

THE HOME FRONT

A NEWS BULLETIN

No. 32.

November 1962

"We love to see you at all times consorting in amity and concord within the paradise of My good-pleasure, and to inhale from your acts the fragrance of friendliness and unity, of loving-kindness and fellowship. Thus counselleth you the All-Knowing, the Faithful. We shall always be with you; if We inhale the perfume of your fellowship, Our heart will assuredly rejoice, for naught else can satisfy Us. To this beareth witness every man of true understanding....."

Baha'u'llah

(From Gleanings CXLVI)

"If one fails to accomplish what he should do, is prevented or unable, then it becomes the duty of others to do so much more than their own duty that there may be no loss because of the lack of others. In other words, that the duty of all is the duty of each; and that each is responsible for the results of all, just as one member of the body should do its utmost to assist and to atone for the failure of any other member. This is true vicarious atonement, arising from the oneness of the human race."

Abdu'l-Baha

N. T. C. L E T T E R

Beloved friends,

"Enrich its store of administrative experience, become definitely self-supporting, and associate itself more closely, through the body of its elected representatives and its (future) Hands with the National and Regional Spiritual Assemblies on the European mainland and in all the other continents of the globe."

In considering these last three of the "seven prime requisites" to which we have been referring in our letters in the "Home Front", we can but be struck by the present situation - one of great opportunity.

For the individual begins to realise his place in the community and in humble fellowship contribute his time, his ideas, his prayers and his material wealth so that the pattern of World Civilisation may be made manifest.

It may of a certainty be said that the British Community has very greatly enriched its store of administrative experience as this "gallant band" so thinly spread over the length and breadth of its island home has been implementing the sustained plans of its National Assembly. Now we find ourselves a community of one thousand believers based on 49 Local Spiritual Assemblies the fruits of these plans which involved the tremendous sacrifice of hundreds of pioneers.

The National Assembly has in many conference called by the Hands of the Cause, associated this community with its sister communities on the European Mainland and we have lately had an inspiring call from the European Hands, the keynote of which is personal teaching. Meantime, at the call of the Hands in Haifa, we have sent pioneers to aid the Australian front to enable them to achieve their Crusade Goals. Surely the last "prime

requisite" has received constant attention.

Even last year in a great effort we managed to become financially self-supporting - the first time in our history - and this we must now surely do without fail each year.

But as we survey the position, we recall once again the beloved Guardian's words: "Their's is the duty to plod on, however tedious the nature of the work demanding their immediate attention, however formidable the obstacles involved in its proper execution, however prolonged the effort which its success necessitates". For with the establishment during the last two years of so many new Assemblies and with several of its many new Groups organising their teaching activities, the base of activities has broadened. No longer the persistent call for pioneers to goal towns - now the call for personal teaching by an ever increasing number of believers, as well as the need for the Local Spiritual Assemblies to enrich their store of administrative experience.

The first one thousand believers were claimed by the plans originating from the N.S.A. The next thousand and the great harvest which follows will be claimed by the 49 Local Spiritual Assemblies and the community on its new broad base. But, as the Local Assemblies consolidate their position and endeavour to become vigorously functioning, we have fallen short of our financial requirements. It is clear from the Guardian's letters that the harvest which will astonish the entire Baha'i World will be gathered only a short time before the World Congress. In the meantime it is our privilege to contribute until it hurts (and on their behalf) that we may meet our commitments.

The Local Spiritual Assemblies should, we feel, while enriching their store of administrative experience, remember two very important facts:-

1. Administration must never become an end in itself. To quote from Principles of Baha'i

Administration: "Now that they (the believers) have erected the Administrative machinery of the Cause, they must put it to its real use - serving only as an instrument to facilitate the flow of the spirit of the Faith throughout the world..... All Assemblies and committees must enable the believers to carry forth the Message of God to the waiting public."

2. It is no good when an Assembly has consulted on a matter and come to a decision for recording, if the Minutes do not record the action to be taken. Similarly it is no good recording decisions requiring action if no action is taken. In the early stages of experiencing the Administrative Order of Baha'u'llah, we all know how very short we fall of His hopes for us.

We must in our administration make teaching the main subject, consider subjects practical to our situation and let the decisions we take call for actions within the capacity of the friends to implement.

In closing these series of letters dealing with the "seven prime requisites" so essential to us at the present time, we must realise that this steady fulfilment involving the individual in his spiritual life and teaching, the community in its association and harmony, and the Divine Institutions of the Faith as channels for the flow of the spirit, will call forth "a still fuller measure of the abounding grace, promised to the believers of an earlier generation by the Centre of the Covenant, the Author of the Divine Plan, Himself."

The seeds have been widely sown, the crop is near ripening. As experienced husbandmen, let us keep testing the crop and be prepared for the harvest.

