

The HOME FRONT

A News Bulletin

No. 25.

January, 1961.

"Consort with all men, O people of Baha, in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship. If he be aware of a certain truth, if ye possess a jewel, of which others are deprived, share it with them in a language of utmost kindness and goodwill. If it be accepted, if it fulfil its purpose, your object is attained. If any one should refuse it, leave him unto himself, and beseech God to guide him. A kindly tongue is the lodestone of the hearts of men. It is the bread of the spirit, it clotheth the words with meaning, it is the fountain of the light of wisdom and understanding ..."

Baha'u'llah.

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE BAHAI'S OF THE BRITISH ISLES

TEN YEAR CRUSADEGOALS TO BE ACHIEVEDTIME LEFT

20 Local Spiritual Assemblies
(Five attained numbers)

2 years
and 3 months

15 Incorporated Assemblies

N.T.C. Letter Page

19th January 1961

Dear Friends,

To win the goals in time to consolidate by 1963 was the last and clearly expressed wish of Teaching Conference.

A full report of the Conference is given in this Home Front with the detailed position of Assemblies and Goal Towns, and you will note that the report with a covering letter has already been sent to the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land.

It is you who will achieve these goals in the time. Pioneer offers have already been made during the Conference as you will see from the report. Now is the time for "pioneer families" to arise and serve in WINCHESTER, SALISBURY, YORK, EXETER, BLACKBURN, CARLISLE and BANGOR (N.Wales). Such meritorious service would lend a great impetus to the teaching work everywhere.

We must draw your attention to the fact that whilst only 2 believers are required to win the six Goal Towns for 1961, a total of 27 believers are required to bring eleven Local Spiritual Assemblies up to 9 each. The position regarding these Assemblies below number is extremely serious and we ask the whole community of the Greatest Name to pray for their re-establishment, thus ensuring a total of 35 Assemblies by next Ridvan. We need in all 29 new Believers or pioneers to achieve this.

With loving Baha'i Greetings,

In His Service,

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE.

REPORT ON TEACHING CONFERENCE HELD IN CHESTER, JANUARY 7TH/8TH,
1961.

Approximately 120 Friends from all parts of the British Isles gathered together in the Goal Town of Chester to consult on the progress of the Home Front Goals of the Ten Year Crusade and deliberate on the problems facing this community to ensure without any possible doubt that all these Goals will be safely and surely won; we were blessed throughout by the truly inspiring presence of our very dearly loved Hand of the Cause, Dr. Adelbert Muhlschlegel.

After opening prayers the last message from the Conclave of Hands at Bahji, dated 2nd November, was read to the Friends. Ian Semple, Auxiliary Board Member, then presented facts on the "Progress of the Ten Year Crusade in the World and on the European Front." During this session a message of love and greetings from the three British Pioneers in Europe was read, adding greatly to our feeling of unity with the Continent. This was followed by a talk on "The Significance of Baha'i Administration in your Home Town" given by two members of the National Teaching Committee. After consultation the Friends adjourned for dinner after which we were privileged to listen to an address by Dr. Muhlschlegel, Hand of the Cause, who spoke lovingly on the Wisdom of the Divine Plan. The evening session was opened with the reading to the Friends of the beloved Guardian's letter to the British Community dated 30th August, 1957. This was followed by a talk by the National Secretary on the need for deepening our understanding of the teachings of our precious Faith. The National Treasurer then drew our attention to the urgent need to become financially self-supporting, and also to the importance of the European Temple Fund to which we should contribute, as this is our Temple too.

On Sunday morning, after the devotional programme, a most thrilling and enthusiastic report was presented by the Secretary of the National Youth Committee which had been brought directly from a Youth Winter School held in the Goal Town of York. At this Youth School, eleven pioneer offers were made; a sum of £20 was collected for the National Fund; there were many offers of valuable help in the teaching field; a number of sound and sensible suggestions were put to Local Assemblies and Baha'i parents and adult believers were asked particularly to allow the Youth to take

a responsible place in Baha'i activity.

