



BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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Some of the 500 Persian Bahá'ís who attended the Five Year Plan Teaching Conference held in Wilmette; December 1976. Seen in the centre of the third row from the front is the Hand of the Cause Zikrulláh Khâdem. It is expected that more than twice this number will attend the meeting for the European Persian believers to be held in London from 18 - 20 June when Hand of the Cause 'Alí Akbar Furútan will be present.

OUTSTANDING PROCLAMATION EVENT

On Saturday afternoon, 5 March, at the Commonwealth Institute in Kensington High Street, Bahá'ís were greatly outnumbered at a gathering of artists, potters, and other admirers of Bernard Leach and his work who had come to hear him speak of his beliefs. This meeting had been arranged by the National Assembly as one of a number of occasions to coincide with Bernard's visit to London in connection with the opening at the Victoria and Albert Museum of a retrospective exhibition of his work.

The meeting was opened by Philip Hainsworth, who most eloquently introduced the Faith to the very many people who were hearing about it for the first time, and the platform was shared by Lowell Johnson, secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of South Africa. Lowell put to Bernard a number of questions which resulted in the audience hearing about his early life, how he became a potter, his work in Japan, his philosophy and his belief in Bahá'u'lláh. All this was received with great appreciation by the audience of over 200, many of whom expressed gratitude for having been invited. After the formal 'interview', Bernard Leach agreed to answer questions from the audience and there were several of these. The question which seemed to give him greatest pleasure came from a young Japanese teacher presently in this country, which was asked first in English and then in Japanese, and to which Bernard replied in Japanese.

Bernard Leach is a Companion of Honour, which is one of the highest distinctions bestowed by Her Majesty the Queen and he is the only craftsman ever to have been so honoured. The Victoria and Albert Museum have also honoured him, in that this is the first retrospective exhibition to be held at the Museum and the work displayed is taken from over sixty private and

public collections. His reputation is world-wide, holding special significance as a perfect link between the cultural styles of the East and West, and he is celebrated as being the single most influential artist/potter living today.

The exhibition began on the morning of 2 March with a Press showing at which there were over a hundred members of the Press, during which Bernard Leach gave two television interviews and three radio interviews, including one in Japanese for the Japanese radio. That evening there was a private viewing, at which there were eleven Bahá'ís amongst the distinguished guests. At both of these gatherings there was ample opportunity for mention to be made of the Faith.

It will be open until 8 May and, as was mentioned in the last issue of BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL, provides a good opportunity for Bahá'ís to proclaim their Faith. Admission is 40p.

The exhibition is displayed in a beautiful and dignified Japanese style of strong blue/black horizontal and vertical lines and plain surroundings, showing the lovely shapes and colours of bowls and pots that range from the very first pot he ever decorated in Tokyo in 1911 to the most recent, in 1973, after which, due to failing eyesight, he was forced to discontinue working. There are beautiful hand-painted bowls of slipware, strong large pots over two feet high, contrasting with delicate porcelain tea sets and lidded bowls, and this comprehensive exhibition covers every phase of his work. Also displayed are examples of his drawings and tiles, whose exceptionally vigorous style reflects his warm and bright personality. In one corner of the exhibition there is a television set where two films about his work are shown continuously.

The week before, on 26 February, the Guildhall at St Ives had been packed to capacity by people from Devon and Cornwall who had come to hear him answering questions, again put to him by Lowell Johnson. This meeting developed an intense spiritual atmosphere and Bernard proclaimed the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh with such conviction that everyone present must have been affected. It was appropriate that Lowell Johnson should have been the 'interviewer' — he had cared for Reggie Turvey, to whom the Guardian had referred as "the father of the Bahá'is in South Africa" during the last years of his life. Reggie Turvey had been Bernard Leach's oldest friend — they were together at the Slade School of Art in 1903.

During his week in London Bernard was one of a distinguished panel of speakers at an enthusiastic gathering of 700 arranged by the Crafts Advisory Council and the same evening he dined with the Japanese Ambassador. He also gave a further interview for the BBC, which was recorded at Rutland Gate.

Great care has been exercised by the National Assembly and its Public Information Committee to ensure that every possible advantage might be taken of this outstanding event, but a very great deal of the credit for the publicity work involved must go to Trudi Scott, whose efforts on Bernard's behalf during the past three years that she has been his secretary have been untiring.

Report compiled by Lois Hainsworth



Bernard Leach C.H., C.B.E.

ONE GOAL ACHIEVED — THREE TO GO

With hearts overfilled with joy on 7 March we were able to send the following cable to the Universal House of Justice:

"THANKS TO SUPERB GIFT TWO BELIEVERS GENEROUS SUPPORT LOCAL FRIENDS DELIGHTED ANNOUNCE GOAL BRIGHTON ḤAZÍRATU'L-QUDS ACHIEVED ENABLING BALANCE DONATIONS FRIENDS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY BE DIRECTED TOWARDS EARLY VICTORY NORTH DOWN BEG PRAYERS COMPLETE SUCCESS THESE VENTURES."

On the same day the following reply was cabled:

"LOVING CONGRATULATIONS ACQUISITION BRIGHTON ḤAZÍRATU'L-QUDS ASSURE PRAYERS EARLY COMPLETION ALL GOALS ASSIGNED STALWART COMMUNITY UNITED KINGDOM."

All efforts are now being directed to the purchase of a property in North Down so that the third Assembly selected can be announced.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

LOCAL ASSEMBLIES AND THE "CLUSTER" CONCEPT

During the past year some assemblies have been in doubt about their precise relationship with their goal area and the other assemblies and groups in their "cluster", and some of the newer assemblies have loosely banded together to run an activity which has assumed such proportions as to take it outside that normally recognised as a "local" matter. It has been felt necessary therefore to clarify the position for the benefit of the whole community.

In the Articles of Association of the National Assembly it states:

"...the decision whether a particular matter involves the interest and welfare of the national Bahá'í body shall rest with the National Spiritual Assembly."

This is spelled out a little more clearly in the Memorandum of the Incorporated Local Assemblies:

"...the Spiritual Assembly shall

- (i) recognise the authority and right of the National Spiritual Assembly to declare at any time what activities and affairs of the local community are national in scope and hence subject to the jurisdiction of the National Spiritual Assembly."

The National Assembly has realised that many local assemblies, while not in the least questioning the overall authority of the National Assembly, have not been aware of the need to refer some of their plans to the National Assembly in advance, as they have not considered them "national" in scope. Indeed it is not possible to lay down strict definitions of which activity would automatically fall into which category, but the referral for guidance is important if only to prevent two or more "local" activities with a wide appeal, from competing with each other or drawing the attention of the friends from some activity planned by a committee of the National Assembly which may be of greater significance to the Plan. It did happen for instance that

the National Assembly of the Republic of Ireland had, in following out some joint plans we made last September, planned an activity for the friends in the Republic with the friends from Ulster whilst we were directing all attention to Ulster during the same Easter holiday; the National Youth Committee were arranging teaching teams for Ulster; there was a Junior Youth activity planned; a weekend activity in Eastbourne and an Easter School in Henley on Thames, all falling over the same period. A decision had to be made in the light of all available information which events should carry on and where the emphasis should lie.

Many factors have to be taken into account when making such a decision and the National Assembly minuted the following:

"Where a local event is likely to have a country-wide appeal which might put it into the category of a national event, and the National Assembly would not be against such evidences of zeal and enthusiasm, the local assembly responsible should first clear it with the National Assembly who will in each case decide whether or not it conflicts with other activities which are under consideration."

Another principle which needs to be emphasised is that the assembly in the area in which any event is to take place is the responsible assembly for clearing the event with the National Assembly and is fully responsible for the organising and carrying out of that event. This does not mean that other assemblies may not give their full support in every way and that it may become a joint activity, but all the final decisions and responsibilities remain throughout with the host assembly.

"Clusters"

In the Five Year Plan we were given the goal of assigning "extension teaching goals to at least twenty-five local spiritual assemblies"; and the National Assembly, in May 1974, called on ninety local assemblies to be involved in this extension teaching with sixty-eight of them assuming full responsibility for the accomplishment of these goals.

