



# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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## "PROGRAMME FOR VICTORY"

### — A ONE-YEAR CAMPAIGN FOR SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND —

#### SCOTLAND

At its meeting over the weekend of 10-13 December 1976, the National Assembly adopted a one-year campaign for Scotland to commence immediately to cover the period up to December 1977. The initiative for this new approach came from Counsellor Betty Reed and the campaign will have the full support of the Institution of the Counsellors and the National Assembly through its National Teaching Committee.

The National Assembly will send one Assembly member every month to participate in some aspect of the campaign, and a "support" committee of one member from the National and the Highlands and Islands Teaching Committees and Betty Shepherd on behalf of the Counsellors, will keep in touch with the progress of the campaign, to give whatever guidance is required.

1. This campaign will be phased as follows:

- (i) **January — Naw-Rúz:** proclamation and teaching in all communities and goal towns. Personal teaching and some proclamation in some Districts.
- (ii) **Naw-Rúz — Ridván:** the whole of Scotland to be geared into a "Ridván-push" to ensure that the two local assemblies under cluster-movement actually draw all existing local assemblies into the winning of these "B" goals.
- (iii) **Ridván — June:** swings immediately into continuance of local activity, with possibility in June of beginning specific travels into Districts which need opening.
- (iv) **July and August:** Special projects and visits to Districts. Many "C" goals and Districts to be opened are in 'holiday country', and travel teachers and visitors could fit into these plans.
- (v) **September — December:** resume proclamation and teaching activities in all communities and goal towns.

2. This campaign will have three prongs: **Proclamation** — the purpose being to make the existence of the Faith known; **Teaching** — by its very nature this is a personal thing; **Confirmation/Identification** — the purpose of all the activity is to have new, confirmed and active Bahá'ís, and this shall be regarded from the outset as the positive objective.

3. **Local Proclamation:** If planned and worked out properly, proclamation can be assured of 100% success every time. The following proclamation activities are listed as examples of what can be done **locally and in the goal towns:**

- (i) Public meetings — (a) general introduction, normal advertisements;  
(b) specifically directed towards some objective, with special invitations to certain sections of society.
- (ii) The Bahá'í Week, to an overall theme.
- (iii) Weekend activities: (a) for youth;  
(b) for parents and children;  
(c) for senior citizens, including visits to Homes with slides, singing groups, etc.
- (iv) Individual, personal proclamation.

**Note:** In planning for any extension of proclamation the relevant excerpts from the messages from the Universal House of Justice dated Ridván 1967 and 2 July 1967, and found on pages 112, 113, 117 and 118 of "Wellspring of Guidance" must be studied. "Every effort of proclamation must be sustained by teaching, particularly locally"; "In some places it is desirable to open a teaching campaign with publicity — in others it is wiser to establish first a solid local community. . . ." It is for these reasons that groups have hitherto not been allowed to engage in Proclamation activities although encouraged to get normal publicity for all teaching activities. The following items under this heading of the campaign should, therefore, be cleared first with the National Assembly Secretary before being launched.

- (v) Media publicity — (a) press, (b) radio, (c) television.
- (vi) Exhibitions: (a) one week; (b) one weekend; (c) agricultural shows, etc.; (d) in those places where Highland Gatherings are held; (e) in shop windows.
- (vii) Presentations: systematic during year, locally and in goal towns.

4. **Teaching:** Can be carried out individually and by families, and/or by several friends working together. It is seldom a communal activity, whereas proclamation — which requires organisation — is a common activity. The greatest needs are confidence and courage. It is suggested that the personal teaching campaign therefore be simple:

- (i) pray to be guided to the right person(s);
- (ii) pray to be given the courage and to have the confidence to open one's mouth;
- (iii) lift up one's voice, and tell about the Faith.



5. **Confirmation:** There should be local consultation about this important point of bringing contacts to the point of confirmation and identification with the Faith. It is sometimes useful to hold a programme of, say, six firesides, designed to cover in simple terms what a new Bahá'í needs to know — (i) The Báb; (ii) Bahá'u'lláh; (iii) 'Abdu'l-Bahá; (iv) Shoghi Effendi and the building of the Administrative Order; (v) opportunity for questions-and-answers covering any aspects of the Faith; (vi) the individual Bahá'í and the life of the Bahá'í community.

Such a programme leading to identification is not essential, when a heart is ignited it is unnecessary (deepening after the new Bahá'í is born is, however, more than essential); its purpose is to lead the attracted person steadily towards identification, instead of having them on the fringe of the Bahá'í community for a long time — we are now short of time.

The major objective in bringing confirmation into the year's campaign is to produce a dynamic attitude, with confident expectation that people will become Bahá'ís.

6. **Contact with the media over the whole year:** In each assembly and goal town (and possibly also everywhere there is a group) a calendar be worked out on a suitably wide piece of paper divided into twelve sections. Under each calendar month the particular expected happening in that month be written down, e.g. Holy Days, summer schools, conferences, election of local assemblies, national assemblies, Universal House of Justice, area conventions, etc. This will show in what ways press releases and photographs can be sent to the media following the rhythm of the Bahá'í year. Additional events can then be organised especially to fill in those months where there is no opportunity for press coverage within that rhythm.

The goal is for each place to get non-advertising publicity each month. Every opportunity can be taken to get bona fide publicity as part of the proclamation endeavour.

7. **Residential Teaching Projects in "C" Goal Towns:** An appeal be made for residential projects of one, two, three, four weeks or longer, in the goal towns of the Districts of Moray, Ettrick and Lauderdale, Argyle, Dumbarton and East Kilbride.
8. **Small Mobile Stands:** Aberdeen, Glasgow and Hamilton be asked if they would each make a small, mobile exhibit, free-standing, which could be used in any place, city, town or village, to be a focal point of proclamation. Such a stand can be manned by two or three friends, is simple enough to permit the posters, etc., to be changed easily, can include the offering of pamphlets and booklets, and can be especially useful in taking the Faith to different sections of a town or city or into the countryside. Such stands have been used constantly in numerous countries.
9. **Opening of new Districts:** Because of the anticipated difficulty of achieving the goal of opening all Districts, the friends be now encouraged to start upon this, not devoting the whole of their time and energy to it, but keeping it actively in mind and consistently working on it. Some simple things can be done, such as:

- (i) write to relatives and long-ago friends and acquaintances introducing the Faith to them;
- (ii) holding a picnic and having a happy time in a new place, but including a 'pray, travel and search' element in the day;
- (iii) making an individual trip to a new District, as part of one's personal teaching programme.

The most important thing is to focus attention upon the need to work in the Districts at every opportunity, and keeping this constantly before the friends.

It will be necessary to provide the believers with a list of unopened Districts, as it is unlikely that many know which are goal Districts in Scotland.

Travel teachers coming from the South will inevitably go through some unopened Districts, they should know which these are and try to help in this campaign.

10. **Local Proclamation Programmes:** The ideal may be for each place to hold a proclamation event of some kind every month, either in their own community or in their goal town (clusters co-operating so as not to overlap), but this may be beyond the strength of some communities. It is therefore important that there be consultation with each assembly/community to make a tailor-made plan just for them. If a systematic proclamation through the whole of Scotland is achieved, who knows what may happen, especially in connection with the mass-media and possible publicity through some opposition?

This is an exciting new Campaign within the "Programme" and the National Assembly is sure that all the friends throughout Scotland will seize their opportunity to "astonish the Bahá'í World".

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### 1. Phasing

The following phasing of the goals will be adopted:

- (i) **January to Ridván.** The whole community to focus attention in winning **Newtonabbey and Lisburn**. The campaign will thus extend the existing 'clusters'. The "responsible" assemblies, in consultation with the two groups and the NITC will alternate their joint activities so that work goes ahead continuously in both Districts.
- (ii) **Ridván to June.** A series of nine meetings to be held one in each of nine unopened Districts, the nine to be selected by the NITC.
- (iii) **July and August.** Special projects and residential teaching in the remaining three Goal Districts of **Ards, Larne and Strabane**.
- (iv) **September and October.** A further series of six meetings in unopened Districts as planned by NITC.
- (v) **October to January.** Concentrated effort in the three Goal Districts to achieve at least one by the end of the Campaign.

### 2. Methods. (To implement (ii) and (iv) above)

- (a) Two teams to be formed of, say, four to six believers.
- (b) One team goes into the District one week before a scheduled meeting, to advertise, carry out a "letterdrop" and generally prepare the ground.
- (c) The second team appears on the following week with a small mobile exhibition, provides the speakers and literature for a pre-booked hotel room meeting. Meanwhile the first team is "preparing" the next District.

### 3. Province-wide Proclamation

The whole province to be covered from Belfast, using perhaps the "Belfast Telegraph" during March, April and May.

Every opportunity will also be taken to obtain media publicity by press, radio and television.

4. The guidance given on "Proclamation", "Teaching", "Confirmation", and "Contact with any media", are the same as released for Scotland (above) in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.



### 5. Opening of new Districts

In addition to the specific attempts to open the fifteen new Districts as described in 1 (ii) and 1 (iv) above, the friends should make a start in other ways, not devoting the whole of their time and energy to it, but keeping it actively in mind and consistently working on it. Some simple things can be done, such as:

- (i) write to relatives and long-ago friends and acquaintances introducing the Faith to them;
- (ii) holding a picnic and having a happy time in a new place, but including a 'pray, travel and search' element in the day;
- (iii) making an individual trip to a new District, as part of one's personal teaching programme.

The most important thing is to focus attention upon the need to work in the Districts at every opportunity, and keeping this constantly in mind.

The unopened Districts are as follows:

Limavady	Armagh	Cookstown	Ballymena
Omagh	Newry and Mourne	Magherafelt	Moyle
Fermanagh	Banbridge	Antrim	Ards
Dungannon	Down	Ballymoney	

This is an exciting new campaign within the 'Programme'. National Assembly members will visit to help. A special 'support' team of three has been established consisting of Dr Munro on behalf of the National Assembly; Dr Beman Khosravi on behalf of the Counsellors and one member to be selected from the NITC.

6. The National Assembly feels certain that with the new spirit of determination already seen throughout the United Kingdom since Teaching Conference, the friends in Northern Ireland will set about achieving their goals well ahead of time and bring joy to the hearts of the members of the Universal House of Justice and give inspiration to the Bahá'ís the world over who are eagerly awaiting victory upon victory from the "virile, forward marching, securely established" British Bahá'í Community.

