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SUMMER SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



LEICESTER: Assembled friends photographed with Hands of the Cause Mr Furutan, Mr Faizi and Dr Muhajir during the second half of the school.



TIVERTON: Assembled friends photographed with Hand of the Cause Mr Haney during the first half of the school.

DISPERSION OF PERSIAN BELIEVERS TO THE GOAL TOWNS

The Continental Board of Counsellors in Europe has asked the Universal House of Justice to lend its weight to the appeal which your Persian Committee makes from time to time to the Persian believers in your area to disperse more widely among the goal towns and weak Assemblies of your community.

The House of Justice instructs us to say that it is very much in favour of such meritorious service on the part of the Persian believers, although of course no compulsion can be put upon them. It should be remembered that many Persians who have left their country have not gone as pioneers but to establish themselves abroad in business, or to take courses in universities, or for some other personal reason, and they are fully entitled to pursue their aims according to their best judgement. However, in view of the love for the Cause which the Persian Bahá'í Community has always displayed, the House of Justice hopes that as many as possible of the Persian friends who can leave the stronger communities will do so, and establish themselves in those many places so much in need of support. Such an action would greatly reinforce the efforts of the British Bahá'í Community both at home and abroad, for pioneering by the Persian friends on your homefront might well release English believers to pioneer overseas. . .

5 October 1975

Department of the Secretariat
THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

یاران عزیز الهی،

بیت العدل اعظم پخش و انتشار یاران ایرانی را در نقاط مهاجرتی و جوامعی که محافل روحانیه شان به تقویت محتاجند شدیداً تأیید نموده و لکن فرمودند که در تشویق احبای ایرانی باین خدمت شایسته هیچگونه اجباری جائز نه . بیت العدل اعظم ضمناً متذکر شدند که خیلی از ایرانیانیکه وعن خود را ترك نموده اند هدفشان مهاجرت نبوده و بلکه، بنا بر نظر و قضاوت حقّه خود، به نیت تجارت و یا تحصیل در دانشگاه و یا بعلل دیگر شخصی بحارج سفر نموده اند؛ و البته در رأی خود محتارند و در تعقیب مقاصد خود کاملاً آزاد . در عین حال، نظر به محبت عاشقانه ایکه یاران ایرانی همواره مبذول امرالله نموده اند، بیت العدل اعظم امید وار چنانست که بقدر امکان از احبای ایرانی جوامع پر جمعیت را ترك نموده و در نقاط کثیره ایکه به تقویت محتاجند مستقر گردند . چنین اقدامی فعالیت های جامعه بهائیان بریتانیا را در وطن و در خارج شدیداً امداد خواهد نمود؛ چون مهاجرت یاران ایرانی در در داخله بریتانیا، بالمراتب جمع بیشتری از احبای انگلیسی را رخصت بخشیده و بمهاجرت به خارج قادر خواهد نمود .

با تقدیم تحیات بهائی،

دارالانشاء

۵ اکتبر ۱۹۷۵



Excavating the site of the permanent seat of the Universal House of Justice: September 1975. An estimated period of five months will be required to remove more than 40,000 cubic meters of stone and earth. The completed excavation to an average depth of 10 meters (33 feet) will measure 150 meters by 250 meters (492 feet by 820 feet).

OBITUARY — JOHN FERRABY 1914 - 1973

John Ferraby was born in Southsea, England, on 9 January, 1914, and grew up there. He was educated at Malvern and at King's College, Cambridge, to which he won a major scholarship.

It was in 1941 that he was told about the Faith by a non-Bahá'í. Wanting to know more, he found Dr Esslemont's book in a public library. He was by then living in London, so he started to look for the Bahá'ís there, but he had difficulty in finding them because during the blitz the Bahá'í Centre was empty most of the time. However, finally he found someone and after a couple of visits he wanted to be accepted as a member of the community. Almost immediately he began to work for the Faith, becoming in less than a year a member of the London Spiritual Assembly and of the National Spiritual Assembly. In 1943 he married a fellow member of the National Assembly, Dorothy Cansdale.

In 1946 he became secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly, working at first in his spare time and from 1950 as full-time secretary. This work he continued, living in the National Ḥaḡíratu'l-Quds in London from December, 1954, until he went to serve in the Holy Land at the end of 1959. During a good deal of the time he was also manager of the British Bahá'í Publishing Trust, as well as being an active teacher and committee member. From 1951 to 1956 he was busily involved in the work of the Africa Committee and, during the opening of the various territories in Africa, at that time mostly colonies or protectorates, he attended to most of the government relationship, acting in his capacity of national secretary. He attended the first Intercontinental Conference, held in Kampala, Uganda, in 1953, as well as the successive Intercontinental Conferences which were held in Europe.

In January, 1955, he made the pilgrimage to the Holy Land and was in the presence of the Guardian, which deepened his already great devotion to Shoghi Effendi. This, of course, made a tremendous impression on him and it was in consequence of advice from Shoghi Effendi to write for the Faith that he produced his book *ALL THINGS MADE NEW*. He seemed to have received some special stimulation and wrote at fever heat in every moment of his spare time until it was completed, as if he had been inspired and could not stop. The book has been widely used, running to one edition in the British Isles and three editions in the United States. A revised edition has this year been printed by the Bahá'í Publishing Trust (UK).



John Ferraby

In 1957, in the last group of Hands of the Cause appointed by the Guardian, John Ferraby was included, and consequently he carried a big share of the work and responsibility for the arrangements when Shoghi Effendi died and was buried in London. After that he took part in the first sorrowful gathering of the Hands of the Cause in Haifa and stayed on there for over three months to help. In December, 1959, John went to live in Haifa as one of the Hands of the Cause resident in the Holy Land and remained there until Ridván, 1963. After that he returned to England and lived in Cambridge for the last ten years of his life, working for the first few years as one of the Hands of the Cause in the continent of Europe, dealing with their secretariat and travelling a good deal. Later it became no longer possible for him to serve in this way.

John's whole life as a Bahá'í was one of activity and intense devotion. From the moment of his declaration the Faith came absolutely first with him and nothing else mattered, and this was true until the end of his life, whatever his circumstances and condition.

Dorothy Ferraby

PILGRIMAGE

A Bahá'í pilgrim is one of the happiest people in the whole world, and the envy of all other Bahá'ís.

As he prays at the Holy Shrines, as he visits the Holy Places, as he walks in the beautiful gardens, a Bahá'í pilgrim finds the greatest peace he has ever experienced.

His spiritual life is deepened and enriched, he re-lives the history of the Faith, he feels he has come home, when he is welcomed as a pilgrim at the World Centre.

This is a wonderful spiritual experience which will sustain every Bahá'í pilgrim far into the future. To visit the World Centre of our Faith is to touch the very heart of our Bahá'í life, and here the very air seems to be full of fragrance and sweetness. These Holy Places where the Founders and Builders of our Faith rest, where They once walked, seem to vibrate with the spiritual outpourings of Their service and sacrifice.

Here, for a few short days, we live in the love of our Bahá'í family, in fellowship with friends from many parts of the world, sharing the news of our activities in our home communities, and above all, sharing an unforgettable experience which will carry us forward with renewed devotion, loyalty and enthusiasm.

It is in this atmosphere, as we pray and meditate at the Holy Shrines, that we re-dedicate our lives to Bahá'u'lláh, that we draw our strength from our complete trust and confidence in Him, that our souls are fired with love for Him, and for our fellow-men.

To go on pilgrimage is something every Bahá'í should aim to do. Have *you* been? If not, think carefully about the possibility, pray about it, seek guidance.

When your decision is made, write a letter to the Universal House of Justice, asking for permission to come to the Holy Land on pilgrimage. If you are restricted in the times when you could go, or have any special requests about the dates, mention this — the House of Justice will be prepared to consider such requests as favourably as possible. Mention also the name of your community, and your country, and then **send your letter through the National Spiritual Assembly**. This will confirm that you are a member of the Bahá'í community of the United Kingdom.

Remember that there is likely to be a long waiting list, but this will give you time to save and to prepare.

Then, one morning you will receive a letter with a Haifa postmark. It is a letter from the Universal House of Justice, extending to you a cordial invitation for nine days' pilgrimage, commencing on such and such a date. The pilgrimage season extends from the end of October to the end of July. You are welcome to stay in the Holy Land for a period not exceeding thirty-eight days, but only the period of the pilgrimage, i.e. the nine days, may be spent in the Haifa/Akká area.

It is a tremendous bounty and privilege — a bounty and privilege granted to you and to you only, for a particular time, and you cannot hand it to anyone else, or go at any other time.

PILGRIMAGE (Continued)

Do not regard it lightly. Who would think for a moment of passing it on, or transferring it to anyone else? It is a precious gift; treasure it with all your heart, and prepare yourself joyfully for this spiritual experience.

