

The HOME FRONT

A News Bulletin

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No.23

Prayer

"Glorified art Thou, O Lord my God! Thou hast, in Thine all highest Paradise, assigned unto Thy servants such stations that if any one of them were to be unveiled to men's eyes all who are in heaven and all who are on earth would be dumbfounded. By Thy might! Were kings to witness so great a glory they would, assuredly, rid themselves of their dominions and cleave to such of their subjects as have entered beneath the shadow of Thine immeasurable mercy and sought the shelter of Thine all-glorious name.

I implore Thee, O Thou Who are the Beloved of the worlds and the Desire of all that have recognized Thee, by Thy name, through which Thou stirrest up whom Thou willest and drawest toward Thee whom Thou pleasest, to open the eyes of all that are dear to Thee, that haply they may not be veiled from Thee as the peoples of the earth are, but may outwardly perceive the signs and tokens of Thy power, and inwardly apprehend the things Thou didst ordain for them in the realms of Thy glory.

Potent art Thou to do Thy pleasure. Thou art the one alone Beloved in both this world and in the next. No God is there but Thee, the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious."

BAHA'U'LLAH

(Prayers and Meditations No.123)

T E N Y E A R C R U S A D E

<u>Goals to be Achieved</u>	<u>Time Left</u>
20 LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES	TWO YEARS and
15 INCORPORATED ASSEMBLIES	SEVEN MONTHS

N.T.C. LETTER PAGE

Dear friends,

Firesides

We are delighted to know of the increasing number of firesides, which are resulting in more and more people taking a keener interest in the Faith, and it is our sincere wish that this trend will continue.

When our contacts have been acquainted with the Faith, and show they are interested to know more of its teachings, we must be ready with plans to assist them and at the same time to help deepen their Faith.

This should be done through systematic propagation, and for this purpose Hand of the Cause Dr. Muhlschlegel has given us the outline for a course presenting the substance of the teaching in four evenings.

The stages are:-

- 1st Evening The human being; dependence upon God; the Manifestations of God.
- 2nd Evening The Unity of the Manifestations of God, and of the Religions.
- 3rd Evening The Unity of Mankind
(a) The Individual's approach to God - stressing the social qualities.
- 4th Evening The Unity of Mankind continued:-
(b) The Covenant - giving the principles of the Administrative Order, and an outline of World Order.

Dr. Muhlschlegel felt that it is an advantage if possible, meet in a different place in your town on each of the four evenings, and that probably the best frequency is two meetings one week (certainly not more than two in one week).

We suggest to you that this course could be effectively undertaken as a Unit activity. For example, four people in your Unit might be selected - each to take one of the above subjects, to study it and be prepared to speak on it at an arranged fireside in each of the Baha'i towns in your Unit. Hence in a particular town, at your first fireside of the series, you would have No. 1 speaker, at your second No. 2 and so on.

Alternatively, should you have only two people who could undertake this work, then they could take and study two of the subjects each.

With this systematic presentation, as recommended, the whole course could be delivered throughout your Unit in less than one month. It could of course also be repeated as the necessity arose.

We strongly recommend that you consider means for putting this into operation at your next Unit Conference - if not sooner.

Should you find that you need help with a speaker or speaker from outside your Unit, then you should not hesitate to approach your Regional Teaching Committee for this help.

With loving greetings,

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE.

	<u>WEEKEND</u>	<u>SCHOOLS</u>	
Cheadle	23rd October	Sheffield	26th November
Bangor (Wales)	29th/30th October	Norwich	26th/27th Nov
Leicester	12th November	Oxford	27th November
Wokingham R.D.	13th November	Cardiff	26th/27th Nov
Liverpool	19th/20th November	Eccles	11th December

GOAL TOWN NEWS

Those Aiming for Assembly Status by next Ridvan

CHESTER (6 believers) We have just received the wonderful news that Mr. and Mrs. Herman have been able to pioneer to this goal town, and arrived there at the end of September. We were not able to include a report in the June/July edition, of the very successful Weekend School and Unit Conference held in Chester on 9th/10th July. Altogether 50 people attended, including 10 non-Baha'is. They now intend holding a public meeting every month. Adib Taherzadeh spoke at their meeting on 19th September which was attended by 18 people, nine of whom were non-Baha'is. We are very sorry to report that Violette Nakhjavani has now returned to Uganda after spending a year in Chester, and we would like to put on record our heartfelt thanks for all the valuable assistance she gave while she was in this country. Incidentally the Chester friends asked that Teaching Conference should be held here on 7th/8th January 1961, and this has been agreed.