In January 1976, the "Programme for Victory" was formulated and for the most part these responsible assemblies were urged to prosecute vigorously their plans and call on adjacent local assemblies and groups to cluster around and help. Gradually as the months passed some modifications were made as assemblies grew stronger or achieved their goals and the new assemblies were themselves drawn into the "Programme" and put into "clusters" to keep up the teaching momentum. Eventually all assemblies were brought into "cluster" activities and all groups and isolated believers were encouraged to join in their most accessible "cluster" events. During the plan the following points were clarified and are repeated for easy reference:

- a) The designated assembly **only** is "responsible" for the achievement of the allocated goal assembly. The assemblies and groups in the "cluster" are notified of the activities and rally around to give whatever help they can in every possible way.
- b) The responsibility of the designated assembly does not extend to purely administrative matters nor to personal problems, as these are still dealt with directly by the National Assembly until the group reaches assembly status. The planning of teaching, publicity, local proclamation and the education and deepening of the believers, all fall to the "responsible" assembly.
- c) An occasional meeting of the cluster for assessing manpower available, obtaining new ideas and fostering the spirit of success in the goal town is highly recommended but such meetings are for directing the attention of the friends to the goal and are not an end in themselves. The very nature of the cluster makes it variable for a cluster will be rearranged whenever a goal is won.

- d) Where a "responsible" assembly is itself too weak in manpower effectively to organise and prosecute activities in a goal town, other assemblies or groups in the cluster should offer help or the teaching committee may take the initiative, call for help from the cluster and, if necessary, provide essential finance from its budget. If there is evidence that no progress is being made or if there is no "responsible" assembly for an essential county goal, the National Teaching Committee itself must, in cooperation with the Pioneer Committee, take the initiative, and hand over to its regional teaching committee when possible.
- e) Where an assembly has been given more than one extension project, its first responsibility is to the earliest one it was given in the "Programme". Should such a goal not be achieved by the target date or should the assembly formed be subsequently in danger of lapsing, the "responsible" assembly must keep its attention on that goal until it is completely independent before it moves over to its next responsibility.

Already twenty-one of the original assembly goals, two bonus assemblies and five London Borough assemblies have been won and others are nearing assembly status. The clusters are generally working extraordinarily well and Scotland and Ireland have recently launched far-reaching campaigns. When all the groups now nearing assembly status are actually formed there will still be some sixty more assemblies to be won if we are to reach our overall target. The Universal House of Justice is continuing to call on us to complete our goals ahead of time. This is our supreme challenge.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

FREEMASONRY

Cable — 22 December, 1954

ANY BAHÁ'Í DETERMINED RETAIN MEMBERSHIP
FREEMASONRY LOSES VOTING RIGHTS.

SHOGHI

Extract from a letter from the Guardian, 5 August 1955:

"...As regards the question of Bahá'ís belonging to churches, synagogues, Freemasonry, etc., the friends must realise that now that the Faith is over a hundred years old, and its own institutions arising, so to speak, rapidly above-ground, the distinctions are becoming ever sharper, and the necessity for them to support whole-heartedly their own institutions and cut themselves off entirely from those of the past, is now clearer than ever before. The eyes of the people of the world are beginning to be focussed on us; and, as humanity's plight goes from bad to worse, we will be watched ever more intently by non-Bahá'ís, to see whether we do uphold our own institutions whole-heartedly; whether we are the people of the new creation or not; whether we live up to our beliefs, principles, and laws in deed as well as word. We cannot be too careful. We cannot be too exemplary.

"There is another aspect to this question which the friends should seriously ponder, and that is that, whereas organisations such as Freemasonry may have been in the past entirely free from any political taint, in the state of flux the world is in at present, and the extraordinary way in which things become corrupted and tainted by political thought and influences, there is no guarantee that such an association might not gradually or suddenly become a political instrument. The less Bahá'ís have to do, therefore, with such things, the better. He wishes you to thank... on his behalf for the spirit of devotion to the Faith which he has shown in connection with this matter. He feels sure that he will see the necessity to sever himself from his previous association with

Freemasonry. The older Bahá'ís, through their example in such matters, form rallying points around which the younger Bahá'ís, not so steady yet on their spiritual legs, so to speak, can cluster. . . ." (Written by His Secretary)

Letter written to an individual believer on behalf of the Guardian by a Secretary, November 1956:

"It is the Guardian's considered view that the time has come when Bahá'ís should establish the Bahá'í way of life, independent of any of the former attachments which individuals may have had, particularly if these attachments contain teachings or methods of operation which are contrary to the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

"The Guardian feels, therefore, that membership in Masonic Lodges is not consistent with the pure teachings of the Faith, and that the time has now come when the believers should separate themselves from such membership. The instructions contained in the message to the British NSA and the United States NSA apply universally.

"The teaching of Bahá'u'lláh will establish a new life for humanity. Those who are Bahá'ís must endeavour to establish this way of life just as rapidly as possible. Now that the hour has arrived when the Bahá'í Faith is gaining prominence, and is being reviewed by so many peoples, it is necessary that the adherents of the Faith should live up to high ideals in every way. In this way they can demonstrate that the Bahá'í Faith does create a new way of life, which brings to the individual a complete association with the will of God, and thus the establishment of a peaceful and universal society. Divisional attachments are of men, while universal service is of God.

"The Guardian is now anxious that all the friends achieve a universal consciousness and universal way of life."

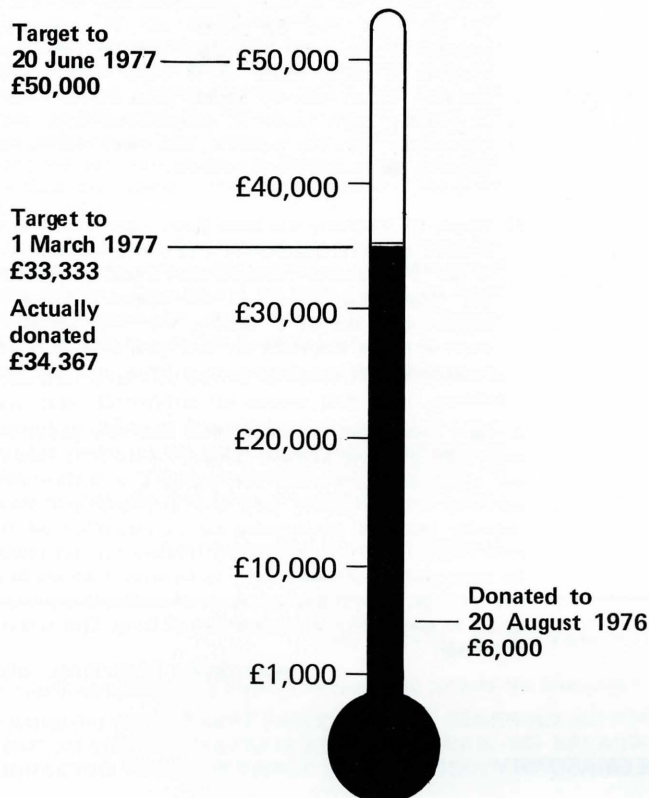
حضرت عبدالباقی الراج و صایا میفرماید: قوله تعالى: هُوَ أَقْرَبُ إِلَيْنَا مِنْ هَذِهِ الْأَشْيَاءِ كُلِّهَا

ای ما این عبدالباقی، محض الطاف بی پایان حضرت یزدان تبیین حقوق الله

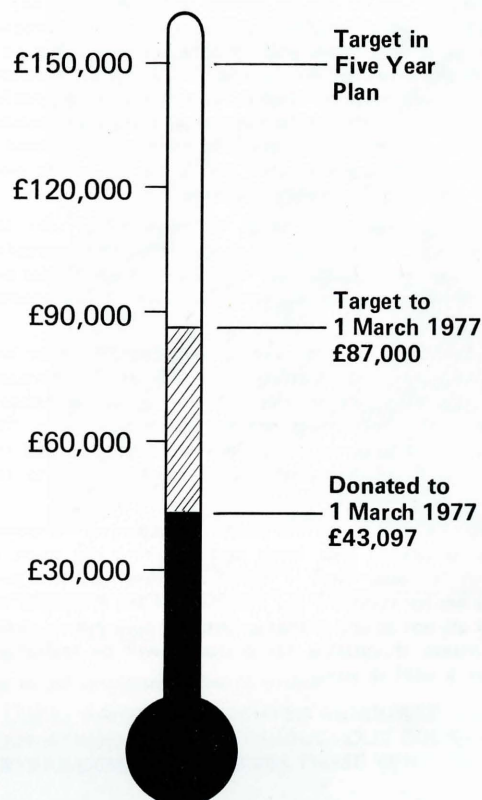
بر عباد و خویشانش که از امت و الا حق مستغنی از کائنات بوده و الله غنی عن العالمین

اما مغفرت حق سبب ثبوت و رسوم نفوس را بکثرت در جمیع مشون گردد.

NATIONAL FUND



CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND



THE FUND

Ways of making contributions to the Funds.