It is a matter of courtesy to reply as soon as possible, and certainly by the date asked, to say that you can accept the pilgrimage for the time offered to you. If you do not reply by the date asked, the House of Justice will assume that you are unable to accept, and your name will be returned to the waiting list.

PLEASE INFORM THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN GRANTED A PILGRIMAGE AND GIVE THEM THE DATE. It may then be possible to put pilgrims in touch with one another, so that they could travel together if going on the same date, and, more important, prepare together for their spiritual adventure. You may also be able to perform some service by taking something for the NSA to the World Centre.

With the letter offering you pilgrimage you will receive a Booklet and Notes for Pilgrims, giving you all the help and guidance you need in preparation for this wonderful visit.

If a pilgrimage has been granted and the prospective pilgrim would like some additional personal guidance, Mrs Barbara Lewis, 21 Hyde Close, Winchester, Hants., will be happy to help.

You will be advised to make bookings for your hotel well in advance; you have to do this yourself, and be responsible for all your travel arrangements. Some travel agents are particularly experienced in undertaking bookings for Bahá'í pilgrims and will give every practical help, and their names may be obtained from the National Office.

You will arrive in Haifa and register on the Monday morning at the building that has been blessed by the presence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá — the Bahá'í Pilgrim House. Here you will meet your fellow Bahá'ís, the pilgrims and the members of the World Centre community who serve with such love and care as guides, and as helpers in the Holy Places. The Pilgrim House is used for meetings, for study and discussion, for rest and refreshment, and throughout your stay will be a centre for all your activities.

Perhaps you have non-Bahá'í relatives who would like to go with you to the Holy Land. Be assured that while they cannot, of course, be included in the pilgrimage programme, they are

welcome to visit the Shrines and gardens, and the Pilgrim House when suitable.

Occasionally requests are made for permission to be granted to spend a few days in Haifa when a Bahá'í is passing through Israel, say en route to Persia, or when going to Israel on business. In every case, when a Bahá'í wishes to visit Israel, for any reason whatsoever, permission from the Universal House of Justice is necessary. This is not a pilgrimage, it must not exceed two weeks of which three days may be spent visiting the Shrines and gardens and associating with any pilgrims who may be there at the time, although the visitor cannot take part in any of the scheduled programme of the pilgrimage.

What about children? Though you may bring children under ten, in which case they will be counted in the number of pilgrims, it is preferable not to bring young children. The reason is that there are no facilities for their care, and so this is, of course, the sole responsibility of the parents. This may affect the parents' full participation in the complete programme of the pilgrimage.

It is almost certain that you will wish to visit other parts of Israel, and it is best to do this before or after, but definitely not during, the nine days of the pilgrimage, which are fully filled.

During these days you will pray in the Shrines, you will be lovingly welcomed at the Reception by the Universal House of Justice, you will meet and talk to the Hands of the Cause of God, you will meet members of the International Teaching Centre; you will spend enthralling hours in the International Archives Building, you will visit the Mansion at Bahjí, the Mansion at Mazra'ih, the House of Abbud, the Most Great Prison; you will walk in the Ridván Garden and the Monument Gardens, and on the Temple Land; you will see the work being undertaken for the Seat of the Universal House of Justice. Near the end of your stay you will visit the House of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. You know that the time to leave is by sunset on the second Wednesday, and on the last evening, on the Tuesday, you will gather with all the other Bahá'ís present at the World Centre for Prayers in the Shrines. This has been the purpose of your visit — to pray and meditate, and the whole of the pilgrimage seems to have been one long prayer, safe in the shelter of the Holy Shrines.

Why not write your letter today?

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

هُدُوُّوْ'U'LLAH

ود لوح دیگر میفرمایند :

یا قوم اول امر عرفان حق جل جلاله و آخر ان استقامت و بعد تطهیر مال

و ما عند القوم با امر به الله بوده لذا باید اول حقوق الهی را داشتند.

GREEN SHIELD STAMP BOOKS

A recommendation has been made to the National Assembly that many friends who collect Green Shield Stamps would like to use this method of making a contribution to the National Fund. This was an excellent idea which the National Assembly warmly approved as we can get a group concession to enable us to obtain goods from the Green Shield Stamp Catalogue with a further price reduction. We have decided that we will utilise the books that we receive for the purchase of the office equipment which needs to be replenished from time to time. We can even obtain articles for the office which are not in the normal catalogue.

Will all the friends who wish to contribute to the fund in this way please send their Green Shield Stamp books to:

Mr Ramin Habibi,
42 Cloisters Drive,
Darwen, Lancs BB3 3JX.

The name at the back of the book could be "The NSA of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom". We will announce from time to time the number of books that have been collected so that the friends may know how effective this appeal has been.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY



The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom in session. In the foreground, right — John Long (Chairman), left — Philip Hainsworth (Secretary), round the table left to right — Ted Cardell, Enayat Rawhani, Barbara Lewis (Vice-chairman), Joe Foster, Mary Hardy, Keith Munro, Betty Goode (Treasurer).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



WORLD CENTRE

A growing number of members of the public visit the Bahá'í Shrines and gardens on Mount Carmel. Between August 1974 and September 1975 a total of 142,773 people, excluding Bahá'ís, visited the Shrine of the Báb and received brief introductory literature, which is distributed in a number of languages, about the history of the Bahá'í Faith. The summer months continue to attract the greatest number of visitors. In August 1975 alone, some 17,955 visitors were received.

FRENCH GUIANA: "I'll even teach the sharks if it is the will of Bahá'u'lláh!" said the newly-declared believer, Eugene Grand-Emile, age 19, who accepted the Faith in his native village near Organabo as the result of a teaching trip undertaken by some believers of French Guiana. The teachers had travelled by ferry and inland along overgrown trails in thick jungle growth to bring the Message to the Galibi Indian villages. The first to accept the Teachings was Eugene who, because of having had an opportunity to attend school, serves as interpreter for the Village Chief or "Capitaine". Excited by the Bahá'í literature he was given, Eugene obtained the Chief's permission for the Bahá'ís to explain the Faith in the village and to show the filmstrip "Unity in Diversity". The following day, Eugene declared his desire to become a member of the Bahá'í family and encouraged the Bahá'ís to accompany him to Aouara, another Galibi village where he used to teach children. The Bahá'ís were warmly received by the Capitaine of Aouara who opened his home for the meeting and extended hospitality.

"Again we had a wonderful evening," the report stated. "This village was much larger so there were more people, about fifty adults and thirty youth and children, who heard the Message of Bahá'u'lláh for the first time.

GHANA: The first International Bahá'í Youth Conference of Africa was held in Accra, Ghana in July 1975. The four-day conference was attended by more than 400 delegates from twenty-five countries, representing twenty-seven nationalities. The conference had the bounty of the presence of Hand of the Cause Enoch Olinga who represented the Universal House of Justice on this occasion. Present also were three members of the Continental Board of Counsellors in Western Africa and a number of Auxiliary Board members.

Due to circumstances beyond the control of the intended host, the National Spiritual Assembly of Togo, it was necessary to relocate the site of the conference at short notice. The smooth success of the gathering, in the light of the amount of work involved, the National Spiritual Assembly of Ghana commented, was a living demonstration of the 'miracles the Bahá'ís can achieve when they are united in love of God'.

The inspired contribution of Mr Olinga who read and commented upon the message of the Universal House of Justice to the conference; the valued participation of the Counsellors; the splendid and spirited addresses of a number of the youthful participants; the joyful musical entertainment provided by a number of Bahá'í singing groups; the contribution of the conference participants to the building of the seat of the Universal House of Justice in the Holy Land — gifts of personal jewellery often given at great sacrifice as well as cash donations; the attendance of sixty or more youth from Persia whose early arrival enabled them to join hands with the believers in Accra in decorating the Conference Hall and whose 'indescribable love and devotion . . . won the affection of all' — these rank among the many highlights of the conference, which concluded with two well-attended public lectures. One thousand large posters advertised the meetings and 15,000 pieces of literature were distributed to the public.

INDIA: A proclamation programme which resulted in what was described as 'an unprecedented degree of publicity for the Faith in the history of the Faith in India' was recently held in Uttar Pradesh. The programme which was organised by the Spiritual Assembly of Lucknow was attended by the four members of the Continental Board of Counsellors in South Central Asia. In addition to the Counsellors, Bahá'í speakers included Mrs Gloria Faizi, Mr Charles Macdonald, Dr Ray Johnson and Dr H. M. Munje. The programme opened with a tea and reception hosted by His Excellency Dr Chenna Reddy, Governor of Uttar Pradesh, at Government House. Dr Reddy was presented with a copy of 'The Bahá'í World', Vol. XIV, chatted informally with the friends, asked many questions about the Faith, and proceeded to the auditorium where the opening session was to be held. Dr Reddy was chairman of the initial session and in his address spoke for forty minutes on various



Hand of the Cause Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum paying a courtesy call on His Excellency President Colonel Hugo Banzer Suárez of Bolivia; July 1975.