The encouragement engendered by this very wonderful session presented by the Youth carried us all into what was perhaps the most vitally important session of the whole weekend - "The Home Front" presented by the Secretary of the National Teaching Committee, and Marion Hofman, Auxiliary Board member. We were reminded by the Chairman that Teaching Conference 1959 was made memorable by the magnificent response to an appeal for pioneers to enable all the remaining Goal Towns of the Ten Year Crusade to be at least opened - this was done by the movement of 72 pioneers. Teaching Conference 1960 was made memorable by the enthusiastic launching of the Unit Teaching Plan; this unit teaching is proving stimulating and successful - forty unit conferences have been held in the 12 months of their existence and it is of great significance that these unit conferences have provided the impetus and made the friends feel the need of further meetings - rarely has the N.T.C. requested further meetings other than those held immediately prior to Teaching Conference. Goal Towns such as York, Torquay, Exeter and others have received great help and encouragement from the Units, and it is no exaggeration to say that the success of Watford and Epsom is due, in large measure, to Unit Activity. Who can tell what seeds lie waiting for the tilling of the ground, seeds planted by the many ardent and loving friends who have devoted so much time and money to visiting and teaching the Faith to many new contacts.

If our activity is well directed and concentrated where most needed and we bear ever in mind the Goals of the Ten Year Crusade, we can achieve Teaching Conference's wish of completion by 1962.

It was pointed out by the Chairman that this was really the last Teaching Conference of the Ten Year Crusade when major decisions could be made that would have time to be effective.

The following facts and figures were then presented: of the 6 Goal Towns pledged to be brought to Assembly status by Ridvan 1961, four were assured of victory - Watford and Wokingham (both new Goal Towns), and Glasgow and Torquay (both lapsed Assemblies). Three subsequent pioneer offers for Chester then assured this new Goal Town of Assembly status, thus

leaving only one Goal Town, Pontypridd in need of two more believers to complete this particular target. The pivotal centre of Dublin was especially stressed as being in dire need of three pioneers. A little later the required number of offers were made by the friends present, one of whom caught the boat that very night. The report showed that 40 pioneers had arisen this year and a further 23 offers had been registered for action. The number required to fill the Goal Towns of the Ten Year Crusade stands at present at 89. But there are 11 Assemblies below numbers needing 27 believers in all. These Assemblies must be maintained, so that a total of 116 gaps must be filled to establish the required number of 48 Local Spiritual Assemblies.

In addition, there are at present 4 active teaching groups: Burnley with 3 believers, Sutton Coldfield with 5 (2 of these are recent declarations), Swinton with 4, (one friend from Manchester with her younger sister offered to pioneer here during the Conference), and Epsom, which is to be congratulated on having 9 believers now.

This session closed with reports from the Teaching Units, (these are summarized for you in this issue) which indicated a lively and active approach to teaching work and showing clearly that this interchange of visits does indeed encourage and stimulate the Friends.

The last session in the afternoon opened with an appeal for "Vital Action" and the arising of Pioneers now to serve the Cause. It was during this afternoon session that the five pioneer offers were made. During the morning session a suggestion was made from the floor that the 116 gaps mentioned above should be filled by 1962 to allow one year in which to consolidate, and before the Conference was brought to a close by Hand of the Cause, Dr. Muhlschlegel, it was unanimously agreed by all those present that our goals should be won by Ridvan 1962 and consolidated by 1963, so that the 48 Local Spiritual Assemblies should be firmly and safely established by the end of this unique and most precious glorious Ten Year Crusade of our dearly beloved Guardian. This decision may well indeed turn Teaching Conference 1961 into the most memorable of all.

6.

Names of the 48 British Local Spiritual Assemblies at present listed to be completed during the Ten Year Crusade, showing the 20 Goal Towns, the 11 Assemblies at present below numbers, and the source of the 40 pioneer moves achieved since Teaching Conference, 1960.

GOAL TOWNS

<u>NAME OF GOAL TOWN</u>	<u>Need</u>	<u>NAME OF GOAL TOWN</u>	<u>Need</u>
Aberdeen	8	Inverness	5
Bangor (Wales)	8	Loughborough	6
Blackburn	6	Motherwell	4
Canterbury	4	Peterborough	5
Carlisle	7	Pontypridd	2
Chester	0	Salisbury	6
Cork	8	Torquay	0
Exeter	7	Watford	0
Glasgow	0	Winchester	6
		Wokingham R.D.	0
		York	7

TOTAL NUMBER OF GAPS IN GOAL TOWNS 89.

LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES

<u>ASSEMBLIES BELOW NUMBERS</u>		<u>PIONEERS FROM ASSEMBLIES.</u>
Blackpool	1	
Brighton	4	
Cambridge	4	1
Dublin	3	
Hove	4	1
Leicester	1	
Newcastle	2	1
Northampton	2	
Nottingham	2	3
Oxford	1	1
Sheffield	3	1
	<u>27</u>	
TOTAL NUMBER OF GAPS 116.		

OTHER ASSEMBLIES

Bangor (N.I.)	
Belfast	
Birmingham	
Bournemouth	
Bradford	
Bristol	
Cardiff	2
Cheadle	1
Eccles	
Edinburgh	
Leeds	1
Liverpool	3
London	8
Manchester	2
Norwich	
Portsmouth	
Reading	1

26

From other groups 5

From other countries 9

40

TEACHING UNIT CONFERENCESUnit 5

BRADFORD
LEEDS
SHEFFIELD
York

Regular weekly Public Meetings in Leeds and Sheffield Centres. Regular weekly firesides in Bradford, Leeds and Sheffield. Fortnightly firesides in York. Youth Club Social held every Sunday evening in Leeds Centre. Trying to arrange for Baha'i speaker for Leeds University. Ask for adequate notice of visiting speakers. Ask for more American pamphlets. Successful Youth Winter School just held in York. One pioneer offer for York from Leeds and one pending from Leeds to Sheffield.

Unit 7

CHEADLE
ECCLES
MANCHESTER
Swinton

Manchester monthly Newsletter to be replaced by "The Unit Calender." More social activities to be promoted; suggest a Unit projector be purchased. Baha'i speakers been requested by Adult Education Committee for discussion groups. All Holy Days to be observed together throughout Unit. Individuals urged never to travel without pamphlets.

Unit 8

LIVERPOOL
Bangor
Chester

Pioneer appeal made for Bangor. Raffi has got permission for Baha'i speaker at University. Chester bus adverts successful - Liverpool now interested in same. Suggestion that box of free pamphlets be put in some hotel foyers. Friends to say long obligatory prayer and Tablet of Ahmad daily for success in teaching. All Holy Days to be observed. Baha'i scrapbook to be compiled.

Unit 9

BIRMINGHAM
LEICESTER
NORTHAMPTON
NOTTINGHAM
Loughborough

Stressed need for deeper knowledge of Faith through study. Personal Baha'i libraries should be steadily built up by individuals. Need for grandiose schemes of teaching to be forgotten - individual teaching best. Ask for adequate notification of visiting speakers. Remember Baha'i books in Public Libraries - see they are taken out. Use literature more - good American pamphlet packs now available through Sales Committee.

Unit 10

CAMBRIDGE

NORWICH

Newmarket

Peterborough

Recommend opening special Temple Fund. Ask for wider availability of American pamphlets, especially "What is a Baha'i", ask for clarification of procedure of ordering American pamphlets and what is available.

All communities in the Unit ask for the help of travelling teachers in addition to plans for increased interchange of friends within the Unit. Cambridge ask for Weekend school. Reminder to use, and add to, books in Public Libraries.

Unit 13

HOVE

BRIGHTON

LONDON

Canterbury

Watford

Epsom

Hove 4 Believers, Brighton 5, Canterbury 5, London approximately 120, Epsom and Watford will have 9 each in the immediate future when Pam Fairchild and Marion and David Hofman have moved in respectively. Regular activity takes place in all except Hove.

Recommended that: 1. A school for deepening should be held monthly on Sunday afternoons. 2. A list of all meetings and firesides be circulated throughout unit. 3. More American pamphlets to be on sale. 4. Keep using and adding to books in Public Libraries. 5. Goal Towns in Unit should help each other. 6. London L.S.A. to investigate forming Students Association in London University. Offers to visit regularly Hove/Brighton and Canterbury received. Prayer requested for all Goal Towns. Watford to hold readings from the World Scriptures every Sunday morning.