1. Directly (by cheque or postal order) to the National Treasurer:—

**Mrs Betty Goode,
8 Knowle Road,
Stafford ST17 0DN
Tel: Stafford 62157**

2. By Bank Giro directly to the bank which is:—

**The National Westminster Bank Ltd.,
186 Brompton Road,
London SW3**

Our account number is **18188443**

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

4. The Capital Projects Fund is in a separate account:—

**The National Westminster Bank Ltd.,
186 Brompton Road,
London SW3**

Account number **18188648**

POINTS WHICH ARE IMPORTANT

- A All cheques no matter for which Fund should be made payable to "NSA OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS" (please NOT to Betty Goode).
- B They should be 'crossed'.
- C It is unwise to send paper money or any money through the post unless it is registered.
- D Receipts are only sent if the donation is accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.
- E It is still cheaper to make Post Office Giro payments than to buy postal orders.
- F Friends wishing to donate by Deed of Covenant, please write directly about it to the National Treasurer.

BAHIA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

It was a marvellous spiritual experience attending the Bahia International Conference. The upsurge of spirit of love and dedication of the friends in South America to carry forward the Five Year Plan to the final stage was remarkable. About 2,000 friends from thirty-five countries, from all over the world, the majority of which were representing all the countries of South America, made that gathering a wonderful example of unity of thought and action within the embracing power of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh.

The Conference was opened by the beloved Hand of the Cause Mr Enoch Olinga, representative of the Universal House of Justice, in the presence of Hands of the Cause Mr Paul Haney and Dr Rahmat'u'lláh Muhájir.

The Governor of Salvador, the capital of the State of Bahia, Sr Roberto Santos, was present at the opening session of the Conference and was impressed by the tremendous spirit of the Faith.

During the time when Hand of the Cause Mr Olinga was giving the welcoming speech, for a few minutes the electricity supply was cut off and the hall remained in complete darkness. It was then, when that absolute silence and order observed by the friends was suddenly broken by the melodious song of Alláh-u-Abhá which intensified the spiritual atmosphere.

The highlight of the Conference came when over fifty souls from various lands in Latin America offered to pioneer to the remaining goals allocated to that continent.

The last day of the Conference was concluded by a demonstration of the high spirit of love and dedication of the participants who contributed to the different funds for the purchase of ten Ḥazíratu'l-Quds and ten Endowments; for teaching and pioneering; the Publishing Trust; the purchase of three motor-boats and three jeeps etc.; which amounted to two thirds of the required budget for the prosecution of the Plan to the final stage.

The loving message of our National Assembly was passed on to the Conference. We left Bahia with heartfelt gratitude and thanksgiving to Bahá'u'lláh Who made it possible for us to participate in such a wonderful occasion.

PARI AND MEHRABAN FIROOZMAND

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



AUSTRIA: It is the Austrian Republic in the heart of Europe, late at night; I switch on the radio. Suddenly my attention is riveted to the broadcast—one of the most prominent entertainers in Austria is speaking of The Dawn-Breakers and with unqualified admiration explains the lyric of a recorded song which is going to be sung by this Bahá'í singing group. As if the word 'Bahá'í' were an obvious term known to all, a household word, the announcer makes friendly reference to the Faith.

On a later occasion, during an early evening broadcast of popular music, more songs performed by The Dawn-Breakers are played and this is followed by an interview with the Bahá'í singers who are able to outline the principles of the Faith. Proclamation over the airwaves in the Republic of Austria!

(From an individual in Austria)

BELIZE: The National Spiritual Assembly of Belize has reported that in a recent speech before Parliament, the Hon. George C. Price, Premier of Belize, stated that there are a number of religions established in the country, that Belizeans enjoy the freedom of choice in matters relating to religion, and that this inalienable human right is embodied in the Constitution of Belize. The Premier also stated that the marriage laws of the Christian, Bahá'í and Muslim religions are recognised by the government. Excerpts of the Premier's address were broadcast over Radio Belize.

BOLIVIA: Two exciting teaching projects are currently under way in Bolivia, one in the tropical lowlands of the Department of Santa Cruz and one high in the Andes in the Department of La Paz.

The Santa Cruz project consists of teaching teams made up primarily of pioneers and local believers from the city of Santa Cruz where an amazing receptivity has been experienced in many places. Schools and Teachers' Colleges have opened their doors wide for Bahá'í speakers. The visit of the Hand of the Cause Dr Rahmat'u'lláh Muhájir last April generated the impetus to start developing these special teaching projects. Dr Muhájir at that time expressed his great pleasure at the enthusiasm of the students in one Teachers' College he visited and encouraged persistence because of the receptivity of the people.

Several weeks ago a teaching team visited the communities of Paso Verde and Paylon where the first seven members of the Ayoreo to embrace the Faith were joyously welcomed.

The members of the teaching teams are working people whose activities are confined to weekends, but through their sacrificial efforts great results have been achieved.

The second project, in the Department of La Paz, has also demonstrated exciting progress. Small exploratory teaching teams reported receiving a warm reception from Aymara Indians and recommended that larger teaching teams return to the area soon. This was quickly accomplished, and in September 1976 a team of two pioneers and four travelling teachers set out for Loayza by jeep. Delayed in Cairoma by an unexpected and severe snowstorm, they took refuge in the home of friendly local people. It was soon evident that the snowstorm was providential for on that day thirteen people in that house declared their faith in Bahá'u'lláh. In the evening the team showed the film *The Green Light Expedition* at the local school house to an audience of 180 townspeople. A lively question period ensued and twenty-three people, including two school teachers, embraced the Cause.

In the village of Pucarani the Bahá'í team was warmly received and having been given notice of the expected arrival of the team, many villagers had prepared questions to ask. During the showing of the films, which were greeted by enthusiastic applause, twelve people, almost all of them youth, spontaneously declared their belief in Bahá'u'lláh.

Within four days this dedicated team opened three new localities to the Faith and witnessed the acceptance of the Cause by fifty-four enquirers.

THE GAMBIA: Ever since the visit of Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum to The Gambia in 1971 the Foni District where the Jola people reside has been a centre of teaching activities because these people have shown great receptivity to the Faith. The number of villages opened to the Faith at the close of the Nine Year Plan had been limited by the amount of time and the number of teachers and did not reflect the full potential of the receptivity of the Jolas.

The expansion called for in the Five Year Plan has meant less frequent visits to the Foni District. Nevertheless, in the last ten months, twelve villages have been opened. The chain reaction of village believers teaching those in neighbouring villages has been in process. At a recent National Teaching Conference twenty villages were represented and pledges were made to reach at least twenty new villages before Ridván. This is a potential of about 300 new families. In at least two districts it appears that every village may be opened to the Faith, and the friends are pressing into the Casamance area of Senegal to find new villages to open!

PORTUGAL: A regional school was held in the goal towns of Viana do Castelo in November and was followed by a proclamation programme and public meeting. In attendance were approximately thirty believers from the central and northern areas of Portugal.

The Bahá'í group of Viana arranged all the details of the school and engaged a large room for classes in a local hotel. The school was characterised by a warm, informal spirit of unity and fellowship. The friends were deeply touched by the contribution of a recently-declared Bahá'í, a refugee from Angola, who arose and expressed gratitude for having found the Faith and for experiencing a spiritual transformation. He described himself as an example of what could be accomplished if all were to arise to spread the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh while there is still time.

A public meeting attracted an audience of fifty enquirers. A music programme presented in a public park drew large numbers of children and their parents and resulted in four people embracing the Faith. Many of those attending were refugees. All were invited to attend weekly meetings at the local Bahá'í Centre.

PUERTO RICO: A proclamation programme was recently conducted on Culebra, a small island off the east coast of Puerto Rico midway between Puerto Rico and St Thomas, Virgin Islands. Thirty-four Bahá'ís participated in the project which was held in November, and many others supported the effort by prayer.

As a result of the proclamation project and the follow-up activities of teaching teams, ten adults and four youth from Culebra have declared their belief in Bahá'u'lláh. Bahá'u'lláh also claimed the hearts of new believers in Caguas, Canovanas and Loiza during November.

The Mayor of Culebra warmly accepted a presentation of three Bahá'í children's books for the school library during the project.

TONGA: The Bahá'ís of Tonga participated in the annual Agricultural Show in October by establishing a booth for the display of Bahá'í posters and literature. Assisting in arrangements for the booth were representatives of the National Spiritual Assembly, the Local Spiritual Assembly of Kolomotu'a and the National Youth Committee. The Agricultural Show is a popular event in the islands and is always attended by the King of Tonga and other dignitaries, the National Spiritual Assembly commented, and provides yearly an opportunity for the proclamation of the Faith in Tonga.