Yours in His Service,

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

F I R E S I D E S

It has come to be recognised that firesides are the basis of the teaching work. It is here that we first introduce our friends to the Faith which we hold so dear; it is here that we satisfy the seekers disillusioned by the world as they see it to-day; it is here that so often the desire to become a Baha'i is first expressed.

The Hands of the Cause in Europe, from their Berne Conference in June, put forward the following suggestion for our consideration and prompt action:- "a sustained drive must be made immediately to greatly increase the number of fireside meetings. A figure of three hundred firesides a week throughout Europe, was suggested. It is a target to keep in view."

The N.T.C. set a target of 100 firesides per week throughout the British Isles. Below we give the answers which the communities have given:-

ABERDEEN	- Monday evenings
BANGOR (N.I.)	- Friday and Sunday evenings
BELFAST	- Monday and Thursday afternoon; Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings.
BIRMINGHAM	- Weekly (day not known)
BLACKPOOL	- Information not available
BOURNEMOUTH	- Information not available
BRADFORD	- Information not available
BRIGHTON	- Wednesday evenings
BRISTOL	- Tuesday and Friday evenings
BURNLEY	- Information not available

CAMBRIDGE	- Monday evenings
CANTERBURY	- Sunday evenings
CARDIFF	- Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings
CHEADLE	- Wednesday evenings
CHESTER	- Friday evenings
DUBLIN	- Wednesday evenings
ECCLES	- Wednesday evenings
EDINBURGH	- Sunday evenings
EXETER	- Tuesday and Friday evenings
GLASGOW	- Thursday evenings
HOVE	- Tuesday and Wednesday evenings
INVERNESS	- Monday evenings
LEICESTER	- Tuesday evenings
LIVERPOOL	- Wednesday evenings
LONDON	- Monday and Wednesday evenings
MANCHESTER	- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings
MOTHERWELL	- Information not available
NEWCASTLE	- Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings
NORTHAMPTON	- Saturday evenings
NORWICH	- Tuesday evenings
NOTTINGHAM	- Wednesday evenings
OXFORD	- Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday evenings; Thursday evenings (Youth)
PETERBOROUGH	- Wednesday evenings
PONTYPRIDD	- Monday, Thursday and Friday evenings

PORTSMOUTH - Wednesday evenings
READING - Monday and Wednesday evenings;
Sunday afternoon (Youth)
ROMFORD - Monday evenings
SALISBURY - Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and
Friday evenings
SHEFFIELD - Tuesday evenings
SOUTHPORT - Wednesday and Thursday evenings;
Saturday evenings (Youth)
SUTTON
COLDFIELD - Wednesday evenings
SWINTON - Monday evenings
TORQUAY - Wednesday evenings
WATFORD - Tuesday and Wednesday evenings
WINCHESTER - Wednesday evenings and Sunday
afternoons
WOKINGHAM R.D. - Friday evenings
YORK - Wednesday and Sunday evenings

Groups CARLISLE - Saturday evenings
ELLESMERE PORT - Wednesday evenings
NELSON - No information available
WHISTON R.D. - Monday evenings
BIRKENHEAD - Tuesday evenings
GRIMSBY - Thursday evenings
HULL - Wednesday evenings
GREENISLAND - Wednesday afternoons
RAF FAIRFORD - No information available

We have learnt that in some places firesides are held less frequently than once a week, and two Assemblies have added a monthly fireside to their weekly list. This news comes from:-

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| LONDON | - One per month in Croydon area; alternate Saturday evenings (Youth). |
| EPSOM | - One fireside per month. |
| PETERBOROUGH | - An extra fireside the second Sunday afternoon in every month. |
| LEEDS | - Fortnightly on Wednesdays |
| MANCHESTER | - Study evening fortnightly on Fridays. |
| NORTHAMPTON | - Four evenings planned commencing 20th October. |
| LEICESTER | - One extra weekly fireside when convenient. |

The total weekly firesides throughout the British Isles is now - 80 - plus those held less frequently.

There are still many more held as and when the need arises. Can we make our target of 100 by the 1st December?

A REMINDER

AIDS TO TEACHING

TEACHING & CONSOLIDATION HANDBOOK

Price 2/6d.

THE BAHA'I FAITH STUDY COURSE

Price 6d.

Obtainable from the N.T.C. Secretary

A Wider Dissemination of
Baha'i Literature

Between August 12th 1944 and August 30th 1957, the beloved Guardian referred to "A wider dissemination of Baha'i Literature" many times. His last letter to us is unique for the way he listed certain prime requisites we must needs fulfil before a new chapter opens in our history and he finally reiterates certain "rock-bottom requirements" which alone can guarantee this blissful era he outlines. Amongst these "rock bottom requirements" a "wider dissemination of Baha'i literature" follows, listed after "a greater measure of publicity". We should therefore examine in our L.S.A's and groups, this subject of dissemination.

