

The HOME FRONT

A News Bulletin

No.15.

AUGUST 1959

"Not by the force of numbers, not by the mere exposition of a set of new and noble principles, not by an organized campaign of teaching - no matter how world-wide and elaborate in its character - not even by the staunchness of our faith or the exaltation of our enthusiasm, can we ultimately hope to vindicate in the eyes of a critical and sceptical age the supreme claim of the Abha Revelation. One thing and only one thing will unfailingly and alone secure the undoubted triumph of this sacred Cause, namely the extent to which our own inner life and private character mirror forth in their manifold aspects the splendour of those eternal principles proclaimed by Baha'u'llah."

Shogi Effendi

from: Advent of Divine Justice

Dear Friends,

The foregoing words of the beloved Guardian to every individual Baha'i, call for our immediate and urgent attention to deepening in the Cause of God. This is the indispensable aid to our effective teaching and our consequent successful achievement of the Ten Year Crusade goals.

We therefore request all believers from now on to keep before them at all times the following points:-

1. The obligation placed upon us to study the writings daily.
2. The stress placed by Baha'u'llah on the potency of the Revealed Word as an animating force making it the most effective of all teaching agents - in teaching emphasise the printed word and disseminate Baha'i literature.
3. Be accurate and brief in presenting the Baha'i teachings - remember the Guardian's clear behest contained in the following quotation from "Principles of Baha'i Administration" Page 23.

"To deepen in the Cause means to read the Writings of Baha'u'llah and the Master so thoroughly as to be able to give it to others in its pure form. There are many who have some superficial idea of what the Cause stands for. They therefore present it together with all sorts of ideas that are their own. As the Cause is still in its early days we must be most careful lest we fall into this error and injure the Movement we so much adore. There is no limit to the study of the Cause. The more we read the Writings, the more Truths we can find in Them, the more we will see that our previous notions were erroneous."

With loving greetings,

National Teaching Committee.

GOAL TOWN NEWS

ABERDEEN:

Jackie Thomas has arrived. We ask your prayers that she may soon find a job and suitable accommodation. Anyone who has a few days' holiday and could visit her, please do let us know, as a visit from a fellow Baha'i is most heart-warming to these lone pioneers.

EXETER:

As you will have seen in the last edition, we have had the happy news that Lois Gregory has obtained a place in the University, and will be arriving in Exeter at the beginning of October.

We have also heard that there are three Persian Baha'i youth in Exeter, who have just moved there from Birmingham. There is Bijan Vahdat and his sister and Mr. Eshragh. Unfortunately we do not have their addresses, so if any of you do have them, would you kindly send them to us?

Another Persian Baha'i may possibly be going there, and at the moment is looking into the possibility of buying a house.

LOUGHBOROUGH:

Pat and Ian Sinclair have now found a house in Loughborough, and hope to be able to move in before very long. Unfortunately they have still been unable to find a buyer for their boat. If any of you do know of somebody who might be interested in it, the N.T.C. would be glad to hear of it. But above all we ask your prayers.

One of the two youth in Loughborough, Parvaneh Furutan has now come of age, thus raising the voting members of the community to 3. We send Parvaneh our congratulations.

NEWCASTLE:

We have received the wonderful news from Joe and Mary Jameson, that they will have moved into their new home in Newcastle during August. This will undoubtedly mark a new phase in the teaching work in Newcastle, and brings the community up to 5 in number.

SALISBURY:

Some more wonderful news. Stuart Sweet is in the

process of buying a house near the town centre and should be moving in soon. Also Margaret Higdon has obtained a job in Salisbury and will be going there at the beginning of September. Together with Mrs. Rideout this means there will soon be 3 Baha'is in this Goal Town.

SWINTON:

Still more good news! Brian Dilworth will be pioneering to Swinton and will probably be there before the end of October. Together with Mr. and Mrs. Senior this raises the community to 3.

INVERNESS:

Harold and Betty Shepherd have just been to Inverness with their family to look into the possibilities of pioneering there. We hear that there is the prospect of their being able to buy just the kind of house they want, and we ask your prayers that any difficulties in their way may be speedily removed.

NEW TEACHING METHOD

Ali Nakjavani, while in Edinburgh, tried the following:-

Duplicated sheets were prepared containing certain fundamental questions about the Baha'i Faith, his talk being based on these important points. After the talk was finished, the sheets were handed to each member of the audience, with a suggestion for a few quiet moments for consideration of the questions. During this time, music was played, about five minutes, then a discussion took place. It seems to have been very successful.

WEEKEND SCHOOL SCHEDULE

		Scottish	North	South	Wales	N.I.
		3	4	6	2	1
SEP. 26th	1	Glasgow				
OCT. 17th 24th	3		Loughboro	Norwich	Pontypridd	

WEEKEND SCHOOL SCHEDULE (Contd)

		Scottish	North	South	Wales	N.I.
		3	4	6	2	1
NOV. 21st 28th	4		Sheffield	Torquay (Reading * (Wokingham		Bangor
DEC. 12th	2		Notting- ham	(Salisbury * (Bournemouth		
JAN.	0					
FEB. 6th 13th 20th	4	Newcastle	Swinton	(Gloucester * (Oxford (Bristol	Cardiff	
MAR. 5th 26th	2	Aberdeen		(Winchester* (Portsmouth		

* To be held in these Towns

FIRST INTERNATIONAL BAHAI YOUTH SCHOOL HELD IN LUXEMBOURG

AUGUST 1959

This was a truly historic occasion. Over 80 youth from 12 countries attended the school.

