

# The HOME FRONT

A News Bulletin

No.16

SEPTEMBER 1959

"The field is indeed so immense, the period so critical, the Cause so great, the workers so few, the time so short, the privilege so priceless, that no follower of the Faith of Baha'u'llah, worthy to bear His name, can afford a moment's hesitation. That God-born Force, irresistible in its sweeping power, incalculable in its potency, unpredictable in its course, mysterious in its workings, and awe-inspiring in its manifestations - a Force which, as the Bab has written, "vibrates within the innermost being of all created things", and which, according to Baha'u'llah, has through its "vibrating influence", "upset the equilibrium of the world and revolutionized its ordered life" - such a Force, acting even as a two-edged sword, is, under our very eyes, sundering, on the one hand, the age-old ties which for centuries have held together the fabric of civilized society, and is unloosing, on the other, the bonds that still fetter the infant and as yet unemancipated Faith of Baha'u'llah.

The undreamt-of opportunities offered through the operation of this Force - the (American) believers must now rise, and fully and courageously exploit them. "The holy realities of the Course on high", writes 'Abdu'l-Baha, "yearn, in this day, in the Most Exalted Paradise, to return unto this world, so that they may be aided to render some service to the threshold of the Abha Beauty, and arise to demonstrate their servitude to His sacred Threshold."

Shoghi Effendi

"Guidance for Today and Tomorrow"

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to tell you that in the last ten months, nine more Goals Towns have been opened - leaving only Carlisle and Inverness, and of these two, Inverness can virtually be counted as open, as Harold and Betty Shepherd have found a house there and propose moving in before the end of September with their family. Only Carlisle now waits for a Baha'i. At the moment there are no prospects of being able to open it before February 1960, when Iran Moussazadeh pioneers there after completing her S.R.N. in Reading.

The next few pages give an over-all picture of the situation in all the Goal Towns to date. Most of them need more reinforcements. Without doubt the efforts of the British Baha'i community in the field of pioneering have been outstanding, but to ensure complete victory, we must not relax for a moment.

We should pray always for the Faith, both in these Isles, and the world over. As Hand of the Cause, Hasan Balyuzi said - "if all the world wins their goals, and we fail, then the whole Crusade fails." and if we win all our goals, and some remote corner of the world fails to achieve its goal, then we all fail.

We must ensure that we can all hold our heads high at Baghdad.

Yours in His Service,

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

GOAL TOWN NEWS

ABERDEEN:

1

Jackie Thomas is now settling down there very happily. She writes that she has a very pleasant room suitable for holding firesides, and also has a very nice job. She has already found two people interested in the Faith. She says that everyone in Aberdeen has been more than kind to her, and that she has never felt so happy. Edinburgh has offered to help in any way they can.

BANGOR:

2

Farzaneh Hemmaty has now arrived in Bangor and is settling down happily in her job. We are also very happy that Aldy Roberts will be there for some months,

and Raffi Mavaddat is expected to be there at the end of September when he commences at Bangor University.

BLACKBURN:

3

Blackpool has made the fine offer to give all the help they can with the teaching work in this town. There are three Baha'i there. Mrs. Farnsworth, Mrs. Naylor and Mrs. Iran Ghobad. Iran has a number of friends whom she would very much like to take to a fireside or public meeting, as she is a student nurse and therefore cannot hold a fireside. Someone is badly needed who can make a Baha'i home there, and has the time to organise any teaching activities.

Ian Semple recently visited Blackburn, and we quote the following from his letter: "It is a much more beautiful place than I had imagined, and is moreover a Cathedral city, and if one can judge by the faces of people, I would say there is an excellent field for spreading the Faith here, provided we find the right method."

CANTERBURY:

4

There are four Baha'is in Canterbury - Captain and Mrs. Giddings, and Mr. and Mrs. Backwell. They hold firesides every Wednesday evening, and at their last public meeting, at which John Ferraby spoke, they had five contacts, which is certainly encouraging. London has offered to help them all they can, and have undertaken responsibility for holding a Weekend School there. This is a very fine offer indeed.