Unit 15

Exeter

Torquay

Recommend opening a special Temple Fund. Individuals asked to correspond with lone pioneers. Baha'i speaker requested by Student Christian Movement at Exeter

University. Suggested visual displays be used more frequently with help of attractive American pamphlets. Activities: regular weekly firesides Exeter, meetings in Torquay Centre, and monthly public meetings in both at weekends using same speaker to save travelling expenses. Sunday evening youth socials held in Torquay Centre.

10.

Unit 16

CARDIFF

Pontypridd

Most important task at present is Goal town of Pontypridd. The Caerphilly friends to concentrate their efforts here. To

hold monthly public meetings here with weekly firesides in between following Dr. Muhlschlegel's plan. Four speakers offered to prepare talks along the lines of this plan to give firesides in Caerphilly, Cardiff and Pontypridd starting in January.

WEEKEND SCHOOLS IN FEBRUARY

Dublin	11th/12th February
Chester	25th/26th February

A One-Day School is to be held in Blackburn at the Y.W.C.A. on Sunday, 12th February.

DATES OF FUTURE N.T.C. MEETINGS

February 4th/5th.	March 4th/5th.
March 25th/26th.	

SUMMER SCHOOL

A Summer School has been arranged at Coleg Harlech from July 8th to 22nd; you will be receiving booking forms fairly soon and we hope that as many non-Baha'i friends as possible will be encouraged to attend.

RECENT BAHAI PUBLICITY

Much publicity has recently been gained for the Faith through the Dedication of the Kampala Temple on 15th January, 1961, largely due to the energetic efforts of the Public Relations Committee. Notices appeared in the "Times" and the "Telegraph" as well as many local papers. Many communities held meetings to celebrate this occasion of the Dedication of the Mother Temple of Africa, and themselves were successful in arranging local newspaper publicity.

The friends will be thrilled to know that 4 British Baha'is from this country were present at the Dedication of the African Temple - Mr. David Hofman, the official representative of the British National Spiritual Assembly, Miss Beatrice Newman from Cardiff, Wales. Mrs. Lizbeth Greeves from Northern Ireland, and Mr. James Robertson from Edinburgh, Scotland!

World Religion Day

This popular occasion has once again provided a valuable source of Baha'i publicity and meetings have been mentioned in several local newspapers. To our knowledge to date, highly successful meetings were held in Edinburgh with an audience of 120, Bournemouth with 80 people attending and Cardiff with 40.

TO LOOK FORWARD TO

Marzieh Gail's broadcast in Woman's Hour is fixed for January 31st., which, as you know, is from 2 to 3 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to bring new friends together and perhaps Marzieh's talk could be followed by discussion.

We also understand that Miss Beatrice Newman is to be interviewed by the B.B.C. on her return from Kampala for the early morning programme "TODAY".

A NOTE TO OUR NURSING FRIENDS

It is not necessary to wait for the results of your examinations before making application for a new post. Most hospitals will accept you provisionally pending the results of your examinations, so please consult with us where to make your applications two or three months before you take your examinations.

UNIT CONFERENCES AND WEEKEND SCHOOLS

Due to the growth of the Teaching Units, and the fact that we hope that as many Weekend Schools will be held during the coming year as were held last year, we would like to clarify the lines of communication and the administrative responsibility for these Unit Conferences and Weekend Schools.

Unit Conferences - All Unit Conferences are the general responsibility of the National Teaching Committee, but in so far as they are generating their own activities and calling their own Conferences as and when the Unit, in consultation, decides it is only necessary for the suggested programmes for the next Unit Conference to be submitted to the N.T.C. (a) to keep them in touch and (b) to give them the opportunity of adding to the programme or suggesting a change of emphasis according to the changing needs of the faith as may seem necessary. The Units are functioning well and should continue to increase the tempo of their activities.

Weekend Schools - All Weekend Schools are under the general direction of the NTC and are their responsibility. All details such as dates, programmes, speakers, etc. should be worked out in collaboration with the NTC. Weekend Schools will continue to be arranged by the NTC with the help of the relevant Local Spiritual Assembly or Regional Teaching Committee as seems most applicable.