The United Nations Committee of Tonga, the membership of which comprises both Bahá'ís and others, authorised the preparation and presentation of a half-hour radio script, in Tongan and English, on the subject "Questions and Answers on Human Rights". Listeners were invited to write in for a printed outline of suggestions concerning what an individual may do to promote the aims and ideals of the United Nations. A direct result of the radio programme was that a student from the Cook Islands who is living in Tonga visited the National Bahá'í office, requesting literature about the Bahá'í Faith and information about the United Nations.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TEACHING COMMITTEE

GROUP PROJECTS

Throughout the length and breadth of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland the Bahá'í Community is becoming very aware of the idea of travel-teaching; that it is a necessary part of the Five Year Plan and distinct from pioneering.

Those who have met Bahá'ís recently returned from a teaching project abroad notice an aura of confidence and contentment about them, and how that person often becomes a dynamic force in subsequent local Bahá'í activities.

Many express the desire to go travel-teaching —

'Oh, I would love to go to Africa and travel-teach, it would be so wonderful, but. . .'

The thought of a trip into the unknown puts them off — unknown being the type of country which is to be visited, the people, their customs, their friendliness; not knowing one's spiritual and emotional capacity. So many unknowns can be a daunting prospect.

If it were possible to go in a group, the intensity of these problems would be lessened, the group would be able to share the experiences of the project.

Already group projects are under way. A team of Bahá'í girls between the ages of 15 and 25 is going to Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana during the summer, and hopefully another team is going to Norway at Easter.

TRAVEL TEACHING WITH A DIFFERENCE by Golgasht Mossafai

When I left London for the Central African Republic eight months ago I could not fully understand the meaning of the letter of the Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'í world sent at the beginning of the Five Year Plan. "The doors will be closed to our faces. . .", ". . . The pioneers should settle in their posts by 20 October 1976. . ."; all these seemed just a goal and not too close! This trip to thirteen West and Central African countries was a proof, at least to myself that the doors are really getting closed and it is now extremely difficult for pioneers to get settled in some African countries.

I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to go to Gabon and visit a handful of Bahá'ís who are cut off completely from the rest of the Bahá'í world. I tried to get a visa for Gabon in three different countries and each time it was refused. Finally, I obtained one in Kinshasa and during my three days' stay in Gabon it was possible to get in touch with the Bahá'ís only with difficulty; teaching is done with great caution. At one of our gatherings I showed the film, 'The Green Light Expedition' for the friends, which was a great source of joy and happiness to them.

A new project has been started for Belgium. Anyone who can find a spare weekend and can fill a car with four people can go travel-teaching to Belgium. Give Peter Stratton the details and two weeks' notice and he will arrange the itinerary in Belgium for you — his address is 14 Bloomfield Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire. Two car loads have already made this journey and it was calculated that, per person, the whole trip cost £16.00 for the ferry, plus £7 for petrol, plus food (taken from the United Kingdom for the sake of economy).

Another exciting project open to everybody at the moment is a teaching trip to Africa. The plan is for everyone to fly by cheap group travel/advance booking/charter rates to Johannesburg; from there the group will split into smaller teams and travel to their project countries. This is scheduled to take place in July and August and, if there is sufficient support, permission will be sought from the Universal House of Justice for the group to spend three nights in Haifa. This project has tremendous possibilities, but it requires a great deal of planning. If you would like to go, please write to Peter Stratton saying that you are interested, stating how much you could contribute towards the cost and how much certainty you have at this moment of being able to go. The committee needs to know of all offers by the end of April in order to get the project moving.

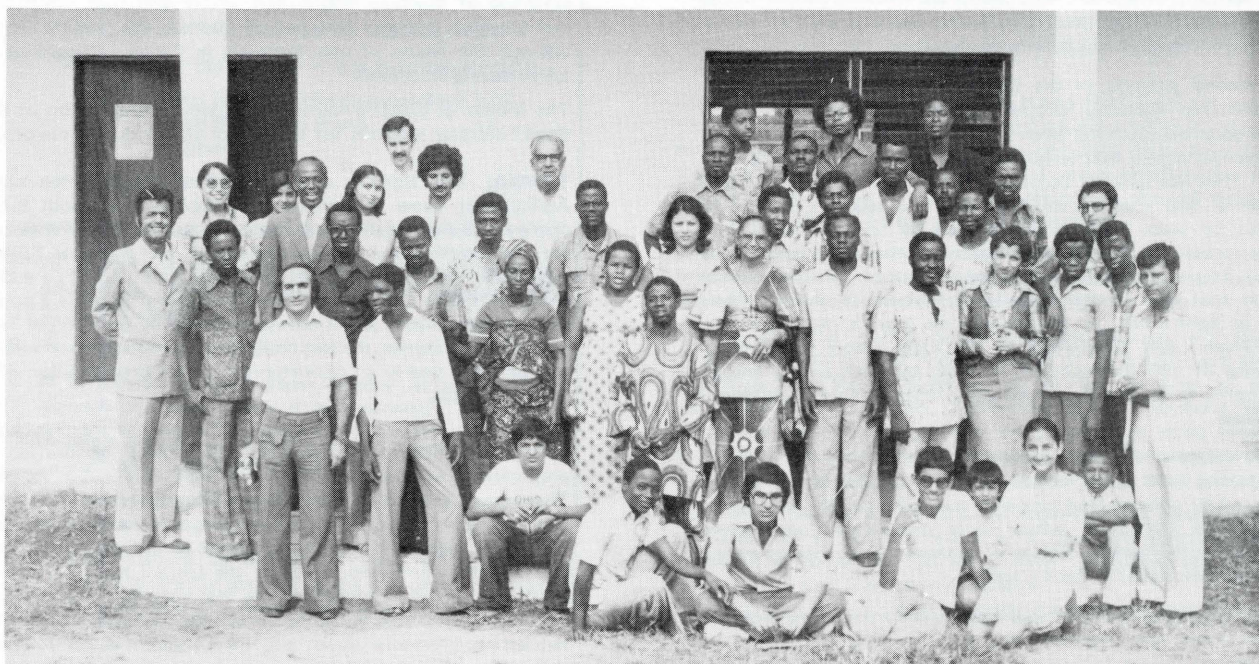
The International Travel Teaching Committee hopes that these group projects will enable more people to carry the Word of Bahá'u'lláh to other countries.

In Zaire and Camerouns the teaching activities are tremendous and both countries need many pioneers to help them in their work. For instance, in Zaire, they have to elect two local assemblies a day to win the goals of 1200 local assemblies. They are so much in need of help. Of course the country is immense and the transportation facilities are not adequate, so it is a great field for sacrifice!

In the Camerouns the friends are not silent for one moment. They travel and teach and organise deepening courses and every minute there is something going on somewhere. They even have a mobile Teaching Institute which is a VW bus full of teaching materials travelling from village to village. I managed to visit about ten different villages in different areas of the Camerouns and show the film to the friends. In Sangmalima, a village 150 Km from Yaounde, the crowd which gathered to see the film was so great that I was afraid that the police would turn up to find out what was going on! The crowd stayed until 2 am and asked questions about the Faith.

In Nigeria the situation is totally different. The people are so materialistic that they are quite careless about religion. In a

Friends from the Ivory-Coast, Upper Volta and Mali who gathered for the Summer School in Bouake, Ivory-Coast.



village near Lagos we went to show a film-strip to the friends and wanted to borrow a white sheet to be used instead of screen. I was amazed when I realised that they wanted to sell the sheet to us! That is how the mind of the simple spiritual villager has turned to materialism.

I was refused entry three times to Benin (Dahomey), the country where we were pioneering for two years. It brought great sadness to my heart to learn that teaching is restricted to the Bahá'í Centre in Benin and no pioneer can teach in the country without special authorisation. On the other hand, it was wonderful to learn that some fifteen Bahá'í youth of local villages have started to teach the Faith with great enthusiasm in Northern Benin and they have already won all their goals.

I spent three weeks in Togo and travelled up and down the country. The progress of the Faith is tremendous there, and the efforts which the National Assembly puts into deepening the friends is really exemplary. They have won most of their goals and I think Togo is one of the communities which can stand on its feet without the help of pioneers. There is no comparison between the period when we were pioneering in that area and the present time; the progress of the Faith has been tremendous.

I could not go to Ghana, another country where I was pioneering for three years, because of the political situation. I heard from the Counsellors that Ghana is in urgent need of pioneers; the community is very much behind with the goals of Five Year Plan.

In the Ivory-Coast I attended the Summer School in Bouake, some 400 Km from Abidjan. Sixty-six Bahá'ís from the Ivory-

Coast, Upper Volta and Mali were present and every night we showed the film, 'The Green Light Expedition', to a great number of people who wanted to investigate the Faith. The newly built Teaching Institute in which we held our Summer School was inaugurated officially by the Mayor and 'Prefet' of Bouake and the ceremony was televised. These two town officials had expressed their desire to become Bahá'ís. In fact the land of the Teaching Institute, which is 2,000 square metres, was given freely to the Bahá'ís by the Mayor himself. The Faith was also introduced to the 'Prefet' of Daloua, a village 120 Km from Bouake, during the trip.

