

The HOME FRONT

A News Bulletin

No.20.

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1960

Prayer

Praise be to Thee, O Lord my God! I implore Thee, by Thy Name which none hath befittingly recognised, and whose import no soul hath fathomed; I beseech Thee, by Him Who is the Fountain-Head of Thy Revelation and the Day-Spring of Thy signs, to make my heart to be a receptacle of Thy Love and of remembrance of Thee. Knit it, then, to Thy most great Ocean, that from it may flow out the living waters of Thy wisdom and the crystal steams of Thy glorification and praise.

The limbs of my body testify to Thy unity, and the hair of my head declareth the power of Thy sovereignty and might. I have stood at the door of Thy grace, with utter self-effacement and complete abnegation, and clung to the hem of Thy bounty, and fixed mine eyes upon the horizon of Thy gifts.

Do Thou destine for me, O my God, what becometh the greatness of Thy majesty, and assist me, by Thy strengthening grace, so to teach Thy Cause that the dead may speed out of their sepulchres, and rush forth towards Thee, trusting wholly in Thee, and fixing their gaze upon the orient of Thy Cause, and the dawning-place of Thy Revelation.

Thou, verily, art the Most Powerful, the Most High, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Baha'u'llah

N.T.C.
LETTER PAGE

Dear Friends,

Since our January letter to you, the N.T.C. has invited an Assembly or Group within each TEACHING UNIT to convene a Conference of all the believers in their Unit. An agenda was sent to them, together with a devotional programme to open the consultation. We felt confident that such unity in thought and prayer throughout the country would guide and inspire everyone to work together better than ever before - "as one soul in many bodies".

From the reports of those consultations already held, it appears that our confidence is justified.

Although a few Units have yet to send us their reports, we shall be writing to you again, as quickly as possible, offering any assistance and support which is required.

Meanwhile, dear friends, we ask you to please press on with all your might - remembering that the teaching efforts and ideas contributed by each and every believer within their Unit are most VITAL if our numbers are to be multiplied and our goals meritoriously won!

Lovingly in His service,

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE.

Future N.T.C. Meetings

Weekend 26th/27th March, 1960:	27 Rutland Gate, S.W.7.
Weekend 16th/17th April, 1960:	27 Rutland Gate, S.W.7.

CONVENTION

23rd/24th April: Eccleston Hotel, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.
(Near Victoria Station).

TEACHING UNIT CONFERENCES

Unit 16

CARDIFF
Pontypridd
Caerphilly

A special Conference was called, with representatives from the N.T.C. present, to discuss plans for an intensive teaching campaign commencing mid-September. The first month will comprise almost daily public meetings, each week having a special theme running through it. The next two months will comprise close follow-up with study courses and firesides. A continual stream of teachers will be provided. The publicity side will be gone into very thoroughly, including the possibility of television appearances.

Unit 17

BANGOR
BELFAST
DUBLIN
Cork

As Northern Ireland has virtually achieved all its Ten Year Crusade goals, it was felt that the Unit should include the whole of Ireland enabling the Northern Irish friends to assist Eire in the achievement of her goals. As Southern Ireland is E.A.T.C. territory, members of this committee were also present at the Conference, which may prove to be one of the most important Baha'i gatherings yet held in Ireland. Almost to a man, the Northern Irish friends pledged their weekends and holidays to serving the Cause in Eire, and a rota is now being worked out to cover nearly every weekend until the goals of Incorporation for Dublin and Assembly status for Cork are achieved. A pioneering offer was also made by one of the Northern Irish friends who is now endeavouring to settle in Dublin.

Unit 7

CHEADLE
ECCLES
MANCHESTER
Swinton

Regular activities are taking place in most of the communities in this Unit, and each will support the others as much as they can. One Day Schools are to be planned at regular intervals, as it was felt that they would be of great value, and an outline programme was drawn up. Prayer meetings were recommended, and also the joining of outside societies with kindred aims to get to know more people. Youth activities are developing well.

Unit 5

BRADFORD
LEEDS
SHEFFIELD
YORK

Their Conference resulted in Leeds deciding to put into operation, plans for Incorporation. Following the Conference Bradford has written to say that they too would like to put in motion plans for Incorporation. Bradford and Leeds are to get together with a view to having joint Public Meetings, each supporting the other. All communities are to be kept fully informed of each other's

activities, and particular help and support will be given to the work in York. Already plans have been made to attend the first public meeting to be held in that Goal Town.