GLASGOW (7 believers) The friends here have suffered many setbacks, particularly as they have not had a suitable place to meet for several months but it is hoped that before long this will be remedied. A Baha'i from Malacca has just arrived there; before long Ilse Becker will be commencing her further nursing studies there, and we have heard the news that Mrs. Susan McKechnie will be returning from Canada at the beginning of November. This will bring the community strength up to ten, which means that there should be no doubt of their regaining Assembly status next Ridvan. Mrs. Vera Long has visited Glasgow during her teaching trip in Scotland, and arrangements are being made for Mrs. Jeanette Battrick to spend two weeks there in October to help the friends in their teaching work. On 16th October there is to be a One-Day School.

PONTYPRIDD (8 believers) They have made truly remarkable progress since the first person declared there at the beginning of 1959, and now they need only one more believer to achieve Assembly status. Mrs. Valery Morley has just spent about a week there doing some valuable work helping the friends.

TORQUAY (7 believers) Mr. and Mrs. Lee are buying a house in Torquay, and should be in residence by December. And we have just heard that Miss Barron of Hove is pioneering there too.

WATFORD (7 believers) Mr. and Mrs. Mehrnoosh and Miss Zargham have just settled in this goal town, and soon they are to be joined by Mr. and Mrs. Hofman and family. However as Dr. and Mrs. Naji have to return to Persia in December, they will still need two more believers to achieve Assembly status. The Watford friends will be very sorry to lose Dr. and Mrs. Naji who have done such devoted and valuable work there. When they do leave there are two possibilities (a) Another Baha'i couple could share the flat with the McDermotts as the Najis are doing (b) The whole flat may be available for another Baha'i family. It consists of two large double bedrooms, sitting-room, kitchen and bathroom. This accommodation is available for any Baha'i particularly from London, who would like to pioneer to Watford. Further details can be obtained from the N.T.C.

A successful public meeting was held on 24th September which was attended by 8 non-Baha'is and was well supported by the London friends as well as Baha'is from Cambridge and Peterborough. Regular firesides are held every Saturday evening.

WOKINGHAM R.D. (8 believers) We omitted to report in the last edition of the "Home Front" that Mr. Rustam and Mrs. Banu Sabit had pioneered to Wokingham R.D. bring their number to seven, and now we are also happy to tell you that Mrs. Prately who had obtained a job in the Wokingham area, and who recently made her declaration, has been found to be residing just within the civic limits (by a matter of a few yards) thus bringing their community up to eight. Now only one more person is needed to ensure the achievement of Assembly status by next Ridvan.

Aiming for Assembly Status by Ridvan 1962

BLACKBURN (5 believers) On 2nd August 15 contacts attended a social evening at which Mrs. Violette Nakhjavani spoke and showed slides of Haifa and Akka. Regular firesides are held every week, and Mrs. Cooper who lives just outside Blackburn also gives her valuable help and support, and in fact is on their Teaching Committee.

CANTERBURY (5 believers) Miss Zoha Adl has just pioneered to this goal town, bringing their number to five. On 17th/18th September a Youth Weekend School was held at the Friends Meeting House, which was organised with the co-operation of the Quakers of Canterbury. Between 30 and 40 Baha'i youth attended all or part of the School. Approximately three Quakers were able to attend; one member of the Free Churches who also gave one of the talks, and three Canterbury youth who were not associated with any particular organisation and were invited to the social on the Saturday evening. The speakers fulfilled their purpose with enthusiasm and constructive presentation of their talks. Many questions were asked by the Quakers and they seemd to be well satisfied with the answers given. An indirect result of the School was the fact that two or three of the landladies who put up the Baha'i youth were most impressed by their behaviour, as also was the Warden of the Friends Meeting House. We now have an open invitation to hold another school there at any time in the future. The Youth have promised to support the firesides in Canterbury at regular intervals in order to follow-up the contacts that have been made. A very good write-up of 9 inches has been published in the local paper.

