm. It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that when a plan has been made or a project arranged then the mere act of having done so has materially advanced the Cause. It is even easier to make the dangerous assumption that those who are participating will somehow "do our teaching" for those who are staying at home. This is folly comparable to the myth that has grown up in some quarters that all teaching is the responsibility of the National Teaching Committee and its unit teaching committees, freeing everyone else to take things easy. These committees in no way affect the duty to teach the Faith that Bahá'u'lláh has laid upon everyone. The Guardian warned clearly of the harm that would ensue if the individual believers were to neglect their responsibility.

"The Guardian is fully conscious of the difficulties that impede the progress of the Faith. Chief among these is the lack of courage and initiative on the part of the believers, and a feeling of inferiority which prevents them from addressing the public. It is precisely these weaknesses he wishes the friends to overcome, for these do not only paralyse their efforts but actually serve to quench the flame of faith in their hearts."²

Some years ago Rúhíyyih Khánum wrote a small booklet³ in which she advised Bahá'ís in practical terms how they could go about spreading the message. This down to earth advice, built on an understanding of what the Faith is all about, should overcome the difficulties many Bahá'ís have in deciding how to get down to the teaching work in detail. She so truly points out

that "To teach is, to a great extent, the art of listening. If you will listen to the one you want to teach and find out what he wants and needs to hear, then you can start . . . by giving him, from our teachings, the right answer, the right remedy. But, unfortunately, all of us have hobbies, pet subjects, pet angles, even in the Cause. And so not infrequently you find that a person who is passionately interested in economics is being vigorously attacked by an enthusiastic Bahá'í — whose keenest interest is in the life after death . . . Or someone who hears voices, sees visions and senses auras comes up against the stone wall of a Bahá'í who tries to pooh-pooh her out of it as he expatiates on the practical perfections of the World Order."²

Added to this appreciation of what the seeker actually wants to know — and we must attune our discussions to that rather than forcing him into our own personal mould — goes a sincere concern for others as opposed to a fervent desire to "give the message" at all costs, even if our contact — nay, our victim! — is far from being in the right frame of mind to receive it.

Co-operative effort is something that can be shown even if there are only two Bahá'ís teaching together, or at a fireside. The ability of each to give his own understanding of the Faith and to blend it in with the subtly different appreciation of his fellow Bahá'í brings the diversity of the Faith to the seeker, and makes it more of a solid thing, more three-dimensional, to one who perhaps has never heard of it before. Assuming, of course, that the Bahá'ís really do co-operate in a loving manner, rather than spending their time contradicting one another in a petty and pedantic manner, as — alas! — sometimes happens.

Let us be sensible in our approach to the matter. Our task is to bring people to recognise the truth of Bahá'u'lláh's message, not to place rocks in their path to Him. To announce to the 'drop-out' the Guardian's views on drugs and immorality (complete with page references from 'The Advent of Divine Justice'), to face the Theosophist with the non-existence of reincarnation, to announce to the follower of the latest 'Messenger of God' out of India that his 'prophet' is, in the words of Bahá'u'lláh, a 'lying impostor', to attack the fundamentalist and evangelical Christian with the purely spiritual resurrection of Christ (and remember, he believes *literally* that "If Christ be not risen, our Faith is in vain"), even to castigate the ordinary social drinker with the reasons why he should abstain from alcohol, all these things have their place but they are not the *first* thing we tell our seeker when he asks about the Bahá'í Faith!

We must introduce someone to the Faith gradually, gaining his agreement where he is in sympathy with the teachings, then as his understanding of the Faith increases leading him onto the rougher ground where he is liable to stumble on an unexpected — and perhaps unwelcome — truth, when he has gained enough of the spirit not to be put off but to understand his own limitations compared with the message of God.

The Guardian says of our teachers that "They must be neither provocative nor supine, neither fanatical nor excessively liberal, in their exposition of the fundamental and distinguishing features of their Faith. They must be either wary or bold, they must act swiftly or mark time, they must use the direct or indirect method, they must be challenging or conciliatory, in strict accordance with the spiritual receptivity of the soul with whom they come in contact. . .⁵ Each Bahá'í can do this. Bahá'u'lláh promises us as much.

"Whoso ariseth, in this Day, to aid Our Cause, and summoneth to his assistance the hosts of a praiseworthy character and upright conduct, the influence flowing from such an action will, most certainly, be diffused throughout the whole world."⁶

Iain S. Palin

References

- ¹ UHJ Message, October 31, 1967, *Wellspring of Guidance* p.124
- ² Shoghi Effendi to New Zealand Bahá'ís, quoted in *Bahá'í Newsletter* August 1969, Vol. VIII, No. 4.

