

The HOME FRONT

A News Bulletin

No.17.

OCTOBER 1959

"The responsibility of the steady progress of the Cause depends upon you! You are the physicians of the sick body of the world of humanity!

"Why are ye silent? SHOUT! Why are ye sitting? MOVE! Why are ye quiet? STIR! This is not the day of rest and comfort. Travel ye constantly, spread far and wide the Teachings of God! Like unto the stars arise ye every day from an horizon. Like unto the nightingales sing every day from a different rose-bush. Like unto the breeze, waft every morning from a garden. Do not stay a long time anywhere. Let the world profit by your teachings and learn from your examples! My health consists in the progress of the Cause, and the progress of the Cause depends upon the energy and wisdom of the teachers!"

Words of Abdu'l-Baha to Mirza-Ali-Akbar on
the eve of the latter's departure for
Constantinople.

(Star of the West, 21st March 1914)

Dear Friends,

You have made further wonderful progress since our September letter. We are now very happy indeed to report that your last Goal Town will have been opened by October 30th. By this date more than 32 pioneers will have gone out since last Ridvan. But, dear friends, no time for respite. The emphasis now turns immediately to one of ardent teaching in these Goal Towns and indeed everywhere.

The friends in all areas should co-operate in loving fellowship and demonstrate unceasingly by words and actions the all-embracing greatness of our Cause. Such devotion, backed in every possible way by the circulation of visiting teachers can now ensure a speedy achievement of our Ten Year Crusade Goals.

This Committee will endeavour to ensure that you are satisfactorily served with visiting teachers and we are also concentrating attention on all other means to assist you to increase the tempo and effectiveness of your teaching work. The initiative is with you - a few Assemblies have already suggested ideas and methods to us; we welcome more and shall publish details of these from time to time.

As indicated in our last letter to you, it is essential that our thoughts are world embracing in this Great Crusade, and we are happy to share the news that a few friends are already preparing to leave these shores to assist other countries to win their goals. We are grateful and hope that they will carry with them as helpers from this community the ardent love and prayers of us all to the friends in those countries.

To close this month's letter we share with you all heartlifting words spoken by the beloved Guardian in respect of teaching work in a British Town. "Perseverance and persistence will crown your efforts with success."

We look forward eagerly to our next communication with you.

With loving fellowship,
In His Service,

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

N.T.C. MEETINGS

Oct. 17/18th	...	H.Q.	Nov. 29th	...	J.W.
Nov. 1st	...	J.W.	Dec. 19th/20th	...	H.Q.
Nov. 14/15th	...	H.Q.	Jan. 10th	...	J.W.

H.Q. = Haziratu'l-Quds
J.W. = 14 Northumberland Rod.,
New Barnet, Herts.

GOAL TOWN NEWS

- CARLISLE : We have just heard the wonderful news that Iran Moussazadeh is able to go to Carlisle on 30th October instead of next February, thus by the end of this month all the Goal Towns will have been opened!
- INVERNESS: Harold and Betty Shepherd and their two children have now arrived in Inverness, and are settling down in their new home!
- LOUGHBOROUGH: Ronald Bates has now arrived in Loughborough! This brings their number up to six, including one youth. They have written that they are aiming for Assembly status by 1962 at the latest.
- MOTHERWELL: By the time you receive this edition of the "Home Front" the friends here will be in the middle of their five week campaign, and we ask your prayers for its success.
- SHEFFIELD: Joan Gregory has now moved to Sheffield and we know her services will be appreciated there as much as they were in Cambridge.
- TORQUAY: They have just had a very successful public meeting there, and are planning another one on 22nd October. They have also had some very well attended firesides.
- WOKINGHAM: The friends here are working valiantly to reach Assembly status by next Ridvan, which is a very fine goal indeed. We have to have 22 more Assemblies by 1963, and we should therefore obtain at least

six by next Ridvan.

CAMBRIDGE: Olive Sutton and Ida K. have now settled in this Town. All power to their Teaching Work.

WEEKEND SCHOOLS

PONTYPRIDD: They will be holding a One-day School on Sunday 18th October. If you wish to attend you should write to: Secretary, Welsh R.T.C., 56 King George V. Drive, Heath Cardiff, who will be glad to give you details.

NORWICH: The School will be held on 24th and 25th October at the Norwich Centre, 41, Exchange Street, Norwich. For information about booking a room, please write to the Norwich Secretary, Miss Evelyn Chilvers, 57, Surrey Street, Norwich.

SHEFFIELD: It is planned to hold this School on 21st and 22nd November, but we have not received details of the arrangements as yet. For further information we suggest you write to the Northern R.T.C. Secretary, Mrs. Vera Long, 126, New Walk, Leicester.

TORQUAY: This Weekend School is being held on 21st and 22nd November also, at the Y.M.C.A. They are commencing on Friday evening 20th November with a public meeting. For details about bookings, etc., please write to Mr. Joe Povey, 14, Market Street, Torquay. We do urge those friends who can to attend this School, as this community is very isolated from the remainder of the communities in this country, and long to be able to meet more of the friends.

READING: This School is being held in conjunction with the Goal Town of Wokingham R.D., and will be on 28th and 29th November. It is to be held at the Lodge Hotel (near Huntley and Palmers), Reading. For information about bookings, please write to the Secretary, Geoff. Bridle, Field House, Longfield Road, Twyford, Berks.

IRELAND: At the moment it is not certain whether the School will be held in Bangor or Dublin, but wherever it is held, it will be on 28th and 29th November. If you would like to attend please write to the N.T.C. Secretary.

We know that all the friends so love to be with each other that there will be many visitors to the different weekend schools. We ask for your full support, particularly because studying the teachings of our wonderful Faith together brings a spiritual bounty and understanding that comes only from true Baha'ifellowship.

