

The HOME FRONT

A News Bulletin

o. 27

September 1961.

THE GUARDIAN'S APPEAL TO ALL BAHÁ'IS

"I appeal, as I close this review of the superb feats already accomplished, in the course of so many campaigns by the heroic band of the warriors of Baha'u'llah, battling in His Name and by His aid for the purification, the unification and the spiritualization of a morally and spiritually bankrupt society, now hovering on the brink of self-destruction, for a renewed dedication, at this critical hour in the fortunes of mankind, on the part of the entire company of my spiritual brethren in every continent of the globe, to the high ideals of the Cause they have espoused, as well as to the immediate accomplishment of the goals of the Crusade on which they have embarked, be they in active service or not, of either sex, young as well as old, rich or poor, whether veterans or newly enrolled - a dedication reminiscent of the pledges which the Dawn-breakers of an earlier Apostolic Age, assembled in conference at Badasht, and faced with issues of a different but equally challenging nature, willingly and solemnly made for the prosecution of the collective task with which they were confronted."

Shoghi Effendi.

April, 1957.

N. T. C. LETTER

Dear Baha'i Friends,

The Challenge facing us all

At the time of writing, we have exactly 29 weeks to Ridvan 1962. The date by which the British Community stated they would dedicate themselves to complete their goals. This was first indicated at Teaching Conference 1960, but was later re-affirmed unanimously at Convention by the appointed delegates of the entire body of the believers.

Let us take a moment to survey the Home Front situation. As you will see outlined in the following pages, great progress has been made in some areas, exciting news of teaching activity followed by declarations has increased numbers here and there. Baha'u'llah has sent us pioneers from overseas, that we were not expecting, as if to encourage our efforts, and publicity-wise, the Faith is becoming more widely known.

Nevertheless, we must face facts. We set out-
selves this goal of achievement by 1962, in an atmosphere of spiritual harmony, love and unity. A desire to prove we could 'do it', a desire to lay tenderly at our Beloved Guardian's last resting place, in our soil, a token of gratitude for all he had done for us and to shew him that he had not placed his trust in the British Community in vain, motivated our dedication.

The NTC, all too aware of their grave responsibility, meet monthly, and the NTC Sub-Committee weekly, in a sincere endeavour to carry out their task specifically indicated in their terms of reference, outlined by the Beloved Guardian, "that it is the NTC which is solely responsible for the organisation and conduct of the

teaching campaign". To this end the Unit Scheme was inaugurated, and "the Helpers to goal towns and weak assemblies" plan launched. To enable us all better to understand "the fundamental verities" of our Faith, one of those "rock bottom requirements" listed by the Guardian, the Study Institutes have been planned and are gradually taking place up and down the country. Much of this is now going ahead steadily, and encouraging reports are reaching us from some areas.

A deeper awareness of the challenge must be realised however by us all. The remaining gaps **MUST** be filled by new declarations as far as possible, but especially in the Assemblies below numbers.

If we are all teaching constantly, both by deeds and words, our differences will disappear, unity will automatically be achieved thereby, and the "harvest which" as the Crusade draws to a close "will astonish the entire Baha'i World" will be ours.

The NTC is the servant of the community, but without your co-operation we cannot serve you. Tell us your needs, give us your support. We pledge ourselves to serve you to our utmost, so that together we may lift our heads at Ridvan 1962 in praise of God and with joy go forward to the final year of CONSOLIDATION.

Yours, in His Service,
NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

GOALS FOR RIDVAN, 1962.

ABERDEEN This community now totals 5 - soon to be six when Andie Syme gets there from Edinburgh. They have been greatly blessed by the pioneering spirit of a Canadian family; Mrs. Beattie and three of the children have already arrived, and Bob and the other two boys hope to arrive soon.

CARLISLE Now maintained by four Persian nurses, all striving their utmost. They would so very much welcome a British family to pioneer to this town - Any offers? Joe Jameson and the Newcastle friends are their Helpers.

EXETER This community has nearly reached its goal. With the Bennett's arrival there in a week or two, they will total 7. They have been greatly thrilled to welcome their first native declarant, Mr. Charles Tarr. David and Barbara Lewis are helping them.

INVERNESS Charles MacDonald, the Helper to Inverness, writes, "There is a wonderful spirit in Inverness. Wholehearted devotion to the Cause and constant use of prayer and the awareness of its power. There is no doubt at all that Baha'u'llah will bless these servants and guide to them the pure souls who are to form the Assembly."