## CONTINUING PROGRESS – MOUNT CARMEL

JOYFULLY ANNOUNCE SIGNATURE AGREEMENT  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR FOR ERECTION SEAT  
UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE AT COST JUST  
OVER TWO MILLION DOLLARS. FIRST SHIPMENT  
FINISHED MARBLE DELIVERED SITE. LOVING  
GREETINGS.

10 January 1977 *UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE*

## CALL FOR INTENSIFIED TRAVEL TEACHING

Now that we have passed the midway point of the Five Year Plan and through the grace of the Blessed Beauty the processes which it has set in motion in every continent are gaining momentum, we observe almost daily with awe and admiration how abundant are the blessings which surround the efforts of the devoted believers who are delivering His divine Message with dedication, enthusiasm and perseverance, and how infinitely vast and challenging are the possibilities for the future.

One of the activities which must be given greater attention, both nationally and internationally, is travel teaching to localities which are in need of consolidation and stimulation. While teaching projects of short duration, in terms of days and one or two weeks, are useful, the time has come for long-term teaching projects of three to six months and possibly more, as envisaged in the Five Year Plan, to be more vigorously prosecuted in every continent, so that more lasting results may accrue from these teaching trips and the rich harvest anticipated at the outset of the Plan may become a reality, imparting its inestimable benefits to the devoted labourers in His divine Vineyard.

It is hoped that those who will arise will be mostly self-supporting or supported by private deputation, and that the funds of the Faith, nationally for projects on the homefront, and internationally for projects in foreign fields, will be requested only when the individual concerned is regarded as well qualified and there is no other source of funds available to him.

We hope that National Assemblies whose assignments include international travel teaching projects will make a special appeal to the friends under their jurisdiction calling on them to meet this new challenge. If this urgent call, which is directed to all believers in every land, is answered with promptness and enthusiasm by those whose personal circumstances permit, great advances will be made towards fulfilling the hitherto sorely neglected teaching goals of the Plan. While the youth can through their creative resourcefulness and energetic labours effectively support the work ahead, believers from the older age groups can be a valuable asset in the achievement of the goals through their experience, knowledge and wisdom.

Our prayers are offered frequently at the Holy Shrines for the infinite blessings of the Abhá Beauty to reinforce every step you take in strengthening and broadening the foundations of the Faith in the areas entrusted to your care.

19 December 1976 *THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE*

P.S. We feel that your National Assembly has a large reservoir of youth who could be called upon to respond to this call.

There may be many devoted Persian youth studying in your country whose parents can afford and are willing to cover the travelling expenses of their children, and who if appealed to might immediately arise to help meet the present needs of the Plan.



ترجمہ پیام نفع بیت العدل اعظم الہی شہید اللہ اربکانہ - مئی ۱۹ دسمبر ۱۹۷۶ء

[illegible]

Vincent Grilly – Belfast



## TEACHING CONFERENCE

Sheffield Polytechnic: 27/28 November 1976

Report by Lois Hainsworth

An exhilarating conference which caused a great deal of heart-searching and has already produced some wonderful results was a great experience for all who were able to attend it. Excellent arrangements had been made by the Sheffield Assembly, with a band of willing assistants from other communities, for the care of the children, the registration of believers and the sale of literature and audio-visual aids. The attendance of 460 registered adults and eighty children included a bus-load from Scotland and from the Highlands and Islands, the development of which Shoghi Effendi so often stressed as being vital to the growth of the Faith in the British Isles.

The following cable was received by the National Assembly from the Universal House of Justice just prior to the conference and constant reference was made to it throughout:

**Occasion Teaching Conference midpoint Five Year Plan  
urge veteran well-trying capable Bahá'í Community United  
Kingdom resolve prosecute plans accomplish all goals  
shortest possible time. Assure ardent prayers Sacred  
Threshold community so dearly loved Guardian Faith  
will rise to expectations he cherished for them.**

The high level of the conference was set immediately by the opening session conducted by the National Assembly. The Chairman, John Long, welcomed the assembled friends and drew attention to the goals of the Plan and the way in which 'the eyes of the world are upon us', the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom. The great significance of the Five Year Plan, not merely to the people in the United Kingdom but to the entire world, was emphasised. Treasurer Betty Goode spoke movingly of the theme developed at the Langenhain Conference for Counsellors and National Assembly Members relating to the importance of living the Bahá'í life and the call of the Guardian some fifty-two years ago that the 'one thing and only one thing' which 'will unfailingly and alone' secure the triumph of the Cause and this related to the 'inner life and private character' of every Bahá'í. This theme was again developed by Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh in his session on Sunday.

Mrs Goode was followed by National Assembly Secretary, Philip Hainsworth, also the conference chairman, who dealt with the significance of the Faith in modern society and the shortage of time to the end of the century. This also established the basis for the theme of the conference and the cable received from the Universal House of Justice.

The opening session on Saturday afternoon, chaired by National Teaching Committee member Paddy Vickers, was introduced by Philip Hainsworth, this time presenting, on behalf of the National Assembly, an analysis of the first nine months of the 'Programme for Victory', copies of which were available for all attending the conference and which was subsequently published in the last issue of the BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL.

Attention was particularly drawn to the working of the 'clusters' and it was again stressed that this is not a new institution, but merely machinery set up to expedite the achievement of the goals — there is no 'cluster' fund, secretary, treasurer or schedule of meetings. The 'cluster' is a temporary arrangement until a goal is achieved. He said that he was often asked to help solve problems of various kinds, but found that these almost always occurred when a community was inward-looking; if they were actively working in a 'cluster' towards the achievement of a goal outside their own particular area, there was rarely time for bothering about internal problems.

During her session the National Treasurer thanked those friends who had contributed to the fund, especially the children, and drew to our attention the gap between the target and donations. She made particular reference to the Capital Projects Fund, which was well behind target, and stressed the need for these necessary properties to be bought quickly, before inflation made their purchase price even higher. After the conference it was found that £475 had been contributed to the National Fund and £348 to the Capital Projects Fund. It is interesting to note that books to the value of almost £1,200 were sold.

The session for the Institution of the Hands of the Cause, Counsellors and Auxiliary Board Members was taken by Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh with support from our lovely Mary Kouchezkadeh, whose inspirational theme was 'sacrifice'.

In addition to the National Teaching Committee, other sessions were taken by the National Youth Committee, each of whose five members present gave a brief outline of a particular aspect of their work; the National Pioneer Committee, who outlined the requirements of the Plan; the Child Education Advisory Committee, who spoke of their work with the children, and the International Travel Teaching Committee, some of whose members had themselves made extensive teaching trips, endeavoured with some success (over forty offers to travel were received) to persuade their audience of the joy and happiness of travel teaching.

Scattered throughout the hall were posters made by the National Youth Committee and the International Travel Teaching Committee, one of which was the theme provided by the Hand of the Cause William Sears when he visited London and which he later used in Nairobi:—

Arise  
Reach  
Individual  
Souls  
Everywhere.

A particular feature of this conference was the way in which music was more frequently used — there was a small sprinkling of music between most of the sessions. Devotionals were this year prepared by the Tameside and York Communities.

On Saturday evening there was a performance by the group of young Bahá'ís who had taken the 'Daystar' show on the road during the summer — an entertainment involving readings, movement, singing and slides, after which there was a meeting to commemorate the Ascension of the beloved Master.

During the course of Sunday, we had yet another entertainment, when the children presented a play which they had prepared during the course of the conference and in which almost every child took some part.

For the first time in the writer's memory, a meeting of this kind finished on time — before scheduled time, in fact. This gave us all the opportunity for leave taking — always sad after an exciting get-together such as this one, but happier because it was possible to say 'Good-bye' to a few more dear friends than is usually the case.

The following cable was sent to the Universal House of Justice by the National Assembly after the conference:

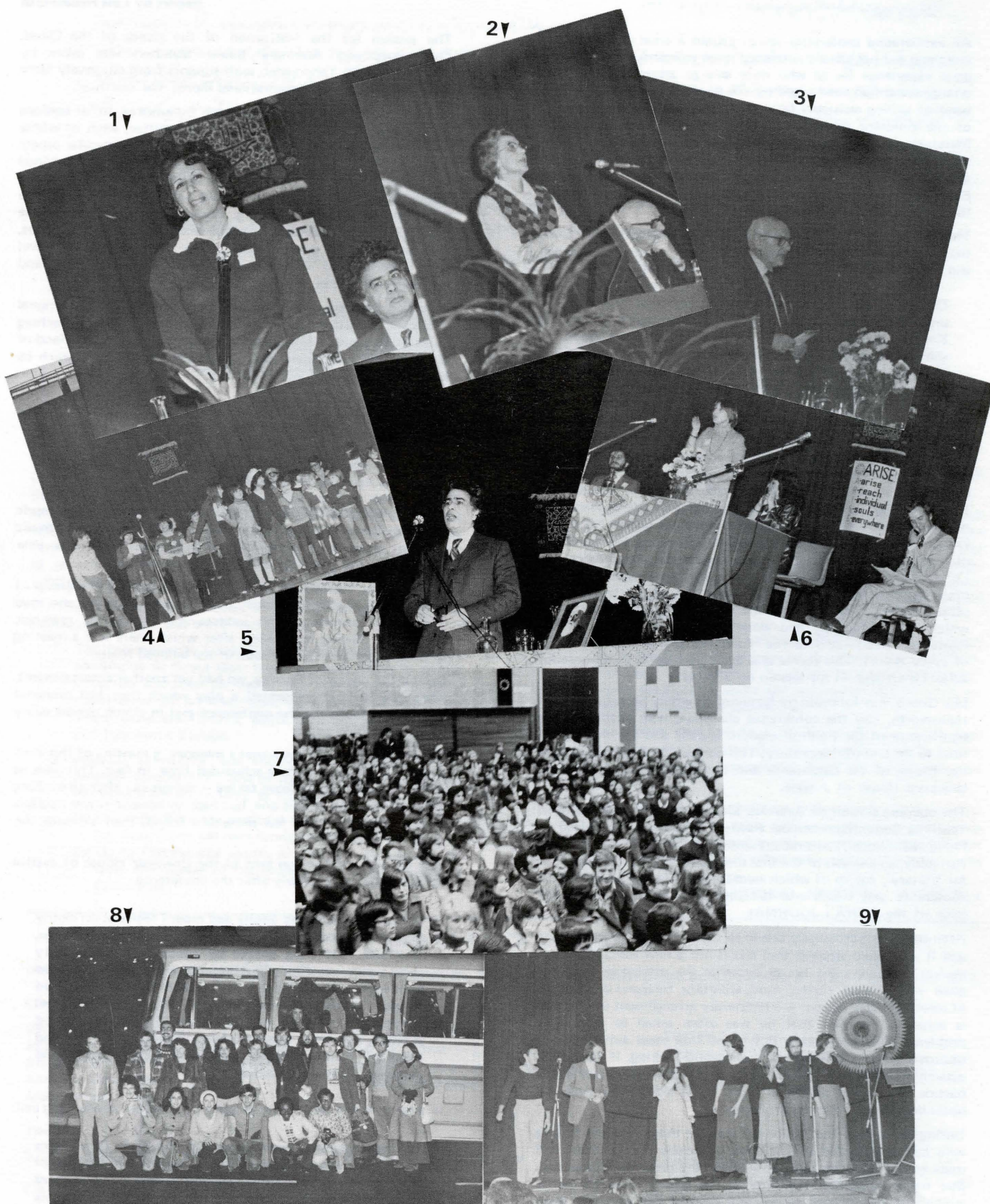
**Almost five hundred adults and record registration eighty  
children experienced most memorable Conference,  
Sheffield, Gathering unique its atmosphere loving unity  
deep awareness time short eagerness win all goals ahead  
time response your moving cable repeatedly read assembled  
friends. Conference reached great heights spiritual level  
particularly sessions led Counsellor Taherzadeh. Good  
pioneer, excellent travel teaching responses accompanied  
frequent turning thoughts gratitude House Justice and  
messages beloved Guardian.**