(Right to left): President Suárez; Mr Andrés Jachakollo, Auxiliary Board member; Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum; Mr Mas'ud Khamisi of the Continental Board of Counsellors in South America; Mr E. Ouladi, Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of Bolivia.

aspects of the Faith. In his remarks he expressed the hope that the Bahá'í Faith would be able to create a new society based on the concept of the oneness of religion. "I am extremely happy to know that the Bahá'ís are taking this message of love and peace throughout the world," he is reported to have said, and he expressed the hope that the Bahá'ís would be extremely successful in their endeavours. The meeting resulted in widespread publicity in the press including the prestigious *'Times of India'* published in Bombay, a newspaper which has rarely printed anything about the Faith. The function was televised and seen on the television news broadcast in Delhi. *All India Radio* broadcast news of the meeting, including extracts of the Governor's speech. The broadcast was relayed three times and was heard throughout India in English, Hindi and various regional languages.

JAMAICA: En route to her home after attending the Tribune for UN non-governmental organisations held as a parallel activity with the recent United Nations International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City, Mrs Shomais Afnan, one of the eight Bahá'ís who participated in the Tribune, was able to visit Jamaica as a travelling teacher. In addition to addressing a number of fireside gatherings in Jamaica, Mrs Afnan had a twenty minute interview on a popular programme of the Jamaican Broadcasting Corporation and was afforded the opportunity in informal social settings to draw the Faith to the attention of a number of leading dignitaries.

LIBERIA AND GUINEA: In July six members of the National Spiritual Assembly met with His Excellency Dr William R. Tolbert, Jr., President of Liberia, in the Presidential Palace in Gbarnga, and presented him with a copy of *'The Bahá'í World'*, Vol. XIV.

In his gracious response, Dr Tolbert said that he felt highly honoured to be presented with the volume and pointed out that the unification of mankind should be the concern of all religions regardless of what else they may teach. He expressed deep appreciation of the good wishes extended to him by the Bahá'ís and in turn wished for them the progress of the Bahá'í Faith in Liberia and Guinea.

The Bahá'ís recalled that it was President Tolbert who, deputising for the late President Tubman in 1971, opened the Bahá'í Continental Conference which was held in Monrovia.

The presentation ceremony, during which the President was photographed with the Bahá'í delegation, was given official press coverage and the event was reported in the special Independence Edition of the Ministry of Information Press Service Bulletin.

MALAWI: Recently here at the National Centre an institute was held to train volunteer travel teachers. There were twenty in attendance. They were all very humble villagers who were deeply touched by the plea to donate to the construction of the seat of the Universal House of Justice. As a result of their own consultation they decided to make a contribution box and collect what funds they could and after the four days of the school were over the total was 1 Kwacha and 94 Tambala, which is about the equivalent of two United States dollars . . . a number of the students accepted teaching assignments before they left the school and many of them made great sacrifices such as not taking transportation assistance so that they would be able to strengthen the National Fund — this meant walking ten miles to the teaching assignment.

NORWAY: An experimental first children's programme was held in conjunction with the 1975 Scandinavian Bahá'í Summer School at Evje, Norway, early in July, with more than thirty children participating in a programme of prayer and song, study and discussion, physical activity and handicrafts. Each age group according to its capacity studied the Central Figures of the Faith, the history of the Cause, the social teachings and the principles of the administrative order. Hand of the Cause 'Ali-Akbar Furutan honoured the Summer School with his presence. Assessing this first venture in children's classes at Summer School the committee responsible stated: ". . . In the beginning it was difficult to find teachers but as the success of the programme began to filter back . . . the posts were easily filled. . ." Toward the end of the School, parents and unmarried youth and grandparents had joyfully taken part. "Some of the children were so enthusiastic about the programme that they actually complained when there were no classes (because of other activities) and other children reminded their parents that they had to leave the beach in order to attend classes. ". . . The material developed for this programme has been shared with the appropriate committees in Denmark and Sweden. . . so a firm foundation for further children's classes has at least had its cornerstone laid."

PAKISTAN: The Bahá'í Youth Committee of Karachi recently sponsored a successful symposium on the subject of women's rights held in observance of the United Nations International Women's Year. Mrs Shirin Fozdar presented the Bahá'í teachings relating to the role of women. Other participants in the panel were Miss Faeyza Haq, editor of the women's page of the *Daily Morning News*; Mr Rafiq Saifi of the Karachi Development Authority; and Mrs Masooda Jawad, a director of the All-Pakistan Women's Association. The programme opened with the

reading of a Bahá'í prayer followed by a brief introduction to the Faith and an outline of its relationship to the United Nations, by a Bahá'í youth. Various dignitaries of Karachi attended the meeting. The audience consisted largely of professional people including teachers, advocates and social workers, and students. Many interested enquirers, it was reported, left their names and addresses at the registration counter, requesting invitations to future public meetings under Bahá'í sponsorship.

TURKEY: An individual believer in Turkey recently received an invitation from a society that supports the concept of world peace and unity to address its members on the subject of the Bahá'í Faith. A few Bahá'í friends including members of the teaching committee attended the gathering which had attracted seventy people, most of whom were young. A brief outline of the history and teachings of the Faith was presented and slides of the Bahá'í Holy Places in the Holy Land were shown. A lively discussion took place, Bahá'í literature was distributed and the meeting concluded at midnight. It is felt that the success of this meeting may lead to other opportunities to give introductory Bahá'í talks to various organisations whose aims are in sympathy with those of the Bahá'í Faith. A new Bahá'í book, *Beklenen Cag*, recently published in Turkey, has been presented to a

number of high-ranking government officials as well as journalists. Letters of appreciation have been received from a number of recipients including a former Prime Minister of Turkey.

VENEZUELA: Donald R. Witzel of the Continental Board of Counsellors in South America, Auxiliary Board member Cecilia Yguaran, and pioneer Jan Hendershot recently had the privilege of bringing the Faith to a new Indian area where they enrolled a number of adults and some children of the Dobocubi tribe, the first of this tribe to accept the Cause. Reporting on the matter, Mr Witzel stated: "These are 'Motilones' known as 'baris' in the Chibcha language, or anthropologically as 'Dobocubi'. They are completely different from the Yukpa or Yukos who are of Carib descent linguistically. Their village (in the southern part of the Perija mountains) was found only after much searching. It is called Butsasarai. Their chief, Antonio Erandez, was enrolled in the Faith together with twelve other adults and ten children. This was one of the most blessed and confirmed teaching trips in which I have ever participated. . . Bahá'í teachers will return to conduct deepening classes. These Indian believers have offered to take us high into the mountains to other 'Motilones' of their tribe, and have mentioned the existence of another . . . tribe of 'white Indians' high in the Sierras."

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

CORRESPONDENCE WITH NEWSPAPERS

"Newspapers are as a mirror which is endowed with hearing, sight, and speech; they are a wonderful phenomenon and a great matter. But it behoveth the writers thereof to be sanctified from the prejudice of egotism and desire and to be adorned with the ornament of equity and justice; they must inquire into matters as much as possible, in order that they may be informed of the real facts, and commit the same to writing."¹

It is well known to members of political parties, pressure groups, religious communities, socially-orientated movements, and other gatherings of people seeking to put their views before the public that newspaper correspondence columns provide an excellent means of doing so. For the price of a postage stamp one's opinions and beliefs are brought to a readership of hundreds or thousands, and even a letter that is not published has been seen by the editorial staff, who are reminded of the group's existence and aims. There can be no doubt that such correspondence offers to the Bahá'ís a valuable means for teaching and proclamation, and the aim of this article is to examine ways in which it can be best used, in the light of what we know about how we should teach the Faith, and taking note of the recent guidance from the National Spiritual Assembly about the avoidance of sensitive issues.

Any activity undertaken by Bahá'ís for the Faith is improved if the friends work on it together, and this is equally true of writing to the press. The community involved should first define its area of interest. The local newspapers must be covered — do not forget that if there is a university or college in the town it will probably have its own campus paper as well. More specialised journals such as "New Society", "Times Educational Supplement", "Times Literary Supplement", and so on, can also be scanned if there are Bahá'ís in the town who take them out of professional interest. Items of interest, which would warrant a Bahá'í letter, are less likely to be overlooked if a scanning system is used: A reads the "Evening News" looking for such items, B the "Weekly Advertiser", C the "County Despatch", D (a teacher) his professional journals, and so on. It is up to the Bahá'ís to decide what is of interest, and how "wide the net should be cast". When an item is noticed, word is quickly passed round, so that a number of letters can be written — remember that if an editor receives only two letters on a given topic he is going to conclude it aroused little interest, but if he receives a dozen he will take notice and almost certainly print some. With letters, as with press releases, the smaller and more local the newspaper the more likely it is to print whatever it is sent.