May we draw your attention to the article on page 14 in the Baha'i News headed "N. Dakota believers carry out State-wide book placement project". Space prevents us reprinting this article, but we urge the friends to study it. This was obviously a highly organised campaign and in view of our financial circumstances in this country, beyond our capacities at the moment. However, we can learn a great deal from this report and certain aspects of it can be achieved here on a less ambitious scale.

Dissemination of literature in the U.K. falls into three distinct categories:-

1. Libraries.
2. Book shops.
3. Individual placing of books and pamphlets by either individual believers or organised by the L.S.A. or group.

Libraries Your attention is drawn to the impressive fact that under the International Registration of books by the Dewey Decimal System, the Baha'i Faith possesses its own Number of Classification: Number 299.15(1) - Baha'i Faith. This fact should always be mentioned when presenting books to libraries and in libraries where books are already placed, believers should check that books on the Faith are classified correctly, and are not shelved with "Comparative Religions" or others.

Every library in towns where Baha'is reside should contain some Baha'i books. As many as we can persuade the librarian to accept and in some cases even buy. To insure that these books are always readily available to the public, it is suggested that one believer in each L.S.A. or group takes on the job of checking the library shelves regularly. Reason: if for a time the public do not read the books, the librarian may relegate them to the stock-room which is out of sight of the public and then they can only be obtained on request. It is helpful if this believer is a member of the library, for then if he finds such a situation existing, and knowing of the books that should be displayed, he can request a book, take the book out, like any other borrower, return it after two days, repeating the process until he has "borrowed" all the Baha'i books, which then wend their way back onto the shelves again for normal display and borrowing. Sometimes it is necessary to check every two months, until by the aid of publicity for the Faith from our activities, other readers are also seeking to borrow these books. It is even sometimes advisable to ask a contact to borrow from the library should the local community's copy be in use, thus getting him into the library habit and keeping the community copy free for people who may not possess a library ticket.

The believer who has this task should also, IF he finds the books ON the shelves, look inside the front

covers of every one, reporting back to his group or L.S.A. on how frequently they are being taken out. Should he find that they are out often, and indeed on a visit find all the books out, on enquiry at the desk, it might be the moment to draw to the librarians attention the fact that these books are obviously much sought after, and in view of the increasing awareness of the public to this rapidly expanding Faith, the local believers feel the library should stock more books on this subject, or even 2nd copies of the same book. One library known to us has "All Things Made New" in both the reference library and the lending section.....both of which copies they bought. Recently the librarian rang the believer to point out that some of the books had been out so frequently they were shabby and would the Baha'is either like to present further copies or have them recovered by the library as was their normal custom with soiled covers.

We should also remember that many towns have more than one library and County libraries are usually the parent library for the travelling vans which visit the villages. This last can carry our books to corners as yet unreached and the parent library may well be pleased to take 2 or 3 of the same book. | All books for libraries must of course be cloth-bound.

As will be seen from the article in Baha'i News already referred to, many other societies, schools, seats of learning, hospitals, homes for the aged and blind can be presented with copies for their own library shelf, but these should not be tackled until the Public Libraries have been dealt with. Each L.S.A. or group should certainly endeavour to carry out this library book placement in their own town if they have not already done so.

Book Shops Excellent work has been done in the past by some individuals, groups and L.S.A's in persuading a local book-shop to take and display

either one kind or several Baha'i books. Frequently the "Talisman" series are the most successful in this project. A grave pit-fall however has been brought to our notice. A willing book-shop owner in one area did display books, and having no sale was disinclined to stock further books. Thus a possible opening for further books may have been lost. When this method is to be tried, the book-shop should be visited by a circumspect believer who should carefully note if the Baha'i books are selling. If on learning that they are not, the group or L.S.A. should urge the local believers to buy future copies they may need to give to contacts, from this shop. Thereby encouraging the shop-keeper.

Individual placing of books or pamphlets by either individual believers or organised by the L.S.A. or group.

In this category there are two sections:

- (a) Private giving away of pamphlets and books to individuals who may be friends or contacts or people whose interest might be claimed because of their known views, and
- (b) Planned placement to individuals or elsewhere by the L.S.A. or group.

Both of these methods are excellent and need encouragement. Careful and wise consideration should always be given in both instances so that there is the minimum of wastage; indiscriminate pamphleteering is avoided and no offence is given, in order that the maximum results may be achieved.

The widespread publicity in 5 Continents of the new Temples leads us to believe that Travel Agencies arranging cultural tours may well be grateful for correct information on the Faith, as these buildings may well figure on their list of sights to be visited.

