

The HOME FRONT

A News Bulletin

No.11

November, 1958

"ONLY BEGIN & EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT"

'Abdu'l-Bahá

What can I do to serve the Cause of God? So often this question comes to each of us, and to all our obstacles the answer is the same: "Only begin and everything will be all right."

The beloved Guardian wrote: "... the keynote of the Cause of God is not dictatorial authority but humble fellowship, not arbitrary power, but the spirit of frank and loving consultation."

When we wish to serve the Cause, the first step to take is to consult with either one's Local Assembly, or the Regional Teaching Committee - or, if one feels the urge to pioneer, with the National Teaching Committee or the European & Asian Teaching Committee. Such consultation draws upon us the confirmations of Bahá'u'lláh, and many an obstacle that has always seemed too big to surmount, dwindles away to nothing.

A consultation with the N.T.C. is a very friendly, informal occasion. The purpose is to see where and how the prospective pioneer can best and most happily serve the Cause. It may even be decided that he should stay where he is. In no case is a decision forced on him, but after careful consideration together the N.T.C. will recommend what they think is best.

In some cases financial help will be needed, and this is one of the many ways in which the Committee can help a pioneer. No believer should ever decide that he cannot pioneer because he has insufficient money to tide him over until he gets a new job, and refuses to accept help from the Fund. This, after all, is the sort of thing the Fund is for.

We all have to sacrifice our material possessions to give to the Fund, while some have to sacrifice their pride to receive from the Fund. Both sacrifices are for the sake of the Cause of God, and

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE BAHÁ'IS OF THE BRITISH ISLES

both are very necessary.

Let no believer in this crucial time consider what he would like to do, and then say "I cannot". Rather let him seize upon that which he can do, and do it. For those who feel that they may be able to pioneer, let them offer, and consult. Every journey, however long or short, begins with one step.

WRITINGS OF SHOGHI EFFENDI

Copies of the catalogue of the American Publishing Trust seem to have been more plentifully available recently. It lists the following letters of our beloved Guardian which have not been generally circulated in Britain, and which we now list for the benefit of all those who wish to obtain copies. They can no doubt be ordered through our own Publishing Trust.

"The Citadel of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh"	per copy \$ 0.10 12 copies \$ 0.50
"The Destiny of the American Nation"	per copy \$ 0.05
"Messages to America"	per copy \$ 1.00
Map of the Bahá'i World (at April '57)	per copy \$ 0.60

Of supreme value for us all at present is "The Advent of Divine Justice", which was written by Shoghi Effendi to the American Bahá'is at the beginning of the First Seven Year Plan in 1938, and tells us all we need to know about teaching the Faith.

Of considerable use for giving to people who are interested in the Faith is the following tribute written by Marcus Bach following the Guardian's passing:

"Shoghi Effendi : An Appreciation" per copy \$ 0.60

MESSAGE FROM Mr. HASAN BALYUZI, HAND OF THE CAUSE OF GOD

The following message, which was sent in May to the Northern Irish Teaching Conference seems particularly relevant now, and even more urgent than it was then, for the eleven goal towns which were without pioneers last Ridván are still empty and we have still very far to go in the teaching field this year if we are to achieve noteworthy victories by next Ridván:-

May 9th 1958

Beloved Friends,

Just a few lines to greet you and wish you every success. I cannot be with you this weekend, but my thoughts and prayers will be with you.

Our dearly loved Guardian has given us all that we require to carry us through to 1963 (when in the words of the beloved Master "The faithful shall rejoice") and, beyond. Therefore we shall and must now immerse ourselves in his writings. His last letter to the British Community (which is our charter), and his last message to the whole Bahá'í World, now assume a much greater significance.

Now we must teach and teach. The beloved Guardian laid the foundations and raised the bastions of the World Order, and he told us in his last message to go out and bring mankind into the stronghold of Bahá'u'lláh. Now is the time to do what Bahá'u'lláh spoke of - "Conquer the citadel of the hearts of men".

Undreamt of glories promised to us, await us.

May Bahá'u'lláh make us firm, make us channels for His grace. May we prove true servants of the beloved Shoghi Effendi.

With loving greetings,

Yours in His Fellowship,

Hasan M. Balyuzi.

NEWS AND PLANS

At its last meeting on 19th October the N.T.C. was really thrilled at the news that had come in of the resounding success of the weekend schools which had been held during the previous two months all over the country. Then followed the acceptance by the N.S.A. of the declarations of six friends, which have already been announced in the N.S.A. Newsletter. Two of these are in the Goal Town of Chester, and two form the new group of Bellshill which is next door to the Goal Town of Motherwell. Since then we have heard of another declaration in Motherwell, two in Belfast and one in Bangor (County Down). We shall be submitting a report of the weekend schools for inclusion in the January edition of the "Journal" and hope that by then there will be still more encouraging news.

The Goal Towns The N.T.C. is looking into the possibility of putting Bahá'í quotations as advertisements into the local papers of the still-empty goal towns in the hope that this will familiarise the local people with the name of the Faith and some of its basic teachings in readiness for the arrival of the pioneer. The present situation in the Goal towns is as follows:-

Cork, Aberdeen, Inverness, Bangor (N.W.) Carlisle, York, Peterborough, Shrewsbury, Exeter, Plymouth, Pontypridd, still empty.

Bangor (County Down), one new declaration, now up to 6.

Glasgow, 7. Regular teaching meetings.

Motherwell, 3 now, plus a new declaration. Active teaching

Blackburn, 3 believers

Cheadle, 7 believers, active teaching

Chester, two declarations, bringing numbers up to 3. Active teaching.

Newcastle, 3 believers. Joe & Mary Jameson trying to move in.

Gloucester, 1 believer.

Salisbury, 1 believer.

Torquay, 7 believers, weekend school planned for 22/23rd November.

Brighton, 4 believers. Joe and Elsie Lee trying to move in.

Canterbury, 5 believers, including Margaret Lloyd who pioneered there on November 3rd. Active teaching going on.

Winchester, 1 believer. The R.T.C. has detailed plans for active teaching and has already started this.

Newmarket, 1 believer. Works in close contact with Cambridge.

Weekend Schools planned:

November 22/23rd. Torquay

December 14/15th. Bradford or Leeds.

February (date not decided) Leicester.

Travelling Teaching. Among all the travelling which Friends have undertaken during the last few months, and which has had a great part to play in the increase in teaching-tempo, we would mention specially Adib Taherzadeh's tour, when he visited Cardiff, Oxford, Torquay, Reading, London and Edinburgh, speaking at two weekend schools en route. We are most grateful for this help from Ireland. If any of the Friends who live in Great Britain would have any time available to visit Eire or Northern Ireland, would they please get in touch with the E.A.T.C. or the Northern Irish R.T.C., who will be delighted to consult on making use of this help.

Incorporation: The Edinburgh L.S.A. whose Community now numbers 16 is taking steps to become incorporated as soon as possible.