Speed is important — if there is delay in writing the letters the item will be 'cold' and correspondence will not be published on it. The friends must ensure that their letters are written as soon as possible after the news item appears, so that they can be rapidly passed through the reviewing machinery and sent on to

their destination. In the case of material for local use local assemblies can even have the reviewing done by telephone, in order that speed of response is not lost.²

Material sent to newspapers can take two forms. The more important is that putting forward the Bahá'í view on a problem or matter recently discussed in the paper, and the majority of letters will be of this type. There are occasions, however, where Bahá'í views can be put forward without the name of the Faith actually being mentioned, and these letters, of what has been called the 'para-Bahá'í' type, can serve two useful functions in addition to the general promotion of world consciousness. They can be sent where the editor is known to be unfavourably inclined towards the Faith, and does not print the Bahá'í press releases or letters; he may come to be favourably impressed with the views that are put forward, and change his attitude towards Bahá'í materials as he comprehends their source. Secondly, such letters can serve to keep going a correspondence where there is a danger of overloading the paper with too many overtly Bahá'í contributions.

As regards the content of the letter, it should be remembered that "The same presentation of the teachings will not appeal to everybody; the method of expression and the approach must be varied in accordance with the outlook and interests of the hearer. An approach which is designed to appeal to everybody will usually result in attracting the middle section, leaving both extremes untouched".³

The biggest danger in the writing of a press letter is that it will be made too general. A letter that begins with 1844, goes right through Bahá'í history with many unfamiliar and (to the non-Bahá'í reader) off-putting names, enumerates the principles, and rounds off with the relationship of the Faith to Christianity, stands a good chance of finishing in the editor's waste-bin. To take one or at most two points, and to deal with them in a little detail will increase the chances of publication and, at the same time, will be more easily taken in by the readers. If misapprehensions about the Faith have to be cleared up in the course of continuing correspondence the same holds true. It is tempting to answer each and every point made, but care must be taken as this too easily becomes counter-productive — the letter becomes long, involved, and tedious and deals with matters of only limited interest to the paper's readers. It should be remembered that the aim is *not* to vanquish with your unassailable arguments the previous correspondent — it is to impress favourably and attract the many readers of the paper who have taken no part in the correspondence. This is best done by picking one or two points favourable to you and stating and commenting on them in a positive manner. This can be especially successful if several Bahá'ís write in stressing different aspects of the same problem. In this way the Bahá'í attitude can be set forth without seeming to enter into disputes.

Any letter written to the press must, of course, take into account the guidance recently received from the National

Spiritual Assembly about the need to avoid political or similar comments. This is especially true of the Middle East situation, which is particularly sensitive. If mention must be made of the place of exile of Bahá'u'lláh, or the site of our holy shrines, a politically neutral term such as 'the Holy Land' has much to recommend it. Items for the national press, or from isolated believers, should be channelled through the national office, where they will be processed promptly. Letters from Bahá'ís to their local press go through their local assembly's machinery, which should be capable of reviewing such material at short notice. This reviewing machinery, which is there to protect the Faith, should not cause any appreciable delay in the letter being sent to its destination.

It is hoped that these observations will encourage the friends to make fuller use of the valuable channel for teaching and proclamation offered by newspaper correspondence columns.

"He that wisheth to promote the Cause of the one true God, let him promote it through his pen and tongue. . . If any man were to arise to defend, in his writings, the Cause of God against its assailants, such a man, however inconsiderable his share, shall be so honoured in the world to come that the Concourse on high would envy his glory."⁴

References:

- 1 Bahá'u'lláh, Tablet of Tarázát. "Bahá'í World Faith" p.171.
- 2 NSA letter to UK community, 13-8-75.
- 3 Letter from Universal House of Justice to all NSAs, 31-10-67. "Wellspring of Guidance", p.124.
- 4 Bahá'u'lláh, "Gleanings", pp. 328-9.

BAHÁ'Í SERVICE FOR THE BLIND

"Bahá'í Service for the Blind" is the new name for the teaching the blind department of the NTC. It has been chosen to be suitable for use in official publications and proclamation activities.

What WE can do for YOU

We are preparing a leaflet giving details of all braille literature and tapes available from us; we shall be pleased to supply copies on request.

We are happy to introduce ourselves in braille or on tape to blind contacts, if you will let us know (a) name and address, (b) whether braille reader, (c) whether he or she has access to a tape recorder and, if so, whether a cassette or spool type. We would give details of the services provided by the department which may be of use to the recipient and how he can make use of them, and we would ask him to let us know what we can do for him.

What YOU can do for US

We are looking for volunteer readers to help record books for our tape library. If you are interested, 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 would be enough) and should be of something with which you feel at home. You don't have to have a "BBC accent", but you do need to have a voice that is easy to listen to over an extended period of time.

We are most grateful to those who have already sent us sample tapes, both those who have been asked to read and also those whom we have been unable to accept for one reason or another. The more volunteers we get the quicker we will be able to obtain our objective of recording all the new titles published in this country thus giving a good selection of the existing catalogue.

If you have any old recording tapes which you no longer require, we should be very pleased to have them.

We are also looking for proficient braillists to transcribe braille books.

Addresses

Please send all sample tapes and correspondence to the secretary:

Oliver Christopherson,
68 Briardale
Stevenage
Herts
SG1 1TR (tel. 55983)

If you have old tapes available, send them to the librarian:

Bob Smith,
53 Riddlesdown Rd.,
Purley, Surrey.

'DAYSTAR' MUSICAL TOUR

'DAYSTAR' took to the highways and byways of Unit 9 in August to spread the word of the Faith through music, theatre and film. It was a most ambitious project — the first of its kind in the country.

DAYSTAR featured music by some of our finest musical talents: taking part were Fiona McDonald, Francis Rwamkuba, John Jameson, Geoff Ault, Tom Fox and Shahbaz Fatheazam. Theatre was presented by Trevor Finch, Lindsay Moffat, Helen Babb, Midge Ault and Kim Richardson with the help of Adam Thorne (slides) and Peter and Annie Wise (lighting and sound). The show consisted of an original piece about progressive revelation with the emphasis on the importance of Bahá'u'lláh.

The group squeezed into Fiona's house for a week's intensive rehearsal and deepening which culminated in the first public performance at Bourne Hall, Epsom. Then the show trundled off to diverse parts of Unit 9: Waveney (Lowestoft), Northampton, Cambridge, Dacorum, Aylesbury, Stevenage and Henley. At each hall the group had to adjust to vastly differing circumstances — from a new modern public hall seating over 200 to a small room in a cottage built in 1420! DAYSTAR also visited hospitals and old people's homes. Northampton kept the group busy; there they visited a mental hospital, a day centre, a children's ward and two old people's homes in two days! These were exhausting visits, but so rewarding — one hospital administrator said: "Any Bahá'í group can come and play here!" Three journalists watched the show in Ely, asked many questions and took a photograph. Articles appeared in newspapers from Epsom (photo), Lowestoft, Hemel Hempstead, Northampton (photo), Ely (photo) and Aylesbury. DAYSTAR sang to holiday-makers on the promenade at Lowestoft and to visitors at a carnival in Hemel Hempstead. The group carried out an extensive proclamation effort in Stevenage shopping centre and were very heartened by the response. The most thrilling night of all was the final show at Woodcote Hall near Henley. Fifteen villagers joined an audience of eighty, the Bahá'ís present wished even more people could have seen the show. So, a happy, euphoric (and tired) group of Bahá'ís went back to their home communities having participated in a thrilling experience — a happy, united travel teaching team sharing with all who wished to hear the joyful Message of Bahá'u'lláh.

THANK YOU!!

It wasn't easy putting up with fifteen energetic, lively Bahá'ís, DAYSTAR would like to thank *all* the friends who helped to provide such generous hospitality — it was an example we would all like to emulate.

Adam Thorne

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 No receipts will be issued unless a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed, nor are receipts 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.

NEW HEBRIDES TEMPLE LAND



View from the northeast corner of the Temple land, looking southwest across Port Vila, Vila Bay and Fila Island. The property consists of all the grassy area in the foreground and extends over the brow into the valley at the right. In this view, taken at ground level, the trees in the centre hide the town of Port Vila. From the height of the Temple the town will be clearly seen and it will be easily visible from the town.

View from Clearwater Sportsfield in the valley immediately below the Temple site looking east. The property is the grassy area on the side of the hill, extending to the top, in the centre of the photograph. The new road to link the International Airport and the centre of Port Vila will pass through the copse of trees between the sportsfield and the Temple site.



SUNRISE

There is magic in the glow of the half-light before the dawn, which many of us miss far too often — that softly tinted sky, the expectant stirring of the grasses on the meadows and the shimmering leaves laden with millions of spangled cobwebs as the kingly sun rises slowly to give life to the world.

Then, that fantastic dawn chorus — as though an unseen conductor had raised his baton and, "Hey presto", the earth is vibrating with bird song as a burst of praise.

How often most of us sleep through this rapture, no matter how well we know in our innermost being that we are missing morning by missing something of indescribable beauty.