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* TEACHING CONFERENCE *
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DATE 29th and 30th DECEMBER 1962
PLACE TEMPEST ANDERSON HALL,
MUSEUM GARDENS, YORK.

The last Teaching Conference of the Ten Year Crusade - the last opportunity to consult on our service to our beloved Guardian. Who can fail to make every effort to attend this historic occasion?

"A sacred responsibility.....faces each and every member" of the British Baha'i community, to give account of their stewardship of the Plan so lovingly and confidently given into their hands by Shoghi Effendi in his Convention Message of 1953 - this Plan which he warned would demand "complete sustained consecration". A plan which he prayed "may witness..... fruition seeds hand Centre Covenant so lovingly patiently sowed course twice repeated visit heart of British Empire".

We urge most earnestly that every Baha'i should endeavour to be present at this Conference. Assemblies and Groups are particularly urged to consult together to ensure that, at least, their community will be represented by one or more of their members.

We wish to bring to your notice now the need to (a) make early railway booking for which there are special facilities, and (b) to make early reservations for overnight stay. There are plenty of Hotels and Guest Houses which will suit all pockets.

RAIL FARE A special concession is made by British Railways to delegates attending a Conference at which the attendance is not less than 50. This is a special travel rate of a return fare from any part of England, Scotland and Wales at the price of $1\frac{1}{2}$ the normal single fare. (Thus a Return Fare from London to York at concession rates will be 70/11d. compared with 94/6d. the normal return fare).

This concession can only be obtained on production AT ANY RAILWAY STATION of the necessary application form. This application form relating to Teaching Conference 1962 can be obtained ONLY from the N.T.C. Secretary, Green Tiles, London Road, Twyford, Berks.

The application form is applicable for single or bulk issue of tickets. Therefore a family or community can obtain all the tickets it requires on the submission of one form. Children under 14 will travel at half the cost of the adult concession fare. The concession rate is available to single travellers as well as to those travelling in a party. Coach reservations on both the outward and return journeys can be arranged, free of charge, for parties of 50 or over (London please note).

RESTAURANT As there are few restaurants open on Sunday in York, arrangements are being made for a reservation at one suitable restaurant for a mid-day meal on Sunday at a cost of approximately 6/6d. per head. The friends are asked to notify the N.T.C. if they wish to avail themselves of this service. Please do not delay in making your reservations, otherwise you may have no Sunday lunch.

HOTELS A list of Hotels within the vicinity of the Conference Hall is given separately. The friends are urged to make their reservations early, and they MUST be made direct. The N.T.C. cannot handle hotel bookings.

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ORGANISED GROUPS

A Clarification

Attention has been drawn to the paragraph on "Organised Groups" on page 11 of the September issue, and it would appear that the following clarification is required:-

Whilst the Organised Group can initiate its own teaching activity - and indeed is encouraged to do so - it is under the jurisdiction of the N.T.C. until such time as it achieves Assembly status.

The N.T.C. strongly encourages such groups to also begin developing their 19 Day Feasts and their celebrations of Holy Days in anticipation of the time when they become an independently functioning Divine Institution.

FOR POP FANS

"LP for fun. In 'Linger Awhile With Vic Damone' Capitol T1646, it's a case of off with the old Vic and on with the new. This turbulent, highly emotional American pop idol has changed his style; he's now warmer, richer, more gentle and relaxed. And how I prefer his work this way! You can savour the transformation in love songs such as "Stella by Starlight" and "Close Your Eyes"; this is the voice of a man who, I'd say, has come to terms with himself and found happiness. His diction is a delight. And the backing adds just the right note of astringency to Vic's sentiments."

Quote from a magazine. Interesting don't you think. He only became a Baha'i a few months ago. There's more than one way to teach the Cause. Vic's obviously trying to live his.

BAHA'I CALENDAR

<u>Holy Days</u>	November 12	-	Birth of Baha'u'llah
	November 26	-	Day of the Covenant
	November 28	-	Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha

<u>Feasts</u>	November 4	-	Power
	November 23	-	Speech
	December 12	-	Questions
	December 31	-	Honor

TEACHING CONFERENCE will be held at the Tempest
Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens,
York, on the 29th/30th December 1962.

Further particulars are given inside.
PLEASE MAKE PLANS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY
TO BE REPRESENTED AT THIS LAST TEACH-
ING CONFERENCE OF THE TEN YEAR CRUSADE.

Weekend Schools

November 2/5	-	Belfast (Youth)
4	-	Wokingham R.D. Youth Day
10/11	-	Chester
17/18	-	Norwich Youth School
24/25	-	Newcastle
December 1/2	-	Aberdeen
8/9	-	Southport
March 1963 23/24	-	Balston Hall Weekend School