In answer to the cable from us came yet another challenging call:

**Loving congratulations successful Teaching Conference  
greatly pleased spiritual awareness engendered Counsellor  
Taherzadeh. Assure ardent prayers Divine confirmations  
reward every effort promote Cause achieve complete  
victory Five Year Plan enable renowned British Community  
swiftly join ranks communities already won all teaching  
goals.**

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE





TEACHING CONFERENCE: 1. Auxiliary Board Member Mary Kouchekezadeh. 2. National Treasurer Betty Goode. 3. John Long, NSA Chairman. 4. The children's entertainment. 5. Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh. 6. The National Youth Committee. 7. General view of the hall. 8. The contingent from Scotland beside their coach. 9. Daystar.



**Born:** 24 October 1882 in Grimma, Saxony, Germany.  
**Died:** 2 May 1974, St. Luke's Hospital, Guardamangia, Malta.

Now that the work in Malta is assuming such great importance and time is flying so quickly, it is of especial interest to look back to the early days of the Faith there and to one of the great souls whose name will forever be associated with the island.

The following extracts are taken from a memorial written recently for the next volume of "The Bahá'í World" and the photograph was taken at the time of the formation of the first Assembly in Malta when she was almost 92 years old.' . . . It was during the Six Year Plan that this dedicated believer began to stand out as a spiritual giant. Smally built, apparently affected by the privations she had suffered in Germany, quiet by nature, widely read and possessing a great sense of humour, Olga was immediately welcome in any society. She arrived in England, was used as a travel teacher and as a pioneer to Nottingham in early 1948 even though she had reached her sixty-sixth year and by March had written to the beloved Guardian of her efforts to pioneer, to teach and become self-supporting. He graciously replied on 11 April assuring her of his "loving and fervent prayers". By 12 October she had again pioneered this time to Belfast, and within one year she had been sent to Edinburgh, then to St Ives, and by February 1950 we read of her moving to Brighton while in the last few weeks of the Six Year Plan, she moved into Bournemouth. Six pioneer moves covering three countries in just over two years, by a gentle lady in her late sixties, who always sought to be employed so that she would need no help from the Fund, is service of the highest order. Yet by 4 August 1950 she was again writing to the beloved Guardian, this time offering to pioneer overseas.

At this stage he replied, through his secretary,

*"It does not seem to him you could very well undertake service outside the British Isles. . . "* but he added in his own handwriting, *"May the Almighty bless, guide and protect you, aid you to extend the range of your activities, remove all obstacles from your path, and enable you to win great victories for His Faith and its institutions. . . "*

That was sufficient for Olga, and when the Crusade was launched she again begged him to allow her to move to another country. In July 1953 he responded and urged her to plan to *"leave as promptly as possible for either Malta or Cyprus, preferably Malta, and there engage yourself with all your powers in teaching the Faith. . . "* and added the footnote,

*"May the Almighty shower His blessings upon you, reward you for your valour, guide your steps, and aid you to win innumerable victories in the service of His glorious Faith. . . "*

Within three months this indomitable, indefatigable stalwart of the Faith had written to the Guardian that she had joined the first Knight of Bahá'u'lláh for Malta, Miss Una Townshend, and he immediately added her name to the Roll of Honour and wrote, through his secretary,

*" . . . He is praying for you both and urges you to persevere and never lose heart. . . "*

Malta proved to be one of the most difficult pioneer posts to maintain. Una Townshend had to leave; John Mitchell returned home due to an illness from which he never recovered; pioneers tried to settle but were unable to stay for long; teaching was difficult and progress was minimal. Even in 1956 the beloved Guardian was sustaining Olga in her post when through his secretary he wrote:



*" . . . He advises you, if the situation should become worse, to try your utmost to remain at your post, which he knows is the deep desire of your heart, also. He greatly appreciates your constancy and your spirit.*

In March 1957 she again received encouragement which gave her renewed strength,

*"He is happy to see that, although your local resources have been depleted. . . you nevertheless are remaining to hold the fort, a service to which he attaches the greatest importance. It is a great pity that the local people are so hard to reach and so full of fear, but we know that eventually this condition must change, and the Bahá'ís gain a foot-hold. . . "*

The memorial describes some of Olga's experiences in Malta and concludes:

*' . . . after experiencing the ordeals of the Second World War in Germany followed by twenty-seven years of dedicated pioneering in four territories, she passed away to receive her just reward at the Hands of her Beloved. On 7 May 1974 the Universal House of Justice cabled:*

**"PASSING NOBLE SOUL OLGA MILLS GRIEVOUS LOSS BRITISH BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY. HER LONG STEADFAST DEVOTION BAHÁ'U'LLÁH SHEDS LUSTRE ANNALS FAITH THAT COMMUNITY. ISLAND MALTA HISTORICALLY FAMOUS CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ISLAMIC ERAS RECIPIENT NEW SPIRITUAL POTENTIALITIES THROUGH HEROIC SERVICE KNIGHT BAHÁ'U'LLÁH DEDICATED BAND PIONEERS. EXPRESS FRIENDS RELATIVES LOVING SYMPATHY ASSURE ARDENT PRAYERS PROGRESS SOUL."**

## FASTING AND NAW-RÚZ

**The Ordinance of Fasting.** As regards fasting, it constitutes, together with the obligatory prayers, the two pillars that sustain the revealed Law of God. They act as stimulants to the soul, strengthen, revive, and purify it, and thus ensure its steady development.

The ordinance of fasting is, as is the case with these three prayers, a spiritual and vital obligation enjoined by Bahá'u'lláh upon every believer who has attained the age of fifteen. In the Aqdas He thus writes: *"We have commanded you to pray and fast from the beginning of maturity; this is ordained by God, your Lord and the Lord of your forefathers. He has exempted from this those who are weak from illness or age, as a bounty from His Presence, and He is the Forgiving, the Generous."* And in another passage He says: *"We have enjoined upon you fasting during a brief period, and at its close have designated for you Naw-Rúz as a feast. . . The traveller, the ailing, those who are with child or giving suck, are not bound by the fast. . . Abstain from food and drink, from sunrise to sundown, and beware lest desire deprive you of this grace that is appointed in the Book."*

Also in the "Questions and Answers" that form an appendix to the Aqdas, Bahá'u'lláh reveals the following: *"Verily, I say that God has appointed a great station for fasting and prayer. But during good health its benefit is evident, and when one is ill, it is not permissible to fulfil them."*

The fasting period, which lasts nineteen days, starting as a rule from the second of March every year and ending on the twentieth of the same month, involves complete abstention from food and drink from sunrise till sunset. It is essentially a period of meditation and prayer, of spiritual recuperation, during which the believer must strive to make the necessary readjustments in his inner life, and to refresh and reinvigorate the spiritual forces latent in his soul. Its significance and purposes are, therefore, fundamentally spiritual in character. Fasting is symbolic, and a reminder of abstinence from selfish and carnal desires.

(See also the "Synopsis and Codification of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas" pages 38 and 39 and Notes 15 and 16, for further clarification.)

**Naw-Rúz.** The following extract from a letter from the Universal House of Justice was published in our "Bahá'í Journal" No.233:

*" . . . Naw-Rúz should be observed on March 21 regardless of the date and hour of the vernal equinox.*

It has been decided that until the Universal House of Justice fixes the meridian, the friends in the West should observe Naw-Rúz on the twenty-first day of March each year according to the Gregorian calendar."

This was further amplified as follows:

*" . . . the beloved Guardian has written that it is for the*



Universal House of Justice to fix the spot in the world which is to be regarded as the standard for the ascertaining of the date of Naw-Rúz in each year. Until this is done it is not possible to state exactly the correspondence between Bahá'í dates and Gregorian dates for any year. Therefore, for the present time the believers in the West should observe Naw-Rúz on the twenty-first day of March according to the Gregorian calendar and commemorate Bahá'í events on their traditional Gregorian anniversaries. Once the necessary legislation to determine Naw-Rúz has been made, the correspondence between Bahá'í and Gregorian dates will vary from year to year depending upon whether the Spring Equinox falls on the

20th, 21st or 22nd of March. In Persia the friends have, over the years, been following the Spring Equinox as observed in Tíhrán to determine Naw-Rúz and the National Spiritual Assembly has to issue every year a Bahá'í calendar for the guidance of the friends. For the same reason the friends in the Middle East observe certain of the Holy Days upon their lunar rather than their solar anniversaries. The Universal House of Justice feels that this is not a matter of urgency and, in the meantime, is having research conducted into such questions."

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

## A SMOULDERING FIRE

Sadly, during recent months, many incidents of backbiting and gossip have come to the notice of the National Assembly. Needless to say, it has caused untold harm in several of our communities. The consequences of these evils are still having deep effects in certain areas and, unfortunately, may continue to do so without immediate change on the part of those who are doing it as well as by those who are listening to it. One or two actual situations have required firm action by the National Assembly, but others are too numerous to be remedied immediately by direct action. It was felt that it was of great import to remind the friends of the strong condemnations in our Writings both by the Master, as well as by Bahá'u'lláh, so that all may think again of the severe consequences of disobedience to the Laws of the Aqdas both for individuals and for the community. It cannot be emphasised too strongly that such unhappy occurrences can only prevent the spread of our Faith and the winning of those precious goals upon which we are all engaged.

