

The HOME FRONT

A News Bulletin

No. 21

APRIL/MAY 1960

"Gird up the loins of thine endeavour, that haply thou mayest guide thy neighbour to the law of God, the Most Merciful. Such an act, verily, excelleth all other acts in the sight of God, the All-Possessing, the Most High. Such must be thy steadfastness in the Cause of God, that no earthly thing whatsoever will have the power to deter thee from thy duty. Though the powers of earth be leagued against thee, though all men dispute with thee, thou must remain unshaken.

Be unrestrained as the wind, while carrying the Message of Him Who hath caused the Dawn of Divine Guidance to break. Consider, how the wind, faithful to that which God hath ordained, bloweth upon all the regions of the earth, be they inhabited or desolate. Neither the sight of desolation, nor the evidences of prosperity, can either pain or please it. It bloweth in every direction, as bidden by its Creator. So should be every one that claimeth to be a lover of the one true God. It behoveth him to fix his gaze upon the fundamentals of His Faith, and to labour diligently for its propagation. Wholly for the sake of God he should proclaim His Message, and with that same spirit accept whatever response his words may evoke in his hearer. He who shall accept and believe, shall receive his reward; and he who shall turn away, shall receive none other than his own punishment."

BAHA'U'LLAH

IMPORTANT NOTICE

By now you will have received the very important communication from the National Spiritual Assembly concerning teaching, in which they set very definite goals to be achieved by next Ridvan.

The N.T.C. will be meeting on 28th/29th May to consider the implications of this programme, and you will be hearing more details of these goals in the next issue of the "Home Front."

In the meantime we ask you to carefully study the news letters from the N.S.A. and to give deep consideration to the action that you individually can take to achieve these goals.

N.T.C. LETTER PAGE

Dear Friends,

You will have seen from our last "Home Front" that the Teaching Units have got off to a very good start. The reports we have been receiving from the Unit Conference, augur well for the future. From these reports we highlight below activities now being devotedly undertaken in the different Unit. They may give you new ideas or may help to further the ideas you are already acting upon.

- (1) All Assemblies, Groups and lone believers in the Unit are being circulated with a calender of Unit activities (i.e. this can be done by one Assembly or an individual believer volunteering to act as a "clearing house" for this purpose. All information of activities within the Unit should be sent to him for duplication and circulation on a single "calendar sheet". We know of at least two Units who are using this method successfully - you may have other methods, but the important thing is to ensure that all within the Unit are kept informed of all that is taking place within the Unit.)
- (2) Making sure that the lone believers are kept in the stream of activity, keeping in touch with them and giving them help and encouragement to hold firesides and devotionals. Assist and encourage them to form themselves into Groups.
- (3) The holding of subsequent Unit Conferences to assess the progress of your plans and to consult on future activities.
- (4) Daily prayer and meditation by each individual on how best they can serve and teach the Faith that day.
- (5) Social approach in making contacts - first make friends with them, i.e. through giving hospitality such as coffee parties, and

arranging concert or theatre outings together etc.

- (6) Affiliation to other societies - the primary objective being to make friends and contacts for the Faith.
- (7) Formation of Baha'i Societies in Universities.
- (8) Discussion Groups on general subjects, advertised in the local paper and open to the public - to widen the field of contacts.
- (9) The greater use of Baha'i literature on all occasions, especially at public meetings and firesides.
- (10) Promoting more firesides - of all types.
- (11) Enabling and encouraging the youth to participate ever more fully in the Unit activity.
- (12) Utilisation of free evenings and weekends of believers to visit communities all over the country.
- (13) Arranging the interchange of speakers.
- (14) Promoting Study Courses.
- (15) A series of One-Day and/or Weekend Schools in each community of the Unit in turn.

As your news flows in to us, we shall be "highlighting" more activities in subsequent "Home Fronts", as well as enlarging on those already listed. Meanwhile in reviewing the above list, we would pinpoint the following principles as forming a basis towards ensuring 100 per cent Unit activity:-

- A. Adequate movement within the Unit.
- B. Ensuring that all believers within the Unit are kept informed of all activities.
- C. Ensuring that all lone believers receive the necessary help and encouragement to increasingly participate in the teaching work.
- D. Taking advantage of the benefits of consultation from time to time between all within the Unit (see Item (3) on the list).

