

The HOME FRONT

A News Bulletin

No.14.

JULY 1959

"It has often happened that one blessed soul has become the cause of the guidance of a nation. Now we must not consider our ability and capacity, nay rather we must fix our gaze upon the favours and bounties of God, in these days, Who has made of the drop a sea, and of the atom a sun."

Baha'u'llah

"Let those who resolve to be the first to hoist the standard of such a Cause, under such conditions, and in such territories, nourish their souls with the sustaining power of these words, and, "putting on the armour of His love," a love which must "wax stronger" as they persevere in their lonesome task, arise to adorn with the tale of their deeds the most brilliant pages ever written in their country's spiritual history."

Shoghi Effendi

from: Advent of Divine Justice

Dear Friends,

We hope that it will not be too long before we can announce that all the Goal Towns have been opened. This will be wonderful news indeed and a direct result of the determination shown at Blackpool Teaching Conference. If we take the first steps, Baha'u'llah will assuredly guide us.

We are now asking all the friends to give earnest thought to the possibility of reinforcing a Goal Town. A lone pioneer, however valiant and hard-working, needs such help to ensure that the town reaches Assembly status before Ridvan 1963.

PRIORITIES

Carlisle urgently needs a pioneer who will be joined in February 1960 by Iran Moussazadeh. Golrokh Sabit will be going to York on 18th August, and it is hoped that a pioneer will be in Exeter some time this month. Both these towns need reinforcement NOW as do Aberdeen, Peterborough, Swinton, and Winchester.

Blackburn!! The Guardian's wish was that all lapsed Assemblies should be re-established, and it will therefore be a great moral defeat if we do not re-instate this town as an Assembly.

Dear friends, time will not wait for us; the world will not wait for us. The battle is on! We are the heavenly army of God, and the signal has been given. Are we all at our posts?

National Teaching Committee

STOP PRESS

Lois Gregory has obtained a place in Exeter University.

GOAL TOWN NEWS

BANGOR:

We are delighted to announce that Raffi Mavaddat has been admitted to Bangor University for postgraduate research work. Raffi will arrive there at the beginning of October.

And Aldie Robarts has written to say that he has a job in Bangor until February 1960. Together with Farzaneh Hemmati who will be there at the beginning of August, this will make three Baha'is in the town. All those friends who can help them by visiting them are urged to do so, and if you have any friends or relatives there whom they could meet, please do let them have their addresses. If you send them to us we will pass them on.

CHESTER:

A most encouraging report has been received from this Group. They hold weekly meetings every Monday, and on June 8th when Ian Semple was the speaker, they had four contacts.

The friends were also invited to take a service in the Unitarian Church where Baha'i prayers were read, and a talk on Progressive Revelation given, and they have been asked to take another service in August. Besides all this they have been offered the use of the church and schoolroom for any of their Baha'i activities.

After a visit by the friends to the secretary of Toc.H they have been invited to give a talk in October.

Also Audrie Rogers has visited the Dean, and spoke with him for half-an-hour in the Cathedral.

They write that they have gathered together a selection of books for their Baha'i Lending Library which they have covered with "Bind Your Own" Penguin set which they have found suitable for most paper-backed Baha'i books. They recommend this idea to any of the friends who might like to take it up.

WOKINGHAM:

Held a One-Day School on Sunday 19th July, and we look forward to hearing from them about it.

YORK: Some more wonderful news. Miss Golrokh Sabit has obtained the post of Staff Midwife at the Maternity Hospital and will start work there on 18th August. She is now looking for accommodation as the hospital is just outside the civic limits. We should be most grateful if any friends living near York could help her in any way regarding this matter.

ALL OTHER NEWS ITEMS

CAMBRIDGE: This Assembly will become rather depleted before very long due to a number of its members having to leave Cambridge. But in spite of it the friends feel sure that this rather severe "pruning" is but a prelude to the appearance of many new fruits.

Olive Sutton has offered to pioneer to Cambridge and will commence work there in September.

GLASGOW: The R.T.C. have reported that a very successful five-week campaign was held in this town from the 17th May to 14th June. A series of five public meetings was held at the Grand Hotel; weekly firesides were held which were announced at the public meetings; posters were distributed to the Information Bureau, Libraries, Colleges, Hospitals, various Societies and local shops. One hundred invitation cards were distributed to all institutions and societies, etc. to be placed on their notice boards, and advertisements were inserted in the three main Glasgow papers.

The campaign was considered a great success as it achieved its prime aim which was to get a new large circle of contacts. They found that in Glasgow press advertising seems to be very effective indeed, as with very few exceptions all contacts came through the adverts.

EDINBURGH: A similar campaign is being organised in this town, and

is scheduled to commence on Sunday 26th July. We look forward to hearing about it.

LIVERPOOL: Are advertising talks to be given every Wednesday at the Centre, and also a public meeting once a month on a Sunday. They also plan to hold two big public meetings a year at the Adelphi Hotel.

Besides this they have pledged themselves to support the teaching work in Chester and Southport, and will try to send two people to any of their meetings they are invited to.

LONDON: Three firesides are being held each week in London, as well as the public meeting which is held every Thursday. A study class has also been inaugurated.