Unit 14

BOURNEMOUTH
PORTSMOUTH
SALISBURY
WINCHESTER
Wimborne

On going to press a full report had not yet been received about their Conference, but we understand that the consultation proved most successful. The main emphasis was on getting Salisbury and Winchester up to Assembly status. Assistance will be given to lone believers to enable them to form Groups, and all the Baha'i's are to be encouraged to travel around the Unit area to support meetings and firesides.

Units 1, 2 and

3

EDINBURGH
GLASGOW
ABERDEEN
INVERNESS
MOTHERWELL

This Conference certainly achieved its purpose, and "we were practically working as one". Plans are to be made for every help and assistance to be given to the Goal Towns, and already these have been put into action. The Aberdeen School was given very strong support indeed, and as many friends as possible intend to go to the public meeting being planned in Inverness. On consulting on the weak state of the Glasgow Assembly, two pioneer offers were received.

Unit 9

BIRMINGHAM
LEICESTER
NORTHAMPTON
NOTTINGHAM
LOUGHBOROUGH

The Conference proved a joyous and invigorating occasion. Communities are to keep each other informed of their activities and each will arrange for one or two of their members to visit the other communities in rotation, not necessarily as speakers. Northampton's need for more speakers and visitors was carefully noted. Lone believers will be given every help and encouragement with the holding of devotionals or firesides in their homes. It was felt that One-Day Schools are invaluable, and a plan for holding regular Schools within the Unit is being drawn up. The friends were also aware of their individual responsibilities, and the many types of activity consulted upon during the Conference provided scope for every individual to play his part in the rapid expansion of teaching.

Travelling Expenses within the Units.

Please note that in order to enable the Teaching Unit Plan to go ahead with the fewest complications and delays, the N.S.A. has authorised the National Treasurer to pay claims for travelling expenses, on the direct application of individual believers who have visited and supported the activities of other communities within their Unit. The claims do not need to be authorised by the R.T.C. or N.T.C.

GOAL TOWN NEWS

ABERDEEN A very successful public meeting and Weekend School was held on 5th/6th March, wonderfully supported by the friends in the Scottish region. Lilian McKay from the Shetlands, gave her first ever public talk which was a great success. Everyone was also very glad to see Anneliese Haug from the Hebrides. It was a very happy and united gathering, and the plans made at the Teaching Unit Conference were re-affirmed. Many thanks are due to Jackie Mehrabi (nee Thomas) for all the work she did to make this such a happy and fruitful weekend.

BLACKBURN The work here is progressing very well indeed thanks to the devotion of the friends and the fine support given them by the neighbouring communities especially Blackpool. On 2nd March David Hofman spoke at a very successful public meeting with an attendance of over 30 people, 8 of whom were non-Baha'i's and from Blackburn.

CHESTER We have just received the happy news of another declaration in this Goal Town. Regular firesides are held not only in Chester itself, but just outside the civic limits by Mr. Crump.

EXETER Two firesides are held each week, one of which is advertised in the local paper. Interest has been roused at the University where Lois Gregory is studying, and there are hopes of being able to form a Baha'i Society there before long.

GLOUCESTER In spite of great difficulties, Ruhi and Dorothy Sabit are determined not leave their posts in Gloucester, and we ask your prayers that soon all obstacles in their path may be removed. Mr. Carl Card, a newly declared Baha'i in Cardiff has some friends in Gloucester whom he wishes to introduce to the Faith, and has offered to help with the firesides there.

INVERNESS Harold and Betty Shepherd are planning a public meeting (the first) for 7th April, and the Edinburgh friends have pledged their support. Baha'i quotations appear weekly in the local paper, and through having some letters published in the paper, Betty is carrying on a correspondence about the Faith with an ex-Invernessonian. The Shepherds are now gathering together a good nucleus of contacts, and recently Noushin Nafez spent her holiday in Inverness, where she has been giving her help.

MOTHERWELL Ada Williams has now been enabled to return to Motherwell, and we have just received the very good news that Nuri and Pamela Sabit will be pioneering there in April. This will bring their number to five, which is more than half-way towards Assembly status. A reward for the two stalwarts who have held this Town so long.

NEWCASTLE They have just completed a very successful teaching campaign covering three weeks, which commenced with a public meeting at their Weekend School on 6th February. All three of their meetings were very well attended indeed. The first had 21 non-Baha'i's, the second 14, and the third 10. Many of these contacts came through the advertisements, and nine of them attended more than one meeting.