With the hurried decline of the old world order and the fall in moral values, the multitude of opportunities daily to be involved in gossip and backbiting are growing. Therefore, it is doubly important that we, as Bahá'ís, take heed of the clear guidance in the Scriptures on this serious matter. We must take stock of our own life and the responsibility we have for our tongue and what comes from it. We must meditate on the Words revealed by the Blessed Pen, and by so doing be ever more determined to rid ourselves and only ourselves (for we are not responsible for others, apart from the essential education of our children), of these serious 'sins' which are evident in society, both old and new. We may further realise that because of the widespread practice of gossip today, many people may be attracted to the Faith simply because Bahá'ís do not gossip, and so all trace must be eliminated.

'The tongue I have designed for mention of Me, defile it not with detraction' **HIDDEN WORDS (Persian 66)**

Bahá'u'lláh reminds us. And again reminding us of the old-order:

'and they must not stain their tongues with slander like unto the former community'.

It cannot be clear what these 'sins' are if we cannot be aware of their definitions. Turning to almost any dictionary the meanings become clear.

**GOSSIP:** One who goes about telling and hearing news or idle malicious and scandalous tales. Idle talk. Tittle-tattle; scandalous rumours.

**CALUMNY:** This is a similar word to gossip and is defined as false accusations, slander.

**SLANDER:** is defined in English Law as: "Injurious defamation by spoken words, or by looks, signs or gestures"

**LIBEL:** Is the same for the written word.

**BACKBITING:** is to speak evil of anyone in their absence.

All of these are strictly forbidden in the "Kitáb-i-Aqdas". Gossip can even be akin to a type of murder of the soul!

In "Gleanings" Bahá'u'lláh says:

'For the tongue is a smouldering fire, and excess of speech a deadly poison. Material fire consumeth the body, whereas the fire of the tongue devoureth both heart and soul. The force of the former lasteth for a time, whilst the effects of the latter endureth a century.'

Gossip does not only, of course, harm others but has dire consequences for the person doing it. It degrades the progress of our own spiritual life. Again in "Hidden Words", we hear:

'Speak no evil, that thou mayest not hear it spoken of thee, and magnify not the faults of others that thine own faults may not appear great' (**Persian 44**)

So important is this command that 'Abdu'l-Bahá deemed it sacred enough to express it yet again in His own 'Will and Testament'.

'According to the direct and sacred command of God we are forbidden to utter slander, are commanded to show forth peace and amity'

Most malicious gossip may be uttered by those who have been hurt by others. It is generated by wrong spiritual qualities and so when we are turning to Bahá'u'lláh and serving the Cause gossip cannot arise.

One other essential aspect of gossip relates to criticism of authority in the Faith. In this country we have a long tradition of opposition government. The purpose of this opposition is to undermine and prove wrong the ideas of the ruling party. It is, therefore, not easy to escape this principle when relating to our own local spiritual assemblies and to the National Assembly. Yet again, it is clear in the Writings that authority in the Faith is **ONE** and to criticise any of the divinely ordained assemblies is strictly forbidden, even when they are **wrong**. The Beloved Guardian reminded us that obedience to the Covenant required, '**instant, exact, and complete obedience**'. If anyone has a grievance then it is important that they share it with the assembly ordained by God and **never** with another person. Only in this way can order and harmony come about in our society.

Finally, we may realise that speaking good of another person may do great harm. We could well meditate these revealing words of the Master and think deeply about gossip and backbiting:

"Remember above all the teaching of Bahá'u'lláh concerning gossip and unseemly talk about others. Stories about others are seldom good. A silent tongue is safest. **Even good may be harmful** if spoken at the wrong time or to the wrong person".

'ABDU'L-BAHÁ

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

## INTERCOM – BAHÁ'Í

Now more than one year old, the monthly United Kingdom Bahá'í newspaper, *Intercom-Bahá'í*, is available on subscription. The cost for a year's supply (postage included) is £3.50 (UK) and £4.50 (overseas). **Do you subscribe?** If not, and you would like to do so, send a cheque (in sterling) made payable to "The NSA of the Bahá'ís of the UK" to this address:

Mona Rushdy, 29 Mason Street, Reading, Berkshire.

Please note that those who have subscribed from the beginning should now renew their subscriptions.

*Intercom* provides news of what is happening in the Bahá'í community of the United Kingdom. For pioneers overseas, in particular, it is an excellent way of keeping in touch with the increasingly exciting developments at home. Overseas pioneers who have not seen a copy of *Intercom* and would like to do so before committing themselves to a full year's subscription, are invited to write to **Gayle Hardy at 69 St Mark's Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon**. She will send you a sample copy free.

In the first year more than 630 believers have subscribed to *Intercom*. The aim is to boost that figure still further.





## BERNARD LEACH CH CBE

On the occasion of his ninetieth birthday, 5 January 1977, the National Assembly sent a cable to Bernard Leach and received from him a charming letter in response. 'The Times' of London printed a short article with a photograph on his birthday and mention of the Bahá'í Faith was made. The friends will be interested to know that a retrospective exhibition of his work will be held at the Victoria and Albert Museum from 4 March to 8 May and it is hoped that it will travel to various towns afterwards. Bahá'ís living in the London area, as well, one hopes, as those who travel especially to see the exhibition, may very well help our proclamation effort by making known to the Museum staff, in as casual a manner as possible, that they are Bahá'ís. The museum staff know that Bernard is a Bahá'í and this is an opportunity to show one small sector of the art world that we are not so few as might be supposed.

Bernard Leach's publisher has announced that a second edition of his *Drawings, Verse and Belief* will coincide with his birthday, and his memoirs, *Beyond East and West*, will be published in the autumn.

*Bernard Leach with the Hand of the Cause, Agnes Alexander with the Head of the Ainu, at Hokaido, Japan, in 1964.*

## IMPORTANT EVENTS TO COME

## CONVENTION:

Concert Room,  
St. Georges Hall, Liverpool  
30 April — 1 May 1977

Accommodation suggestions accompany this Journal.

## EUROPEAN PERSIAN CONFERENCE

The European Board of Counsellors are calling together all the Persians living in Europe to attend at least one of two great three-day conferences.

ONLY PERSIANS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND AND AT LEAST ONE HAND OF THE CAUSE FROM THE WORLD CENTRE, 'Ali Akbar Furutan, will be there for all three days. Well over 1,000 Persian Bahá'ís and their children are expected to attend the London conference on 18/20 June.

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom have been asked to organise this conference.

## MINI-SUMMER SCHOOL — KIRKWALL SCHOOL HOSTEL, ORKNEYS

9/23 JULY 1977 40 beds at the school:  
Single — £30;  
Double — £27 per person;  
Treble — £23 per person  
per week for full board.  
£2 registration fee for every booking for full or part of the time.  
Children welcomed;  
Sports and swimming facilities in the school.

Send £2 registration and £5 deposit with booking to LSA Secretary:—

Mrs J. Mehrabi,  
"Carmel",  
New Scapa Road,  
Kirkwall, Orkneys.

SUMMER SCHOOL, LOUGHBOROUGH  
6/20 AUGUST

One of the most delightful places booked for a Summer School; family suites, single rooms, sports and swimming facilities. Advance bookings attract special discounts. DETAILS AND BOOKING FORMS AVAILABLE.

SUMMER SCHOOL — LIMASSOL, CYPRUS  
1/14 SEPTEMBER

Special package tours are being studied which will include a few days in Haifa before, or after the School.

## NOTICES

Some time ago this 'NOTICES' column was started at the request of some of the friends. Registration of births and marriages with the National Office does not mean that these are automatically included in the BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL. Any Bahá'í wishing to have a notice of a birth or marriage put into the BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL should send a notification direct to the Editor. Notification of deaths is received from the National Office. No marriages were notified to the Editor.

## BIRTHS



## DEATHS

20 June 1976 Mrs Elinor Jones of Wales  
November 1976 Miss Olga Hones of Kensington/Chelsea  
22 November 1976 Miss Ethel Hildrey of Cumbria  
25 December 1976 Mrs Ethel McCallan of Northumberland.

**DEADLINE:** As the Bahá'í Journal must now await distribution with the first available Newsletter, would the friends please note that there will now be a regular deadline date — six weeks before the first day of the month in which it is scheduled for publication — as follows:

February issue	— deadline —	15 December
April		15 February
June		15 April
August		15 June
October		15 August
December		15 October

Please send **TYPEWRITTEN copy (PLEASE)** and **black and white glossy photographs to the Editor:**

Lois Hainsworth (Mrs)  
27 Rutland Gate,  
London SW7

As will be seen from the paucity of photographs in this issue, only two were submitted. Those of Teaching Conference were commissioned. Good photographs are needed for the next issue.

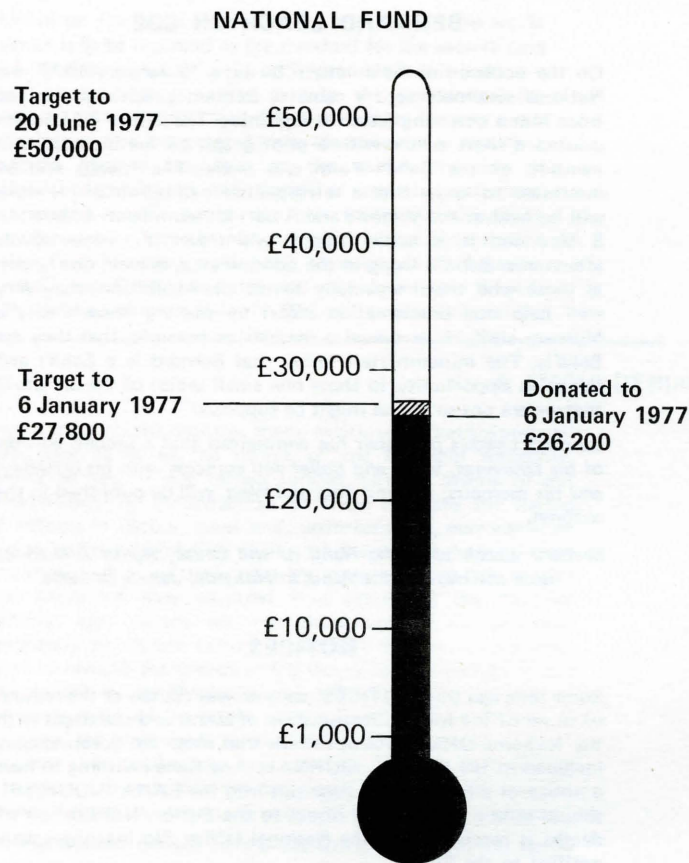
## GREEN SHIELD STAMPS

Stamps worth over £100 have already been contributed and the donors are thanked for their generosity. When friends would like to contribute in this way, would they please send the stamps to:

Ramin Habibi  
42 Cloister Drive  
Darwen, Lancs BB3 3JX

If a receipt is required, a stamped addressed envelope should be enclosed.