My arrival in Monrovia coincided with the first Bahá'í radio broadcast in Liberia. The Bahá'ís have had regular radio programmes to teach and propagate the Faith since January.

In Senegal and Mauritania the Faith is taught in a quieter manner because of the influence of the Moslem community there. The 'Green Light Expedition' was also shown to the friends in both countries. I calculate that this film was shown for 156 hours to about 4,000 people in West and Central Africa and I think this must be a record.

This is a very short report of my trip. At present the best way of going to Africa is through the universities so, if you are a university student, would you please consider going to Ghana University, Sierra Leone, Liberia, The Camerouns or Nigeria. If you are French-speaking there are very good universities in Zaire, The Camerouns, Togo and the Ivory-Coast. If you are going for your holidays consider seriously one of the African countries for your holiday-teaching trip — I am sure you would enjoy it and the friends would be very happy to see you.

TRAIL BLAZING TO BELGIUM by Angela Moon

On 4 March, after a hair-raising journey down to Dover, Farzin Kamranpour, Andrew Goodwin and myself (the intended fourth member of our party, Marilyn Gough, was unable to be with us because of illness), caught the last Townsend Car Ferry at 11.35 pm. — we took a cheap weekend 48-hour ticket — which carried us smoothly over to Zebbrugge, Belgium. During the journey we looked around the ship and endeavoured to get some rest for the following days in Ghent which we knew would be action-packed.

Arriving in Zebbrugge around 3.30 am., we easily found our way on to the road for Ghent and through the breaking dawn found ourselves outside the home of Peter and Kay de Vogel and their delightful little daughter Michelle — we knew it was their home as there was a beautiful Bahá'í poster in the window and the light was on to welcome us. It was a very warm welcome we received and, after talking for a few hours, we had breakfast and dawn prayers.

Around 9 am Chen, a Malaysian, arrived with his charming little daughter, Mimi, to take two of us off to his house where they had arranged a fireside. Rod from Alaska, and Amos from Nigeria also arrived and took off Andrew to the Bahá'í stand which is held every so often. One is not allowed to stop people and can only talk to them about the Faith if they show any direct interest.

Farzin and I arrived at Chen's where there were about eight Malaysian people — all of whom showed tremendous interest in the Faith. Then, about half way through, two girls from the Philipines arrived, also non-Bahá'ís, so they too heard all the exciting things which Farzin was telling us. We stayed for about four hours talking and answering questions and it was all most exhilarating.

About 2 pm, Rod and Amos came to collect us to go back to the de Vogels' house, where we picked up Andrew and a Dutch girl called Toos Verhagen and off we went to see another Bahá'í called Mimi who lives in the heart of the country, and has a commune where all kinds of different people live. We had a very interesting time there talking to various people, including her sister Janou, who had just arrived back from the USA. They have a lovely house filled with paintings and sculptures done by members of the family, going back two generations. They were very hospitable and gave us the most delicious dinner of pumpkin soup followed by chicken with vegetarian extras — for those of us who were vegetarian!

Time just flew by and it was soon time for us to make our way to the public meeting being held in a beautiful old fourteenth-

century Abbey. Peter de Vogel, who was Secretary of the NSA in Australia, was giving a talk and there were quite a few people there, although unfortunately only one non-Bahá'í. He spoke of his experiences when on Pilgrimage. A charming Canadian girl called Janice played her guitar and sang some enchanting songs for us — she was ably helped by Rod. After the meeting we all went back to the de Vogels' home for coffee and talked, and talked, until about 1 am.

The next day, after a fairly late start, we were taken on a sight-seeing tour of Ghent and visited various places of interest. It was wonderful to see how they have preserved things for many generations.

We also stopped at one or two shops to buy goodies for our picnic on the return journey — they were in fact delicious!

We had a quick look around Brugge which was a lovely town. Andrew and I visited the Cathedral which was very old and had some marvellous paintings.

By then it was, unfortunately, time to make homeward tracks towards the FREE ENTERPRISE VIII which was, in fact, the Townsend Car Ferry that had brought us over to Belgium. This time the crew were extremely interested in us — our badges proved a good talking point and we spent a lot of time talking to them. The Commodore of the whole shipping line happened to be on board that night; we started talking to him and he invited us to his cabin and also to see around the bridge — he was interested enough in the Faith to ask a number of questions and we left with him some pamphlets and a little pocket Prayer Book — The Love of God.

After docking and driving off we had a very easy time going through Customs, as, when we were asked whether we had anything to declare we just pointed to the Bahá'í sticker on the car window and the girl looked, read it and we gave her a pamphlet and she waved us smilingly through!

As we were driving through Canterbury we decided to stop and visit Peter and Ann Kyne in their beautiful centuries' old home, and it was lovely to see them and have a most welcome cup of tea.

Although it was foggy, we made good time and arrived home safely from Dover around 2 am, after having had the most wonderful time teaching the Faith in Belgium and meeting our beloved friends.

SUMMER SCHOOLS 1977

ORKNEYS — 9-23 July — Kirkwall

One of the islands of the North Sea which were given a position of importance in the growth of the Faith by our beloved Guardian has been chosen as the venue for a Summer School this year. Particulars of registration will be available shortly. It will not be long before the requisite number have booked for this Mini School. Bookings may still be made with Mr D. Mehrabi, 'Carmel', New Scapa Road, Kirkwall, telephone Kirkwall 3634. Prices range from £23 plus a small registration fee.

Travel by car, train or coach to Thurso and by car-ferry from Scrabster to Stromness, or by air to Kirkwall. Early bookings, particularly for car-ferry, are essential as tourists are already making bookings for July.

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, LOUGHBOROUGH — 6-20 August

Meals and accommodation in the Hall of Residence; sports facilities include swimming pool, squash and tennis courts, badminton, table tennis etc.; extensive grounds; self service meals; some family rooms.

The basic cost is £93 plus VAT, plus a registration fee for one adult for the entire period. There are reduced charges for children; special prices for part-time bookings, etc. Daily visitors will need to pay a small registration fee each day, and casual meals will only be possible if ordered in advance. It is, therefore, most important that all bookings for this school are made very soon, especially if family rooms with beds or cots for children are required. Bookings will close completely by mid-July and cancellations after 22 July will lose the whole £100.44 as we will be committed for the full amount after mid-July.

At least one Hand of the Cause, Dr Ugo Giachery, will be present for the whole period. Send all detailed enquiries soon to Miss Mary Prince, 26 Priory Road, Loughborough.

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS — 1-14 September

Such is the demand for this school that the Cyprus friends would wish us to limit the United Kingdom contingent to fifty in total and accommodation for this number has been booked with Messrs Peltours. There are various alternatives and bookings should be made direct to Peltours, 72 Wigmore Street, London W1, mentioning Bahá'í Summer School.

- Tour 1:** Travel only; visitors make own accommodation plans £120
- Tour 2:** All-in travel, transfers and accommodation in Curium Palace Hotel, Limassol (venue of school) £205
- Tour 3:** Travel to Limassol four days early, then three nights in Haifa with hotel accommodation and transfers, etc., but finding own accommodation in Cyprus £240
- Tour 4:** As above, but with accommodation in Haifa and at the Curium Palace Hotel, total of seventeen nights £290

Early bookings for this Summer School are essential.

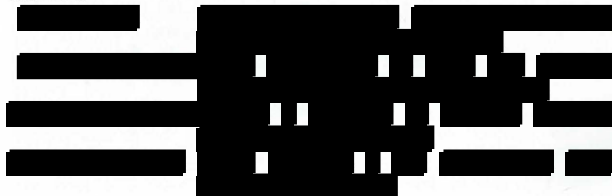
IRELAND — 30 July - 13 August

Further details will be announced soon, but the venue will be within easy reach of Dublin. Early bookings to:

The Irish National Office,
41 Morehampton Road,
Dublin 4.

NOTICES

BIRTHS



MARRIAGES

- 28 August 1977: Julie Wingar to Stephen Thompson in Ongar, Essex — both formerly of University of East Anglia, Norwich, now resident in Birmingham.
- 22 January 1977: Sholeh Shirazi to Donald Todd, in Lyndhurst, Hants.

DEATHS

- 23 January 1977: Hector Connell, in Edinburgh.
- 27 January 1977: Mrs Hagar Wall, in Anglesey.
- 24 February 1977: Mrs Edith Walker, in Kendal.
- 1 March 1977: Sharon Anne Lee, in Huntingdon.