MOTHERWELL has just completed an intensive teaching campaign with the valued assistance of Shomais Afnan. They are to hold a week-end school on the 15th/16th October. We pray for a successful outcome of their efforts. This is another charge of Joe Jameson and the Newcastle friends.

PETERBOROUGH The Bridles moved in during August and have now opened their Secretarial Bureau. (Secretaries, please note !) We wish them every success and look for great developments in this Goal Town. Their first public meeting will be held on the 20th October, the Anniversary of the Birth of the Bab. What better beginning ! Ray Humphrey has now been appointed their Helper.

SALISBURY Despite measles and other minor setbacks, this little community is constantly active with the help of Owen and Jeannette Battrick. They need lots of visitors - Bournemouth please note !

SUTTON is in the throes of their intensive teaching campaign - their most successful week-end school, blessed by the attendance of Hand of the Cause, Leroy Ioas, and Mrs. Ioas, brings them half way through. Good attendance of approximately 40 non-Baha'is at different times during the course of the week-end and nearly 60 Baha'is. Excellent panel with local Editor (Buddhist) as Chairman, and representatives of Roman Catholic Methodist, Humanist and Baha'i thought. Town Clerk and his wife attended the last Session. Further public meeting will be held on the 7th October. Local publicity, we are told, is very good - but then Tom is their Helper !

WINCHESTER The years of devoted service rendered by dear Killie are beginning to bear fruit. This community is now 5, Cherry Viveash having joined them in May. John and Valerie Morley are helping in their teaching plans which cover every kind of activity. Recent firesides have had as many as 18 non-Baha'is.

YORK now totals six. They have fixed their own Goal - four Baha'is by Ridvan, and no more pioneers ! A most energetic and enthusiastic group of young people; their confidence is infectious (did someone say 'mass conversion'?). The Gregorys keep a watchful eye.

BURNLEY With Shamaïs and Abbas entertaining the populace from Members of Parliament downwards, anything can happen here. Harry Charles is helping them for a few months, which makes their total 7.

SOUTHPORT With two declarations to their credit already, this community now totals 5. We welcome Mrs. Clegg and Mrs. Jeffrey and wish them every joy in the service of Baha'u'llah. Aldie Roberts is their Helper.

P I O N E E R S

We welcome the arrival from Tunisia of Dr. and Mrs. Collestanéh, who will shortly settle in Sunderland. Mrs. Collestanéh will be remembered for her great enthusiasm and help during the Six Year Plan.

Rouhi Yaganeh has now moved to Aberdeen where we hope she will happily remain until the end of the Crusade.

Dr. Yazdani has at last achieved her desire to pioneer to Dublin. Her brother, Noorullah, will shortly

move to Eccles as he has obtained a place in Manchester University for a year's study.

Mr. Soomo Valayden arrived two weeks ago from Mauritius to take a year's teacher training course in Exeter University, and Noorollah Tooski has arrived from Persia to study in Bristol University. Thus does Baha'u'llah help us.

We are delighted to learn that Roy Mottahedeh is to take up his studies in Cambridge this autumn.

Leonard Lewis has returned from Hong Kong, where he found the Faith, to his native Portsmouth, and we are very glad indeed to welcome him to the British community.

Andrew Gasl returned from his pioneering in Luxembourg to join the community in York, and Tom McArthur has forsaken his Army career to pioneer to Sutton Coldfield.

P.P.Singham moved to Leicester after helping Dublin for three months.

Khrosrov Deihim arrived from Italy where he was pioneering and has joined the friends in Exeter.

Elahe Varqa has now moved from London to Watford and Parvine Arfia has gone to York.