ALL OTHER NEWS ITEMS

Visit of Hand of the Cause Agnes Alexander. We have been greatly honoured by the visit of Miss Agnes Alexander on her way from Tokyo to Haifa. She spoke of the early days of the Faith at a meeting in London on 19th September, and she brought the past before our eyes so vividly that it seemed to be happening at that moment, and could only have been conveyed in this way by one who had actually been alive at that time and witnessed those historic events.

Visit of Hand of the Cause William Sears. Mr. William Sears was at the Nineteen Day Feast held in London on Sunday 27th September and gave a most moving talk to the friends assembled there. He laid much emphasis on the movement of the Baha'is not only to pioneer but to do travelling teaching and to visit their fellow Baha'is in other communities. He said that the life-blood of the Faith is the constant stream of travelling teachers.

Southport: We extend a warm welcome to Miss Ruth Cunliffe who has just returned from Canada, where she recently became a Baha'i, to her home town.

Romford: Leonard Nelson, the isolated believer in this town, has obtained an interview with a reporter from the "Romford Recorder" to tell him about the Baha'i Faith. This is very fine work indeed.

Cambridge: Were again allowed to display a stall at the University

Societies' Fair, and we hear that it was a great success.

Marriages: We are very happy to announce the marriage of Miss Margaret Higdon to Mr. Stuart Sweet, and that of Miss Parvaneh Avaregan to Dr. Rahmat Kashef.

PIONEERING

Being the second part of an article written by Hugh McKinlay, the first part of which appeared in the July Edition of the "Home Front"

Although the above assumes a great concentration on the spiritual life and attitude that could be characterized as extreme, we must take care that it is only our inward view of life and events and their importance and the perspective in which we view and value the 'things of the world', that is changed; we must not become an outwardly "extreme" or "abnormal" person. In other words, while having a radically different approach to life from that of those people who are uninterested, as yet, in the spiritual meaning of things, we can and should develop our own knowledge of their point of view, and the background, interests and events of 'every-day life' so as to be able to speak in terms that all will understand and that will not be strange nor 'off-putting'. It is as great a barrier to the spreading of the Message of Baha'u'llah to be 'normal' if 'normalcy' equals the attitude of the 'majority': the apathetic, the shallow-minded, the uninformed, the self-absorbed monotony of the daily round of work, eat, watch the telly and go to sleep - as to be abnormal, if we let our abnormality go so far as to be unable to speak of anything but the Faith; to always turn the conversation back to It and ourselves to hold the floor as Its expounders; to run down the evils of the world and to belittle human learning and education while lauding visions, inspiration and 'spiritual powers'. We must needs, and it is to our own advantage to do so, keep abreast of current world events, human affairs, literature, art and all the rest, so that we can present the Cause of God in relation to these same developments when discussing them with the people with whom we are thrown in contact. For we meet all those whom we do meet for the one purpose that they should become informed that a new Revela-

tion has appeared and however much of Its features and programme as their interest dictates. There is no doubt that this is the purpose of our lives. 'Abdu'l-Baha said:

"Under all conditions the Message must be delivered, but with wisdom. If it be not possible openly, it must be done quietly. The friends should be engaged in educating the souls and should become instruments in aiding the world of humanity to acquire spiritual joy and fragrance."

Yet while giving the Glad-Tidings to all according to their capacity, we must concentrate on those who respond and pass on from those who show no interest.

Our beloved Guardian spoke of three stages in giving the Message:

"... let him carefully consider every avenue of approach which he may utilize in his personal attempts to capture the attention, maintain the interest and deepen the faith, of those whom he is seeking to bring into the fold of his Faith." And again: "...a multitude of ways and means whereby he can enlist successively the sympathy, the support, and ultimately the allegiance of those with whom he comes in contact."

(Advent of Divine Justice p.43 q.v.)

The results that are possible are shown by the Master:

"If every one of the friends were to establish relations of friendship and right dealings with one of the negligent souls, associate and live with him with perfect kindness, and meanwhile through good conduct and moral behaviour lead him to divine instruction, to heavenly advice and teachings, surely he would gradually arouse that negligent person and would change his ignorance into knowledge.

Souls are liable to estrangement. Such methods should be adopted that the estrangement should be first removed, then the Word will have effect. If by this method every one of the friends of God were to try to lead one soul to the right path, the number of the believers would be doubled every year."

All these fruits are with us here and now; this is the harvest time and they are waiting to be picked - we are the harvesters. The advantages of pioneering to the pioneers, as shown above, is that this act represents a quick way of acquiring that changed

perspective which releases the individual from conventional limitations and brings him at least two priceless fruits: steadfastness and the knowledge of God. It appears to work that way when he, in going to a far country and being forced, in order to stay there, to come to terms with a totally different way of life as well as, not infrequently, a number of tests that could not be foreseen, accepts all that comes and, in the words of Baha'u'llah is "thankful in adversity."

From this we may deduce that it is not impossible to acquire this same change of attitude by a closer examination of the life we live at present (as well as the opportunities it offers) and also of our own selves.

"We will surely show them Our signs in the world and within themselves."

"And also in your own selves: will ye not, then, behold the signs of God." (Qu'ran)

But to examine and regard with something more than the intellect alone. Religion is an emotional experience - it is of the heart. When the fire of the love of God is alight we can use the mind to direct the channels of its burning to their best ends, but we can never light the fire of the love of God with mental exercise or contemplation only.

"O Comrades -

The Gates that open on the Placeless stand wide ..."

"... Proclaim unto the children of assurance that within the realms of holiness, nigh unto the celestial paradise, a new garden hath appeared

... Solaced are the eyes of them that enter and abide therein!"

Baha'u'llah.