- ³ Rúhíyyih Khánum, *Success in Teaching*, US Publishing Trust, 1965.
- ⁴ Rúhíyyih Khánum, op. cit. pp. 8–9.
- ⁵ Shoghi Effendi, *Challenging Requirements of the Present Hour*, p. 23.
- ⁶ Bahá'u'lláh, *Gleanings*, p. 286 BPT 1949 ed.

TEACHING THE BLIND DEPARTMENT

Tape Library. If you would like to help us with this work by becoming a volunteer reader, please send us a sample of your voice on tape or cassette (which we will return). This should be quite short, two or three minutes is enough, and should be an extract from a book with which you are familiar. We have to ask for this as relatively few people, apart from professional actors and broadcasters, have the right kind of voice for the job. We are not necessarily looking for a 'BBC accent' but for voices people can listen to for a long time and which can make understood the meaning of the passages being read.

We now think that elaborate recording equipment is not necessary providing a few elementary precautions are observed. So don't let that aspect worry you.

Braille books. We are also looking for expert Braillists who may be able to help us get more Bahá'í books into the National Library for the Blind. This library sends Braille books on request, free of charge, to any Braille reader in this country or abroad. At present there are only four Bahá'í books in the library.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Important Notice:

- 1. Letterheads for local assemblies are no longer available from Knight Lloyd Burnham in London. However, they can have them printed at any local printing firm as long as they have typesetting facilities. Usually, Instant Printers do not have these facilities. Full details and art work, which you will need to give to the printers, can be obtained from the Secretary, Miss Jean Harper, 36 Coombe Gardens, Bournemouth. Committees and groups will continue to get their letterheads from the National Office.
 - 2. PIC folders are no longer to be ordered from Miss Mahnaz Alai, c/o Knight Lloyd Burnham. Enquiries should be made to the National Office.
- These changes are due to pioneer moves.

The first Press Luncheon was held on Wednesday 14 May. Representatives of leading national newspapers, magazines and television stations were present. It was our first venture of this kind and we hope it will result in increased opportunities for national publicity. Follow up plans are being discussed.

A summary of local publicity gained last year is printed below. Please continue to send your press cuttings with the necessary details such as name of community, name of newspaper, event covered, date of insertion. Your persistent and untiring efforts to gain local publicity are invaluable. The National Press is influenced by the amount of local publicity given to any subject. Our grateful thanks go to those communities who have given so much of their time to this aspect.

LOCAL PUBLICITY REPORTS

Summary for Year BE 131

	Number of Communities	Editorial Column Inches	Advertising Column Inches	Radio & TV
Naw-Rúz 1974	17	57½	12	2 mins.
Ridván 1974	16	57½		
Convention 1974	12	39		
Declaration of Báb and Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh 1974	15	43		
Birmingham Youth Conference 1974	2	10½		
Regional Conferences – 5 Year Plan	3	21		
Martyrdom of the Báb	14	83½		
Birth of the Báb	4	16		
Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	2	10		
Day of Covenant and Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá 1974	2	9½		
Human Rights Day 1974	1	5		
World Religion Day 1975	5	20½	32½	6 announce- ments
Unit Conventions 1975	2	5		
Meeting with Counsellors in Manchester	1	3½		
Public Meetings and Firesides	12	87½	10½	
Proclamation Events	8	85½		
Weekend Schools	3	34½		
Exhibitions	4	18½	7½	
Non-Bahá'í Events	6	20½		
Pilgrimages	4	55		
Personalities	11	492		
Weddings	5	87½		
General News	5	18½	5	
Articles	6	155		
Letters	6	108½		
Interview				6 mins.
Advertising	4		34	
		1,543½	101½	6 announce- ments + 8 minutes

OBITUARY

Mrs Prudence George — 1896–1974

Prudence George became a Bahá'í in St Lambert, Montreal, Canada, in 1941. Her first pioneer move was from St Lambert to Moncton, New Brunswick, in answer to a call for pioneers during the American Seven Year Plan which ended in 1944. In response to the Guardian's call for pioneers to Europe, in 1946 Prudence moved, with her daughter, to Blackburn, England, thus returning to the country she had left in 1928 to live in Canada. She pioneered to many places during the Six Year Plan in response to requests from the British National Spiritual Assembly, including Norwich and Bournemouth and, in the years that followed 1950, Edinburgh and Portsmouth. In 1959 she pioneered to Luxembourg, filling a number of pioneer posts during her four year stay. At the beginning of the Nine Year Plan she re-opened Guernsey in the Channel Islands to the Faith. During her stay here her health began to deteriorate and she moved to once more fill a pioneer post in opening Chelmsford in Essex. Pioneers were needed to help open virgin territory in the Canary Islands and, once more, Prudence responded and moved to fill a pioneer goal in one of the Islands.