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

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

THE TABLETS OF THE DIVINE PLAN

Continuing the series of quotations commenced in the last issue of the BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL:

Say: Teach ye the Cause of God, O people of Bahá, for God hath prescribed unto everyone the duty of proclaiming His Message, and regardeth it as the most meritorious of all deeds. . .

By the righteousness of God! Whoso openeth his lips in this Day, and maketh mention of the name of his Lord, the hosts of Divine inspiration shall descend upon him from the heaven of My name, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. . .

The Pen of the Most High hath decreed and imposed upon every one the obligation to teach this Cause. . .

TDP p5

At this time and at this period we must avail ourselves of this most great opportunity. We must not sit inactive for one moment; we must sever ourselves from composure, rest, tranquillity, goods, property, life and attachment to material things. We must sacrifice everything to His Highness, the Possessor of existence, so that the powers of the Kingdom may show greater penetration and the brilliant effulgence in this New Cycle may illumine the worlds of minds and ideals. . . TDP p37

PEN-PORTRAIT — ISLE OF MAN

Thinking of pioneering abroad, but wanting to stay in Britain?

The Isle of Man is a charming island with 227 square miles of beautiful countryside surrounded by a 100 mile coastline of beaches, tiny coves, harbours and majestic cliffs. When you pioneer there it's really like going abroad — it is self-governing and its valleys, mountains and moorlands are like nothing you'll see anywhere in the British Isles.

Douglas, the capital, is set in a magnificent bay with an expansive sandy beach. At night the bay is lit by thousands of coloured fairy lights reflected in the water.

In between, or alongside teaching activities, there is bathing in the bay, sea-fishing, swimming, golf, tennis, flower gardens in which to relax and meet people, band concerts, pony trekking and enjoyable walks.

There are new places to teach in each day! In the south are Port St Mary, a charming fishing port with two delightful bays, and Port Erin, renowned for its sandy beach in the midst of some of the Island's most enchanting scenery. At Castletown and Peel there are medieval castles; in the Manx National Glens there are high cliffs and miles of sand dunes. All sorts of teaching opportunities could present themselves. Choose your spot and **DECIDE** to pioneer abroad, but stay in Britain! Offers please to the Pioneering Committee!

SERVICE FOR THE BLIND

TWO NEW LIBRARIES

We are pleased to announce the formation of Braille and tape libraries for the blind, to cater for the needs both of Bahá'ís and enquirers resident in the United Kingdom.

We have written to the blind friends on our register telling them about the libraries, but the full details appear only in this Journal.

Please address all enquiries concerning the Braille library to the Braille librarian:

Oliver Christopherson
68 Briardale
Stevenage Herts SG1 1TR
Telephone Stevenage (0438) 55983

and enquiries concerning the tape library to the tape librarian:

Bob Smith
53 Riddlesdown Road
Purley Surrey
Telephone (01) 660 5737

BRAILLE LIBRARY

The Braille library is open to all Braille readers resident in the United Kingdom. Books will normally be lent for three months but may be recalled earlier if required by another reader. Borrowers will be responsible for replacing books if they fail to return them on demand.

Books should be returned to the library when read. They should not be passed on to another reader;

It is preferable that each reader should make his own requests for books. If you request books on behalf of a reader, you will be treated as personally responsible for their return.

The following books are now available:

(Note: All titles are in Grade 2 Braille unless otherwise stated. Items marked * have been obtained from the USA and are in American Braille.)

Paris Talks (Talks of 'Abdu'l-Bahá) (3 vols.)

Guidance for Today and Tomorrow — A Selection from the Writings of Shoghi Effendi (first 3 of 5 vols.) These volumes cover the Central Figures of the Faith, Covenants of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh, the Holy Family, the Administrative Order, the Bahá'í Faith and other religions, and the present day.

The Dawn Breakers — Nabil's Narrative of the Early Days of the Bahá'í Revelation (first 3 of 12 vols.) These volumes cover the period up to and including the Báb's pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina.

* **Communion with God** — A Selection of Bahá'í Prayers (Grade 1½)

* **Principles of the Bahá'í Faith** (Grade 1½)

* **Bahá'í Prayers** (US edition)

* **Bahá'í Occasional Prayers** (US edition)

* **The Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh**

* **The Mission of Bahá'u'lláh** (Excerpts from 'Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh')

* **World Order through World Faith** (Talks of 'Abdu'l-Bahá)

* **Faith for Freedom**

* **The Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, a World Religion**, by Shoghi Effendi.

TAPE LIBRARY

All blind persons resident in the United Kingdom are eligible for membership of the tape library.

Applicants for membership are asked to give an undertaking that all tapes, etc., obtained from the library will be dealt with in accordance with the rules of the library. If this undertaking is broken it may result in suspension of membership.

Tapes obtained from the library must not be copied, passed on or used for any commercial purpose. This applies also to copies purchased through the Audio-Visual Centre. (See below)

Tapes will normally be lent for a period of three months, but may be recalled earlier if required by another borrower.

Equipment used to play library tapes must be well maintained and suitable for its purpose. Applicants should give details of the equipment available to them when first requesting books. A copy will be made to suit the member's equipment if a suitable recording is not available. At least two weeks' notice should be given when a book is required to enable it to be copied and

despatched. We cannot guarantee to despatch within this period but will do our best.

Members will be responsible for replacing tapes not returned to the library on demand, and for any damage caused by defective equipment or careless handling. Spool tape in particular should be handled with care, and returned on the spool provided by the library.

It is hoped to arrange free postal facilities in the near future. In the meantime return postage must be paid by the borrower.

The following books are available:

(Note: Recordings marked * have been obtained from the USA, and are at present available only on 1-7/8 ips open reel tape.)

Guidance for Today and Tomorrow, read by Thelma Batchelor.
The Unfolding Destiny of the British Bahá'í Community, read by Thelma Batchelor.

Paris Talks, read by Beryl de Gruchy

The Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh, read by Lois Hainsworth

The Pattern of Bahá'í Life and Living the Life, read by Lynda Howard

* **Prescription for Living**

* **God Loves Laughter**

* **Portals to Freedom**

* **Release the Sun**

* **The Bahá'í Faith**, by Jessyca Gaver

* **Comprehensive Deepening Program**, Part 1 — The Meaning of Deepening; Knowledge, Volition and Action; A Fortress for Well-being; The Supreme Gift of God to Man.

* **Comprehensive Deepening Program**, Part 2 — The Dynamic Force of Example

* **World Order** — commemorative issue of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

SALES

All Braille books and tapes produced by us, i.e. those not marked * in the above lists, may be obtained "to special order" through the Bahá'í Audio-Visual Centre, 52 Inaclete Road, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland PA87 2RN. However, for copyright reasons, the sale of tapes is restricted to approved purchasers. Details on request.

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEER READERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

We are still looking for volunteer readers to record books for our tape library. If you are interested, please send a sample of your reading on tape (cassette or open reel), which we will return. We are not necessarily looking for a "BBC accent", but we do have to look for voices which are easy to listen to over prolonged periods. It is often difficult to decide whom to accept, but we feel some selection is necessary in the interests of the users. It would help us if you would try to produce the best recording your machine is capable of. Usually a little experiment with volume control, position of microphone, etc. will establish this. If using a battery machine in which the batteries have not been recently replaced, please check the tape speed (e.g. by playing back on another machine, or by comparing with a similar recording made previously), otherwise when we play it back it may sound peculiar.

Read something with which you are familiar. There is no need to fill a whole tape — five minutes or so is ample.

We are also looking for volunteers with the time and aptitude to learn Braille for the purpose of transcribing books for our Braille library. At present this work is done by non-Bahá'í volunteers. We do not wish to discontinue this arrangement, but to supplement it from our own resources.

It is not difficult to learn Braille, but the work itself is time consuming and whoever undertakes it will have to make it one of his main contributions to the work of the Cause. It cannot be done in odd moments. Eventually you would have to obtain a Perkins Braille writing machine (present cost to voluntary transcribers £39.36). However, initial exercises can be done on a Braille frame. You would study for the certificate of proficiency in writing Braille of the Royal National Institute for the Blind. The necessary books for this are available from the Institute at a small cost. The writing paper is free.

The test for the certificate can be taken at home, and simply consists of completing a set passage within a specified period (2 weeks). Sample tapes and enquiries should be addressed to the secretary of the department, Oliver Christopherson, 68 Briardale, Stevenage, Herts SG1 1TR.

We warmly welcome to the community the following new believers, recorded in the National Office from 14 January to 23 February 1977.