Our best wishes to you,
Lovingly in His service,

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

TEACHING UNIT CONFERENCES

- Unit 4
NEWCASTLE
Carlisle
- The two communities in this Unit are working together very well indeed, with Newcastle giving wholehearted and regular support to Iran Moussazadeh, the lone pioneer in Carlisle. Activity in Newcastle has been gathering momentum during the last six months or so, and has resulted in their regaining Assembly status at Ridvan. Apart from their own firesides, and monthly public meeting the friends are now providing a speaker and support for monthly public meetings now being held in Carlisle. This is very fine work indeed.
- Unit 6
BLACKPOOL
Blackburn
Southport
St. Annes
- Regular and sustained support is already being given by Blackpool to the activities in Blackburn, and plans were made at the Unit Conference to arrange an interchange of speakers with Southport. A fireside is being held at the home of a contact in St. Annes and it is hoped to arrange a public meeting there as soon as possible. The contacts are very eager to help and co-operate.
- Unit 8
LIVERPOOL
Bangor
Chester
- Very successful conference which resulted in plans being laid for a public meeting and Weekend School in the Goal Town of Bangor. It was decided to continue with the series of public meetings being planned in the various suburbs of Liverpool with a concentration of publicity in those areas. The joining of various societies was mentioned, particularly the English Speaking Union. The need for more study classes was realised, and also a fixed time for prayer was agreed upon, morning and evening, for the believers in that Unit to prayer together.
- Unit 9
BIRMINGHAM
LEICESTER
NORTHAMPTON
NOTTINGHAM
Loughborough
- This Unit has already held another Conference, which has proved as successful as the first. They have now almost completely finalised their plans for One-Day Schools in each community in turn, and it has also been arranged for one person to receive the offers of the friends of free days and weekends to visit other communities which he will help them plan. One person has also offered to act as a "clearing house" of information about activities. A Teaching Campaign was discussed in Northampton which all the Unit will endeavour to support. The use of posters and Audio-Visual Aids was also discussed.

Unit 10

CAMBRIDGE

NORWICH

Newmarket

Peterborough

Regular activity is taking place in all the towns in the Unit, and it was arranged for a programme of forthcoming activities to be circulated between the members of the Unit so that each can support the other. A Weekend School was suggested for Newmarket (this has now been held - very successfully). It was also suggested that Weekend Schools be held in each of the communities before the summer. The possibility of holding a School in Stalham was put forward, which would probably be focussed on art interests rather than direct Baha'i teaching. Various means of publicity were discussed including a suggestion that "God Loves Laughter" might be suitable for serialising in the Press.

Unit 11

BRISTOL

Gloucester

The importance of daily prayer was stressed to enable one to teach the Cause, whenever and wherever the opportunity presents itself. It was agreed that contacts should be presented with a prayer book as soon as they showed a strong interest. Bristol is resolved to hold regular firesides on differing nights of the week in various parts of the town where the friends live. They also intend to start advertising a regular public meeting, and to restart their study classes. The friends in Gloucester will be visited and a close liaison maintained with them.

Unit 12

OXFORD

READING

Wokingham

Regular activities taking place in all three communities. Full discussion took place on mutual aid in the area, the outcome of which was a programme of an interchange of visits to all firesides and study groups for the next six weeks. Individual believers offered to write to those living alone. One of the Baha'is offered to act as liaison for all news of teaching activities in the area, and to prepare a calendar of events for circulation. A further Unit Conference has been planned.

Unit 13

HOVE

BRIGHTON

LONDON

Canterbury

Epsom

Watford

As Hove and Brighton are so close together as to be almost one community, it was felt that many of their activities could be combined. The London friends will be encouraged to support the activities of the other communities in the Unit, particularly Canterbury, Epsom and Watford. One of the friends at the Conference offered to visit lone believers one evening weekly in company with any other Baha'i who wished to go with him. It was suggested that the London Youth be invited to youth meetings in Hove and Brighton. Pioneering from London should be encouraged.