In 1969 she returned to the United Kingdom to pioneer in Hereford and then St. Austell in Cornwall. Due to health problems it was necessary for her to move into the Birmingham community to be with her family, which she did in early 1971. Her health improved and as soon as she began to feel something of her old self, she insisted on responding to the call from the Universal House of Justice for pioneers in the Canary Islands and returned there in late 1972. At Ridván 1974, she helped to form the first Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Arucas, Canary Islands.

However, her health had, once again, deteriorated badly and in May 1974, she was forced to return to the United Kingdom. Although mentally and spiritually still active, her physical condition continued to deteriorate and she passed peacefully to the Abhá Kingdom on the 12 July, 1974, aged 78 years. Her resting place is at the Brandwood End Cemetery, Birmingham.

Thus ended a pioneer service that spanned thirty years and covered three continents. At all times she was truly dedicated to the teaching of the Cause and would seldom let a day pass when she did not find an opportunity to mention the Faith to someone — from Music Appreciation Groups to bus queues!

In order to support herself during these many pioneer moves she had a wide variety of employment, from selling cosmetics to canvassing for a Temperance Society in Scotland. She particularly enjoyed one job she had during her stay in Scotland which involved selling pressure cookers from door to door. It was later discovered that she had spent more time teaching the Faith to 'potential' customers than selling her wares — 'the soul is more important than the body' she said.

Her utter faith in the power of the Greatest Name was illustrated during her stay in the Canary Islands. On this particular occasion a youth tried to snatch her handbag and her immediate reaction was to call out in a loud voice 'Yá Bahá-ul-Abhá', whereupon the youth stopped in his tracks, dropped the bag and ran. Prudence was left calling him back with open arms in order to give him the benefits of the Message of Bahá'u'lláh. No one was too high or too low to receive this mighty Message. On becoming a Bahá'í in Canada, having been a very strong practising Christian, her first desire was to pass on this precious gift to the Anglican Bishop of Montreal and she was utterly amazed when he rejected it.

There must be many Bahá'ís in all parts of the world who have their own particular memories of Prudence George, but uppermost must be her true dedication to the service of the Cause and her deep love of Bahá'u'lláh. One can only rejoice that she has now joined that happy band of pioneers whose lives were dedicated to the spread of the Word of Bahá'u'lláh throughout the world.

On Saturday, 12 July 1975, it is proposed to hold a short Memorial Service for Prudence George at the Brandwood End Cemetery, Kings Heath, Birmingham, 14, at 3.00 p.m.

It is appreciated that many of her friends were unable to attend her funeral last year and it is hoped that as many as possible will be able to gather together on this occasion.

Further details can be obtained from Mrs Patricia Green, 1534 Stratford Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, telephone 021-744 3715.



Mrs Prudence George

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

Huqúqu'lláh payments are handled by:

Mr John Long
2 South Street,
Oakham,
Rutland.

NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE

SERENDIPITY CAMP

County Youth Camp, East Mercia, Colchester, Essex.

1 - 7 September, 1975

This is an opportunity for the European youth to come together in a relaxed and happy atmosphere. There will be a Unity Feast, evening folk concerts, film and slide shows, a barn dance, swimming and other sporting events, an international fancy dress party and a children's painting competition.

When booking please state your name, age, sex, times of arrival and departure, and whether self-catering or full board is required.

Registrar: Hossain Anvar, 11 Bainton Road, Oxford.

Prices for the camp are very reasonable and can be obtained from the Registrar, Hossain Anvar.

MANCHESTER CREATIVE WEEKEND:

October 4/5, 1975

PLEASE NOTE!

NOTICES

The deadline date for material for the next Journal is:

10 JULY 1975

TYPED copy and photographs should be sent to the Editor:

Lois Hainsworth (Mrs)

27 Rutland Gate

London SW7

BIRTHS



MARRIAGE

19 April 1975:

Joanna Beck to Orjan Widegren (of Sweden)
in Aberystwyth (Ceredigion).

SUMMER SCHOOLS — ENGLAND

Three Hands of the Cause to attend English Summer Schools.
Please book now!

LEICESTER COLLEGE of EDUCATION, SCRAPTOFT

Saturday 26 July to Saturday 9 August 1975

No children can be accommodated at the school. It is recommended that families with children book with the Summer School at Tiverton, Devon, which immediately follows and will have the same programme as this School at Leicester.

Charges for Residents: £68.00 — 2 weeks; £35.00 — 1 week.
(These charges are inclusive of all meals, refreshments, service charges, VAT and any other extra.)