Donations made by the youth of the United Kingdom for the goal set them of £6,000 to be achieved by:

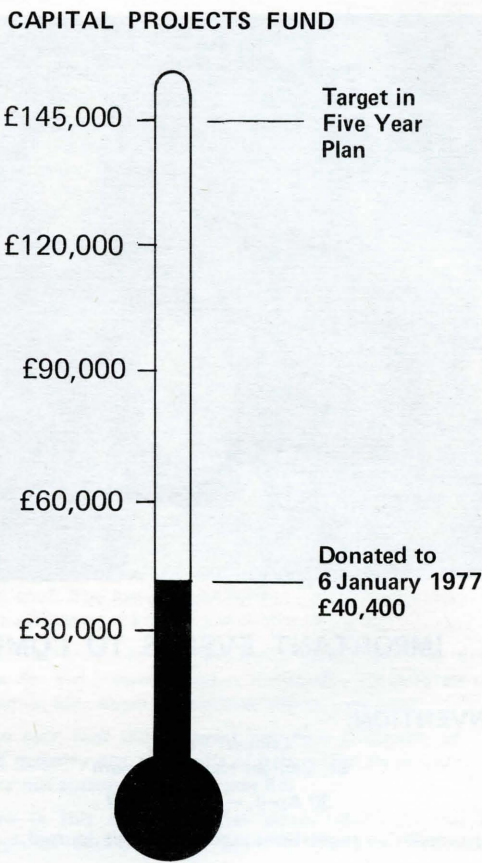
21 April 1977 .....  
To 6 January 1977: £6,207 — target surpassed

Message to all the Friends

Loving thanks for the wonderful efforts being made by one and all in keeping the "Lifeblood of the Cause" flowing strongly.

Please may I remind everyone that it makes no difference what the fund is for which donations are being sent. Cheques should only be made payable to:

"NSA of the BAHÁ'ÍS"



The National Treasury Office will allocate the monies to the various funds internally.

Do you make contributions by Deed of Covenant? Have you changed your address recently? If so, have you notified:

Mr John Morpew,  
90 High Street,  
Hoddesdon, Herts. EN11 8TP ?

IF NOT PLEASE DO IT WITHOUT DELAY!

Deepest love to everyone,  
Betty Goode, National Treasurer  
8 Knowle Road,  
Stafford

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

THE TABLETS OF THE DIVINE PLAN

The Tablets of the Divine Plan are a series of letters of 'Abdu'l-Bahá to the North American Bahá'ís, revealed during 1916 and 1917. Not only do they give detailed instructions for the spread of the Cause of God throughout the world, but their advice on the requirements of the Bahá'í teacher, and how he should undertake his task, is timeless.

For this reason the National Teaching Committee has selected certain quotations from these Tablets, and these will be published as a series over the next few issues. It is hoped that the friends will gain from these quotations the inspiration not only to teach as never before, but also to study further the Divinely-given guidance about the duties and requirements of the Bahá'í teacher.

Page references given are to the U.S. Publishing Trust edition, 1959 (1971).

Words of The Báb on Teaching

The days when idle worship was deemed sufficient are ended. The time is come when naught but the purest motive, supported by deeds of stainless purity, can ascend to the throne of the Most High and be acceptable unto Him. . . Heed not your weaknesses and frailty; fix your gaze upon the invincible power of your Lord, your God, the Almighty.

TDP p3

Words of Bahá'u'lláh on Teaching

Every eye, in this Day, should seek what will best promote the Cause of God.

TDP p3

With the utmost friendliness and in a spirit of perfect fellowship take ye counsel together, and dedicate the precious days of your lives to the promotion of Him Who is the Ancient and Sovereign Lord of all. . .

TDP p4

Whoso ariseth among you to teach the Cause of His Lord, let him, above all else, teach his own self, that his speech may attract the hearts of them that hear him. Unless he teacheth his own self, the words of his mouth will not influence the heart of the seeker. Take heed, O people, lest ye be of them that give good counsel to others but forget to follow it themselves. . .

TDP p5

TEACHING AIDS

Many assemblies, groups, and individuals have written for the teaching aids distributed by the committee. Since the list was first published in March 1976, well over a thousand items have been distributed. The following should now be added to the list:

- ITEM 29 NTC Fourth Ideas List
- ITEM 30 Suggested covering letter for presenting Bahá'í books to schools. (Suitable for other establishments, societies, etc.)

These items, and a copy of the full list of aids available, can be obtained from Dr Iain Palin, 15 Drumossie Avenue, Scotland. (Please enclose stamped addressed envelope.)



## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TEACHING IN NORWAY

Report by Zarin Hainsworth

From the first, it seemed that Bahá'u'lláh was with us for, challenging all obstacles, four of us — Farzin Aghdasi, Nabil Hussein, Richard Hainsworth and myself — ventured on to the aeroplane which was to carry us into the vast regions of snow and ice far to the north, or so we thought, in Norway. There had been the possibility of going to Cyprus, so the necessary procedures for obtaining visas, etc., had been commenced rather late and Nabil had no visa when we went. Despite this, the four of us got on to the 'plane and enjoyed ourselves thoroughly the whole journey by playing cards, trying hard to forget the consequences if our £100 gamble did not pay off. We reached Oslo Airport and began to say 'The Remover of Difficulties. . .' I went first — no problem. Nabil followed and was asked to go into the police office, where he found that they already had a letter from the Norwegian NSA explaining the purpose of the trip. He carried with him a letter from our NSA explaining about the Faith and saying that Nabil was a Bahá'í in good standing. After waiting anxiously outside for about twenty minutes I was reassured by a nod and a wave from my companions to say that all was well. Eventually we met the Bahá'ís who were waiting for us and we left to find the details for our stay.

That night we stayed in the Hazíratu'l-Quds in Oslo and, after a short sightseeing tour the next morning, we left for the winter school, where we arrived a day before everyone else. We found ourselves standing on a freezing station in a small village called Alvdal — 'What do we do now?' was the question which occurred to all of us! Whilst Farzin and Richard rushed around trying to find somebody in the deserted village (everything closed at about 4 pm) Nabil and I stood in the freezing snow, until the station master (who spoke no English) telephoned a taxi. Soon we were at the ski-lodge being welcomed by some of the Bahá'ís. The next day we helped to sort out and tidy the rooms and, at about 2 pm, the majority of those attending arrived and piled out of the coach which had been laid on for them. As those who were responsible for the cooking had not yet arrived, we found ourselves in the kitchen preparing dinner: there were a few difficulties — we didn't know where anything was or how anything worked, nor which food was to be used, but we managed and everyone seemed delighted that the travel-teaching team from England had taken on responsibility so early. Fortunately, the result was successful!

The winter school was well attended and was almost twice the size of any held previously, with about sixty adults and some thirty children. We had snowball fights with the children — they were really fantastic — talk about youthful high spirits! With their slogan — 'Children against adults' — they charged and we had a highly invigorating experience.

The school was most enjoyable — we had the bounty of the presence of Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh and Auxiliary Board Member Gerd Strand, with many wonderful lectures from Counsellor Taherzadeh. Every afternoon was taken up with sports activities such as skiing, tobogganing, making food, practical jokes and throwing Zarin in the snow!

When the school finished, the four of us split into two small teams; Farzin and Nabil going south and Richard and I going north — it was a sad occasion when we bade farewell to the many wonderful friends we had met at winter school. Farzin and Nabil went first to Gjøvik, where they spent five days where they had an interview with a newspaper and a fireside with many contacts which lasted from 4 pm until 1 o'clock the next morning. They also spoke to ninety pupils at a high school. They next went to Oslo and spoke at a public meeting, where for the very first time

there were contacts — three of them — and twenty Bahá'ís. They were granted a newspaper interview and, once again, gave a talk in a school; this time to thirty pupils. In the next town — Os — they had yet another newspaper interview and a meeting and, in Satrea, again a newspaper interview. Here the fireside turned into a deepening as there were no contacts.

For Richard and I the journey northwards from Alvdal to Trondheim took nine hours, and we met Bahá'ís there while waiting for the train to Bodø, which took another twelve hours. Here we stayed at the Bahá'í centre for two nights; only five of the eleven members of the community were actually in the town at the time, but we saw them often and were able to have many an interesting discussion with them. It was unfortunate that the school term had not started so we were denied the opportunity of teaching the Faith in this way. We left Bodø and took the ferry for Svolvær. What an experience! Nothing like being caught in a gale during the winter above the Arctic circle! Here again we were met by Bahá'ís at the port, and we had that wonderful feeling one gets when meeting someone you have never met before and know instantly that they are Bahá'ís, and you greet one another as if you have been friends for years. In Svolvær again we had the problem that the schools had not yet started, but we managed to meet all the Bahá'ís and had a lovely fireside, where there were seven youth, four of them contacts. Next we travelled to Stokmarkness where we stayed with a marvellous Bahá'í family, and had a very good fireside and an interview with the newspaper. Our last stop was Kleivaa, an agricultural college, where we gave a concert to a group of, perhaps, twenty students, after which we had a cup of coffee and delicious chocolate cake and an evening of animated discussion.

At 5.30 am the following day we started our journey home and, about twenty-four hours later, we arrived in Oslo, where we joined Farzin and Nabil at the Bahá'í Centre. Thence to London!

The problems in Norway are immense, with a country between half and the full width of Britain and three times its length, communication is difficult. There are about as many Bahá'ís in Norway as in three of the larger London communities! As do all the other European countries, Norway is looking to the United Kingdom for inspiration. The believers are devoted, loving and extremely hospitable. When writing about the country I am at a loss to find enough superlatives, and all I can say is a phrase I became known for — "It is sooooo beautiful".

SOUTH AND SOUTH WEST  
TRAVEL TEACHING ROTA

After some initial difficulties the long awaited travel teaching rota was finally implemented a couple of months ago.