It was held in the lovely little town of Echternach, which lies in that part of the country known as "Little Switzerland." The cobbled streets, gaily lit cafés, thickly wooded "mountains" and gently flowing river, were an ideal setting for such a gathering.

The idea of having such a school was born at a meeting of the representatives of the N.Y.C.'s at the Frankfurt Conference last year, and for this, the first International Baha'i Youth School, the work was done entirely by the N.Y.C. of Germany. And it was a marathon task indeed. They had to find suitable accommodation, draw up a programme, arrange for information and booking forms to be sent to all the N.Y.C's of Europe, find speakers, arrange for their talks to be translated and countless other things that would take too long to enumerate.

Most of us stayed at the youth hostel which had been specially booked, and we shared all our meals together.

At the commencement of the School, a special committee was appointed, the members of which were American, Danish, English, German and Persian, and this committee met every day to discuss the activities of the school, and arrange the programme for the afternoons and evenings. It was a very wonderful experience to work on this committee which illustrated yet again the power of the Faith to weld together various outlooks and ideas into one harmonious whole. It was very moving to see how, as the days passed by, the members of this committee obtained a much deeper and appreciative understanding of the thoughts and actions of one another.

Regarding the programme of lectures, it was most interesting to see the different approach our friends in Germany have, to that generally adopted at a British Summer School. Much attention was given to the theory and growth of materialism and its various exponents which as you may well imagine was far above the heads of the majority of the British contingent! However, once we reached the safe harbour of the study of the Baha'i Faith our feet felt on much firmer ground.

We had the great honour of the presence of Hand of the Cause Dr. Grossman at the School, whom we all know as a great supporter of the Youth, and his invaluable knowledge was added to the discussions.

Each day more experience was gained on how to conduct such a School, and each day we tried new methods. First we tried having one lecture in the morning followed by discussion; then we tried two lectures, with a discussion following each; in one case where there had been no time to make a written translation

beforehand, the lecture was translated sentence by sentence (incidentally the very small French group had all their lectures translated simultaneously with the lecture). I myself was unable to stay for the whole period of the school, but it seemed to me that the last lecture I attended was nearest to having the best method.

This particular talk was on the Guardianship, the Hands of the Cause and the Auxiliary Board Members, and was given in English with a written translation provided in German. Here again the very small French group had a simultaneous translation given them very quietly in a corner. After the talk, we split into two discussion groups - one an English speaking one, and the other a German speaking one, (there being few who did not speak either of these languages). These groups joined together afterwards to compare notes, and it was most interesting to see the different ways in which the subject was approached.

Afternoon and evening programmes were provided for those who wanted it - and most of us did, as we liked being together. We went for walks, there was a special all day excursion to Luxembourg itself and there was swimming and games for the more hardy and energetic!

In the evenings we had impromptu entertainment (hilarious games, charades, singing, classical music, and various individual talent) dancing, and the showing of coloured slides, of South America, Haifa, and Europe. And of course in our spare moments we would rush to the delightful cafés and gorge ourselves on coffee, ice-cream, and cakes so inviting that even the most strong minded among us, forgot all their good intentions!

One afternoon we were shown round the small but historic cathedral and later that evening two of the youth went with Dr. Grossman at the invitation of the priests who had shown us round, to answer their questions on the Faith.

There is no doubt that all who attended the school were warmed by the spirit of love and harmony, and speaking for myself, I can't wait for the next one.

Marina Nazar

ALL OTHER NEWS ITEMS

Edinburgh. We hear that their campaign, started on 26th July is going very well indeed. It is to last six weeks, and a public meeting has been arranged for each Sunday evening. So far their speakers have been Ian Semple, Ali Nakjavani, Joe Jameson and John Long, and Betty Reed is to speak on the 23rd August. These public meetings have been backed by very well attended firesides, and our latest news is that there have been two declarations. The Glasgow friends who have themselves just completed a very successful campaign, have supported the Edinburgh friends in every way they can.

Cambridge. This Assembly has produced a very fine programme of their activities for the month of August which they have given to anybody they feel might be interested to attend their meetings. Their firesides are being conducted on the theme of Baha'u'llah and the Holy Family, and apparently they are arousing much interest. They are also holding fortnightly Study Classes to deepen themselves in the Faith, and to which close contacts can also come if they wish.

In a letter they have written to us they say: Regarding quickening the tempo of teaching work in Britain, what better than to try and "Love our contacts" as Abdu'l-Baha said, and to pray for capacity to teach and serve.

Liverpool. We have also received a copy of the programme drawn up by the Liverpool friends which looks very nice indeed.

Southport. Although this is not a Goal Town, the lone Baha'i there, Margaret Shanks is doing wonderful work there. She contacted the Unitarian Minister by post, sending him a copy of Paris Talks, a programme of the meetings she holds in Southport and good wishes for a friendly association between them and the Baha'is. He then wrote inviting her to take part in a service of All Faiths, where she gave a short explanation on the Faith and read from the Baha'i Scriptures. Apparently everything went very well indeed, and some of her friends attended who would not go to an ordinary Baha'i meeting. Eight of the Liverpool friends also gave their support to the meeting.

Knight of Baha'u'llah Paul Adams returned to England for a few weeks, and almost immediately went on a teaching tour to the following communities: Wokingham, Reading, Oxford, Portsmouth, Bristol, Pontypridd, Cardiff, Caerphilly, Gloucester, Leicester, Loughborough, Northampton, Manchester, Chester, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Eccles. His visits were much appreciated and much interest was shown in his account of life on the island of Spitzbergen. He is now on his way back to Spitzbergen, and we ask your prayers that he will be given permission to work there.