CARLISLE:

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At the moment there are no prospects of it being opened before February 1960 when Iran Moussazadeh pioneers there. What is to happen to Carlisle in the long months before then?

CHESTER:

6

We are delighted to tell you that there has been another declaration in Chester, and the number of Baha'is there is now six: Audrie Rogers, Gillie Stothart, Maurice Stothart, Mrs. Violet Nakjavani, Mrs. Varjavandi, and the newly declared Baha'i whose name we do not know at the moment. And it is expected that they soon will be joined by Parvin Vatanparast if all goes well.

They have a very good circle of contacts, and are on very good terms with the Unitarian Church.

Only a week after Summer School Audrie Rogers was invited to take another service for them, and Cheadle Liverpool and Manchester have pledged themselves to give all the help they can.

EXETER:

3

As you know there are three Persian Baha'i youth there now - Bijan Vahdat and his sister and Mr. Eshragh. They will soon be joined by Lois Gregory who is going to Exeter University, and there is a possibility that two Persian ladies will be able to set up home there also.

Bristol has offered to give all the help they can to Exeter, and so has Torquay, which itself is a Goal Town also.

GLOUCESTER:

2

Dr. John Fozdar and his wife, Greta Fozdar will be able to stay in Gloucester until December.

Ruhi and Dorothy Sabit are living in Nailsworth, just outside Gloucester, and are trying with all their might to move into the Goal Town, but are having a great deal of difficulty. We ask your prayers that soon all these difficulties will be removed.

Bristol has offered to help and support the teaching activities in Gloucester.

INVERNESS:

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As already stated Harold and Betty Shepherd plan to be in Inverness before the end of September. They went to Inverness on 29th July and found, in their own words, "just the premises we were looking for." They had expected to have a long and arduous search, as they had already visited Inverness during the Easter Holidays, and all the time they were there, were unable to find anything even remotely suitable.

The friends in Edinburgh will be helping and visiting them as much as possible.

LOUGHBOROUGH:

5

There are four Baha'is in Loughborough at the moment, including one youth, and we have just had the wonderful news that they are to be joined in the next few days by Miss Elahieh Vargha who has obtained a place at Loughborough College of Art. The other Baha'is there are Pat and Ian Sinclair, Parvin Furutan and Ann Robinson. Also Ronald Bates is looking for a flat and hopes to pioneer there before very long.

Leicester is giving all the help it can.

MOTHERWELL:

2

There are two Baha'is here: Margaret and Jack Coady. They are now working hard towards the campaign to be held there, starting on 11th October for six weeks. Margaret and Eddie Sinclair who live in Belshill not very far away, are helping the Motherwell Group in every way they can, and we are sure their united efforts will ensure the success of the campaign.

Glasgow is also giving them their help and support.

NEWCASTLE:

5

As you will have read in the last issue of the "Home Front" Mary and Joe Jameson have pioneered to Newcastle, thus raising the number to five, including one youth. They are: Misaghieh Tahmass-ebi, Iraj Zamiri and Huhang Subbian, Minoo Poostchi.

NEWMARKET:

1

Mrs. Elaine Rogers has been valiantly working here all alone for some time now, and we hope that it will not be too long before someone joins her. She holds firesides regularly every fortnight, and her contacts often attend the public meetings in Cambridge. Willy Blum has obtained an appointment at a school near Newmarket, and is now looking for suitable accommodation.

Cambridge is helping Newmarket as much as it can.

PETERBOROUGH:

1

Again Ray Humphrey is another pioneer who is working all alone. Both Northampton and Cambridge have offered to help and support the work in Peterborough, and as soon as Ray finds himself a flat, he will be able to take advantage of their fine offer.

PONTYPRIDD:

5

We have just had the wonderful news of another declaration in Pontypridd. This is the fifth since January of this year! The Baha'is there are: Mr and Mrs. Tomlinson (the newly declared Baha'i) Miss Beatrice Newman, Miss Mary Newman, and Mr. Gethin Jones. This is a fine and active Group, and at their present rate, can look forward to achieving Assembly status by next Ridvan!