We are happy to announce that there have been two declarations in London recently. They are Mr. and Mrs. Dixon, and we extend a warm welcome to them.

PORTSMOUTH: The friends are giving every available support to Winchester, and have been doing so for some time now. Three firesides are being held weekly, and they are holding two public meetings each month. They have contacted Local Educational Authorities, Community Centres, Churches, International League of Friends, and many Clubs and Associations to whom they have sent literature, and are awaiting their replies.

P I O N E E R I N G

by Hugh McKinley

So much has been written of pioneering, and at every gathering of the believers someone gets up and speaks of the qualities they need: of faith, of steadfastness, of endurance and courage - it seems impossible to say any more. Yet there are still far too many large concentrations of Baha'is! Still too many gaps in the home fronts of the established national communities.

We take the Bible story of Christ calling the disciples far too lightly; especially of James and John. It says, "... and He called them. And they immediately left their ship and their father and followed Him." (Matt.IV. 21/22). No promise was made, no inducement was offered, just "Follow Me." We have to reflect on the power that emanates from a Manifestation of God, the power of "He doeth what He willeth and ordaineth what He pleaseth. He sayeth 'Be' and it is." This is not on this plane only; not just while He is on earth. It is everywhere. Always - and as much here with us each one now as with James and John at that time; or with Quddus when he came to the presence of the Bab; or with Baha'u'llah when He revealed the 'Fire Tablet' before the police-station of Akka, and all rushed away and left Him alone before the building.

It is the sameness of events and the regularity of our daily lives that prevents us from seeing this and experiencing it continually. Because of this, those who have gone out pioneering obtain a different quality of realization; not more, nor superior, but of a different quality. When the normal pattern does not exist, and on the purely material level it is a real project to go and get a loaf of bread; when every action of life has to be extemporised and nothing and no-one can be depended on, the soul has to turn to this great seat of power: "God was alone". Living for a substantial period of time under these conditions all limitations vanish and the love of God grows and grows. With It all the things He wills and permits can be accomplished. Often He does not permit and indeed for the greater part of the time what we wish and what we think are far, far away from what He ordains. Gradually there comes in us a 'Carefree-ness' - the 'holy indifference' of St. Vincent de Pol; it becomes sufficient to awake each morning praising God, to commit one's affairs into His Hands and go forward each day to do the best one can; always striving to see the 'doors' through which one may go; always applying one's keenest faculties to creating means favourable for the spreading of the Faith, but apart from all things - relaxed and content in the midst of an agony of striving: the point of balance and stillness in the centre of a tornado - and being at once both the tornado and the stillness oneself.

Those bounds that contain normal life in our towns and cities

are man-made, not very adventurous nor exciting. God has no limits. He chooses the most unlikely soul and invests such an outwardly obscure or unworthy one to be His Manifestation to men, to be the same as His Own Self. This one Soul overthrows the world of humankind and offers the world of God. Few accept. To arise to pioneer is to throw one's cap over the moon, to embark on the only guaranteed way of success and victory (the success and victory Baha'u'llah has explained in the Kitab'i'Iqan). The Sufis always spoke of themselves as mad: 'Majnun'; and by every worldly standard the true believers - in this Day, the Baha'is - are very mad indeed! Indeed Omar Khayyam called it being drunk and carried the analogy so far as to write a scandalous couplet which most editions do not print, saying to God:

"Dust on my head, O God, you've made me very drunk - or is it YOU Who are drunk?"

To be drunk with the love of God has similar effects as the more usual kind of intoxication - the standards set by the intoxicant take the place of the normal ones; if you keep on long enough, they will be the only standards you know and employ. There is no way we Baha'is can achieve this in cold blood; it is not another of the study-circles or a course at Summer School. Yet it is the only way to live at peace, and one that was appreciated by St. Augustine a very long time ago:

"Love (God) and do as you please."

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

National Teaching Committee: The members of this Committee are:-

Mr. Ernest Gregory	-	Chairman
Mr. John Wade	-	Secretary
Miss Marina Nazar	-	Asst. Secretary.
Mr. Owen Battrick		
Mrs. Joan Gregory		

The Secretary's address is: 14, Northumberland Road, New Barnet,
Herts.

Regional Teaching Committees: This year the number of Regional Committees was reduced at the recommendation of the Hands of the Cause in Haifa. We give below the names and addresses of the Secretaries of this year's Committees:

SCOTLAND: Mr. Svend Kamming,
56, King Street,
KILMARNOCK.

NORTH: Mr. Brian Dilworth,
Townfield Hall,
Altrincham,
CHESHIRE.

SOUTH: Mr. Joe Lee,
35, Lyndhurst Road,
HOVE, 4.

WALES: Mrs. Barbara Lewis,
56, King George V Drive,
Heath,
CARDIFF.

N.IRELAND: Mr. Charles Macdonald,
447, Upper Newtownards Road,
BELFAST.

Marriages

We are very happy to announce the marriage of Mr. John Morphew of Ware to Miss Pamela Wood on Saturday, 4th July. They were married by Ian Semple.

We are also very happy to announce the marriage of Mr. Herbert McDermott to Miss Shirley Rogers. They were married by Ali Nakhjavani, and was a true symbol of the unity of mankind.