Charges for Non-Residents: Conference fee — £2.50 per week.
Meals and refreshments may be obtained within the College at the following charges:

Lunch	70p	Coffee and biscuits	8p
Dinner	80p	Tea and biscuits	6p

Registrar: Miss Mary Prince, 248A London Road, Leicester LE2 1RJ.

BLUNDELL'S SCHOOL, TIVERTON, DEVON

9 - 23 August 1975

Residents:	Adults	Children (2 - 12)
Full period	£47.00	£23.50
One week	£23.50	£11.75
Daily rate	£ 4.50	£ 2.25

(The charge for each additional day over one week will be £3.36 adults and £1.68 children.)

Non-Residents:	Adults	Children
Full period	£ 7.00	£ 3.50
One week	£ 3.50	£ 1.75
Daily	50p	25p

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IRISH SUMMER SCHOOL

NEWTOWN SCHOOL, WATERFORD

2 - 16 August, 1975

PICNIC

There will be only ONE picnic this year at the Cardell Farm on
6 JULY 1975

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE IN BELGIUM,

1 April 1975

Over the Easter weekend four British Youth, Shoreh Youssefian, Hooman Momen, Shadab Kouchezkadeh and Brian O'Toole, had the great bounty of representing the British Bahá'ís at a European Conference held in a princely chateau in Namur, Belgium. The conference was graced by the presence of Hand of the Cause Ugo Giachery and his wife, who gave us much wisdom and bountiful good humour. Four European Counsellors were present as were Patrick Green and a number of other Auxiliary Board Members. From each country in Europe came three, four or five youth — Iceland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Austria, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Luxembourg and one lone Bahá'í who had travelled all the way from Athens, Greece. In many ways it was a humbling experience to meet and hear of the experiences of some of the friends in countries where tolerance is not as it is at the moment in Britain. The Conference was not one of lectures primarily, but one of workshops to see in which ways the Youth of Europe could arise to win the goals of the Five Year Plan.

The Conference was opened by a loving talk by the Hand of the Cause who spoke movingly of his time with the beloved Guardian. One point in particular he stressed was the way in which the Guardian would keep a notebook in which he would write the names and movements of pioneers and the anguish he suffered if ever one of these names would have to be crossed off.

During one of the sessions on pioneering and travel-teaching some of the youth briefly related their experiences. John Fethrem, a pioneer from Canada to Iceland, spoke of the great tests that had faced him during his service to the Faith. In his first pioneer post he only got his first job after being at the post for fourteen months. He worked for three days and then received a letter from his NSA asking him to move to another post.

Ken Nagle spoke briefly and selflessly of the homefront pioneering in Ireland. He claimed he was far from qualified to speak about the pioneers of Ireland as he had only pioneered once, whilst he shared a flat with a boy who had pioneered on the homefront five times in about three years! Ken's talk of the way in which so many of the young, very young friends in Ireland between the ages of seventeen and twenty-four leave their homes to serve the Faith, had a powerful effect on many of the friends assembled at the meeting who came from countries where homefront pioneering had yet to be established.

Shadab Kouchezkadeh spoke about her experiences in travel-teaching in India and the manifold bounties that await anyone who will arise in His name to teach the Faith in that highly promising land.

The theme of the consultation was the role of the Youth in assisting in the achievement of the goals of the Plan. The British Youth were given the exciting news that the Counsellors are to organise a European Conference in this country next Easter. The British and Irish Youth made offers to the Belgian NSA to supply travel-teachers to the Flemish-speaking part of their country. (Any offers for this should go to the Secretary of the International Travel-Teaching Committee.)

'Icebreaker' was one of the tasks in which it was felt a greater spirit of co-operation could emerge amongst the friends in the North of Europe. Betty Reed reminded us that we, the friends in Europe, along with the Bahá'ís of North America, were amongst the rich nations of the world. Moreover, for the great numbers of the Youth in Britain and other parts of Europe who enjoy fairly long holidays, whether it was three weeks or three months, it was felt that these projects should have no shortage of manpower for the summer.

The four young friends learned of the relative difficulties of teaching the Faith in such countries as Portugal, Greece and parts of Scandinavia, where perhaps materialism has an even stronger hold than here and indeed, as representatives of by far the largest Bahá'í community in Europe, we felt we should have been offering far more inspiration to the Conference. We, in Britain, have the manpower; we, for the most part, have the opportunities to earn enough money to spend our spare time travelling for the Faith and we pray that we may all rise up as a community and fully support all the projects across the map of Britain, in Europe and, indeed, in the twenty countries the Universal House of Justice has now given us as our goals in travel-teaching.