Cardiff has been giving them much valuable help.

- SALISBURY: There are three Baha'is in Salisbury now: Mrs. Florence Rideout, Miss Margaret Higdon and Mr. Stuart Sweet. They have just formed themselves into an official Group and have set in motion teaching activities in Salisbury.
- 3 Bournemouth will be helping them as much as possible.
- SHEFFIELD: There are seven Baha'is here: Miss Simi Bahi, Mrs. Billam, Mr. Herbert Conder, Miss Una Coward, Mr. Ernest Gregory, Mrs. Motley and Mrs. Oates. It is our ardent hope that this community will regain its Assembly status again by next Ridvan. Mrs. Joan Gregory who for the past 2½ years has given her valuable services to Cambridge as a pioneer, will be leaving to join her husband in Sheffield in October.
- 7
- SWINTON: Mr. Brian Dilworth will soon be joining Mr. and Mrs. Serior thus bringing this Group up to three. The friends there have arranged a show of international fashions which is planned for the end of September, at which Mrs. Munsiff will be the compere. Mrs. Munsiff will also be speaking at the Rotary Club.
- 2 Both Eccles and Manchester have offered to help them in their teaching activities.
- TORQUAY: There is a fine spirit among the friends here, and although they are themselves working for Assembly status, again, have offered their help to Exeter.
- 7 There are seven believers here at present: Miss Dora McWilliams, Miss Elizabeth McWilliams, Mr. Joe Povey, Mrs. R. Povey, Miss Joyce Savage, Mrs. R.M. White, and Mr. Inaloo. We have heard from the Canadian N.S.A. that a Mr. Edward Williams will be coming to Torquay very soon so it seems that here also there is a good chance of their regaining Assembly status this Ridvan.
- WINCHESTER: Mr. Phillippe Victorian has just pioneered to this Goal Town. Together with Miss Mahin Eliassieh, and Miss S. G. Kilford, who has worked so hard and so long teaching the Faith all alone, this makes three Baha'is in Winchester. We are also hoping that Mrs. Farzar will be able to settle there but this all depends on whether her visa is renewed.
- 3 Portsmouth has given and is continuing to give much help to Winchester.

WOKINGHAM:

5

The five Baha'is here are working hard to bring Wokingham to Assembly status as soon as possible. They are: Mr. Owen Battrick, Mrs. Jeanette Battrick, Miss Helen Bailey, and Mr. Geoffrey Bridle. We also understand that Miss Margaret Woodford has now moved to Wokingham. Oxford and Reading have offered to help them in any way they can.

YORK:

1

Miss Golrokh Sabit arrived there on 9th August, and through an introduction by Mrs. Gitta Chaplin is now settled very happily with accommodation in York. But she is all alone there, and more pioneers are needed to reinforce the town. Both Bradford and Leeds have offered their help with teaching activities.

DECLARATIONS

Cambridge 1; Edinburgh 3; Chester 1; Glasgow 1; Leicester 1; Pontypridd 1; Newcastle 1; TOTAL 9.

All these Declarations have been received since 1st August.

OTHER NEWS

CAMBRIDGE

We have just received the wonderful news that they now have a Centre. Communications can be addressed to: 4, Gonville Place, Cambridge.

EDINBURGH

Their campaign is now over and they have written about it as follows: "The campaign was successful and worth-while, three declarations, and the prospect of another in the near future. All of us now feel that the teaching of the Cause of God is of vital importance and that we in our own small way will do what we can to fulfil our beloved Guardian's programme in his world crusade"

WEEKEND SCHOOLS

Pontypridd: October 17/18th. Norwich: October 24/25th.