Unit 15

Exeter
Torquay

It was unanimously agreed that there should be an interchange of speakers between the two communities. Torquay intends to hold a study class on the "Dawn Breakers" prior to their weekly meeting. Regular and successful activity is taking place in Exeter. The importance of individual teaching was stressed in the way of informal firesides, and the joining of societies with kindred aims. The Conference was so enjoyed by all present that it was agreed that they should hold one regularly.

GOAL TOWN NEWS

BANGOR (W)

Raffi Mavaddat is all alone in this goal town at present, but he is doing wonderful work there. Recently the regular quotations in the local paper and the small article that Raffi managed to have printed, resulted in a letter from Bishop Richards mis-representing the Faith. The N.S.A. immediately wrote a letter correcting the points he made which was printed in full in the paper! We now await further developments! A public meeting and Weekend School have just been held and all together 11 non-Baha'is attended these functions. The friends from Liverpool and Chester supported the meeting and Weekend School.

BLACKBURN

The monthly public meetings are going ahead very well indeed. Not long ago Iran Ghobad was again invited to give a talk on Persia at the International Club, when she was able to mention the Baha'i Faith and much interest was shown in the discussion that followed.

CARLISLE

With the help and support of the Newcastle friends, Iran Moussazadeh is now holding monthly public meetings which are advertised in the local paper. The first of these was held on 30th April with 3 non-Baha'is present. Previous to this the Y.M.C.A. invited Joe Jameson to give a talk on the Faith and Iran reports that the next day all four of the Baha'i books in the library had been taken out.

EXETER

In answer to their advertisements already two or three people have attended their weekly meetings. And just recently they were interviewed by a reporter on the local paper, and a long article on the Faith was printed, together with a photograph of some of the Persian friends and their children.

INVERNESS

The first Baha'i public meeting in Inverness was held on 7th April with 10 non-Baha'is present. Keen interest was shown and a short report appeared in the local paper. Harold and Betty Shepherd now write that Mr. and Mrs. Bennett from Christchurch paid them a visit after Convention and missed no opportunity during their holiday to talk about the Faith, distribute booklets inscribed with the Shepherds address, and to support their meetings. (This is a valuable service that most Baha'is can do by spending part of their holidays in a goal town). The Shepherds are holding their first "official" fireside at the end of May to which they are inviting all the contacts they have made so far.

LOUGHBOROUGH

A very successful Weekend School was held here on 9th/10th April, at which the opportunity was taken to hold a second Teaching Unit Conference (see report on page 4). As a result of attending this School a non-Baha'i from Eccles made her declaration, thus helping to save the Eccles Assembly.

NEWMARKET

On 7th/8th May over 30 people attended the very first Weekend School to have been held in this goal town. In fact it was also the very first public Baha'i function to have been held there, as it was advertised in the local paper. The School was a great success with 10 non-Baha'is attending, many of whom were definitely brought much closer to the Faith. We have heard since the School, that one of the gentlemen who learnt of the Faith for the first time there, now wishes to declare. Elaine Rogers has certainly done some devoted and valuable work, holding the post all alone, for over three years.

PETERBOROUGH

Ray Humphrey, another of our lone pioneers who we sincerely hope will not have to continue as such for very much longer. Time is passing very swiftly, and if there is any possibility at all of your being able to pioneer to any of the goal towns with only one or two believers, you will be rendering a truly valuable service to the Faith by doing so. You know that the N.T.C. will help you in every way they can if you will just get in touch with them.

Even though all alone Ray has done wonderful work in Peterborough. He is already well known there through his contact with other organisations, and the article that was printed giving his reasons for coming to that town, i.e. the Baha'i Faith. He holds regular firesides, and does indefatigable work taking his contacts to meetings in nearby communities.

PONTYPRIDD

There are now 7 believers, and there is no doubt at all that they will more than achieve Assembly status by next Ridvan. A year and half ago, there were no Baha'is there, and now, due to the devoted efforts of the Cardiff friends, it is a flourishing community.

SALISBURY

As you know there are 3 believers in this goal town. They hold a regular weekly fireside, and others when the opportunity occurs. Two of the Baha'is have joined evening classes in order to meet more non-Baha'is, and they are now planning to hold a monthly public meeting.