Brian O'Toole

HUQUQU'LLAH

جمال قدم در یکی از الواح میفرمایند :

« احدی حقوق الهی را مطالبه نکند و این فقره معلق باقبال خود نفوس بوده ... »

و در لوح میر محمد حسین بیک ارض جذب میفرمایند :

باید نفسی عباد الله را متذکر نماید که شاید بر او حقوق موقوف شوند و تحصیل مقام

عالی و اجر باقی نمایند

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

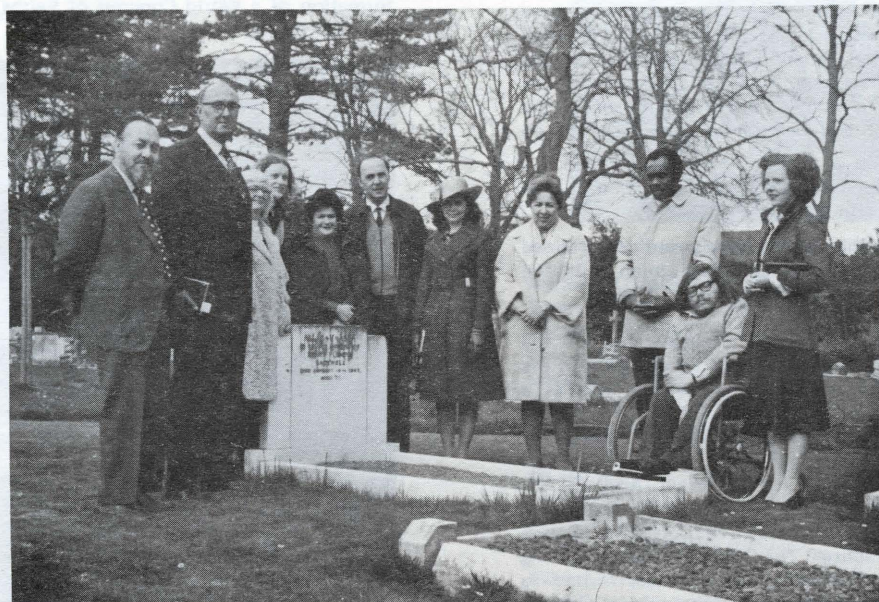
ARFON (North Wales): The final weeks of the Bahá'í year of 131 saw us with two new Bahá'ís, one of whom is resident in the district of Anglesey which enabled us to achieve one of our assigned Five Year Plan goals — an Assembly on the island; the other is a young blind man who is enthusiastically travelling to as many Bahá'í functions throughout North Wales as he can manage — even though his nearest community is forty miles from his home!

Our weekly firesides are creating much interest among students at the local university and each week the small room in which the meetings are held is packed to capacity — very often the Bahá'ís are completely outnumbered. Interested people have also attended several spontaneous deepening weekends which were urgently organised to cater for all the questions being asked.

The Festival of Naw-Rúz was celebrated with the organisation of a 'Concert of Contemporary Songwriters' at the new 'Theatre Gwynedd' in Bangor. Bahá'í artists, Hugh Blythe, Geoff and Midge, Martin and Jo Newman and Ed Povey gave excellent

performances and the concert, which gained good publicity, was attended by an audience of approximately 180 people (only about 30 of these were Bahá'ís!) The community was overjoyed to welcome the support of visiting Bahá'ís from various places, such as The Faroes, Carlisle, Northampton, Warrington, Chester, Liverpool, Southport and other parts of North Wales.

'The Gwynedd Road Show', a team of Bahá'ís from the Arfon community, has had much work to do within the previous Unit 9 for North Wales and the surrounding areas. The show presents an exhibition of visual material on the various aspects of the Faith, books and pamphlets, a slide show, music and a speaker for any community wishing to use it for a public meeting or proclamation presentation. The roadshow has supported meetings in Chester, Kirkby, St Helens, Liverpool, Southport, Preston and Macclesfield in recent months and now hopes to be of use to other communities in our new unit — number 7, for the whole of Wales. Its first assignment in a southerly direction will be to support a meeting in Aberystwyth as part of the 'Icebreaker' project in Wales.



Friends gathered at the grave of Henry Backwell

AYLESBURY VALE: Before the Easter vacation our dear National Secretary, Philip Hainsworth, addressed some 200 sixth-formers at the Aylesbury Grammar School on the Bahá'í Faith. The boys asked some intelligent questions, and a letter from their Religious Knowledge Master showed that further discussion had ensued on the subject among themselves, afterwards.

