

THE HOME FRONT

A NEWS BULLETIN

No. 29

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"Well is it with him who fixeth his gaze upon the Order of Baha'u'llah and rendereth thanks unto his Lord. For He assuredly will be made manifest. God hath indeed ordained it in the Bayan."

The Bab

"The world's equilibrium hath been upset through the vibrating influence of this Most Great, this new World Order. Mankind's ordered life hath been revolutionized through the agency of this unique, this wondrous System, the like of which mortal eyes have never witnessed."

Baha'u'llah

"In accordance with the explicit text of the Kitab-i-Aqdas, Baha'u'llah hath made the Centre of the Covenant the Interpreter of His Word - a Covenant so firm and mighty that from the beginning of time until the present day no religious Dispensation hath produced its like."

Abdu'l-Baha

"Let no one, while this System is still in its infancy, misconceive its character, belittle its significance or misrepresent its purpose. The bed-rock on which this Administrative Order is founded is God's immutable Purpose for mankind in this day. The source from which it derives its inspiration is no one less than Baha'u'llah Himself."

Shoghi Effendi

N.T.C. LETTER

Dear Baha'i friends,

"Firmly grounded, progressive and alert"

For this final year of the Crusade, the N.T.C. has an eight-fold function from the N.S.A.

1. Maintenance and consolidation of all 48 Local Spiritual Assemblies in the British Isles, and ensuring the attainment of the Crusade Goal of 19 Incorporated Assemblies (i.e. 10 more than we have now).
2. Inspiring and assisting Local Spiritual Assemblies with their teaching to enable them to achieve the rapid increase in numbers and multiplication of centres called for by the beloved Guardian.
3. Stimulating teaching activity by lone believers.
4. Circulation of Teachers.
5. All pioneer projects on the Home Front including those of Goal Towns.
6. Development of Groups, other than the Goal Towns of Carlisle and Motherwell.
7. Enlistment of help from National Youth Committees.
8. Co-operation with the newly formed Campaign Committee.

Relations with the Campaign Committee

The Campaign Committee is concerned (a) to prosecute teaching campaigns of wide regional or national impact, such as that recently started in South Wales and those authorised for Northern Ireland and Scotland; (b) to bring Carlisle and Motherwell to Assembly status and (c) to carry out such other projects as may be referred to it by the N.S.A.

The N.T.C. Secretary is also a member of the Campaign Committee thereby assuring the closest liaison.

Consolidation of the 48 Assemblies

We feel we cannot do better than to pass to each one of you what the N.S.A. has already expressed to your Local Assembly in their letter of the 22nd May. "What do we mean by a 'firmly grounded, vigorously functioning assembly'? We mean an assembly that cares for the spiritual life of its community, arranges Nineteen Day Feasts and makes them the centre of that spiritual life, arranges appropriate celebration of each of the Baha'i Holy Days, and helps the friends to understand the significance of each of these events; an assembly that makes sure at each of its meetings that it knows the state of its community as parents know the condition of the members of their family, cherishing the weaker ones, encouraging the younger ones, using every bit of enthusiasm and energy to serve the Cause; an assembly that encourages the friends to see the spiritual significance of giving to the funds, and imparts that confidence that helps the believers to give joyfully, like never-ending fountains replenished from unseen sources; an assembly that realises its main function at this vital time - to spread the teachings, and by the magnetism of its unity attracts new souls to the local community as well as by the carefully planned teaching work it organises. This is our aim, to have 48 assemblies functioning in this way, and it is to this end that the N.T.C. will be working with the assemblies this year."

The teaching work can and must be made the first claim on all Assembly time. It should be constantly the aim to plan ways for each believer to serve in this field, and for each Assembly to review the way the teaching work is going, not only within its own area of jurisdiction, but also in neighbouring areas, seeking opportunities to help nearby Assemblies, groups and individuals to multiply their effectiveness.

Another meeting can always be called for other matters if there is no time for them after discussing teaching, but if such a meeting is called, teaching must still be first on the agenda. Always the most important must come before the merely important. Teaching has been the most important work of all, but now as never before must we exert ourselves. "Perseverance and insistence will crown your efforts with success."

Helper Scheme

The N.T.C. feel it must continue to use the Helper Scheme which was so invaluable last year with the Goal Towns and weak Assemblies. We wish to encourage any of the 48 Local Assemblies to avail themselves of this service; even the Incorporated Assemblies, even the most venerable may well wish for visits from an appointed Helper though naturally not at such frequent intervals as their less experienced or less mature sister communities.

The Helpers are experienced believers appointed and briefed by the N.S.A. who arrange to pay regular visits combining teaching with consultation. It is imperative that they carry out their visits, rain or shine, even if at times there is only one believer or one enquirer to meet them - their reliability is one of their greatest values and the movement itself from place to place has effect.