TORQUAY

Unfortunately due to some last minute difficulties, it was not possible for Torquay to regain Assembly status, but the friends are now more than ever determined to achieve this by next Ridvan. They hold regular weekly meetings at the Centre with public meetings at the Y.M.C.A. every two months. Together with Exeter this goal town is not within very easy reach of other Baha'i communities and so do not have many Baha'i visitors. If any of the friends can spend part of their holidays in either of these two places they would be sure of a warm welcome, and would do much to encourage the friends.

WINCHESTER

We are very happy to report a declaration from a young Winchester girl. This is quite an historic occasion as all the other Baha'is there have, up till now, been pioneers.

YORK

We asked your prayers for the first public meeting to be held in this goal town, and we are very happy to report that it was very successful. Golrokh Sabit made all the arrangements single-handed, and Ian Semple spoke to an audience of 15, of whom 4 were non-Baha'is. Golrokh is now holding regular firesides, and the friends from neighbouring communities are giving her their support.

O MY SERVANT!

Free thyself from the fetters of this world and loose thy soul from the prison of self. Seize thy chance, for it will come to thee no more.

Baha'u'llah

ASSEMBLY NEWS

BANGOR (Northern Ireland) An intensive Teaching Campaign has just been held, organised by the R.T.C. and fully supported by all the friends in Northern Ireland. It consisted of wide publicity for a series of three public meetings on consecutive nights. Adib Taherzadeh spoke at the first, Mrs. Shirin Fozdar at the second and David Hofman at the third. The actual attendance was perhaps disappointing after all the work that had gone into arranging it, but some very fine publicity was obtained in the "County Down Spectator" with a report 16" long covering two columns, and a photograph of Mrs. Shirin Fozdar and some of the Northern Ireland Baha'is 6" x 7". This is perhaps one of the largest write-ups yet on the Baha'i Faith in the British Isles.

BRADFORD The friends here now number 16, and they have decided to achieve Incorporation by Ridvan 1961. Renewed activity is getting under-way and there is no doubt that with determination and devotion they will achieve their goal.

EDINBURGH During the past year there have been no less than 11 declarations, and they write that by far the most effective of their activities are firesides and study classes. As you know, apart from all the work they do in their own community, the Edinburgh friends have supported activities in Aberdeen, Glasgow, Motherwell and Carlisle. This is a fine example of how ideally all communities should be working, especially those with Assembly status.

HOVE AND BRIGHTON These two communities are together planning a Teaching Campaign designed to make the Faith more widely known in their area, and to enable them to strengthen and consolidate their numbers. Again any friends able to visit Brighton and Hove, especially during the next few weeks, should get in touch with either of these two communities or the N.T.C. You can give invaluable support to them by spending a weekend there or part of your holidays.

LEEDS Is another community determined to achieve Incorporation by next Ridvan, and we wish them every success in their endeavours.

LIVERPOOL They have had a new idea concerning their public meetings. They are now planning to concentrate on

certain areas of the town and aiming all their publicity at that particular spot. We await with interest news of how their first public meeting went, which was situated in Wavertree.

MANCHESTER Baha'i Societies have now been formed in the University of Manchester, and in the College of Technology. These provide a wonderful platform for Baha'i speakers and have aroused much interest. So far three declarations have resulted.

NEWCASTLE You will have noted from past editions of the "Home Front" how the work in this town has been progressing, and will share our delight that this Ridvan they regained Assembly status. Congratulations Newcastle!

SHEFFIELD Here too you will have had the good news that they have regained Assembly status.

ALL OTHER ITEMS OF NEWS

Mrs. Shirin Fozdar Has just completed a most successful tour of the British Isles. When the N.T.C. knew she was coming, they drew up an itinerary for her which covered nearly every major city in the United Kingdom, and which has given the Faith further much needed publicity. In Reading a reception was given for her by the Mayor and Mayoress, and later she addressed a meeting at the Town Hall with 75 people present. Prior to the meeting she received advance publicity in the local paper (5") and afterwards a 6" write-up. She went on to Oxford the same day and addressed an audience of 36 at the Town Hall. In South Wales she had a very full itinerary with a Press Interview, visiting and speaking at three Girls' High Schools and a public meeting (47) in Cardiff, the same evening. The next day she attended a Civic Reception in Caerphilly, spoke to representatives of various women's organisations, attended another Civic Reception in Pontypridd and also spoke at a public meeting (15) there. Then on to Newcastle where she addressed a public meeting of 32 people at the Tyne Hotel. Approximately 70 people attended the Edinburgh public meeting, when she was chaired by Dr. Geddes, whose father chaired Abdu'l-Baha when he visited Scotland.