A second phase is about to be planned very soon.

1. Would communities presently involved in the rota please inform the travel teaching organiser, Gwen Mackenzie, of any changes in their requirements.
2. Similarly, would all travel teachers involved advise the travel teaching organiser of any changes in their travel teaching offers.
3. Would any community or individual wishing to participate please contact Gwen Mackenzie, 2 Stillington Close, Wells, Somerset BA5 2EY, telephone Wells 75464.

## CHILD EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dear Persian Bahá'ís,

This committee has been instructed by the National Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom to request you to furnish us with the names of Bahá'í children and youth so that we may be able to organise meetings and gatherings for them whenever possible. Would you, therefore, please send this committee the full names, dates of birth and full postal addresses as soon as possible. Many thanks.

C.E.A. Committee,  
Mrs D. Talbot,  
84, Waverly Road,  
READING, RG3 2PY  
Berks.

احمدی عزیز ایرانی  
بستور محمل مدرس روحانی ملی بهائیان افغانستان این مجله را دعوت دارد تا نام و مشخصات اطفال  
و نوجوانان بهائی را جمع آوری و در مواقع مقتضی برائت ان تریب دهر از این خواشنید  
است نام و نام خانوادگی و سال تولد و آدرس دقیق فرزندان خود را به چه نشانی و آدرس زیر بیاورید  
این مجله برسانید مستقیم — مجله تربیت امری



## FIRST WINTER SCHOOL OPENS NEW CHAPTER IN CYPRUS

Cyprus has had its fair share of invasions in history, but never has there been such a welcome one as that during its first Bahá'í School in Nicosia in December 1976. The five pioneers in the south of the island, along with their ten friends in the north whom they cannot meet now, had been rather anxious about whether they could run a school, and somewhat overawed by the goals of the Five Year Plan which include at least four local and a National Assembly during the next two years. Now, after just one wonderful week, everything seems quite different. Nineteen adults arrived from Orkney, Britain, Holland, Germany, America, Iran and the World Centre and created a radiant school that must definitely begin a new chapter in the eventful Bahá'í history of Cyprus.

We started on time the first morning; we had to in order to link our prayers with those of the world's Supreme Institution at the world's Spiritual Centre, and throughout the week we felt the continuous loving support of the Universal House of Justice. Further, we had a real river of guidance from the Hand of the Cause Dr Mühlischlegel, whose deep knowledge of "The Seven Valleys" started each morning, and whose prayers, love, intense concern and delightful good humour filled every day. Then we had the Universal House of Justice to thank again for making it possible for Counsellor Hooper Dunbar, member of the International Teaching Centre, to be with us. Not only did he provide a stream of careful, precise advice but he left us all with a much deeper awareness of the immense new strengths in the administrative order. The wisdom and power of the establishment of the International Teaching Centre, along with the Counsellors, the Auxiliary Boards and Assistants, became clear to many of us for the first time and it gave us an even greater feeling of trust in the channels of love and guidance that Bahá'u'lláh has provided for us in this day.

But all this is difficult to understand if you were not there — and if you weren't, then you really missed something! What you can imagine is our excitement as six of those nineteen visitors decided to pioneer to Cyprus! One family were often absent from sessions as they hunted down jobs, schools and houses so they could return to settle in March. Three others then promised that they would be back by Ridván and one more went on after the school to pray in the Holy Shrines for a way to find employment and settle as soon as possible. It was great! Our session on pioneering was the most practical and uplifting I've ever heard, as you can guess.

Then there was the teaching, which has been difficult and subdued in Cyprus. Nevertheless, we had planned to get some Cypriots to

meet our visitors, and the Continental Pioneer Committee had assisted a vocal group from Holland, Dayspring, to attend. During the week, at two firesides, a public meeting (the first we have had) and a lunch gathering there were forty Cypriots, some of whom came three times. That was marvellous, but the atmosphere was always one of positive, happy enquiry — so much so that we didn't realise what an unexpected transformation it was until afterwards! The Dayspring group also visited the hospital and some cafes — and were asked back at one for a whole evening, resulting in some excellent new contacts. In the music, in the wise fluency of Counsellor Dunbar's talk and in all the teaching there was a background of prayer and consultation and a pervading spirit of gentle happiness that made it so very outstandingly successful. Both after and during the school trips were made to Limassol, a goal town fifty miles away, where there is only one Bahá'í and where we have a goal for an Assembly this Ridván. Four of the pioneers will go there, the other two assuring the re-establishment of the Nicosia Assembly. There were also teaching trips to homes in Nicosia and outlying villages.

Amazingly the whole school was very well organised, with some successful bus trips, tasty impromptu meals, hospitality in pioneers' homes, — all centred round a College building which we had full use of all week, for no charge! Hotels gave us half prices, youth hostels broke all their rules for us — everything went right — even when a wheel came off a car carrying seven Bahá'ís there was no damage and fifteen minutes later it was on the road again. The tasks ahead are still very great, but nothing like this had happened in Cyprus before. If you don't believe it was as good as this, I don't blame you, but come to the Summer School in Limassol in September 1977 and see if you can help make it happen again. (Details from May Moore, 22 Thessaloniki Street, Limassol, Cyprus). Before then we need more pioneers, more travelling teachers, more prayers and more letters.

Finally, there were these heart-lifting words:

REJOICE SUCCESS FIRST CYPRUS SCHOOL GRACED  
PRESENCE HAND CAUSE MÜHLSCHLEGEL ASSURE  
ARDENT PRAYERS SACRED THRESHOLD LOVING  
SPIRIT FAITH OVERCOME ALL OBSTACLES BRING  
BLESSINGS ENTIRE ISLAND.

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

*(Report by Cyprus Teaching Committee, 9 Nikodemos Mylonas Street, Lycavitos, Nicosia.)*



*Friends attending the first Bahá'í School in Cyprus held in Nicosia 27 December, 1976 to 2 January 1977. The Hand of the Cause Dr Adelbert Mühlischlegel and Counsellor Hooper Dunbar of the International Teaching Centre are standing second and first from the right in the front row.*



## TIME IS SHORT

Further signs of a significant upsurge in enthusiasm and activity came at the National Youth Committee's "Time is Short" Conference in London at the end of last year.

Following hard on the heels of the inspiring National Teaching Conference, the gathering's aim was to tap the zeal and energy of London's large youth community.

More than a hundred attended and they heard a series of talks under the headings, "Arise, Serve, Confirmation, Victory". By the end of the day ten youth arose to travel teach.

The opening session was conducted by committee chairman Adam Thorn who explained the purpose of the conference: "The purpose is to meet the youth in London. We know there are many Bahá'ís in London; a great proportion are youth — some we don't see too often. We hope to meet them and tap the tremendous zeal and energy of these youth; then begin to win some of the goals in the London area. Teaching the Cause is not sheer whim or personal fancy. It is something we are obliged to do. It is a help if we can be a speaker or if we know the Administration, but it is the devotion, self-sacrifice and loyalty to the Cause that are the basic qualities. In city areas there tends to be a very materialistic atmosphere. While there are great material wealth and bounties in London, it is not easy to teach the Faith.

"There are no LSA goals in Greater London itself. We are encouraged to move out to the goals. We can travel to them without too much difficulty."

Ella Conrad, of the National Teaching Committee, spoke of the change in emphasis during the past six years. "We have been hearing that the doors are closing," she said. "Now we're hearing that time is short. I urge you to get out your copy of 'Programme for Victory'. Meditate with it. Look at it. It's a special book. Do we understand what the Programme is saying?"

Peter Stratton, of the International Travel Teaching Committee, said that travel teaching did not have to be international. On a trip to Earls Court, you could tell someone about the Faith. That, too, was travel teaching. "Everybody can go travel teaching whether they have been a Bahá'í for a day or ninety years."

Auxiliary Board Member Mary Kouchezkadeh said it was a joy to see so many youth gathered together at the conference: it was

surely a sign of a healthy community. Then she spoke of the early believers. "Month after month they travelled. They were mostly poor and bare-footed in the cold winter. They travelled in poverty to reach the believers and to obey the command of Bahá'u'lláh. When they got to villages, the believers there had hardly anything to offer them. This didn't dampen their zeal though. They continued to travel."

Her daughter Shadab Kouchezkadeh recalled experiences on a travel teaching trip to the Canary Islands where difficulty in obtaining a passage delayed her and her friend; and guided them to an elderly Englishwoman. "We read prayers and tears filled her eyes. She said she used to see a blue light and in it was a figure of an eastern person with flowing robes." When she saw a picture of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, she recognised Him immediately as the figure in her vision. In a few weeks she became a Bahá'í.

Others who told similarly inspiring tales about their travels were 'Ronnie' Nakhjavani, Fiona McDonald and Richard Hainsworth.

Rounding off the conference, National Assembly Secretary Philip Hainsworth spoke of the historical background to the phrase, "the time is short" which, he said, the Guardian used forty years ago.

Turning to the youth's rôle, he continued: "The whole history of our Faith is full of great victories that have been won by young people. When the Universal House of Justice sends out a call to achieve the goals ahead of time, the main appeal is to the youth because they are the main driving force, the spear." He added: "It is a very sobering thought that in just three London communities there are more Bahá'ís than in the whole of Norway. We are the ones living in the days of world-encompassing trials — that period of disillusionment and of the dark ages. The time when that great victory will be achieved will not be seen by us but it depends on us."

This was a very well organised conference and thanks are due to the youth who undertook this work, not least those who made a mountain of sandwiches which provided the basis of the lunch!

At the end of the conference everyone linked hands in a unity circle and sang Bahá'í songs — evidence of the gathering's joyful spirit. Another youth conference is planned.

Keith Macdonald

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS



**BRAZIL:** Between 2,000 and 3,000 new believers have recently enrolled in northeastern Brazil, clear evidence of the divine assistance promised by Bahá'u'lláh to those who arise to serve Him.

At the Annual Convention this year much time was devoted to preparing for the International Bahá'í Conference to be held in Salvador, Bahia this January. In a stirring call to undertake mass conversion and consolidation, the Hand of the Cause Dr Rahmatu'llah Muhajir described the process of enrolling entire families to ensure a solid basis for the Faith's growth. In response, twenty-five volunteers pledged themselves to this task at the Convention. Two families and eight Bahá'í youth devoted themselves for a nine-month period to teaching not only in the Bahia area, but throughout the northeastern states of Brazil as far as Fortaleza, Ceara.