ENGLAND — Adults

S. T. W. Baker (Mr) — Maidstone
Wallace Bishop — Hemel Hempstead
Fraser Dunbar — Ipswich
Pamela Simmons (Miss) — Guildford
K. Suthanatha (Mr) — Greenwich
Amy Woodfield (Mrs) — St Albans

Angela Begent (Mrs) — Colchester
Angela Devi (Miss) — Kensington and Chelsea
Kosi John Dzatr — Liverpool
Edmund Smith — Craven
Paul Williams — Sefton
Renoo Zaiwalla (Mrs) — Kingston

Dalia Bishop (Mrs) — Hemel Hempstead
Ian Digby — Carlisle
Patricia Farrow (Miss) — Burnley
Frances Smith (Mrs) — Craven
Edward Woodfield — St Albans
Angela Moon (Miss) — Westminster

Youth

Vahid Humphrey — Crowthorne

Samira Irani (Mrs) — Guildford

SCOTLAND

Adult Hugh O'Rourke — Glasgow

Youth Richard Fusco — Dumfries

WALES — Adults

Pauline Cheesman (Mrs) — Carmarthen
Gay Moyes (Mrs) — Vale of Gl.

Judy Hodgkinson (Miss) — Gwynedd

Si Jones — Neath

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

CRAWLEY: Friends recently gathered at Crawley for a naming ceremony for Matthew Kim Billing, the first such occasion in this community. Matthew is the first Bahá'í child to be born in Crawley, and his parents' wedding two years ago was the first Bahá'í marriage ceremony to take place in the town.

DONCASTER: In her Christmas message last year Her Majesty the Queen expressed a desire for reconciliation between peoples of all races and religions. This would, she said, be the gift she would most value in this her Silver Jubilee Year. The Bahá'ís of Doncaster decided, therefore, to hold a 'Sharing of Faiths' meeting to promote this theme. Local dignitaries and all the religious bodies of Doncaster district were invited, using specially printed invitation cards. In addition, a hundred posters were put up in Doncaster and its surrounding towns.

The meeting itself consisted of readings from the Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Bahá'í scriptures. It was well attended by over forty people and many people expressed a feeling that their understanding of other faiths had been greatly broadened by the readings. We are particularly grateful for the warm support which we received from the Sheffield Bahá'ís, without which the success of this meeting would have been greatly reduced.

GUILDFORD: A number of weekend activities and Unity Feasts have taken place in the Guildford and Waverley Districts in recent months. Public meetings in Farnham have been stepped up to twice monthly until Ridván with a printed programme enabling people to delve into a number of different aspects of the Teachings. A weekend school at the beginning of January was well attended, with support from communities as far afield as Croydon, Winchester and Harrow. A number of contacts have been made in Waverley; we have had a declaration in Waverley — although this was a Bahá'í Society contact — an Arabian Bahá'í met him at a disco in the University, and he had declared within weeks — an unexpected bounty for both of them! He was living inside the Waverley boundary at the time and has now had to return home as his course has finished, but is on fire with the love of Bahá'u'lláh! We have since had two more declarants in Guildford — at Bahá'u'lláh's birthday party!

In Guildford Ted Cardell gave a beautifully presented slide show at the Friends' Meeting House, attended by several Quaker friends and many others from the town, the international club and the University. Leon Braunstein and his household came to provide some lively musical entertainment at an international evening arranged by the local UNA and Amnesty International, and Ananda Thaliah's Concert at the University gained a lot of publicity. World Religion Day was celebrated with the Quakers in Godalming. Ronald McAlpine has since been able to move into Godalming and we are now more hopeful of being able to operate effectively in this large area. During the intercalary days and the Fast we managed to meet together for prayers and meals, and a good spirit reigns, with regular news from our friends in the pioneering field.

INVERNESS: Our latest teaching efforts have met with a sudden burst of success. In the town itself two members of the local community have been nominated to the newly formed local committee of UNICEF, the United Nations' Children's Fund, and one, Hilda Douglas, has been appointed joint secretary of the branch. The Bahá'í affiliation of the two members is listed in the committee's documentation. During the meeting which set up the local UNICEF committee, which was sponsored by Provost

Fraser of the District Council, the Faith was commented on favourably by several prominent local citizens.

World Religion Day was celebrated this year in Forres, a small town in the goal district of Moray. Using a programme of readings from the various world religions, it was well advertised, and attracted over twenty enquirers. A number came from the world famous Findhorn Foundation, which has its centre near Forres.

IPSWICH: For World Religion Day, a public meeting was arranged in our goal area of Babergh. East Bergholt is an attractive village in the heart of Constable country where the headmaster of the primary school, Ted Wheatley, Chairman of the World Federalists, is very sympathetic to the Faith and is a respected member of the village. He had agreed to the meeting in the school and gave us valuable help and support. Invitations were sent out to as many people as possible, with posters and cards in as many shop windows in the surrounding villages and towns as possible.

To an audience of about twenty-five, including ten non-Bahá'ís, Dennis McEoin introduced a programme of readings from different religions, accompanied by recorded guitar music. He then gave a talk on the subject of Religion. Bahá'ís from Chelmsford, Colchester, Tendering and Suffolk Coastal all helped to make the occasion worthwhile. Later two books were presented.



Dennis McEoin with some of the friends in Ipswich

LANCASTER: We have completed a very successful first round of book presentations in the District. Most of the people to whom we wrote offering a copy of 'Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era' accepted, and in all but one case granted a personal interview for the presentation to be made. Different members of the local assembly presented the books, with another member present. We spent varying lengths of time with these people, ranging from ten minutes with Lancaster's "very busy" Member of Parliament to forty minutes (and coffee!) with the Bishop. All were interested and sympathetic and asked questions in line with their particular interest. The Divisional Director of Education was also given some selected quotations on his own subject which had been typed out specially for him:

Two of our members are trying to pioneer to Craven, which has to have a local spiritual assembly by Ridván 1978. They originally planned to stay till Ridván so that Lancaster's own assembly would not be put in jeopardy, but since then the assembly has agreed to release them as soon as they can find a house, because we have had a sudden influx of Bahá'ís descending on us, apparently from the skies, and now number thirteen adults!

One of these bounties was Nader Nadiri, who arrived from Iran at the end of November to marry a Morecambe girl, Judith Harling (not a Bahá'í). The local assembly was thus able to organise its first wedding in the District, and, as this was making local history, we obtained an unprecedented amount of publicity in three local papers.

PRESTON: Our cluster decided to try taking the Faith to the residential outskirts of Preston, one after the other, starting with Fulwood where the Secretary, Alan Woodhurst, lives. We decided to stage the Exhibition which we used in the Centre of the town in September (slides of which were shown at Teaching Conference). We booked a room in the Leisure Centre (really a sports complex) for 22 January. The Exhibition was to be on show in the afternoon, but remain up during the evening's Public Meeting, which would be a slide show and a talk.

This was preceded by a joint marathon putting 6,000 invitation cards through every door in Fulwood — well, not quite every door, as in the event we found we had underestimated the amount required. This was an enjoyable, though leg-aching, united effort, and we soon learnt a lot about which letter boxes are Definitely Unkind to Postmen! The enjoyment was enhanced by the readiness with which Ann Woodhurst, who is not a Bahá'í, made us welcome in her home and was quite happy for us to use it as a base, even to the extent of giving lots of us lunch. Lancaster Assembly, who organised this event, would like to express its thanks — it made all the difference.

The effort involved proved to be worth it because the Exhibition was well attended and twelve people came to the public meeting; with only one exception, someone who had seen the advertisement in the newspaper, all had come as a result of having had invitations put through their letterboxes. One or two people showed a definite interest, but, far more important than this, the spirit of enthusiasm and dedication which this united venture engendered amongst the members of the cluster and Preston Group was sudden and tremendous — and will surely prove an increasingly attractive force as we systematically visit other areas of Preston.

ST. ALBANS: A new music group, making only its second appearance, attracted an audience of 150 — a quarter of which were non-Bahá'ís — to a concert in the 'B' goal district of St. Albans on 22 January. The group, Travelling Shoes, comprises Bob Lohr (piano and guitar), Tom Fox (electric bass), John Jameson (guitar) and Fiona McDonald (vocal).

Songs ranged from the jazz-orientated "Accentuate the Positive" to the folksy "All My Trials" and pop such as "Sloop John B". Most of the songs contained Bahá'í-like lyrics.

All the group are Bahá'ís and this was made clear to the audience, but the members were not allowed to talk directly about the Faith as the conditions of hiring the hall stipulated that there should be no religious or political meeting.

The closest the group came to direct teaching in their songs was with "Seven Valleys", written by Seals and Crofts, and an Austrian Dawnbreakers' number, "I will tell you my story".

The event, held at St. Albans College of Further Education, provided excellent proclamation for the Faith, however. Two local papers ran stories about the group, one featuring a photograph. Both mentioned the Faith.

A reporter from the town's talking newspaper for the blind interviewed the group and recorded a song for the paper which is heard by 250 local blind people. Again, the Faith was featured.

