

The
HOME FRONT

A News Bulletin

No.22

JUNE/JULY 1960

"O my friend!

The undying Fire which the Lord of the Kingdom hath kindled in the midst of the holy Tree is burning fiercely in the midmost heart of the world. The conflagration it will provoke will envelop the whole earth. Its blazing flames will illuminate its peoples and kindreds. All the signs have been revealed; every prophetic allusion hath been manifested. Whatever hath been enshrined in all the Scriptures of the past hath been made evident.

To doubt or hesitate is no more possible Time is pressing. The Divine Charger is impatient, and can tarry no longer. Ours is the duty to rush forward, and ere it is too late, win the victory."

ABDU'L-BAHA

TEN YEAR CRUSADE

TIME LEFT

TWO YEARS and
TEN MONTHS

GOALS TO BE ACHIEVED

20 LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES
15 INCORPORATED ASSEMBLIES

N.T.C. Letter

Dear friends,

Each month we shall show the changes in our Crusade goals, so that each and everyone of us is crystal clear as to where our duty lies, and can help by every means in our power to win our part of the Ten Year Crusade.

As you are aware, the Teaching Unit Plan was designed to enable every believer to take an ever increasing and energetic part in the winning of the goals of the Ten Year Crusade by offering mutual help to all with the Unit. All those friends within the area of a Teaching Unit naturally have a greater understanding of their particular needs and problems, and are in a better position to take quick and lively action when necessary.

The constant interchange of ideas and the frequent travelling of friends to assist one another and to share the joys of Baha'i work will stimulate further effort, and the teaching work will leap forward.

Whether it be weekend schools, teaching campaigns, public meetings, firesides, or friendly chats, ALL must be motivated by the desire to tell people of the Faith of Baha'u'llah - the Cause of God.

The National Spiritual Assembly has given us five teaching directives for this year and we have been told that the tempo of teaching must be geared to meet the challenge of the remaining time left to us - only two years and ten months!

In the words of our beloved Guardian: "Let us arise to teach His Cause with righteousness, conviction, understanding, and vigour. Let this be the paramount and most important urgent duty of every Baha'i. Let us make it the dominating passion of our life."

Loving Baha'i greetings, Yours in His Service,

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE.

GOALS TO BE ACHIEVED BY

RIDVAN 1961

1. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SIX LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES

The six towns chosen by the N.S.A. are:-

CHESTER

TORQUAY

GLASGOW

WATFORD

PONTYPRIDD

WOKINGHAM R.D.

Devoted work has been done in each of these towns, laying a firm foundation for the future Assembly. Watford, the newest Goal Town, already has five Baha'is, so we can see that if the energies released by the Teaching Unit Plan are used wisely and vigorously, 1961 will be a very happy occasion for us all.

While the N.T.C. and the R.T.C's can help administratively, by concentrating help where and when it is needed, nothing can replace that wonderful individual Baha'i spirit of devotion, and determination to win through at all costs.

It is this individual devotion, expressed in daily teaching, and in many other ways, that will win us through.

We strongly urge that all Assemblies, Groups and individual believers read again the chapter from "Guidance for Today and Tomorrow" by Shoghi Effendi, on teaching the Faith (page 194, and particularly Part 3 from page 219 to 239). Then act!

The Guardian has written:

"The various Assemblies, local and national, constitute today the bedrock upon the strength of which the Universal House is in future to be firmly established and raised."

2. THE INCORPORATION OF FIVE LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES

Any Local Spiritual Assembly can seek Incorporation if they feel that their community of nine or more believers is not likely, under normal conditions, to change frequently, and that there is a sound working nucleus of friends to carry out the activities so essential to the life of a Baha'i community.

This, together with a high resolve to teach at every opportunity is all that is needed, so just as soon as your community fulfills these requirements, do get in touch with the National Spiritual

Assembly. They are responsible for taking the steps for your Incorporation, and once they are satisfied that you are ready for this, you can safely leave the matter in their hands.

Please do come forward.

3. INCREASING THE MOMENTUM OF TEACHING IN EVERY GOAL TOWN

The pioneers in our Goal Towns must have help and support, if the wonderful work they are doing is to bear fruit. They are doing the initial work of making friends and contacts, and now they need to introduce them to other Baha'is. They also need the help of their fellow Baha'is to hold firesides and public meetings, One Day or Weekend Schools, so that their work can be confirmed.