<u>GOAL TOWNS</u>	<u>Present numbers</u>				<u>Goal</u>
ABERDEEN	5	...	...	...	9
BURNLEY	6	...	...	...	9
CARLISLE	4	...	...	...	9
EXETER	6	...	...	...	9
INVERNESS	4	...	...	...	9
MOTHERWELL	5	...	...	...	9
PETERBOROUGH	5	...	...	...	9
SALISBURY	3	...	...	...	9
SOUTHPORT	5	...	...	...	9
SUTTON COLDFIELD	6	...	...	...	9
WINCHESTER	5	...	...	...	9
YORK	5	...	...	...	9
	<u>59</u>				<u>108</u>

49 BAHAI'S NEEDED

ASSEMBLIES BELOW NUMBERS

CHESTER	has	8	Needs	1
WATFORD		8		1
EPSOM		7		2
WOKINGHAM RD		5		4
HOVE		6		3
GLASGOW		8		1
LEICESTER		7		2
OXFORD		8		1
			<u>15</u>	<u>MORE NEEDED</u>

Helpers

... NTC 6 with Aldie Robarts)
... Abbas and Shomais Afnan
... Joe Jameson and the Newcastle friends
... David and Barbara Lewis
... Charles MacDonald
... Joe Jameson and the Newcastle friends
... Ray Humphrey
... Owen and Jeannette Battrick
... Aldam Robarts
... Tom McArthur
... John and Valerie Morley
... Ernest and Joan Gregory

OUR GREAT DEFICIT 64 BAHA'IS

NEWS FROM OTHER CENTRES

PONTYPRIDD is to have its first week-end School in November. May it start the mass conversion of the Welsh villages !

BRIGHTON has had six declarations this year so far.

PORTSMOUTH held a happy week-end School recently. were all delighted to see Olive at the Kensington public meeting , getting more and more active.

CANTERBURY were invaded by the LONDON friends on Sunday, the 24th September, on a day's outing. We recommend this kind of visiting to promote happiness amongst the friends. They took a dozen or more non-Baha's with them.

WOKINGHAM RD are sadly depleted by the loss, first of the Bridles and then of the Sabits, and are needing a Persian pioneer. The area abounds with schools and light industry, and there is an acute shortage of labour.

HOVE Dorothy and Ruhi Sabit hope to move from Watford very shortly. There is a single-woman flat available here for a pioneer - any applications must remain until the end of the Crusade.

CAMBRIDGE has received the constant help of David Hofman during the past few months. He has now transferred his attention to OXFORD. We look to these University towns to set the pace !

BIRMINGHAM Following the Evening Standard article on the Faith in May, on Jeannette and Sarah Battrick's return from Luxembourg, the Birmingham Evening Despatch requested an interview, which was held when the Woman Editor attended the Coffee Morning at Sutton Coldfield. So Birmingham will soon have some free newspaper publicity to help them.

READING Two Boys' Schools requested a Baha'i speaker in July, Leighton Park and a Quaker School. The Sixth Form was addressed, the Baha'i Faith being the last in a series on comparative religions. The Form Master afterwards reported great interest and asked the speaker to return next year. Elizabeth Morley is mainly responsible for a speaker being requested by Reading Schools' Christian Union. Four of the boys later attended the One-Day School in Wokingham. Now a second invitation has been received, to speak at their Open Meeting on October 10.

LIVERPOOL recently held a most successful week-end School, most ably assisted by the CHESTER friends. 35 people attended, including a good proportion of non-Baha'is.

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NEWS FROM IRELAND

The Summer School at Mourne Grange has absorbed most of the energies of the Irish friends recently, but steady work is going on. Baha'u'llah has re-inforced the hard-pressed Dublin community by sending a recently-declared Baha'i from Canada, Mrs. Beard, who has come to live in Dublin with her three children, and by helping Dr. Yazdani to get a post in a Dublin hospital.

Grace Prichard has taken a step forward in her

pioneering project by acquiring a small flat in Dublin, and is making the 100 mile journey most week-ends from Belfast - surely a sacrifice which must soon bring its rewards. Both Mehrangiz Munsiff and James Forsythe in recent visits to Dublin made new contacts, among them some Roman Catholics, and sensed a change in the atmosphere of this difficult and most important goal territory.

Both also visited the north and had a number of well-attended firesides, and Arthur Weinberg, who was spending a short holiday in Ulster, was called on for several firesides and a public meeting in Bangor. James Forsythe has made a very useful contact in the Editor of the local newspaper at Carrick where his old family home is situated, and has persuaded him to accept an article about the Faith for this week's issue (Friday).

Regular meetings have started in the new BELFAST Centre, 43 Malone Road, each Wednesday, and Friday meetings are continuing in the BANGOR Centre, 40, Dufferin Avenue.

Three local newspapers have printed a paragraph about Lisbeth Greeves attending the Dedication of the Sydney Temple.

A contact who has not yet attended a Baha'i meeting has bought 21 copies of "Thief in the Night" for distribution to his friends, and several pounds worth of other Baha'i books.