In the evening, Mrs. Fozdar addressed an audience consisting of various organisations of the University (approximately 60). She returned to London to attend the Queen's Garden Party on 9th May, and then went on to Manchester. At a lunch time meeting at the

University she spoke to an audience of 12 (less than expected because of a general meeting taking place the same day.) At tea-time Mrs. Fozdar spoke to an audience of 20 at the College of Technology, and then went on to a public meeting in the evening with about 60 people present. At Bangor, Northern Ireland, a Reception was given for her with the Mayor which was followed in the evening by a public meeting. The attendance was not very high but as mentioned previously, much very good publicity was obtained in the local paper. In Cambridge, Mrs. Fozdar addressed an audience of approximately 35 people at the Mill Lane Lecture Rooms. Then on to London where on 14th May she spoke at the Women's Association Tea, and in the evening addressed an audience of 120 at the Alliance Hall, half of whom were non Baha'is.

Mrs. Fozdar goes on now to address many meetings in other countries on her way home to Singapore, when she will have completed her world-wide tour.

WATFORD The four pioneers have now been joined by another, Brian Miller, and the work is going ahead with much success. The devotion and enthusiasm of the friends has resulted in their receiving some most complimentary publicity in the local paper, and they have just been able to hold their very first public meeting with 8 non-Baha'is present. This within only about 5 months. They have made themselves many friends and have already been invited to speak on the Faith at the International Language Club of which they are members. They have missed no opportunity to let Watford know that they are Baha'is, and Mr. and Mrs. McDermott announced in the paper the birth of their baby daughter as "the first Baha'i baby born in Watford".

SOUTHPORT Practically single-handed Margaret Shanks has been determinedly organising regular Baha'i activity, and has carried on in spite of the fact that many times no-one has turned up to the meetings. At last her hard work and patience is being rewarded. In February a new inquirer came (the only non-Baha'i at the meeting). In March there were 9 non-Baha'is, 3 of whom were new inquirers. Margaret spoke to an audience of 8 non-Baha'is in April, 1 of whom was a new inquirer. At the end of the same month she held another meeting with 9 non-Baha'is present, 2 of whom were newcomers. This is a wonderful record of devotion and perseverance, and we would all do well to take a leaf out of Margaret's book.

Tal-y-bont Although a lone-believer Mrs. Jean Pitcher is making determined efforts to teach the Faith to her friends. She has planned a series of tea-parties to which a few of them are being invited each time.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Buxton Summer School	8th-21st August, 1960.
Harlech Summer School	27th Aug. - 3rd Sept. 1960.
Teaching Conference	7th/8th January, 1961.
World Religion Day	15th January, 1961
Convention	29th-30th April, 1961.

WEEKEND SCHOOLS

LYME PARK 10th/11th/12th June This School is being held in Cheshire particularly beautiful countryside, in a historic but comfortable mansion set in a deer park. Bed and breakfast is 12/6d, meals extra. Please apply to: Mr. B. Haqjoo, 15, High Grove Road, Cheadle, Cheshire.

BANGOR 17th/18th June This will obviously be another of the N.Ireland very happy and successful Schools held in Ireland, and you can obtain details of bookings etc. from: Mr. C. Macdonald, 75 Eglantine Avenue, Belfast 9.

O COMPANION OF MY THRONE!

Hear no evil, and see no evil, abase not thyself, neither sigh and weep. Speak no evil, that thou mayest not hear it spoken unto thee, and magnify not the faults of others that thine own faults may not appear great; and wish not the abasement of anyone, that thine own abasement be not exposed. Live then the days of thy life, that are less than a fleeting moment, with thy mind stainless, thy heart unsullied, thy thoughts pure, and thy nature sanctified, so that, free and content, thou mayest put away this mortal frame, and repair unto the mystic paradise and abide in the eternal kingdom for evermore.

Baha'u'llah