The Canterbury firesides are now held on Friday evenings, and the N.T.C. is making arrangements for a regular speaker once a fortnight.

EXETER (2 believers) Only Lois Gregory and Mrs. Mokhtari remain here now, as Miss Zargham has gone to Watford, and the three Persian youth are continuing their studies elsewhere. Another pioneer is very badly needed.

At the request of the N.T.C. Mrs. Aileen Beale has kindly agreed to spend about six weeks in Exeter to assist the friends with their firesides, and to help them contact the Exeter people. So far their main contacts have been through the University.

INVERNESS (4 believers) Mrs. Lavinia Bennett has just pioneered to Inverness, joining her daughter and son-in-law Betty and Harold Shepherd. And we now have great pleasure in bidding a very warm welcome to Miss Boyd, the first declaration in this goal town! Mrs. Vera Long recently visited Inverness during her teaching trip in Scotland.

MOTHERWELL (5 believers) Teaching work is now going ahead steadily with the holding of regular fireside/study classes, and support is being given by Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair of Belshill.

SALISBURY (3 believers) On 17th September a Unit Conference was held in Salisbury, and it was decided to have a One Day School there on Sunday, 9th October. Miss Ada Williams spent a week in Salisbury at the beginning of August, and prior to this Paul Adams spoke at a fireside at which ten people were present. Now Mrs. Shomais Afnan will be spending three days in Salisbury, 8th/9th/10th October.

WINCHESTER (4 believers) Shomais Afnan will also be spending a couple of days here during her teaching tour. For the past two or three months activities have been greatly hampered by the fact that Miss Kilford, the first pioneer to Winchester has found it necessary, after a great many difficulties, to move to another house, and the only other Baha'i with a home has been away in Persia during this time. However, it is hoped that soon this difficult time will be over, and that teaching work will get under-way again. No doubt Salisbury and Winchester could give useful mutual help to each other, and plans for how this can be done are being considered.

Aiming for Assembly Status by Ridvan 1963

ABERDEEN (1 believer) Ilse Becker has now had to leave as she cannot continue her midwifery training there. However, as mentioned previously she is going to Glasgow where she will be able to give equally valuable service to the Cause. And we are very glad to say that Jean Campbell has arrived in Aberdeen to take up the pioneering post there. She has been able to contact quite a few people already and no doubt will soon be able to build on the ground work done by Jackie Mehrabi and Ilse Becker.

BANGOR (Wales) (1 believer) A very successful public meeting was held on 29th August which was supported by friends from Harlech Summer School, and which was attended by eleven non-Baha'is. This is to be followed up by a Weekend School on 29th/30th October. Aldie Roberts from Liverpool is giving fine support to Raffi Mavaddat, but another pioneer is still very badly needed. There is a limit to what one person can do all alone, and there is so little time left to the end of the Ten Year Crusade.

CARLISLE (1 believer) Apart from Miss Qoudsie Kowsari who, as reported previously, will be pioneering to Carlisle in February of next year, we have just heard the news that a Baha'i from Persia will be arriving sometime at the beginning of November to commence her training there. This means that in a few months' time there will be three Baha'is here, but as it means they will all be of the same nationality, it would be most helpful if a British Baha'i could join them. Iran Moussazadeh, who opened this goal town, and has been there all alone for almost a year now, has done some very fine work during that time. Shomais Afnan visited Carlisle twice during her teaching tour at the end of September, and there were three contacts at the first Fireside on the Tuesday, and eight on the following Thursday.

LOUGHBOROUGH (4 believers) It is hoped that Jeanette Battrick will be able to spend a week or two in November helping the friends with the teaching work.

PETERBOROUGH (3 believers) In the last few weeks Ray Humphrey has been joined by Fred Stahler from Manchester and Valentine Francis from Grenada, and so this goal town can now start functioning as a Group. A One Day School was held on 1st October, followed by a public meeting in the evening. It was supported by 18 Baha'is from Norwich, Eccles, Cambridge, Northampton, Gloucester, Blackburn and London. Non-Baha'i support was not so good, but a lady turned up at the public meeting who has been reading the Baha'i articles in the local paper and practically made her declaration there and then.

This is another of the towns Shomais Afnan has been visiting and a good fireside was held on the Sunday following the public meeting which this lady also attended

Mrs. Gitta Chaplin who has friends in Peterborough is now spending about two weeks there to help with the teaching work.