So it is in the Birth of a New Age! How many wanted Jesus, the Christ, 2,000 years ago? How many people are aware of the Return of His Holy Spirit?

Bahá'u'lláh writes these words —

"My signs have encompassed the earth, My Power has enveloped all mankind, and yet the peoples are wrapt in a strange sleep."

The beloved Guardian called us "children of the half-light" quite a while ago now; are we beginning at last to *be* and *think* and *act* as "the new race of men"? No likes and dislikes, like children, but men and women of His new age — seeing the presence of the Blessed Beauty in every pair of eyes we look into, sweetening the souls of those who poison our lives, reaching out in compassion to saint and sinner alike, giving each one the benefit of the doubt in every tricky situation, treasuring the good points of those with whom we work or live and, as the Master said, forgetting the bad moments and thoughtless acts, as we dwell upon the good. "There is so much bad in the best of us and so much good in the worst of us, that it little behoves any of us to speak ill about the rest of us." The poet who wrote that must have picked up the vibrations of the Hidden Words — "Breathe not the sins of others while thou art thyself a sinner".

Lisbeth Greaves

LEICESTER SUMMER SCHOOL

The first of two British Summer Schools was held at Scraftoft College of Education near Leicester. This school was unique in that it had the bounty of four Hands of the Cause present; Mr Paul Haney during the first week, and Mr Furutan, Mr Faizi, and Dr Muhajir during the second week. Bahá'ís from eleven countries attended, including New Zealand, Japan, Scandinavia, Hawaii and Jordan. Sessions were held in the main hall; nearby classrooms and lounges being used for informal discussions and workshops. The catering staff prepared excellent meals, the dormitories were very comfortable and the staff were most helpful and friendly.

Throughout the first morning sessions, a series of talks was given on the lives of Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi. Each speaker gave fascinating background details and deeply moving anecdotes. We heard of Bahá'u'lláh's sufferings from Lois Hainsworth; of His cruel banishment from Mary Hardy; of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's selfless devotion and fortitude from Madeleine Hellaby; of His travels to the West from Lou Turner; of the Guardian's great plans and vision from John Long and of His awe-inspiring writings from Philip Hainsworth. Each talk blended in with the others to leave a vivid yet touching memory and a clearer meaning of the examples we must follow.

Madeleine Hellaby and Simon Mortimore guided workshops which were very rewarding and we felt that this was a most stimulating way of deepening.

With gentle humility and wry humour Mr Haney spoke of the Administration and the functions of the International Teaching Centre. He emphasised that the Administrative Order is the charter for the World Commonwealth and is God's purpose for man; it could not be fulfilled unless the Administration were developed. Mr Haney answered directly many difficult questions on aspects that were the subject of attacks against the Faith. Betty Reed complemented Mr Haney's talks with unbounded happiness, a profound knowledge and her colour diagrams. She spoke of the relationship of the Bahá'í community to the world and focussed our attention on the destiny of the British community. Using quotations from the Guardian's writings to the British National Assembly, she pointed out our tremendous responsibilities as the 'chief builders of Bahá'u'lláh's embryonic world . . . throughout the British Crown'. Mrs Reed recounted unbelievable events in Europe connected with the Nine-Year Plan and instilled into us the conviction that the power of Bahá'u'lláh can do ANYTHING.

During the second week, each of the three Hands made valuable contributions. Mr Faizi spoke and taught as 'Abdu'l-Bahá did — simply, humbly and with illuminating stories. On education he said that every child is a treasure-house given by God, the jewels must be discovered, polished and the whole world must benefit. He talked about the heroes of the Faith — a hero is a person who rises when everybody else is sitting down and sacrifices when everybody else looks for comfort. Mr Faizi also gave an erudite talk on how we may study 'The Hidden Words'.

Mr Furutan stressed that our whole existence should be our responsibility — thinking, feeling, acting — all with prayer. He spoke of the recent developments at the World Centre of "those world-shaking, world-embracing, world-directing administrative institutions". With unforgettable stories he explained the station and infallibility of the House of Justice and the duties of the Hands who had been designated the 'chief stewards' by Shoghi Effendi.

Dr Muhajir drew on his recent travelling experience to encourage us to pioneer overseas; there are one *million* Bahá'í children who need teachers!

Mr Soheil Bushrui added sparkle with his unique wit and charm. He told us of the difficulties faced by Bahá'ís in the Near East and of his father's education by 'Abdu'l-Bahá. The programme was augmented by an entertainment evening; many thanks go to the committee for directing an hilarious evening of skits, songs and that fashion show!!

One afternoon, eighteen of those attending visited the grave of Dr John Mitchell, a former Treasurer of the National Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles, who was a Knight of Bahá'u'lláh to Malta. Dr Mitchell is buried in the Gilroes Cemetery in Leicester, a city to the opening of which to the Faith he had greatly contributed. Flowers were laid on his grave by a native born Maltese Bahá'í, the wife of Professor Soheil Bushrui and a wreath was laid on behalf of those attending the school. Mr Sydney Barratt spoke of the service Dr Mitchell gave to the Cause in Northampton and Vera Long of how, following the operation he had to his brain in Northampton after being brought back from Malta by the then chairman of the Northampton Assembly, which was partially successful, he moved to Leicester, and of his last days there. Prayers were said by most of those attending and the visit befittingly recognised and paid tribute to the debt owed by the British Bahá'í community to but one of those Knights who arose at the call of the Guardian to lay the foundation of the successful prosecution of the Ten Year Crusade.

The next day four cars took eighteen members of the school on a sixty mile trip to Rutland to see the properties from which, in recent years, the work of the Bahá'í Publishing Trust has been conducted. On arriving in Oakham the party first saw the cottage in Semper Street (now awaiting demolition) which was hired for six months when the distribution work had to leave Leicester. A look through its broken windows showed the cramped little rooms, two up, two down, which proved so useful while other premises then just bought by the Trust were re-conditioned and prepared for use. The next stop was at 2 South Street, the bungalow home of the Longs where, until this year, and indeed for the past ten years, all the office work of the Trust was done, and where today all but that part of the office work relative to the selling side is still carried out. From there the cars proceeded to Mount Pleasant on the outskirts of Oakham and the friends inspected the Distribution Centre which has just been greatly improved by the addition of a newly built extension on the ground floor; here they met the two non-Bahá'í full-time employees who deal with the packing, despatching, invoicing



LEICESTER: Assembled friends during the first half of the school photographed with Hand of the Cause Mr Paul Haney.



TIVERTON: Friends attending the second half of the school

and recording of sales, and where too John Turner, who has recently joined the part-time staff to help the Manager, is also housed. The cavalcade then proceeded through the delightful Rutland countryside fourteen miles to the village of Ryhall, where they went round the building which forms one entire side of the village square and which constitutes the Trust's bulk storage warehouse, and heard something of its history. Across country then to Ketton to see the warehouse premises there which the Trust hopes will be acquired to fill the capital project under the Five Year Plan for the development of the Trust; at the time of the visit although our NSA had signed the contract to purchase these premises the vendor had not yet signed, he was however good enough to let the party see the inside of two of the three floors. Everyone came away fervently hoping that the deal would be completed and that the Trust would acquire these so suitable premises.

On the return journey a short stop was made at South Street, Oakham again where Vera Long had very welcome cups of tea awaiting the party, the temperature that afternoon having reached 90°F, before chasing back to Scraptoft just in time for dinner; all those who went on this outing were not only appreciative of the opportunity of seeing how the Trust has developed in the last four years, but were conscious that such growth could not have taken place had it not been for the guidance of Bahá'u'lláh operating through the National Assembly. All voted it a most enjoyable and interesting afternoon.

'Late-night' sessions were also eventful, evening sessions with the Hands were often transferred to the lounges. Two public meetings were held, 180 Bahá'ís attended the second meeting. There, the message from the House of Justice was read:

DELIGHTED LOVING GREETINGS LEICESTER
SUMMER SCHOOL CONGRATULATE BRITISH
COMMUNITY HONOUR VISIT THIS SUMMER HANDS
CAUSE HANEY FAIZI FURUTAN MUHAJIR CON-

Group photographs are obtainable from 'Sue' Benatar, 65 Avon Drive, Bedford, at 50p each.
Please send STAMPED addressed envelope and make cheques payable to NSA of the Bahá'ís.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TEACHING COMMITTEE

Report by Kaff Conroy

The first seminar on travel teaching on an international scale was held on the weekend of 20/21 September at the University of Nottingham. The seminar aimed at gaining a greater and more intimate understanding of the significance of travel teaching and to attempt to formulate a long term plan in which the community can participate and fulfil our goals of travel teaching overseas.