The gaining of Bahá'í homes, in which all members are believers, the mothers attend classes for instructing their children, all learn Bahá'í prayers and all are active participants in the Nineteen Day Feasts and other community activities, has become the major teaching goal. The raising up of local spiritual assemblies will be the natural result, and some communities are now in the process of their preparation for this step.

**CHILE:** In a recent teaching project in the zone of Puerto Saavedra, among the Mapuche Indians, 650 new believers embraced the Faith within a ten-day period. The teaching of the Mapuches has also been initiated in Santiago, in the Barrio of Pudahuel, where ninety-three new believers have enrolled.

**HAWAIIAN ISLANDS:** The television series made in 1975 in the Hawaiian Islands has been shown three times on Channel 4 Television, it was reported, and will be shown again beginning in January 1977. Station KORL carries a brief weekly Bahá'í mention each Sunday and there is a regular programme on television in Kauai.

The Hawaiian television series has been requested for use in Guam and the Marshall Islands, and it is hoped that it will soon be used in Ponape where television is to become available.

**INDIA:** A one-month teaching project in Lucknow, organised by the State Teaching Committee of Uttar Pradesh, resulted in the acceptance into the Faith of 500 new believers in twelve villages. A thirty-day deepening institute was held simultaneously, attended by representatives of local spiritual assemblies in all parts of Uttar Pradesh.

A group of travelling teachers and other volunteers based at Malhausi in western Uttar Pradesh have reported the enrolment of more than 1,000 new believers in recent weeks.

A Bahá'í exhibition held in Cuttack, Orissa during the first week of September was publicised through banners in English and Oriya displayed throughout the city, a radio and press announcement of the opening of the exhibition, and slides projected in the six cinemas of the town.

The exhibition, which was open from 9 am to 9 pm, attracted visitors from all walks of life, many of whom signed a registration



book in which some recorded tributes to the Faith. Despite heavy rainfall, attendance was excellent and two people enrolled in the Faith on the first day.

Among the other results were:

The Bahá'ís were invited to address the headmaster, teachers and more than 500 students of Christ Collegiate School, and to address approximately 1,000 teachers attending the Orissa Secondary Teachers' Association Conference held simultaneously with the Bahá'í exhibition.

Free radio and newspaper publicity and, for the first time in Orissa, the Bahá'í public meeting was televised and broadcast.

Approximately 500 registered and 2,000 unregistered visitors viewed the exhibition.

Ten people embraced the Faith, including the members of an entire family.

**NIGERIA:** A successful and spontaneous teaching event in which all adults of a village who had gathered to hear the Message accepted the Cause without hesitation has been reported by the National Spiritual Assembly of Nigeria, who believe this to be the first mass acceptance in a Yoruba village, and the first Yoruba all-Bahá'í village.

The National Assembly had called for special prayers to be said on July 9, 1976 for the progress of the Faith in Nigeria. On the following day, a Bahá'í from Lagos joined the believers of Ife-Ife to teach the Faith in nearby Ekarun village. The friends said prayers and then set off down a narrow dirt trail branching from the Ife-Ilesha road. Along the way they encountered a man who was returning to his home in Ekarun village. The Bahá'ís explained the purpose of their visit. The man escorted them to Ekarun where a large group of men, women and children gathered within a short time to listen to the Bahá'í speakers. Fourteen adults and several youth declared their acceptance of the Faith. When the friends were about to part, the religious leader of the community expressed appreciation of the visit of the Bahá'ís. What they taught, he said, was a confirmation of what he had been reading in the Qur'an earlier that day. The foundation of the Day of God had now been laid in the heart of Yorubaland, he continued, for in this new teaching the Bahá'ís brought, the Christians and Muslims were united for the first time in Ekarun.

Since that day fifteen more localities have been opened to the Faith in the Ife-Ife area and more than 160 new believers have embraced the Cause.

**PORTUGAL:** The Hands of the Cause Dr Ugo Giachery and Dr Rahmatu'llah Muhájir attended the National Teaching Conference held at the Hazíratu'l-Quds following the Paris International Teaching Conference. The Conference was followed by a five-day Summer School also attended by the Hands of the Cause. Approximately forty Bahá'ís and a few enquirers attended the classes and the gathering was crowned by having eight people embrace the Cause.

**SEYCHELLES:** The National Spiritual Assembly of Seychelles sent greetings and assurances of loyalty to the President and Prime Minister of the Republic of Seychelles which achieved independent status on June 28, 1976. In addition, Bahá'ís took part in several important events organised by the Government to mark Independence Day. A float entered by the Bahá'ís in a

carnival parade won first prize—three large silver cups—and was seen by many hundreds who lined the streets. The float bore the message "We are Dawn-breakers of our Destiny" and carried a large sign reading "Bahá'í".

The Bahá'ís also took part in a national exhibition by establishing a booth containing photographs, literature and audio-visual material. Hundreds of visitors passed through the booth, including a Roman Catholic Bishop who requested and was given a Bahá'í book.

A local Bahá'í craftsman was awarded a prize for the best individual exhibit in which was displayed a piece of furniture he had made.

**SOLOMON ISLANDS:** For many years the National Spiritual Assembly of the Solomon Islands has unsuccessfully attempted to obtain permission to speak about the Faith on radio. Recently a non-Bahá'í listener addressed questions to the National Spiritual Assembly through the local radio station: "Do Bahá'ís believe in Jesus? Do they believe He is God? Please give reasons."

A simple and dignified response based on the Bahá'í teachings was prepared by the National Assembly and presented in both English and Pidgin on a programme lasting fifteen minutes which was broadcast in September 1976.

**ZAMBIA:** The Bahá'ís of Kachenge have set a target to make 2,000 bricks in order to construct their local Bahá'í Centre. Through the combined efforts of the believers 1,400 bricks have already been made.

Mr D. Lumayi of Sihole Mission, Kalabo, recently visited his cousin in the village of Muwema where there are no Bahá'ís. Mr Lumayi's Bahá'í ring attracted the attention of an elderly man who enquired about it. As Mr Lumayi was explaining the teachings, the village Headman became interested, requested Mr Lumayi to extend his visit for a few more days and invited him to address the entire village about the Faith. A group of fourteen adults and twenty-two children attended the meeting.

Mr Lumayi's cousin and host, a lay instructor of another religion, was distressed to see the members of his church enquiring about the Faith and asked Mr Lumayi to depart. The Headman who wanted to learn more about the Cause extended hospitality to Mr Lumayi and encouraged him to continue to tell the people about the Faith.

On the sixth day, when Mr Lumayi left the village, nine people declared their acceptance of the Faith, including his cousin. Mr Lumayi was invited to return to Muwema to continue teaching the Bahá'í Faith.

Through circumstances beyond their control, two Zambian believers on a recent teaching trip had to take an alternative route to reach their destination. After travelling for about fifteen kilometres on the gravel surface of their enforced detour, they came to the village of Mpuka, near Chilanga. The village Chief was contacted and in a kindly manner gave the Bahá'ís permission to hold meetings to teach the Faith.

Encouraged by the attitude of their listeners, the teachers returned a second time to Mpuka. Mr Kachewa Zulu, the Chief of the village, called the village people to hear the Bahá'ís speak about the Faith. Approximately fifty attended the meeting and a lively discussion ensued. Five villagers, including the Chief, declared their acceptance of the Faith.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

As will be seen, very little news has come in from the communities for this issue. It should be noted that if communities wish their items to be published in the Journal, they should send them

## NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

**CHICHESTER:** In the beautiful inspiring setting of West Dean College just outside Chichester a musical evening was enjoyed by sixty Bahá'ís and friends, presented by Lois Hainsworth and her son Richard, and arranged by the Bahá'í group of Chichester with warm support from their cluster.

Lois, accompanied by Richard on the guitar, sang a number of international folk songs including Russian, Italian, Austrian, English, Irish, French, Spanish and Mexican. Appropriately, the audience itself was very international in flavour, many hearing of the Faith for the first time.

During an interlude Gerald Warren showed slides illustrating the "Four Religions of Israel" — Judaism, Christianity, Islám and

direct to the Editor. The Bahá'í Journal and Inter Com are run independently and it is not possible to process all material from one to the other.

Bahá'í. Despite freezing weather, all those who came remarked warmly on how very much they had enjoyed the evening.

**INVERNESS:** The community have just completed the first series of public meetings after the summer school. Talks were given by Bahá'ís on a variety of subjects, the last being 'A Quakerly View of the Bahá'í Faith', by Dr Norman Mackenzie of Aberdeen. Non-Bahá'í guest speakers included members of the local police force, the social work department, and the children's panel. The meetings were widely publicised, had excellent proclamation value, and attracted a number of contacts.

Plans have been made for a further series of talks going on to Ridván.



A series of bring-and-buy sales held within the community have raised a significant amount of money for the National Fund. Another measure which has been the source of funds is the action of one of the believers, who has taken on a part-time job as agent for a mail-order firm. She sells a sizeable quantity of goods to a growing clientele of Bahá'ís and non-Bahá'ís alike, and the commission she earns on this work is donated to the fund.

Special guest speaker at a recent public meeting in Inverness was Mr Gordon Ewing, director of the local authority centre for the mentally handicapped. This was one of a series of meetings arranged by Inverness LSA under the general heading of 'Questions and Answers', several of which are being taken by non-Bahá'í speakers.

The meeting was well advertised, and invitations were sent to local hospital staff and others professionally connected with mental handicap. A number of those invited attended and contributed to a stimulating discussion which can only have raised the status of the Faith in the eyes of the concerned members of the public.

The meeting was subsequently reported in the area press, with the credit for its inception being given to the Bahá'í community.

**LANCASTER:** Things suddenly seem to have happened in this District! We have had a birth — Simon Conrad-Armes, who arrived in November — and a wedding which was dropped on us by a Persian Bahá'í who had come over to marry a Morecambe girl. His future mother-in-law 'happened' to see our quotation in the local paper (she had never noticed one before), so he found to his delight that there was an assembly on the spot to organise his wedding. Nader Nadiri married Judith Harling in her parents' flat at the end of November and they intend to stay here. We have had an unprecedented amount of publicity in two local papers, because this is the first Bahá'í wedding in the District and so is NEWS. One paper printed the photograph and report on the front page.