YORK (1 believer) A One Day School and public meeting was held on 30th July, which was attended by 5 contacts. Two of these were so interested they went to the Leeds fireside the following day. The local paper telephoned to ask for a report on the school and this was duly given to them and published.

Again it cannot be said too often, here is another pioneer who has been working all alone for well over a year now. If anyone can see the slightest possibility of their being able to pioneer there to join her, please let the N.T.C. know and they will help you all they can.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Cardiff In one year, this community has doubled its numbers from seven to fourteen through declarations. This is now reduced to 12 because Mr. and Mrs. Hofman are pioneering to Watford. Ideally every Assembly should be able to do this, - build up the strength of the community and then send out pioneers to the goal towns. Congratulations Cardiff!

Brighton and Hove As reported previously, these two Assemblies combined their efforts for a three months teaching campaign. Twelve Baha'i posters were put in the buses; three public meetings were held which altogether attracted 44 new contacts; a One-Day School was held which was attended by 10 contacts; three social evenings were held at Arnold Hotel and at the last one 12 non-Baha'is were present. Regular firesides are held every week in Brighton and in Hove, and they are continuing to hold monthly public meetings at the Royal Pavilion. Fifteen contacts attended the one held on 2nd October.

Newcastle Teaching work is continuing to go ahead well with well attended public meetings and regular firesides.

Liverpool Hand of the Cause John Robarts paid a flying visit on his way back to Africa from Canada, and a most memorable meeting was held at the Centre which was attended by Baha'is and contacts over a wide area. "None will forget this visit: the laughter, the radiant and deeply spiritual personality of the speaker and the profound impression he made upon all of us. His advice to all, was to pray, really pray, and to use the Tablet of Ahmad and the Long Obligatory Prayer, both of which he said are very powerful prayers if recited in sincerity."

John and Viola Herman, as reported under Chester, have pioneered there from Liverpool.

Portsmouth The friends have at last been able to obtain a suitable room for holding their activities, in the centre of Portsmouth and are now holding regular meetings every Sunday at 3 p.m. The address is: 1A Greetham Street, near Central Station, and all friends are welcome.

Reading Have been holding a regular fireside/study course on "Christ and Baha'u'llah" which has proved most successful, and they now intend to continue with "Some Answered Questions." They are now planning to hold monthly public meetings.

Travelling Teachers Several teaching tours and resident teaching projects have been organised which are proving most valuable. At the present moment Mrs. Shomais Afnan is undertaking an extensive teaching trip which started on 24th September, and has already visited Nottingham, Bradford, Carlisle, Newcastle, Peterborough and Birmingham. She is now on her way to Gloucester, Bristol, Salisbury, Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Winchester, Wokingham and Oxford. So far her tour has been a great success, and she herself says that it is one of the most wonderful experiences she has had.

Mrs. Vera Long has just returned from Scotland, where she visited the friends in Aberdeen, Inverness, Motherwell, Edinburgh and Glasgow, concentrating particularly on the last two mentioned towns, and helping all round with the teaching work.

Mrs. Valery Morley has also just returned from a week in Pontypridd where her visit was much enjoyed and proved a great help to the friends.

At the end of August, Stuart and Margaret Sweet spent a few days in Bristol, and also visited Gloucester where a fireside was held at the home of Dorothy and Ruhi Sabit.

Geoffrey Bridle spent a week in Glasgow towards the end of July, and Arthur Weinberg spent part of his holidays in Inverness prior to going to Harlech Summer School.

Adib Taherzadeh visited Edinburgh and Glasgow at the end of August, as well as Inverness and was in Chester on 19th and 20th September.

Mrs. Gitta Chaplin is now in Peterborough for two weeks and Mrs. Aileen Beale is in Exeter and will spend six weeks there in all.

An extensive teaching tour has now been arranged for Mrs. Jeanette Battrick, with visits to: Birmingham, Chester, Cheadle, Blackgurn, Carlisle, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, York, Sheffield, Nottingham and Loughborough. This commences on 10th October.

GOAL TOWNS

Addresses of Secretaries or Lone Pioneers

We have pleasure in giving these names and addresses so that should you be able to visit these friends, but please get in touch with them beforehand to let them know you are coming. They all would be more than happy to see you, but would like to have time to prepare for your visit, as you will no doubt appreciate. Do not just turn up on their doorstep.