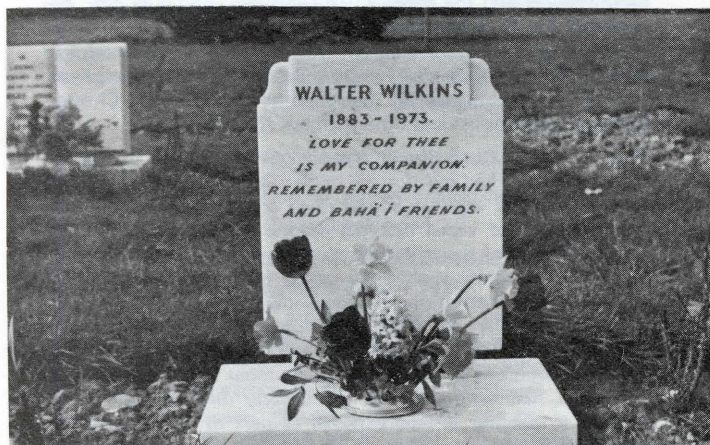
A follow-up meeting was, therefore, held on 2 May to which the sixth-formers as well as other non-Bahá'ís were invited. "DID CHRIST RETURN IN 1844?" was the title of a most interesting talk given by Steven Lambton. Friends had come from as far as London and Oxford and all were impressed by his vast knowledge on the subject.

BRENT: A sponsored walk by the children to raise funds for the International Deputization Fund, resulted in a walk of three miles which raised £26. The event was mentioned in the local newspaper.

CANTERBURY: Prior to the Rídván period the Bahá'ís of Canterbury honoured the memory of two devoted souls, members of the first local Spiritual Assembly formed in Canterbury (1961) as one of the goals of the Ten Year Crusade.

Following a deepening session with NSA member Mary Hardy on the significance of Spiritual Assemblies and the importance of community life, the friends, together with Bahá'ís from Broadstairs and Maidstone, gathered at the City Cemetery to dedicate a memorial headstone to Walter Wilkins. More than half the cost of this stone was donated by Bahá'í friends of Walter's from all over the United Kingdom, and the Canterbury community wish to express their deepest gratitude to all who helped in this way.

The friends then visited the grave of Henry Backwell, one of the first pioneers to Canterbury and father of late Auxiliary Board Member Richard Backwell.



The grave of Walter Wilkins

CHISWICK: Regular firesides, held every Tuesday at the home of Rose Jones, have been mainly used during the past three months for the study and discussion of 'Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era', and many points of interest and assistance in the propagation of the Faith have been raised. Nearing the last few chapters, we now intend to study 'The Onward March of the Faith', a most interesting and helpful publication which no believer should be without.

The Intercalary Days were celebrated at various homes, and were enjoyed by several non-Bahá'ís.

After the period of fasting, the London Bahá'í youth entertained Bahá'ís and their friends at the Imperial College Union Buildings. Eighteen Bahá'ís and their friends attended from Chiswick.

EDINBURGH: This year marks the disappearance of the thousand year-old City and Royal Burgh of Edinburgh into the newly re-organised Scottish governmental system, and as a special event to mark its passing, the City Corporation and the Edinburgh Council of Social Service sponsored a Festival of Voluntary Organisations. This festival, only the second of its kind to be held in Scotland, was a two-day event (April 11/12), and took place in Edinburgh's most prestigious hall, chaired by television personality Magnus Magnusson, and officially opened by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh. The Spiritual Assembly, being affiliated with the Council of Social Service, was invited to participate, and became one of a hundred organisations, of every variety, to do so. Thanks to the enthusiasm of the Edinburgh friends, assisted by equally keen Bahá'ís from West Lothian,

Dundee, and St. Andrews, the stall, carefully and impressively laid out, was a great success. A large number of leaflets was taken, with quite a few members of the public (who attended the festival in their thousands) stopping to discuss the aims of the Bahá'í Faith with those who manned the stall. It was found a great advantage to have more people present than were actually needed to man the exhibit. The others, with their eye-catching Bahá'í badges, specially prepared for the festival, were able to circulate and discuss things with other organisations represented. It is believed that not only was there much proclamation and teaching accomplished in this way, but that much understanding of, and goodwill for, what the Bahá'í Faith is trying to accomplish was created among people broadly sympathetic to our aims.

GLASGOW: On 21 April the Glasgow Herald published a long article on the significance of Rídván and the principles of the Faith. The article was based on a press release and an interview with Mrs Tahzib (whose photograph accompanied the article). This represents a breakthrough for the Bahá'ís as we have never had an article published in the Glasgow Herald, which is one of Scotland's quality papers and is widely circulated.