We must pray for guidance and then act positively, certain of the fact that we shall win all our goals.

"Whether it be by an open and bold assertion of the fundamental verities of the Cause, or the adoption of a less direct and more cautious method of teaching; whether by the dissemination of our literature or the example of our conduct, our one aim and sole object should be to help in the eventual recognition by all mankind of the indispensability, the uniqueness and the supreme station of the Baha'i Revelation."

Shoghi Effendi.

4. REINFORCING THE PIONEERS IN THE GOAL TOWNS SO THAT THERE IS A STRONG WORKING NUCLEUS IN EACH

The towns in greatest need, and where pioneers are essential IMMEDIATELY are:-

BANGOR

CARLISLE

PETERBOROUGH

YORK

Each and every one of us should look into his heart afresh and diligently find out what means there are for us to move to, and live in a Goal Town.

Of pioneers, Baha'u'llah says the following:

"..... these shall the Faithful Spirit strengthen through its power. A company of our chosen angels shall go forth with them, as bidden by Him Who is the Almighty, the All-Wise. How great the blessedness that awaiteth him that hath attained the honour of serving the Almighty! By My life! No act, however great, can compare with it, except such deeds as have been ordained by God, the All-Powerful, the Most Mighty."

"Should the greatness of this Day be revealed in its fullness, every man would forsake a myriad lives in his longing to partake, though it be for one moment, of its great glory - how much more this world and its corruptible treasures!"

Baha'u'llah.

5. RELEASING THE ENERGIES OF THE BELIEVERS THROUGH THE TEACHING UNIT PLAN, AND THUS INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BAHAI'S THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

"This challenge, so severe and insistent, and yet so glorious, faces no doubt primarily the individual believer on whom, in the last resort, depends the fate of the entire community."

Shoghi Effendi

The recent success of activities in some of the Goal Towns has been largely due to the help and support given to them by the other communities and believers in their Unit.

When the friends continually move about within the area of their Unit, and consult together upon their various teaching problems, it stirs the whole of the British community, and the very fact that consultation now also takes place with those friends who were out of the general stream of activities, releases fresh energies to speed the teaching work.

"To teach the Cause of God, to proclaim its truths, to defend its interests, to demonstrate by words as well as by deeds, its indispensability,

its potency, and universality, should at no time be regarded as the exclusive concern or sole privilege of Baha'i administrative institutions, by the Assemblies or committees. All must participate, however humble their origin, however limited their experience, however restricted their means, however deficient their education, however pressing their cares and preoccupations, however unfavourable the environment in which they live. "God," Baha'u'llah Himself, has unmistakably revealed, "hath prescribed unto everyone the duty of teaching His Cause."

Shoghi Effendi.

GOAL TOWN NEWS

BLACKBURN

The work here is flourishing, due largely to the fine support that Blackpool and other friends in that Unit have given to the monthly public meetings. In fact two of the contacts are very close indeed and came with Iran Ghobad to Lyme Park Weekend School. We are very glad to announce that Dr. Abbas Afnan and his wife Shomais have been able to move to Blackburn, anyway for the time being.

CANTERBURY

A successful teaching campaign has just taken place, during which time Jeanette Battrick resided in Canterbury, and it seems she may well have opened new avenues of approach for teaching work, particularly among the young people of the town. Two public meetings were held at the Friends Meeting House, and the Warden who is very impressed with the Baha'i teachings, herself suggested that a Youth Weekend School be held there. As a result a Youth to Youth Weekend School has been planned for September 17th. This will be a joint programme between the Baha'is and the Quakers of Canterbury. The Programme has been arranged by the N.Y.C. in agreement with the Quaker Friends and of course in consultation with the Canterbury Group. It may well prove the turning point of the Faith in this Goal Town, so if you can attend please do. You can be sure of a very profitable and enjoyable time. If you get in touch with the N.T.C. we will gladly give you details.

CARLISLE Here again the work is going ahead due to the help and support that our lone pioneer Iran Moussazadeh is getting from the Newcastle friends. There were three contacts at the last public meeting on 28th May, and later Owen Battrick was able to speak at a fireside to two more contacts who seemed very interested indeed.

We are happy to announce that Miss Qoudsie Kowsari will be pioneering to Carlisle next February, when she commences her midwifery training there.