In opening, the chairman of the seminar Ridván Moqbel welcomed Counsellor Mrs Betty Reed, Mr John Long, chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly, Mrs June Ritter, secretary of the Continental Pioneering Committee for Europe and a surprise visitor, Dr Dwight Allen, who is pioneering in Lesotho. The seminar was attended by fifty-six friends, a large number of whom had experienced travel teaching. Within the first thirty minutes, it became obvious to all present that a wonderful

FIDENT WILL DERIVE UTMOST BENEFIT
INSPIRATION THEIR PRESENCE. ANTICIPATE
EFFECTIVE UPSURGE ACTIVITY RAPID ACHIEVE-
MENTS GOALS PLAN ADVISE GREAT ATTENTION
HOME FRONT ASSURE ARDENT PRAYERS.

Undoubtedly this message suggests the scope and extent of teaching that must be undertaken for the remainder of the Plan. For those of us who attended the school we shared the "spirit of fellowship in a distinctly Bahá'í atmosphere" and left exhilarated and eager to serve the Cause.

TIVERTON SUMMER SCHOOL

A most successful and extremely happy summer school was held in Devon immediately after the one in Leicester and using the same programme. Here, too, we had the inestimable bounty of the presence of Hands of the Cause Mr Faizi, Mr Haneý and Dr Muhajir and other distinguished Bahá'ís, and the location was the well appointed and spacious public school Blundells. Talks, lectures, workshops and some hilarious entertainment evenings were a source of inspiration and joy. In one respect particularly the school was different from that held in Leicester: it was a FAMILY school — children were allowed to attend and were made very welcome, adding their own contribution to a happy atmosphere, and a carefully planned series of classes and projects was arranged for them.

Universal participation might well have been a theme for the school for so many people helped in so many ways — giving wonderful talks, looking after children, guiding workshops, working on committees — that it would be impossible to mention them all, but thanks must go to the indefatigable Brian Huxtable who, helped by his wife, Carole, and the rest of the committee, steered the school to its successful conclusion.

atmosphere of love and spiritual fellowship already generated the seminar.

Betty Reed, with her usual dynamism and humour, reminded us of the spiritual destiny of the British Bahá'í community raised by 'Abdu'l-Bahá and nurtured by the beloved Guardian, and how the British community had carried the banner of the Blessed Beauty to all corners of the world.

An excellent workshop into the spiritual and practical aspects of travel teaching was conducted and the friends referred to the relevant passages in the Holy Writings of the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the Guardian and the Universal House of Justice. This was a wonderful and inspiring session with helpful guidance from Betty Reed and Dwight Allen who moved round the workshop groups.

After dinner on the first night, Betty Reed led us through the travel teaching goals assigned to us by the Universal House of Justice. Using a large map she told us in detail of the spiritual relationship which binds these twenty-three goal countries on three Continents with this community. We were then taken on a world tour with slides, stories and music by John Long, Hooman Momen, Sylvia Benatar, Peter Smith and Fiona Macdonald, all of whom are seasoned travel teachers.

Sunday began with an input session when some of the travel teachers shared with us their experiences and gave the friends a clearer insight into the joy of, and useful hints for, travel teaching in each of the three continents. All the friends who are considering travel teaching abroad were advised to study in depth 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánúm's book "A Manual for Pioneers".

During the afternoon session an open panel gave some practical information including methods of travel, charters, student rates, health requirements, visas and finance. The closing session was an open discussion with the friends concentrating on their part in the travel teaching campaign for the next two years and the role of Bahá'í youth in this enterprise. It was agreed that a loving exchange of ideas and experiences was the best training for the friends.

During this session, offers from the fifty-six assembled friends totalled thirty-two for 110 projects in the 1976/77 period. A telegram was then sent to the Universal House of Justice which read:

"Loving greetings fifty-six participants first International Travel Teaching Seminar Nottingham stop Grateful guidance Counsellor Betty Reed, Dwight Allen, John Long, June Ritter stop Friends deeply aware urgency fulfil British goals three continents joyous occasion mature consultation determined accelerate teaching efforts stop Implore Prayers Sacred Threshold."

to which the Universal House of Justice replied:

"Hearts uplifted news International Travel Teaching Seminar Nottingham kindly convey participants loving appreciation cable assure fervent prayers Sacred Threshold Bountiful Confirmations efforts volunteers 110 projects."

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

NOTICES

Material for the January edition of the JOURNAL should reach the EDITOR.

Lois Hainsworth (Mrs)
27 Rutland Gate
London SW7

not later than 10 December, 1975.

Photographs should be well-contrasted black and white glossy prints, and copy MUST be typed (preferably double-spaced), except for very small contributions from communities who have no typewriter and, in these cases, should be CLEARLY written. Please note that changes of address or numbers of Journals required should NOT be sent to the Editor, but to the National Office.

NOTICES

BIRTHS

[REDACTED]

DEATHS

- 15 February 1975: Elizabeth Cofman, at Eastbourne. She served on the first Spiritual Assembly of Rome with Hand of the Cause Dr Giachery after becoming a Bahá'í through him and later served on the Spiritual Assembly of Oxford for eleven years from 1952. The Guardian had a photograph of Dr Giachery and Elizabeth over his bed in the Mansion at Bahjí.
- 28 August 1975: Dorothy Dewhirst.
- 5 September 1975: Annie Fraser
- 8 September 1975: Gethin Jones
- 10 September 1975: Baby Nemat, son of Mr and Mrs Mohabat in Hounslow.
- 14 September 1975: Frank Worsley
- 17 September 1975: 'Topsy' Bennett
- September 1975: Hedley Beattie
- 20 October 1975: Clive Gagg

WANTED: A CARETAKER FOR THE MANCHESTER BAHÁ'Í CENTRE

The LSA is looking for a person or couple to look after the building, including cleaning, supervision of maintenance etc. Free living accommodation provided. For further information contact the LSA Secretary:

Mr David A. Grant
7 Ellesmere Road South
Manchester M21 1TE
Tel: 061-881 7188

BAHÁ'Í EDUCATION

by Stanwood Cobb

"... Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá have established definite principles to guide the educators of the future. So that if we study carefully these principles, in comparison also with the general teachings of the Cause, we can form a very clear picture of what education will be like among the Bahá'ís of the future."

"In the first place, it will be universal. Bahá'u'lláh has said that it is the duty of every parent to educate his children. If he cannot do this then the state will take charge of the matter."

"Secondly, education will be more practical. Bahá'u'lláh said: 'Let everyone be taught a trade or profession.' Culture is a gift that makes life more beautiful and intelligent, but skill at a trade or profession is the indispensable means of raising man from brutish servitude."

"In the Bahá'í scheme of education the cultural will not be neglected; but it will parallel the practical, and not hold precedence over it."

"Thirdly, much that has been deemed important in education will be dropped. Bahá'u'lláh said, 'Teach those things that pertain to human welfare and not those things that begin in words and end in words'. This is a glorious but severe criterion. The race must live. It must live comfortably. All men must enjoy comfort."

"Bahá'ís, perhaps more than other people, see the hope of the world as lying in the children. Easier by far it is for a child born into the Kingdom to become a perfect citizen of it, than for an adult who has been, so to speak, only naturalised into it. And to perceiving eyes it would seem that marvellous children are being born into the world — more spiritual, more gifted, than the world has hitherto known. Before such children we adults are reverent, respecting higher powers though in those of inferior age."

"Therefore the Bahá'í teacher will be humble, sweet, companionable, and above all loving. Not opinionated, austere, bigotted or jealous of mental powers superior to his own. He will be supremely happy with children, for to him teaching will always be a voyage of discovery — the discovery of hidden talents, of dormant powers, of budding gifts, and of germinating flowers of the spirit."

"He will be a gardener training his plants, cultivating choice seedlings, gently caring for all; but speechless before the beauty of the blossoms which his care evokes, worshipping that beauty as an apparition of the Divine Splendour behind and through the human veils."

"The full power of development latent in the soul we have but little realised. Not only is the human race capable of an enormously greater progress than it has yet reached, but also every child is capable of keener perception, of deeper ratiocination, of greater initiative and creativeness, and of earlier maturity of character."

"It is a pity that circumstances did not permit 'Abdu'l-Bahá to demonstrate by means of a model school what true Bahá'í education should be. But from his own words and from those of Bahá'u'lláh, Bahá'í educators will construct a more ideal system of child training than that now prevalent."

"Lastly, Bahá'í education will concern itself not only with the moral, but with the spiritual development of the child. Character training is attempted in our schools. But character must be based on a spiritual foundation. Character training cannot be attempted apart from the fundamental truths of religion. In the Bahá'í world of the future the mind, the soul, and the spirit will be nurtured together.

"In closing I cannot do better than to cite the wonderful words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in regard to the kind of education which our colleges and universities should give. If this ideal, held up by 'Abdu'l-Bahá for the inspiration of future educators, ever becomes realised, there will be little need of prisons and reformatories in a world so educated.