On 8 May, the Bahá'ís of central Scotland were blessed with a visit from Hand of the Cause of God General Ala'í. The Glasgow community played host for this visit and the meeting was attended by Bahá'ís from the whole region. General Ala'í spoke on the importance of rapidly responding to the challenges of The Universal House of Justice's Rídván Message and stressed the importance of bringing up Bahá'í children in the right fashion so to enable them to withstand the pressures of later life.

Also on 8 May Dr Eric Frost (who has recently come to Glasgow with his family from Canada) attended a meeting of the Sharing of Faiths Committee Project. He addressed the meeting on the beliefs of the Faith and its relationship to the individual. As a result of this meeting Dr Frost will be publishing an article on his talk in the West End News (a Glasgow paper); the Bahá'ís have been invited to arrange a prayer meeting, a Baha'i song programme and to take part in a religious exhibition along with other Faiths.

GUILDFORD: The friends in Guildford have presented two books since Naw-Rúz — one to the Vice-Chancellor of Surrey University, who spent an hour talking to three representatives of the Assembly and the Bahá'í Society, and expounding his own views which were thoroughly 'Bahá'í' — and one to the outgoing Mayor, who undertook to pass the book to his colleagues when he had read it. On the first day of Rídván, after forming our Assembly at a celebration to which some of the Waverley friends came, we met for lunch at the secretary's house. On the ninth day we held a one-day school in Waverley and a public meeting at which the National Secretary spoke. We were fewer than usual at our one-day school, but had a very happy and instructive time, with Helene Neri, Philip Hainsworth and Edgar Boyett speaking. On the twelfth day of Rídván we had a fund-raising Persian meal, and were able to send £8 to the National Fund. We are now working closely with the UNA and the Guildford International Council, and look forward to the formation of a World Congress of Faiths group in Guildford in the near future.



Liverpool University Bahá'í Society display.



Exhibition at Tunbridge Wells

HOUNSLOW and HAMMERSMITH: Our two Assemblies, being neighbours, held a joint meeting and decided to join forces in some activities. These included holding a joint World Religion day meeting on 19 January, a joint Unity feast in March and a series of meetings at Hammersmith College starting in January.

We feel this will be a great stimulus to our teaching activities since the numbers in each community have decreased lately and, by joining forces, we feel our teaching will be more effective.

IPSWICH: Ipswich and Woodbridge friends had a very pleasant party for Naw-Rúz in the form of an informal public meeting on 22 March at the Friends Meeting House. It was advertised in the press and by posters around the town. The Hummingbirds provided music and songs, and friends from Waveney, Cambridge and other communities all enjoyed the relaxed and friendly atmosphere. There were several non-Bahá'ís present who remarked upon the number of children. This, being their first Bahá'í experience and coming from a Quaker background, particularly pleased them, apart from other aspects of the occasion. A short slide show of the Faith's connections with Israel was shown.

There was a short write-up in the evening paper during the week. Ipswich's recovery is slow, but continuous and we give our thanks to the unit for their continuing support.

LEEDS: On Friday 9 May the youth of Leeds organised a party and, with some culinary assistance, prepared and served a Persian meal for twenty people in aid of the Three Year Youth Fund. At the beginning of the year the Leeds Youth Committee formulated a mini-plan to raise £100 towards the National Youth Goal. With the help of a picnic, their own sacrifices and the very successful party on Friday, almost £60 of this goal has been raised — a very good start from only a few youth, all under eighteen, showing the enthusiasm which will make the Three Year Youth Campaign a great success.

LIVERPOOL: The Liverpool University Bahá'í Society was approached by the University Broadcasting Group to contribute to the Students Programme on Radio Merseyside. This resulted in a very favourable five minute interview with two members of the society, Hooman Momen and Sam Delchad, in which they spoke of the principles of the Faith, its position in the Merseyside area, and its immediate relevance to student life.

The following week a display of Bahá'í literature was exhibited in the main entrance to the Students Union, catching the attention of many passers-by.

We have also been asked by the Liverpool Diocesan Board of Education to contribute to an exhibition on Religious Education in the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, covering worship and School Assemblies, and material for Sunday School, Youth and Adult Groups as well as for Primary and Secondary Schools. It is planned to follow this with a second exhibition at the University.

NORWICH: Our Bahá'í students have more than once arranged for Bahá'í gatherings to be held in the Chaplaincy of the University of East Anglia. World Religion Day was held there and it gives us great delight to tell you that, by their suggestion and arrangement, this extremely pleasant set of rooms was the venue for our Rídván celebration!

TUNBRIDGE WELLS and SEVENOAKS: In Tunbridge Wells the exhibition 'Mankind United' was organised and staged on the 1 February 1975 following the Sevenoaks community who held the same exhibition on the 18 January 1975. Both communities had worked hard during the latter part of 1974 to achieve this, often working in conjunction to save duplication and costs. Many letters of invitation containing a little literature about the Faith were sent out to local churches, schools, religious organisations, societies, colleges etc., and also the nearby Bahá'í communities were informed of the forthcoming event in order that they might support us.