EXETER Another successful public meeting was held on 27th May with 16 non-Baha'i present. Fine work Exeter!

INVERNESS A warm welcome to Mrs. Bennett who has just joined her daughter and son-in-law, Betty and Harold Shepherd, thus bringing this Goal Town to three in number. Thinking of holidays? This is a lovely resort, and the Shepherds have a Guest House.

MOTHERWELL Also a warm welcome to Nuri and Pamela Sabit who have now managed to find accommodation within the civic limits. This brings the number in this Goal Town to five.

PETERBOROUGH A One-Day School and public meeting is planned for 16th July. All those who can attend, please write to Ray Humphrey. His address is: 14, London Road, Peterborough. We can promise you a very happy time, and you will be doing a valuable service to the Faith as well!

PONTYPRIDD Plans are now going ahead for a very intensive South Wales Teaching Campaign which will be centred on Pontypridd. It will commence on 11th September with a month of very concentrated teaching, and then two months of systematic follow-up. All those who could spend a few days in this area at that time, are strongly urged to do so to give the campaign their support. The N.T.C. will be glad to give you more details and will put you in touch with the Pontypridd friends.

SALISBURY The friends are making plans to distribute hand-bills on the Baha'i Faith to every house in Salisbury over a period of a year. It will be interesting to see what effect these have, and whether this idea could be used in other towns.

WATFORD

A Weekend School is being held on 2nd/3rd July, and this will be followed by a public meeting later in the month on 12th July. This devoted group of friends, entirely united in their efforts are doing wonderful work in Watford, and there is little doubt that they will achieve Assembly status by next Ridvan.

YORK

Our lone pioneer, Golrokh Sabit, is holding fortnightly firesides which are being supported by the friends in her Unit. The next one is planned for 27th July, to be followed by a One Day School on 30th July. Again we do urge all those who can, to attend this School and support the public meeting in the evening.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

BRIGHTON/HOVE

Their combined teaching campaign is forging ahead. At their latest public meeting, twenty-one new enquirers turned up! The next of the campaign meetings is to be held on 3rd July, and this is to be followed by a One Day School on Sunday 10th July. We know you will join us in wishing them continued success.

HALIFAX

Some fine teaching work is being done by Mehraz Ehsani at Rishworth School where he is a student. This has resulted in their asking for a speaker on the Baha'i Faith, and at the beginning of this month Algy Robarts took along some beautiful coloured slides of Israel and the Baha'i Shrines on Mount Carmel. His talk aroused great interest and the meeting went on well past the time scheduled for it to end. One of the students has since attended Lyme Park Weekend School with Mehraz, which certainly shows his interest in the Faith.

LEEDS

Below we reprint parts of the report on the Teaching Unit Conference, when they certainly laid some concrete plans for helping York. "Leeds are holding a Day School on Sunday 26th June. We have reason to believe it will be well attended, and we pray it will be! Sheffield will have a Weekend School some time in November, date not fixed at this meeting. We thought Bradford should have a Weekend or Day School in September.

We tended to concentrate on York, and good ideas came from

the discussion. Golrokh Sabit is holding firesides on 22nd June and 27th July which will be attended by her contacts and by Leeds friends on 22nd June, and Sheffield friends on 27th July.

During the week commencing 20th June, Sheria Nooreydzan has volunteered to go over to York every day during the week to try and make contacts.

During the week commencing 25th July, Malcolm Lee who will be on holiday, has volunteered to spend the whole week in York, which will culminate with a One-Day School and public meeting on 30th July.

Later in the year, when the University re-opens, Leeds will take steps to form a Baha'i Society there which can then organise meetings, etc.

BANGOR (Northern
Ireland)

A very successful Weekend School took place on 17th-19th June, at which Hand of the Cause Hasan Balyuzi was also present, and the friends had the great bounty of hearing him speak on the remaining goals to be won for the Ten Year Crusade, and what this means to the whole world, as well as to the Baha'i Faith.

Thirty Baha'is attended the School, as well as several close contacts. On the Saturday afternoon a Baha'i marriage took place between June Curtin, Baha'i from Belfast, and Samuel McAllister (non-Baha'i). The young couple were blessed by the presence of the Hand of the Cause, who also conducted the ceremony. This was the second Baha'i wedding in Northern Ireland, and the first in Bangor.