The most impressive aspect of the concert was the professionalism of the whole event. The group themselves displayed great skill. It was hard to believe that they had rehearsed together five times and performed together in public only once.

Adam Thorn provided an extra bonus by illustrating some of the songs with slides and three non-Bahá'í friends added their technical know-how by operating the lighting and sound equipment.

Incidentally, the name, Travelling Shoes, comes from the title of a Maria Muldaur song which the group performed. Bearing in mind that the group's four members live in Lincoln, York, Manchester and St. Albans, it seems an apt choice.

Next day St. Albans held a day school deepening at the home of Bijan and Behnaz Rouhani. Sixty friends attended and they heard excellent talks from Auxiliary Board Member Mary Kouchekezadeh, NSA member Mary Hardy, and Geoff Bridle.

The weekend was most inspiring and provided an ideal celebration of the fact that, with two recent declarations, St. Albans Assembly could be formed in February.

SOME EARLY BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE WEST by O.Z. Whitehead

Book Review by Hugh McKinley

"In his sixties he changed his business, in his seventies he changed his politics, and at ninety-five he became a Bahá'í. He changed almost overnight from a crochety old devil to almost an angel. Everyone loved him."

"The Master revealed these words for Mabel (Ives) about this precious event: 'Convey my greetings to thy honoured father. Tell him that entrance into the kingdom. . . maketh an old man young and maketh strong the feeble.'"

"She (Mariam Haney) spoke of the Bahá'í meetings in the early days — the great love and spirituality which prevailed among the believers. She had a lovely sense of humour and would sometimes do 'imitations' — just for me (Alice Dudley) privately, not with malicious intent — she never spoke unkindly about anyone."

"FOR ALL THE SAINTS. . ."

Hagiography is — notoriously so — of all forms of prose-writing one of the most difficult. A succession of flat, passionless, perfectly radiant smiles is devotedly and laboriously pulled across the wooden-in-every-sense stage of rarified living, 'in illo tempore' — where there are no tests that may not be surmounted, no problems that resist solution, and none of the rush and batter of this time-scarce 9 to 5 daily unending world you and I know too well.

As we see from the first quotations, Zebbie Whitehead does not write these kind of encomiums. Simple, utterly sincere, unvarnished narrative shades in and highlights brief lives of these earliest Western believers in the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh: those whom the Master honoured in the Tablets of the Divine Plan: "O ye apostles of Bahá'u'lláh — May my life be a ransom to you!"

He also described the conditions we find written in the bone of these twenty-four lives of sacrifice and service:

"... if your feet be firm, your spirits rejoiced. . . if you arise to assist the Covenant, to resist dissension. . . "Ye are the angels. . ."

Knowing some, and being able to correspond with others of this sacred band, Mr Whitehead brings a freshness to life-stories often surprisingly similar: of dissatisfaction with materialistic life at the close of the 19th century; of their hearing about, attraction to, and confirmation in, the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh. Several accounts are of members of the first group of Western pilgrims to 'Akká in 1898, "these God-intoxicated pilgrims."

The most dramatic is undoubtedly that of Queen Marie of Rumania. Here is high tragedy: a pilgrim-Queen, unique amongst her peers, denied at the foot of Carmel itself, her longed-for attainment to the Sacred Threshold.

It would have been stimulating had the author thought to include the contrast of failure: eminent Bahá'ís who did not overcome the tests to which their potential exaltation subjected them. Far from detracting from the glory of the whole, such dark shadows would have enhanced its humanity; enhanced the brilliance of steadfastness in that only Crowned Head, the several future Hands of the Cause of God, these apostles of Bahá'u'lláh here written about — and would have, even more strongly, underlined the free, private and personal choice upon which belief or denial, service or opposition, Life or Death, is alone obtainable:

"For the faith of no man can be conditioned by any one except himself."

Bahá'u'lláh

(Continued over)

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THE EARTH IS BUT ONE COUNTRY

B134

This outstanding new book about the Bahá'í Faith, which was extensively reviewed in the August issue of the Bahá'í Journal is now available. Since this was first priced in 1975 much additional material has been added to the contents, increasing the number of pages by 30%. The revised selling prices are:

Cloth bound £3.50 (\$6.25) Paper £2.10 (\$3.75)

It now consists of 208 pages + eight pages of half-tone illustrations comprising seven photographs and three maps.

THE DAWNBREAKERS

B17

The very attractive recently issued 'library' edition of this book on the origins and history of the Bábí religion and thus of the Bahá'í Faith, written by Nabil and translated by Shoghi Effendi, should complement, on the bookshelf of every Bahá'í, the Selections from the Writings of the Báb. This edition of the Dawnbreakers is bound in longwearing Buksyn in two-tone brown.

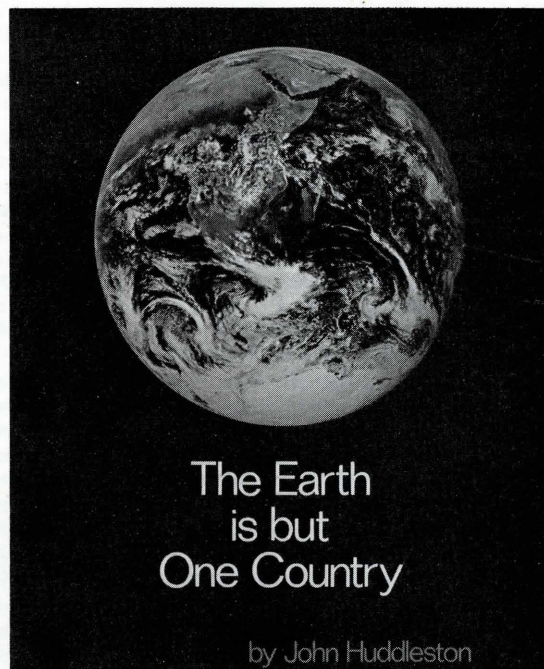
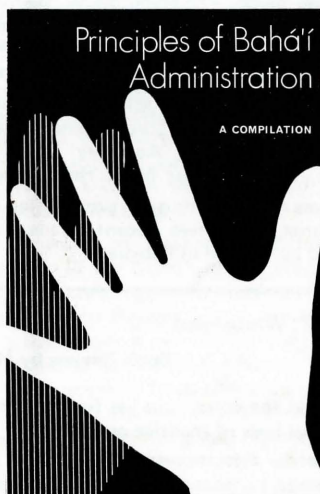
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SELECTIONS FROM THE WRITINGS OF THE BÁB

B143

In the review which appeared in the last issue of the Journal the printer moved the reference number and price into the wrong column, so for clarity we repeat that the price is currently £2.91.

PRINCIPLES OF BAHÁ'Í ADMINISTRATION

B15

This long established and highly regarded book, consisting mainly of letters from the Guardian, gives his guidance on a very wide range of subjects which, for easy reference, is available again in both cloth and paperback editions.

Cloth bound £1.15
Paperback 65p

THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH by Gloria Faizi

B103

We have some copies of this very popular introductory book in cloth binding as well as paperback.

Cloth bound 75p
Paperback 25p

SOME EARLY BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE WEST (Continued from previous page)

"APPLY THE DIVINE PRINCIPLE..."

This apart — and the over-fastidious critic might wish there were fewer definite articles here and there — there is no doubt this important book will have the effect wished for in his Foreword by Hand of the Cause of God Mr Faizi:

"...present and future students of history will benefit greatly from these essays written with much love and purity of heart."⁷

This choice of words by the Hand of the Cause is both striking and appropriate. It emphasises the intensity of concern Bahá'ís of every epoch in the Faith have with actual life in the world. How this was generated in us all through and from these Apostles — and in them by the word, the pen and the example of the Centre of the Covenant, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, is made clear in an extract from the account given to the friends in New York, after his pilgrimage in 1905, by Howard MacNutt:

"...instead of encouraging the pilgrims to ask questions about science, metaphysics and philosophy, the Master tried to show them how to apply the divine principle of love to their lives, and that He was most anxious to know how the friends were behaving to each other..."⁸

Unique photographs, details of the six main bibliographical sources, and full notes and references are additional gems to the many this easily-read — and therefore the more skilfully written — work contains.

It is a work "From the heart..."

Published by George Ronald, available through the British Bahá'í Publishing Trust £3.25p

References

1	Text	...	...	...	...	page	148
2	Text	...	...	...	...	page	168
3	BAHA'Í WORLD FAITH—Compilation (U.S.1943)	..					423
4	ibid.	...	...	...	...	page	360
5	GOD PASSES BY—Shoghi Effendi (U.S.1945)					page	259
6	GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH	...	...	...	...	para	75
7	Text	...	...	...	...	page	ix
8	Text	...	...	...	...	pages	37/38