SHEFFIELD Zohar Adl is pioneering to Sheffield, and they now need only one more believer to regain Assembly status.

WOKINGHAM A campaign was carried out in Twyford Village to advertise their first public meeting. Apart from normal methods, they hand-delivered invitations to all the residents in the village. The meeting was very successful with an attendance of 21 non-Baha'i's at least half of whom were hearing about the Faith for the first time.

YORK The first public meeting in York is to be held on 23rd March, and we ask your prayers for its success.

WEEKEND SCHOOLS

Winchester (Talbot Hotel)	26th/27th March
Swinton	27th March
Loughborough	9th/10th April
Bangor (N.I.)	17th/19th June

Groups other than Goal Towns

EPSOM On Saturday 19th March a Unity Feast is being held to mark the commencement of teaching activities in this town. There are now four believers residing here.

WATFORD Have already held the Unity Feast marking the commencement of teaching work there. Both these towns are part of London's extension teaching plan, and as such will receive help and support from the London friends.

WIMBORNE

With the recent declaration of Miss Peggy Wallace, this now becomes a Group, and will receive help and support, from all the communities in their Teaching Unit.

ALL OTHER ITEMS OF NEWS

BELFAST

The Northern Ireland R.T.C. is organising a dance for Naw-Ruz in aid of the World Refugee Year Fund.

EDINBURGH

Has had eight declarations since last September, and the work there seems to be gathering momentum every day. Besides the activity within their own community, the friends are giving invaluable support and assistance to the teaching work all over Scotland.

BIRMINGHAM

The work here also seems to be taking great strides forward, with three declarations closely following each other after Teaching Conference.

PORTSMOUTH

Since their very successful World Religion Day Meeting new contacts are coming along, slowly but surely. A weekly advertisement is placed in the local paper inviting people to: "Prayer and Scripture Readings, followed by informal discussion".

MANCHESTER

Their World Religion Day Meeting proved most successful. It was held in the Town Hall and attended by the Lord Mayor who introduced the panel of speakers. Eighty people were present, thirty of whom were non-Baha'is.

Very recently David Hofman was invited to speak on the Faith to the Manchester University Students' Union for three successive lunch-hours, and these talks have roused much interest.

MRS. SHIRIN FOZDAR

We are very happy to announce that Mrs. Shirin Fozdar will be visiting England in May. She is very well known in the Far East for her outstanding work for women's rights there, and is at the moment touring America at the invitation of the Government.

The N.T.C. is planning to make the fullest possible use of her valuable services in the way of widely advertised public meetings, engagements with outside societies such as Women's Institutes, Red Cross, United Nations, etc., and appearances on television.

SUMMER SCHOOL

There are two Schools this year, one at Buxton, Derbyshire from 8th to 21st August inclusive, and the other at Harlech from 27th Aug-3rd September inclusive. Booking forms will be sent out shortly.

RIDVAN GOALS

Latest news as at Tuesday, 22nd March, 1960

- CAMBRIDGE Has been maintained by the declaration of Julie Fuller, the pioneering of Harry Tirvengadam, and the recognition of Mrs. Ruth Vuyiya as a member of the Cambridge community. There is even the likelihood of another declaration before long.
- DUBLIN Still needs one pioneer.
- ECCLES Fred Stahler has offered to pioneer there for three months, and therefore two more offers are needed.
- GLASGOW Two pioneering offers have been received from James McKail and Andrew Syme, newly declared Baha'i's in Edinburgh, and therefore one more pioneer is needed to maintain the Assembly.
- NEWCASTLE We have just received the wonderful news of a declaration, therefore only one more pioneer is needed.
- NORTHAMPTON The Assembly has been maintained by the pioneer offer received from Mrs. Beale.
- SHEFFIELD Needs one more pioneer to regain its Assembly status.
- TORQUAY Two pioneer offers have been received, and therefore only one more is needed to help them regain Assembly status.

As you know, the National Spiritual Assembly is determined that not only shall we maintain existing Assemblies, but regain three of the four lapsed Assemblies. It is also our earnest hope that the Goal Towns of PONTYPRIDD and WOKINGHAM shall achieve Assembly status this Ridvan (Pontypridd needs 3 and Wokingham 3 believers) thus bringing the total number of Assemblies to 31.