SUMMER SCHOOL 1959

HARLECH

Our first impressions of Harlech and the College were of hills and walking, lovely views, nearness to the sea, overhanging Fuchsias, steep hills, and more steps. Gradually we got used to the country

as from cottages and caravans, tents, boarding houses and dormitories we all converged on the main building for lectures and meetings. This scattering may have seemed a disadvantage, but we were fortunate with the weather. After the first few days of dullness, Harlech emerged into sunshine which stayed with us to the end of the Summer School.

This was indeed a working holiday, in more ways than one. But how one enjoyed the work - even the washing up and tea making in the morning break - when all the friends are together! In any case has there ever been a Summer School when every minute is not packed with something to do? This one seemed no exception. From the Unity Feast on the first Saturday evening, until the one held on the last day, we were kept busy.

The first morning sessions began with a series of talks by our Hand of the Cause, John Ferraby, and were followed by an intensive study course on "Some Answered Questions", by which time we were ready to troop down the hill for lunch. In fact the morning sessions were very well attended, and Mr. Ali Nakhjavani was a fine organiser of this group activity. During other morning sessions the early days of the Faith were brought before our eyes by the talks given by Lady Hornell and Adib Taherzadeh, and made real by so many moving accounts of heroism and devotion to the Faith. Marion Hofman's talk on the journeys of Abdu'l-Baha, gave us intimate pictures of the Master's contact with the American friends, and of His power of attraction and superhuman strength in carrying out the journeys to the West - journeys which few of us could undertake in normal health. We also saw the film of Abdu'l-Baha, and later heard a most moving tablet, read to us by Ian Semple, in which Abdu'l-Baha commemorated the passing of the first British believer, Thomas Breakwell, who longed to suffer in the path of Baha'u'llah.

We were told of pioneer journeys across Africa and modern heroism in the face of difficulties. These journeys made by pioneers under extreme hardship made us feel that our own troubles for the Faith are but slight in comparison. We were kept enthralled by stories from East and West.

Since we are all urged to teach, public speaking is of great importance, and a course was arranged for us during the second week. It was taken outside on the terrace, where speaking was more than usually difficult as we were alternately lulled to sleep by the sun or interrupted by the passing trains, but judging by the attendance at this course, there are many budding orators in our community.



Towards the end of the second week, our Hand of the Cause Hasan Balyuzi paid us an unexpected visit, and we listened to two talks given by him during the morning sessions. He stressed the great urgency of achieving the goals of the Ten Year Crusade all the world over, and told us that now time was our enemy. He also emphasised the need of wisdom and discretion when teaching the Faith and told the friends not to speculate on the future. This was in God's hands.

During the School there were two declarations. We were all enriched by the presence of the Baha'is from South Wales with their wonderful singing and the slides of their meetings, showing how the Faith has gained impetus in this part of Britain.

Talks on other religions were given by John Long and Jean Campbell, while Clifford Johnson told how he came to be a Moslem and finally a Baha'i.

After an evening session on Prayer, by Ali Nakjavani and Lizbeth Greaves, the devotionals became more impressive and moving, so that many of us felt loath to stir for several minutes after the prayers had ended. What power was felt during these moments! It will surely carry us forward through the Ten Year Crusade, the importance of which was brought home to us again by Marion Hofman and Betty Reed in their talks. We were made to realise the importance of the Crusade as a whole, and were called upon to realise our goals in the British Isles quickly, so that we can help in the European countries.

There were several evenings of light entertainment, including a riotous time when it was decided in debate that, despite all proofs to the contrary, the world is definitely flat! The Northern Ireland friends captured our hearts with their singing and entertainment, and the peak was reached when a gentleman from Dublin appeared in a bowler hat.

During the afternoons, many of us took journeys into the surrounding country, and a trip was organised into the

Snowdon district. Our thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Pitcher who entertained us royally in Tal-y-bont, in spite of the fact that we usually descended on them in overwhelming numbers.

For the rest it was bathing and relaxation by the sand dunes, and lazy strolling back over the golf links, with the sun red behind the dune grass. These and many other pictures we take away with us to our various homes and pioneer places, to enrich our hearts during the long, exciting days of work which lie ahead.

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