V I S I T O R S

Visitors we have had a-plenty and what a joy they are - Yes, and of course sometimes a little trying arriving on our doorsteps almost unannounced, but nevertheless leaving us with a greater love for the Cause and each other.

We would mention especially Mrs. Doris Holley, who cheered the Brighton friends at their fireside and chaired their Public meeting; stayed awhile in Twyford endearing herself to Baha'is and non-Baha'is alike; visiting also Winchester, Watford, London and the Manchester area, setting us all an example of Baha'i graciousness and willingness to undertake whatever job presented itself. We wish her a very happy sojourn in Neuchatel.

There was Elfrieda Phillipp from Vienna who met so many at Summer School in Harlech before visiting Edinburgh and Inverness.

Dick Backwell - can we call this stalwart friend a visitor? But how glad we are to have him around. We trust that we shall have Vida with us a little longer.

James Forsyth has earned a mention, as he has now joined the ranks of travel teachers, and we know that hearts and doors will be opened to him also, and that he will be a great asset in the teaching field.

Meherangiz is always difficult to keep track of - in Newcastle one day and Exeter the next.

Jeremy Fox gave much comfort and support to the Canterbury friends - we hope he will continue this kind of teaching when the opportunity presents itself.

Mr. Jamshidi, a member of the Pakistan NSA, has been our very welcome visitor in recent weeks, and has visited Norwich, King's Lynn, Birmingham and Bradford. His visit to Cardiff had to be cancelled, but he sent his love to Wales in a gift of books - (preparation for mass conversion ?).

Pouva Murday, Knight of Baha'u'llah from the Chagos Isles, stayed a few weeks in London before going on to America for medical treatment. Those of us who were fortunate enough to hear him speak of his experiences will long remember his deep sense of service to the Cause and great humility.

We have left our most honoured guests until last - Revered Hand of the Cause Leroy Ioas, and Sylvia Ioas now elected Vice Chairman of the International Council, who have given such pleasure and inspiration to the friends wherever they have gone. Theirs was a special teaching tour, geared to the Celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of the arrival in this country of our beloved 'Abdu'l-Baha. It included a visit to Ireland, a public meeting in Edinburgh, the National public meeting in Kensington and visits to Bristol and the Midlands.

Finally our very dear friend, Dr. Lotfullah Hakim, who returned to this country to join with us in our Celebrations, to the memories of his first visit in the august company of the Master. His presence amongst us at this time was a great joy.

We urge all the friends, who have the time to give, to use it in visiting each other, not only to help with the teaching activities, but to spread the love of the Faith amongst us all.

FIRESIDE SUBJECT

Dr. Muhlschlegal's course for close contacts, outlined in Home Front of August/September 1960, has been used with very great success in Reading, Winchester, Brighton, Salisbury and Wokingham RD, with as many as 15 contacts attending regularly each week. These towns feel that their success is due to having the same person to give the talk each week, at the same address. Contacts get used to the speaker's style and in the habit of going to the same place. Two of these towns, after a break, are beginning again with a different speaker, as so many contacts said how much they had learnt.

For the benefit of those who may wish to use it, the teaching, to be covered in four evenings, is as follows:

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

Teaching Manuals are now available from the NTC -
price 2/6d. per copy.

TEACHING CALENDAR

Week-end Schools

October 6/7 - Carlisle
14/15 - Motherwell
21/22 - Northampton
28/29 - York - Exeter (at Exmouth)
and Dublin
November 11/12 - Southport
25/26 - Pontypridd and Leicester.

Study Institutes

October 22 & 29 - Manchester
November ? - Cardiff (date to be announced)

Public Meetings

October 1 - Brighton	Oct. 7 - Sutton Coldfield
3 - Portsmouth	8 - Kings Lynn
4 - Winchester	12 - London
5 - York	13 - Canterbury
	20 - Peterborough

Day Schools

October 8 - Reading
22 - Cambridge

Some Regular Firesides

Tuesdays - Exeter, Salisbury, Watford
Canterbury and Oxford.
Wednesdays - Sutton Coldfield, York, Wokingham RD,
Brighton and Peterborough.
Thursdays - Winchester and Birmingham
Fridays - Chester
Sundays - Kings Lynn

Unit Conference in London - Sunday 8th October at 3 p.m.