"The Universities and Colleges of the world must hold fast to three cardinal principles: First, whole-hearted service to the cause of education, the unfolding of the mysteries of nature, the extension of the boundaries of pure science, the elimination of the causes of ignorance and social evils, a standard universal

system of instruction, and the diffusion of the lights of knowledge and reality.

"Second, service to the cause of the students, inspiring them with the sublimest ideals of ethical refinement, teaching them altruism, inculcating in their lives the beauty of holiness and the excellency of virtues and animation with the excellences and perfections of the religion of God.

"Third, service to the oneness of the world of humanity; so that each student may consciously realise that he is a brother to all mankind, irrespective of religion or race. The thoughts of universal peace must be instilled in the hearts of all scholars. The mothers in the homes, the teachers in the schools, the professors in the colleges, the presidents in the universities must teach these ideals to the young from the cradle to the years of manhood."

Reprinted from 'Star of the West', April 1923, at the request of the CHILD EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

CRAIGAVON: The first residential deepening weekend to be held in Northern Ireland took place in July with the help of the Belfast Assembly, and was focussed on the study of the theory and operation of the local spiritual assembly. Those attending divided into groups and held mock assembly meetings which were found to be most helpful, and experiences were shared when the two groups came together at the end of the weekend. Counsellor Betty Reed attended and gave the participants the benefit of her experience, and everyone gained greater insight into the functioning of the assembly. Belfast Assembly reported that two days afterwards they had their best assembly meeting of the year!

DERBY: Our one-day school in September attracted friends from a wide area of the Midlands. After a devotional period, Deyhim Foroughi began by giving a superb talk on the Spiritual Assembly and its responsibilities to the community, which will have given many assembly members thought for further meditation, especially as he spoke at length on the profound subject of the Covenant, a subject which, unknown to Mr Foroughi, had been chosen for inclusion in deepening classes at the earliest opportunity.

In the afternoon Patrick Vickers preceded the 'talk-in' with an informal lecture handling the delicate subject of personal prejudice with some light hilarity, so inspiring friends that the talk which had been scheduled to last only fifteen minutes over-ran to fifty minutes, all consciousness of time being completely forgotten. It is no surprise, therefore, that the Derby community and the people from other localities who took part and contributed so grandly, have new life to offer to Bahá'í friends and non-Bahá'í friends alike.

GUILDFORD: We have a very active and lively community in Guildford now, with seven Bahá'ís at the university, one at the law school and two in the hospital. The Bahá'í Society has several new contacts after their stand at Freshers Fayre and have already had several lovely firesides as well as hosting the celebration of the Birth of the Báb. We are also getting a slow but steady flow of enquiries from other sources in the area.

Members of the community were able to take part in the organisation of the annual International Welcome Fortnight, during which time various organisations represented on the Guildford International Council come together and provided a full programme of activities to welcome newly arrived overseas students, 'au pairs', nurses etc., to the activities in the town. As well as taking part in the general events and making many new contacts, we also played a large part in the "World Spirit" event, with music from Leon Braunstein, Fiona Macdonald and Mercedeh Taherzadeh, a prayer for Unity from 'Abdu'l-Bahá, slides, and a presentation of the Faith from the Bahá'í Society.

Teaching work has continued in our extension teaching area of Waverley, with increased interest. The Waverley group is now firmly established and we have every hope of achieving assembly status there at Riqván 1976, with the loving support of the Unit Teaching Committee.

Our youth committee have, once again, raised money for the Capital Projects Fund, this time with a Bar-b-que and Bring and Buy sale, which fetched £27 — in spite of everyone eating extremely well.

Many exciting projects and events are under way and we look forward to an exciting upsurge of teaching successes in the area.



Feast at Inverness. Counsellor Betty Reed on extreme left.

HOUNSLOW: We have recently been blessed by many visitors from overseas and by the pioneering to Bombay of Flairivar and Irene Taafaci and their family, with whom go our prayers and love.

Friends from several places attended the sad funeral of baby Nemat, son of Mr and Mrs Mohabat, near the grave of the beloved Guardian.

INVERNESS: As part of its teaching and proclamation work in the goal district of Moray the Inverness Assembly arranged an interview with Mrs Winifred Ewing, the Scottish Nationalist MP for the area. Marjorie Giorgi and Iain Palin met her at her home in Lossiemouth and presented her with a proclamation book on behalf of the Assembly. Mrs Ewing had visited the Shrine of the Báb on a visit to Israel and been impressed with the beauty of the World Centre of the Faith, and she promised to read the literature. Before entering Parliament she was a practising lawyer, and retains a deep interest on the position of women in society to the extent that she now sits on the House of Commons Select Committee on Violence and Marriage, whose report is expected soon. A particularly interesting discussion on the Bahá'í view on the role of the sexes, lasting about half an hour, took place.

'Nairn', the city of golden sunny beaches, was again the setting for the Annual Nairnshire Agricultural Show early in August, attracting hundreds of visitors from all over Britain. For the Bahá'ís of Inverness, although Nairn is not their goal area, it was another opportunity to proclaim the Faith to a large gathering. The Bahá'í tent, with "Bahá'í Faith" in foot-high polystyrene letters above it, was hard to miss! The attractively presented exhibition was visited by over a hundred people, and many more paused at the entrance and took free literature.

We were delighted to hear that one visitor who came to our exhibition at Nairn last year became a Bahá'í later in Southern England. Others commented that they had seen publicity in the newspapers and came to find out about it.

IPSWICH: We have had a beautiful and active summer, quite a contrast with last year. We continue to strengthen our links with the Quakers and have held a Unity Feast with them, prompted by an enquiry about our form of service, and Geoff. Bridle gave a short talk.

In support of Women's International Year, we had a very successful public meeting, Shomais Afnan acting as Chairman and a well known local figure, Mrs Drabble, President of the National Council of Women, Eastern Region, and a Quaker, as guest speaker. This gave us a much wider audience and a good write-up in the paper with details circularised in several societies' monthly newsletters. Everyone enjoyed the occasion, the Bahá'ís enjoyed hearing someone from outside and the others meeting the Bahá'ís, many for the first time. Also present was Judge Drabble to whom Mrs Afnan presented a copy of "Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh", and the secretary of UNA. This is the first time, to our knowledge, that our community has had notable local figures from the town present. This was one of the few meetings arranged in the town for the occasion and caused favourable comment. Slowly people are realising we have something to offer and ask why people come to our meetings; in a town noted for apathy and indifference this is in itself enough to make an impression.

LEICESTER: Our community held an event to celebrate International Women's Year on 4 October at the Red Cross Hall. The evening was thought to be a great success as there were nine sincere contacts present. A panel of speakers included a representative of 'The National Council for Single Women and Their Dependents'; 'The Red Cross'; 'A Social Worker' and Lou Turner representing the Faith. An informal discussion was held afterwards over coffee and biscuits and we, literally, had to ask people to leave as we had to close the premises on time!

NORTHAMPTON: In response to the call to make contact with the World Congress of Faiths the Northampton Spiritual Assembly took part in an inter-faiths meeting held at Wellingborough Public School at which there was an audience of 175, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Wellingborough,



Feast in Kirkwall



Bahá'í tent at Orkney County Show



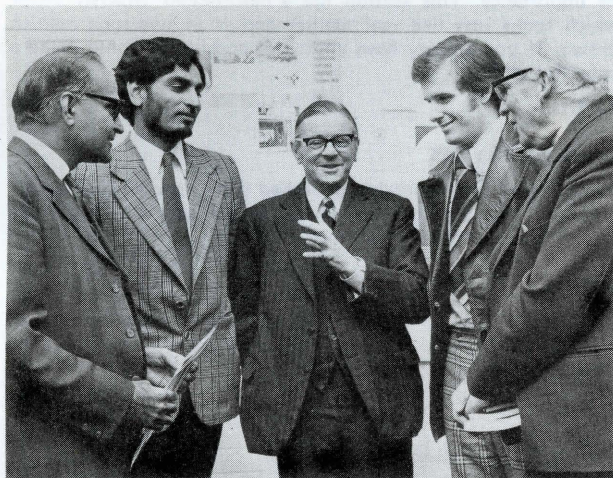
Music and readings at public presentation in Dounby, Orkneys



Some of the friends who helped man the 'World Order' Exhibition in Kirkwall. Board Member Irene Bennett, from Africa, right, end of back row.

the headmaster of the school and members of most of the racial and religious communities in the area. Seven faiths had speakers on the platform and each was given five minutes in which to outline the basic tenets of his belief. The main speaker was Archbishop G. Appleton, the Chairman of the World Congress of Faiths.

After the talks the Mayoress expressed especial interest in the Bahá'í Faith and asked many questions of the speaker. Several people requested literature and exchanged addresses. One of the contacts present attended a fireside given two days later in the goal town of Kettering and brought along a friend who had met Bahá'ís in America. Thus, in one week, the Northampton community was able to address a large audience, gain newspaper publicity in both Wellingborough and Kettering, inaugurate firesides in Kettering and make personal contact with a large number of people.