The work of the Helpers is co-ordinated by the N.T.C. to whom they report.

Goals

The N.T.C. can do no better than once again use the N.S.A.'s letter of 22nd May which reads: "Expansion can come about in two different directions; either in

the Assembly's own town, or in a nearby place or places, and local conditions will determine what sort of goals the L.S.A. should set itself this year", such as: "it may be to double the number of its community; to adopt a nearby village or town; to help to develop a nearby Group; to have parallel goals of encouraging each member of the community to keep the Fast, encouraging parents to mark the Baha'i Holy Days by seeking the co-operation of the School authorities to keep the children away from school on those days, as well as teaching goals."

This, then, is the path which we must tread during the remaining months of the Crusade, those precious few, so few, months left to us to serve our beloved Guardian, a service which each and every one of us will surely give with profound thankfulness that this is our priceless privilege. Our regular attendance at Feasts and Holy Days and our constant use of prayer will be the source of spiritual 'food' which will sustain us in our daily life - living the Baha'i life - making friends, teaching the Cause. On the efforts of each individual will hang the success or failure of the whole.

Individual living and teaching; unity, love and harmony of the community; teaching for the expansion of the Cause - this is the pattern for 'This alert British Baha'i community', so dearly loved and patiently guided by Shoghi Effendi through the Ten Year Crusade.

Yours in His service,

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY NEWS

CANTERBURY The community which has been overshadowed by the leading Cathedral of England, will soon come out into the sunshine if their claim to have 'emerged from obscurity' is correct. They say that they have achieved this (one of the 'prime requisites' laid down by our beloved Guardian) by their recent campaign when they 'invested' in a half-page newspaper advertisement and the shop exhibition. They are now busily tackling the other requirements laid down by Shoghi Effendi in his last letter to the British community.

TORQUAY Adopting the theme of 'The King and I' for their week-end Rally has put this community well to the front of the stage in Week-end School planning. We congratulate them on their new approach and wish them a successful and happy week-end.

GLASGOW Recently held a lively Youth meeting, with 10 contacts.

LEICESTER
and
NOTTINGHAM Are planning a joint week's seminar, which includes a week-end School in each town, public meetings, coffee evenings and firesides during the intervening days of the week. We would like to see more of this kind of mutual assistance between communities, especially those whose boundaries abut on each other. Unity, surely, is strength.

OXFORD Their Youth Group has now formed its own Committee and is making its own teaching plans. We welcome this sign of healthy growth in one of our leading University Cities and wish them every success.

BRIGHTON Have started extension teaching in Horsham where there is one resident Baha'i, with

regular fortnightly visits. This community which is supporting their pioneer to Aberdeen, is certainly becoming 'audacious', another requirement of our beloved Guardian.

NEWCASTLE Planned a series of four Public Meetings to co-incide with the first month of the South Wales Campaign - a sure sign of confidence in the South Wales friends. They continue to help the Group in the Goal Town of Carlisle.

NORWICH Is also planning 'campaign-wise'. We look forward to hearing of their plans and any new ideas which they might have.

Several communities have already 'adopted' a nearby Group for their extension teaching - such is a list of 'mothers' and 'daughters' which have come to our knowledge:-

Chester - Ellesmere Port, a Group of 3

Torquay - Paignton, a Group of 2

Burnley - Nelson, a Group of 5

Brighton - Horsham, a lone believer

Exeter - Exmouth, a Group of 2

Edinburgh- Pitlochry, where there are now 3 Baha'is

Southport Scarisbrick, a Group of 3

WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT A rival for Wokingham R.D.? This Group of 3 is planning towards Assembly status by Ridvan 1963 aided by the Assemblies within its Unit, Liverpool, Chester and Southport.

NEWS FROM THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

This National Committee has, as the first of its terms of reference the vigorous prosecution of the three campaigns: Wales, N.Ireland and Scotland.

The Welsh plan began immediately after Convention. The type of campaign, methods used to bring to the notice of the public the Message of Baha'u'llah, were expected to be, and indeed are different in each area and peculiar to the people of that region. What suits a Welshman, with his love of words and long phrases, does not necessarily suit a taciturn Scot!

The first month of the Welsh campaign is now over and we can report on achievements and lessons learnt. Five methods of publicity were used in an area of 330,000 souls. In this region 20,000 letters were distributed, 180 buses had posters, 4 newspapers had good adverts, 40 posters of the Shrine hung in shop windows and 30 window cards ringed Cardiff. All public meetings were advertised as well as the exhibition. Added to this the Bishop of St. David's was interviewed on T.V. on May 10th and asked if he knew anything about the Faith. His off-hand replies would have encouraged most people to find out more. Yet, after such devoted efforts, performed so humbly by the Welsh community, the 14 public meetings yielded no greater total than 175 non-Baha'is.