DUBLIN

The E.A.T.C. asked us to bring to your attention the fact that this is a good place to spend a holiday, and at the same time valuable work could be done by visiting Baha'is in making new contacts. Can YOU spend a week in Dublin? It would be a very worth-while holiday.

EDINBURGH

Reports that another very successful Scottish Unit Conference was held on 25th June, which was followed by a One Day School on 26th. Both these activities were honoured with the presence of Hand of the Cause, Mr. Hasan Balyuzi who was there to consult with the

friends at a special meeting called for the occasion.

The main item for discussion at the Unit Conference was, of course, GLASGOW, one of the six goal towns that must achieve Assembly status by next Ridvan. As a result some fine plans were drawn up to restart activities there, which will undoubtedly succeed because of the active support promised by various of the believers in the Unit. Regular support is to be given to firesides, public meetings are to be held every two months or so, and the first of two One-Day Schools is to be held on 9th October.

A very successful public meeting was held in Edinburgh on the evening of 26th June, when Hasan Balyuzi spoke to an audience of 35, of whom 18 were non-Baha'is.

MANCHESTER

We have not yet received the "official" report of the visit of our Hand of the Cause, Mr. Hasan Balyuzi, but we understand that on 2nd July an extremely successful fireside was held with 50 people present, 10 of whom were contacts. On Sunday Mr. Balyuzi consulted with the Manchester friends and many others from communities in that area, and in the evening he spoke at a public meeting to an audience of about 90, at least 25 per cent of whom were non-Baha'is.

WEEKEND SCHOOLS

Below are the dates of forthcoming Weekend and One Day Schools.

For further details, either write direct to the community concerned, or to the N.T.C.

WOKINGHAM R.D.	23rd/24th July
YORK	30th July
BRADFORD	September (date not fixed)
CANTERBURY	September 17th

N.T.C. MEETINGS

All meetings take place at the Haziratu'l-Quds, 27, Rutland Gate, London, S.W.7.

23rd/24th July

20th/21st August

10th/11th September

WORTH NOTING

Now is just the time of year to contact the Secretaries of various Societies and Clubs offering them speakers on the Baha'i Faith.

For expert advice on advertising, whether it be invitation cards, newspaper advertisements or posters, write to the Public Relations Committee. Their Secretary is: Mr. Geoffrey Bridle, 19, Shepherds Hill, Earley, Reading, Berks.

WEEKEND AND ONE-DAY SCHOOLS

Bradford	September (date not known yet)
Manchester	11th September
Cambridge	10th/11th September
Nottingham	24th September
Glasgow	9th October.

UNIT REPORTS

Scottish Unit

EDINBURGH
Aberdeen
Glasgow
Inverness
Motherwell

Their second Unit Conference was held on 25th June in Edinburgh, and as Glasgow is one of the six Goal Towns which must achieve Assembly status by next Ridvan, teaching activities in this town were the main items for discussion. As a result, fortnightly firesides in Glasgow are to be given regular support by the other friends in the Unit, particularly Edinburgh. It was also decided that a public meeting should be held every two or three months. Two One-Day Schools are to be held in Glasgow during the year, the first of which will be on 9th October.

Unit 5

BRADFORD
LEEDS
SHEFFIELD
York

Again the main item for discussion was the Goal Town York, which still has only one lone pioneer there. Plans were made for the fortnightly fireside to be supported in turn by the different communities in the Unit, and it was decided that a One-Day School and public meeting should be held on 30th July. One of the friends from Leeds has offered to spend a week of his holidays in York prior to the School to help with the arrangements and try and make some contacts. Another of the Leeds friends has offered to visit York every day during the same week to give his help.

Unit 7

CHEADLE
ECCLES
MANCHESTER
Swinton

A Calendar Committee has been formed which will publish monthly a list of activities taking place in the Unit. A series of public meetings in the suburbs of Manchester are being planned, and fortnightly combined study and public speaking classes are proving most successful. Support was given to the Conference of Unit 8 (LIVERPOOL, Bangor and Chester) at the request of the N.T.C. as this Unit has two Goal Towns to bring to Assembly status, and does not have as much manpower as Unit 7. The Editor of the Swinton paper is being approached with a view to serialising "God Loves Laughter." A special effort is being made to support the devotional meetings in Eccles on Sunday afternoons. A "Bring and Buy" sale for the N.S.A. funds is to be held at Manchester Centre.