Photograph by permission of Northampton Newspapers. Five of the speakers at the Wellingborough School meeting: left to right Mr M. Ferugi (Muslim), Mr D. Singh (Sikh), Major Samson (Christian), Mr K. Beint (Bahá'í) and Archbishop G. Appleton, Chairman of World Congress of Faiths

ORKNEY: Over fifty people came to the "World Order" exhibition in Kirkwall Town Hall at the end of July. A few days later the exhibition attracted some interest when displayed in a marquee at the Orkney County Agricultural Show where there was a record attendance of over 9,000 — half the population of Orkney.

The musical presentation of the Faith, "For All Seasons" was staged in the villages of Dounby and St. Margaret's Hope and the islands of Sanday, Flotta and Graemsay during August and September. We were assisted in some places by Viv and Rita Bartlett from South Wales and Terry Pickles from Dunstable. Although audiences were small we were delighted that a few people had left the comfort of their homes to hear the Message of Bahá'u'lláh. Books were presented to ministers and head teachers in the places where the show was held and invitations were sent to every household. Viv Bartlett was given permission by the head teacher of the Sanday Junior Secondary School to give a half-hour talk to older pupils.

We were also given permission to hold a show in the Kirkwall School Hostel where a handful of older children showed interest and came to a fireside the following evening. Viv Bartlett and Doreen Wake gave a talk to about a dozen sixth formers at the Kirkwall Grammar School with the newly-appointed R.E. teacher also showing a great deal of interest. An opportunity was taken to present her with a study pack.

During the second weekend of September a series was held and an exhibition displayed in the Assembly Rooms, Wick, based on the theme, "The Oneness of Mankind". These activities were organised by the LSA and supported by Viv and Rita Bartlett and some of the Inverness friends. Although the meetings were poorly attended there were a few interested enquirers, so that a further meeting in Wick has been arranged for October. Following our activities in Wick, the John O' Groat Journal published an article about the Faith under the title, "Bahá'ís explain their Faith".

Veteran silviculturist and Bahá'í, eighty-six year old Richard St. Barbe Baker paid what turned out to be a very successful visit to Orkney in September. He gave a public talk entitled, "My Life, My Trees" to a most appreciative audience of about twenty-five people. He also gave a talk to pupils at Kirkwall Grammar School. The local newspaper, "The Orcadian" carried articles about his visit on two successive weeks.



WATFORD EXHIBITION

WATFORD: Our community took part in Watford Show sponsored by the West Herts & Watford Observer by the display of an impressive Bahá'í Exhibition, which occupied a prominent position on a marquee site.

Alongside our exhibition there were twelve non-religious organisations which came from commercial, industrial and educational sectors of the community and, as a whole, were visited by hundreds of people who had come to see the show.

The organiser of the Watford Show feels strongly that this occasion is going to be an annual event and, through his letter, has warmly invited us to join them again in 1976.

We are deeply appreciative of suggestions and help given to us by friends from St. Neots, Dacorum, Northampton, Three Rivers and Radlet. Particularly our thanks go to Ted Cardell and Peter Kyne whose combined exhibition material produced an impressive result.

WOKINGHAM/BASINGSTOKE: Seven weeks after a marvellous Unit 11 conference at the goal town of Basingstoke, the exhibition "Mankind United" was mounted by the Wokingham community, with invaluable support from Winchester and from other friends, in Basingstoke town library. The exhibition was opened by the Mayor of Basingstoke, who was shown round and presented with a book by Auxiliary Board Member, David Lewis, from Winchester. The wife and daughter of the Mayor were also present and were presented with books.

The exhibition was an excellent proclamation of the Faith with many visitors, quite a few of whom showed real interest and stayed to talk. Several thousands of people must have seen the exhibition or heard something of the Faith.

Two musical evenings were held, with much help from Martin Cortazzi. The last had a particularly good attendance and a wonderful atmosphere, much enriched by a performance on the sitar by a local Indian shopkeeper.

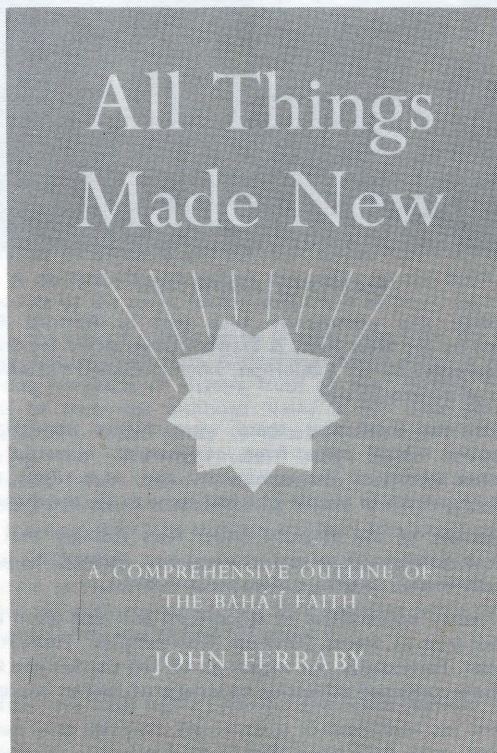
Newspaper publicity was good, covering the Unit Conference, the opening of the exhibition and the musical evenings. One of the papers stated that the Mayor was 'obviously impressed' by the exhibition. We are sure that the effort expended will bear fruit for many years to come.



BASINGSTOKE EXHIBITION: David Lewis presenting the Mayor with a copy of 'Gleanings'

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ALL THINGS MADE NEW by John Ferraby

Originally written before the passing of the Guardian, the contents have been amended to take this into account, together with the inception of the Universal House of Justice. All changes have been specifically approved by the Universal House of Justice. It is a scholarly book which covers all aspects of the Faith and has been very widely used throughout the world. As a source of reference it is quite invaluable and is immensely useful for presentation to thinking people as an introduction to the Faith.

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The Epistle to the Son of the Wolf
Bahá'í World Faith (USA Compilation)
Bahá'u'lláh, by H. M. Balyusi.

200 pages, double column on each, averaging over 100 references on each, it is understood to have taken the compiler, Hugh Carden of New Zealand, over two years of full time work to complete.

B.132

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

New terms having been negotiated by the National Assembly with Messrs George Ronald, their publications will no longer be sold 'postage extra', but will be despatched by us on the same terms as our own publications in the United Kingdom.

Imported items, B.131, B.132 and P.108 are subject to the additional 'currency surcharge' currently in force at the time of despatch.

THE DAWNBREAKERS, by Nabíl, translated from the Persian by Shoghi Effendí

This important book, a major source of Bahá'í history with which we are enjoined to make ourselves more familiar, has now been reprinted. This is one of those books which should be in the possession of every Bahá'í, containing as it does details of the early history of the Faith, and it is quite impossible to overstate its importance. This edition has a hardbacked 'Bukсын' cover which looks just like real leather and is in two-tone reddish brown. If you already have your own copy, this would make a beautiful gift.

B.17

£ *

BAHÁ'Í PRAYERS

By the time this Journal is published it is expected that a new edition of the 'red' prayer book will be available and details will be published in the next Journal.

JAPAN WILL TURN ABLAZE

The Guardian's Letters to Japan with a description of the growth of the Faith there and of the early pioneers, e.g. Agnes Alexander. Illustrated. A very attractive book.

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CHILDREN'S COLOURING BOOK

Bahá'í buildings in various lands in outline for children to fill in with paint or crayon colouring, it has appropriate large letter descriptive matter relative to each picture.

P.108

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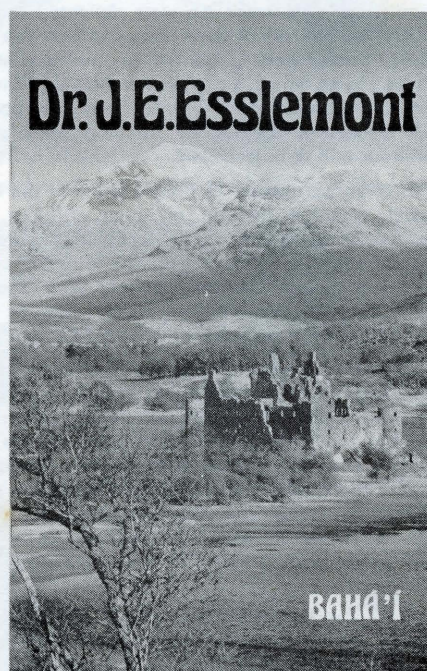
Dr ESSELMONT by Moojan Momen

A life of the author of "Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era" especially prepared for the fiftieth anniversary of Dr Esslemont's passing in the Holy Land. A great deal of research was undertaken by Dr Momen to produce this excellent little book and it gives an insight into the early days of the Faith in this country.

It is illustrated by four halftone photographs and the attractive cover is a Scottish scene – this is appropriate as Dr Esslemont was a Scot.

B.130

£ *



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