Two facts have however given us great heart:-

1) The word Baha'i is now known all over South Wales, and indeed since Meherangiz Munsiff and the Bishop were together on T.V. in discussion on June 1st in which the Faith came off very well thanks to the brilliant handling of the situation by Meherangiz the people of South Wales know much more.

2) Those who attended the public meetings were sincere seekers who bought books and came again, or who appeared at firesides. The harvest might be described more as quality than quantity.

Another interesting fact has been the astounding success of the Exhibition. Open and manned all day, it affords a day-long fireside. The whole community can take turns on a rota. It is reported that during the period it was manned, it was never once empty of enquirers and all showed great interest. They were impressed with the beauty of the Temples, the widespread nature of the Faith as shown in the various photos of believers from other lands, the coloured photos of the Holy Shrines and places of historic interest in the Holy Land, and the variety of literature.

We have learnt many lessons from our first Exhibition and are steadily improving it, and building one more.

It remains to be seen how the plans for Scotland, scheduled to begin on Sep. 2nd, work out. So far the Scottish believers have worked hard and produced a magnificently detailed plan. The only thing is it will require more money than we have available and we thought we should have to persuade them to spend it! Apparently even a Scotsman can throw his bonnet over the border. 'Aye and his wee purse wi' it tew, so there'll be a mite left o'er fur those Irish to spend fur them.'

Still, it is most encouraging to see such energy, drive and ideas. Now we await the plans from Ireland.

Is the Welsh enquirer at King's Lynn the first spark out of Wales?

Please pray for Wales.

U N I T S

News of a Unit Conference held recently in Bournemouth points to added efforts through this medium of extension teaching - this Unit having proposed to make Southampton a Unit Goal for 1963. The N.T.C. urges the friends to use the framework of the Unit plan for developing their teaching activity outside the limits of the Local Spiritual Assemblies; maybe around a group, or lone believer, or to extend into a neighbouring county which as yet is virgin territory to the Faith.

The N.T.C. is looking into the whole plan of the Unit Scheme and will be consulting together on this subject at their next meeting. Meanwhile they would be grateful to receive any suggestions the friends may have towards extension teaching and the fostering of closer relationships between neighbouring Local Spiritual Assemblies.

AIDS TO STUDY

Teaching Manual 2/6d.

Study Course on
"The Baha'i Faith" 6d.

Obtainable from the N.T.C. Secretary, Green Tiles,
London Road, Twyford, Berkshire.

A SUGGESTION

We would be more than delighted to hear from those friends who are planning to devote their summer (or autumn) holidays, in this last year of the Crusade, to travel teaching. Why not plan a tour of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, or even parts of England, making visits to all the firesides, and all the friends, within reach? The Northern Ireland and Scottish friends will be launching their campaigns in September and would welcome friends to help and support. Norwich and Newcastle too, are planning 'campaign-wise' - and are incidentally pleasant holiday spots.

And please do not forget the Islands - Orkneys and Shetland in particular - for an ideal holiday and travel teaching, remembering that the latter is the 'most important'.

A SECOND THOUGHT

The N.T.C. strongly urges the study of "The World Order of Baha'u'llah", or at minimum the section of that book which is printed separately under the title "Dispensation of Baha'u'llah".

Cost? the former 19/6d. the latter 1/6d.

from The Publishing Trust

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

Anniversary - July 9 - Martyrdom of Bab

19 Day Feasts - June 24 - Light Aug. 20 - Names
 July 13 - Words Sep. 8 - Might
 Aug. 1 - Perfection Sep. 27 - Will

Harlech Summer School - July 7 - 21

Registrar: Mrs. Jean Pitcher, Ger-y-nant, Talybont,
Merioneth.

Lyme Park Weekend School - June 15/17

Local Weekend or One-Day Schools

Leicester - June 23/24

Reading - June 30/July 1 (with Youth Day July 1)

Nottingham - July 1

Edinburgh - Sept. 1/2 Youth Weekend School

Cardiff - Sep. 8/9

Some Regular Public Meetings

Canterbury - Every Friday at The Friends Meeting
House, at 7.30 p.m.

London - Every Thursday at the Haziratu'l-Quds
at 7.45 p.m.

Brighton - The first Sunday of every month at The
Pavilion, at 3 p.m.

Bournemouth - The second Sunday of every month, at
The Baha'i Centre, 174 Old Christchurch
Road, at 3.30 p.m.

Portsmouth - Every Thursday at "Arlington Hall", 356
London Road, North End, at 7.30 p.m.

Manchester - Every Sunday at The Centre, 360 Wilmslow
Road, at 7.30 p.m.

Leicester - Every Saturday at The Centre, 126 New
Walk, at 7.30 p.m.

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