Unfortunately, it poured with rain at Sevenoaks on the great day and the town was practically deserted, but nevertheless some people did come in and showed interest. Ted Cardell kindly came to support the Sevenoaks group and showed some of his wonderful slides in the evening, and Fiona MacDonald sang for the few people who attended this meeting, disappointingly few after all the hard work put in, audience being mostly Bahá'ís. Sevenoaks would like to thank all the Bahá'ís who came for their support and help.

Tunbridge Wells was luckier with the weather and there was a great spirit among the non-Bahá'í visitors, young, old and middle-aged who came in to look around. Many purchased books and took pamphlets and in the evening at a public meeting over forty people were present, of whom twenty-two were non-Bahá'ís, quite a large percentage. Simon Mortimore very kindly came from Epsom to give a fascinating talk on the theme of Independent Investigation of Truth, and again more books were sold.

Over all the exhibition was successful in introducing the Bahá'í Faith to many people, even if they only read their invitations without actually attending the event itself. Tunbridge Wells would like to thank all the friends who helped, particularly the Sevenoaks group, and for the enthusiastic help from the children present; also John and Sylvia Reeve for their help in transportation and decoration of the hall, and Simon Mortimore for his most successful talk.

WAVENEY: We have recently known one of the deepest spiritual experiences Bahá'ís can have, by forming our Spiritual Assembly. Its formation was preceded by preparations including readings from Scripture and prayers. After the simple, but moving ceremony and an enjoyable meal, songs from Rosemary Morgan added to the beauty of the evening, one none of us will ever forget.

We have been holding meetings fairly regularly since last year and plan to have them twice a week in future to assist deepening and other activities. Various group ways of publicising the Faith, notably another tent at Barsham Faire in the summer, are to be planned. We also have eyes on the local press, who have given us some help in the past.



First Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Waveney

WEST LOTHIAN (BLACKBURN): On 2 April the Bahá'ís of West Lothian held their first teaching event. We were very fortunate to have the Dawnbreakers and Ukiah in Blackburn to give a concert at our local Community Centre. The local youth were delighted at the prospect of a free concert and consequently the audience numbered over a hundred and one of the local women's clubs, whose meeting was scheduled for the same night in the Community Centre, cancelled it so that they could come to our concert. The music was excellent and everyone enjoyed the performance. As a result we have now established very good relations with the local youth leaders who were surprised to hear music of such a high standard.

We are very grateful to all the Bahá'ís of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Hamilton who came to give their support, and, of course, to the groups themselves for such a marvellous performance.

Bahá'í Publishing Trust

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The Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh, so basic a book for every Bahá'í to possess, has been reprinted with a few minor corrections, in two attractive bindings.

The 'paperback' is in stiff red Patten which has a leather grain appearance and is spongeable, the 'clothback' is full bound in red Balacron; on both the title is in silver foil.

Advance copies of the paperback were on sale at Convention and were rapidly snapped up; both editions are remarkably good value for money.

Ref. No. B 2	Paper	40p.
	Cloth	80p.

A MANUAL FOR PIONEERS

This new 230 page book by Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum was also on sale at Convention, a limited quantity having been specially imported by air from India, all were sold but a further supply coming by sea should arrive by the time this Journal is issued.

The National Spiritual Assembly thinks so highly of this book that it intends to present a copy through the Overseas Goals Committee to every pioneer going to fill one of our overseas goals. It is full of down to earth advice written in a most outspoken manner and many other Bahá'ís in this country will wish to have a copy for themselves.

Ref. No. B 123	£1.25
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PROGRESSIVE REVELATION

A fresh edition of this ever-popular booklet by the late Hand of the Cause John Ferraby is now available. It is in a new, modern, format and, in addition to a few minor corrections, it now contains a list of source references for all the quotations appearing in the text.

Ref. No. L 8	5½p.
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PRICE LISTS

Due to rapid and frequent increases in costs, many of our prices are having to be increased. A copy of our latest 'home trade' list giving prices for over 300 items may be had on request by any Bahá'í in the United Kingdom sending a 5½p stamp. If requested, a separate list of books in other languages can be sent at the same time. We will be pleased to send overseas customers a copy of our Export Catalogue and price list on request. Please send two International Reply Coupons obtainable at your post office.

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(The Universal House of Justice advises that a small number of copies has been found to be defective. If anyone has obtained a copy from us which, on examination, proves to be defective, please advise us of the nature of the defect with a view to the copy being replaced, free of charge.)

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