Aberdeen: Miss Jean Campbell (no permanent address at present)

Bangor: Mr. Raffi Mavaddat, 42 College Rd., Bangor, Caerns.

Blackburn: Mrs. Shomais Afnan, 3 Geddes Street, Blackburn, Lancs.

Canterbury: Mrs. Joan Giddings, 1 St. Martin's Close, Canterbury.

Carlisle: Miss Iran Moussazadeh, 12 Warwick Square, Carlisle.

Chester: Miss Audrie Rogers, 4 Chichester Street, Chester.

Cork: Mrs. Maud Bennett, The Island House, Rochestown, Co. Cork. Eire.

Exeter: Miss Lois Gregory, Sreytonway, Pennsylvania Rd. Exeter, Devon

Glasgow: Mr. Anayat Yazdani, c/o McNairn, 29 Arlington St. Glasgow, C.3.
(address will change in about one month)

Inverness: Mr. Harold Shepherd, 42 Island Bank Road, Inverness.

Loughborough: Mrs. Pat Sinclair, 45 Atherstone Road, Loughborough.

Motherwell: Mrs. Pamela Sabit, 35 Jerviston Street, Motherwell.

Peterborough: Mr. Ray Humphrey, 14 London Road, Peterborough.

Pontypridd: Mr. Jack Tomlinson, 13 Duffryn Rd. Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd

Salisbury: Mrs. Margaret Sweet, 58 St. Paul's Road, Salisbury.

Torquay: Mr. Joseph Povey, 14 Market Street, Torquay, Devon.

Watford: Mrs. Shirley McDermott, 104 Langley Road, Watford, Herts.

Winchester: Miss S.G. Kilford, 21 North View, Winchester.

Wokingham R.D. Mr. Owen Battrick, Field House, Longfield Rd. Twyford
Berks.

York: Miss Golrokh Sabit, 46 East Mount Road, York.

Subsidiary Goal Towns

Epsom: Mrs. D. Telling, 91, West Hill Avenue, Epsom, Surrey.

Gloucester: Mr. Ruhi Sabit, Top Flat, 72 Stroud Road, Gloucester.

Newmarket: Mrs. Elaine Rogers, 9, Old Station Road, Newmarket.

Swinton: Mrs. Pauline Senior, 15, Houghton Lane, Swinton, Lancs.

" The Show Had to Go On"

I recently visited a house where everything except the kitchen sink had been moved or was in the process of moving. The floor boards were up, gaping holes glared from the walls, spare fittings littered the floor, and tools were everywhere. Nonetheless, firesides are held in that home regularly every week.

On the day of the fireside that I was due to take, the front room contained a mass of furniture and plumbers equipment, and the problem was to find somewhere to put all this. Also on the same day the bath was due to arrive and so everything had to be moved out of the bathroom as well, besides the fact that we did not know whether the bath would arrive before the contacts or vice versa!

We decided to move everything from the front to the back room and risk the chance that a visitor might want to go into the kitchen for some reason or other. We were half way through this when the bath arrived! We stopped operating on the 'reception room' and called all hands to the bath which has to be taken upstairs. All the time we were thinking that perhaps a contact would arrive early just for once, and then all we could do with him was sit him in the bath or on top of a chest of drawers. However, the bath reached the bathroom without mishap and we rushed downstairs to the front room. We cleared the big stuff out and put rugs and cloths over the rest to form seats; pictures and tapestries were hurriedly placed over the holes in the wall, floorboards were replaced and a carpet rolled out on top; we dusted and cleaned and just had time to roll the carpet out along the hall before the first visitor arrived! Luckily the hole in the floor in the hall was in front of the stairs and no-one needed to go there.

Ten people attended the fireside and we had a wonderful evening. We served tea on china which had the straw washed off it but half-an-hour before, nobody knew that the table was really a chest of drawers, and finally we refused gently but firmly all offers to come into the kitchen to help us wash up!

For the people in that house the show had to go on, in a manner of speaking and not for them was the perfectly reasonable excuse that "our house is not fit to receive visitors". Many would never have considered holding a fireside under such circumstances, but with the right spirit, it was not only possible but infinitely more worthwhile.

Paul Adams.