We have had a wonderful response to our letters to influential people offering them copies of 'Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era', and so far have presented the book to the Bishop of Lancaster, the Chief Executive of the District, the two Members of Parliament, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, the Divisional Director of Education, the District Administrator of the Lancashire Area Health Authority, the Divisional Director of the Social Services and one Superintendent of Police (reply awaited from the other). We have had some fruitful interviews with these people, varying in length from ten minutes with Lancaster's MP to forty minutes of thoughtful exchange of views with the Bishop. The Education Officer was also given some quotations on education from the Writings. All have been appreciative and we have felt that, where people have accepted the book, there has been a genuine interest and sympathy with the ideals of the Faith — far greater than during the actual Proclamation period. We shall continue this activity for a little while longer, as it does seem to be having its effect.

The fourth exciting thing is that two of our community plan to move into the District of Craven (LSA goal 1977 — nobody there at present) after Ridván.

**LINCOLN:** We now have firesides on three days a week — Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; travel teachers are very welcome and can find out where each is held by ringing Lincoln 64031 — Mrs Rose Alexander.

We are arranging a Naw-Rúz Ball — details and venue will be notified later. The Lincoln Teaching Committee is putting into operation a monthly 'Disco' to bring the Faith to the youth when we find suitable premises. Any help with these would be appreciated.

Many contacts have been made at the craft shop started by Kris Byrd and Rose Alexander. People of all types including Gypsies, 'Hell's Angels' and college students call to buy leather, and many aspects of religion, culture and other subjects are discussed with the Bahá'ís of Lincoln calling in to help.

Kris Byrd has a country group and we have adopted the Forget-me-knot Club near the shop, we hope giving them some pleasure by singing for them and helping in any way that we can. Things are really moving in Lincoln, and we look forward to some excellent times ahead in our community.

**MACCLESFIELD:** We held our first day school in October at Handforth Youth Centre. It proved an excellent and very accessible venue, and the daytime sessions with Joe Foster, Bob Hallam, a panel for youth and a play by the children were all well supported. We were surprised that, although the social in the evening was free and included a buffet, this was less well supported.

We visit two local schools regularly, and have assisted Chester, our cluster goal, with a school visit.

Our youth are involved in the Ridván music group of the greater Manchester area. The group played at the social during our day school, have visited a local youth club, and been invited back for a return visit.

**PORTH:** The engagement of a Canadian pilot to a Persian girl in the Rhondda Valley led to considerable publicity in three local newspapers, who were interested that the two had met while on pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

**SEVENOAKS:** We have, over the past few months, had some interesting firesides at which non-Bahá'ís have not only been present, but have also given talks. The manager of the local health shop spoke on 'Health and Nutrition', and we told him of the Bahá'í teachings on the subject, and Sir Victor Goddard, wartime Commander of the New Zealand Air Forces in the South Pacific, talked to us about his book "Flight towards Reality", and we presented him with a copy of "Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era". Sir Victor, who believes in reincarnation, was sufficiently interested in our Teachings on the subject, to 'check' with two Indian mystics he knows, but we later heard that, in spite of the Bahá'í Teachings, he had been told that reincarnation was a fact! At a later fireside addressed by Simon Mortimore on the Administrative Structure, eleven non-Bahá'ís were present (including Sir Victor and his secretary). It was a most interesting evening with very relevant questions.

Contact has been maintained with the Housewives Register and this would appear to offer a good ground for 'seed sowing'. One or two members are showing some interest, and one has been to several firesides.

We had our first public meeting at Westerham on the first anniversary of the formation of the assembly. We delivered 600 leaflets, but had no local support, although some non-Bahá'í contacts came. We were most grateful for the support given by the friends, which ensured a most enjoyable evening under the chairmanship of Earl Cameron, and included slides 'The Four Faiths of Israel', a sketch called "The Awakening" written by David Brown, and music by Clare Robson and friends, which was most popular. Participation from the audience was encouraged, and one who responded was seven year old Maria Rallings, daughter of one of our members, who played the recorder.

Following Norman Bailey's broadcast on 'Desert Island Discs' (five minutes after the repeat!), the Secretary was rung by a retired Major-General who said he had been 'turned on' by the broadcast and wanted to know more about the Faith! He later brought his wife round for a chat and took away Gloria Faizi's book. Several other people in the town mentioned the broadcast.

With the local Branch of UNA we sponsored jointly a debate on World Government in December. The proposer was Mr Ian Hackett of the Association of World Federalists and the opposer a local vicar, who joined the World Federalists as a result of the meeting.



"Ridván", Greater Manchester's new music group, which has been of great assistance at most teaching events in the area, singing in English and Persian.



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### SELECTIONS FROM THE WRITINGS OF THE Báb

English-speaking Bahá'ís have once again been presented with a precious gift! Although we have had a considerable number of passages of the writings of The Báb translated by Shoghi Effendi and contained in such works as *Nabíl's Narrative* — *The Dawnbreakers*, *God Passes By* and the *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*, we have never before had a separate volume in English.

The enormous task of thoroughly reviewing the vast writings of The Báb was entrusted by the Universal House of Justice to its Research Department and the actual translations were made by Habib Taherzadeh (brother of Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh) with the assistance of a committee at the World Centre.

Selections have been made from the *Quayyúmu'l-Asmá'*, the *Persian Bayán*, the *Dalá'il-i-Sab'ih* (The Seven Proofs) and the *Kitáb-i-Asmá'* (The Book of Names) and various other Writings, Prayers and Meditations.

Many, many Bahá'ís will have been waiting for this book for a very long time and it should have a place on the bookshelf of every Bahá'í.

The following are a few excerpts chosen with great difficulty from this wonderful book.

#### EXCERPT FROM THE QAYYÚMU'L-ASMÁ'

All praise be to God Who hath, through the power of Truth, sent down this Book unto His servant, that it may serve as a shining light for all mankind . . . Verily this is none other than the sovereign Truth; it is the Path which God hath laid out for all that are in heaven and on earth. Let him then who will, take for himself the right path unto his Lord. Verily this is the true Faith of God, and sufficient witness are God and such as are endowed with the knowledge of the Book. This is indeed the eternal Truth which God, the Ancient of Days, hath revealed unto His omnipotent Word—He Who hath been raised up from the midst of the Burning Bush. This is the Mystery which hath been hidden from all that are in heaven and on earth, and in this wondrous Revelation it hath, in very truth, been set forth in the Mother Book by the hand of God, the Exalted . . .

O concourse of kings and of the sons of kings! Lay aside, one and all, your dominion which belongeth unto God . . .

Let not thy sovereignty deceive thee, O Sháh, for 'every soul shall taste of death,' and this, in very truth, hath been written down as a decree of God. *Chapter I.*

#### EXCERPTS FROM THE PERSIAN BAYÁN

It is better to guide one soul than to possess all that is on earth, for as long as that guided soul is under the shadow of the Tree of Divine Unity, he and the one who hath guided him will both be recipients of God's tender mercy, whereas possession of earthly things will cease at the time of death. The path to guidance is one of love and compassion, not of force and coercion. This hath been God's method in the past, and shall continue to be in the future! He causeth him whom He pleaseth to enter the shadow of His Mercy. Verily, He is the Supreme Protector, the All-Generous.

There is no paradise more wondrous for any soul than to be exposed to God's Manifestation in His Day, to hear His verses and believe in them, to attain His presence, which is naught but the presence of God, to sail upon the sea of the heavenly kingdom of His good-pleasure, and to partake of the choice fruits of the paradise of His divine Oneness. *II, 16.*

There is no paradise, in the estimation of the believers in the Divine Unity, more exalted than to obey God's commandments, and there is no fire in the eyes of those who have known God and His signs, fiercer than to transgress His laws and to oppress another soul, even to the extent of a mustard seed. On the Day of Resurrection God will, in truth, judge all men, and we all verily plead for His grace. *V, 19.*

#### EXCERPT FROM THE DALÁ'IL-I-SAB'IH

Thou hast asked concerning the fundamentals of religion and its ordinances: Know thou that first and foremost in religion is the knowledge of God. This attaineth its consummation in the recognition of His divine unity, which in turn reacheth its fulfilment in acclaiming that His hallowed and exalted Sanctuary, the Seat of His transcendent majesty, is sanctified from all attributes. And know thou that in this world of being the knowledge of God can never be attained save through the knowledge of Him Who is the Dayspring of divine Reality.

### THE PRICELESS PEARL

Overseas buyers have in the last few months bought over 200 copies of the De Luxe limited edition, signed by Amatu'l-Bahá Ruhíyyih Khánúm personally, in magnificent leather binding, boxed ready for posting @ £21 (\$40.00) per copy post free to any part of the world. Only a few dozen copies are now left and, being a limited edition with each copy numbered, once sold out it can never be repeated. If you do not already possess a copy and wish to have one amongst your treasured Bahá'í possessions, or make a gift of one to a dear friend, get a copy now as 'time is short' before these few remaining copies will have been sold.

### THE GLAD TIDINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

This delightful and much-loved little book, now re-published by George Ronald, has a most interesting history. Major J.L. Cranmer-Byng, MC was being taken around the Bahá'í Gardens on Mount Carmel by his fellow officer, Captain Philip Hainsworth, when he expressed his wish to "meet the genius who designed them". It was not then possible to have an interview with Shoghi Effendi but the Major indicated that his visit had inspired him to make a new compilation to replace the "Wisdom of the East" collection of Bahá'í Scripture which had been edited by his father and published under the title of "The Splendour of God". Philip suggested that to ensure the authenticity of such a collection he should make it in cooperation with the British National Assembly. When he finally contacted that Assembly Philip was a member and able to give the background to the idea and, as it coincided with plans being made for Mr George Townshend to have an income as he had just left the Church, the National Assembly asked him to make the compilation. This new publication is virtually a reprint of the 1949 edition, brought up to date with the most recent statistics and the Guardian's translations, and really should be used widely for presentation as a most inspiring and comprehensive compilation of Bahá'í Scripture.

B133

Cloth £1.65

Paper £0.65

### MAGNIFIED BE THY NAME

A new printing of this long-time favourite book of Prayers and Thoughts for Children from the Bahá'í Holy Writings is now available.

Originally compiled by the Child Education Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom (British Isles as it then was), it has a full page illustration of the Shrine of the Báb as frontispiece, 48 of its 64 (viii + 58) pages are printed in two colours, 17 having miniature illustrations, a contents page at the front, indices to first lines, lists of references and four pages of the meanings of words which children find difficult when reading the text defined in terms which they can understand at the end of the book.

Red Linson bound hardback with gold lettering and the same 'flying horse and star' endpapers as for the previous edition, it now comes with a new jacket most attractive to children the design for which was created especially for this edition by book designer Tony Shearing.

B11

Price £1.50



B143

Price £2.91