

THE HOME FRONT

A NEWS BULLETIN

No. 38

November 1963

"It is Our wish and desire that every one of you may become a source of all goodness unto men, and an example of uprightness to mankind. Beware lest ye prefer yourselves above your neighbours. Fix your gaze upon Him Who is the Temple of God amongst men. He, in truth, hath offered up His life as a ransom for the redemption of the world. He, verily, is the All-Bountiful, the Gracious, the Most High. If any differences arise amongst you, behold Me standing before your face, and overlook the faults of one another for My name's sake and as a token of your love for My manifest and resplendent Cause. 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

The Baha'i Revelation: Page 92.

B A H A ' I P R O C E D U R E

Acceptance of New Believers

If a new believer lives outside the jurisdiction of any Local Assembly, the declaration is sent to the National Assembly. If, however, he or she lives in the jurisdiction of a Local Spiritual Assembly, that Local Assembly has the responsibility and privilege of considering the declaration.

A declaration may be made in writing or may be made verbally to the Local Assembly at a meeting with them, if that suits the case best. By whatever means seems suitable in each particular case (e.g. consultation with whoever has done the teaching, discussion with the new believer himself, etc.), the Assembly must make sure that he understands what is involved in acceptance of the Baha'i Faith, and the best way to ensure this is sound teaching. The Assembly must make as sure as they can that he understands the Station of Baha'u'llah as the Manifestation of God for this Age, and accepts it, together with the other fundamental beliefs listed on the registration card; the Station of the Bab and of 'Abdu'l-Baha, and adherence to the spirit and letter of the Administrative Order. It is important that he should have read and studied with someone the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Baha. It is desirable also, though not obligatory, that he should have read other books, including some of the Baha'i Scriptures.

If a Local Assembly is satisfied of the declarant's faith, and his sincere desire to be a member of the Baha'i community, then they will accept him. After this he is asked to fill in the printed registration card which, signed also by the L.S.A. Secretary, is sent to the National Assembly for confirmation by sealing.

In the words of the beloved Guardian, through his Secretary:

"As regards the admittance of new members into the different groups as declared Baha'is, and the expulsion of any from the community, Shoghi Effendi believes that the Assemblies should be wise and most considerate, otherwise they can do much harm to the body of the Cause. They should see to it that the newcomer is truly conversant with the teachings, and when he expresses his belief in the revelation of Baha'u'llah, knows what he is saying and what are the duties he undertakes."

Withdrawal of Believers from the Faith

Unfortunately, it happens occasionally that a member of the Baha'i community expresses the wish to withdraw from the Faith. If he is not living in a Local Assembly area, the matter is dealt with by the National Assembly. If, however, he is in the jurisdiction of a Local Assembly, that Assembly takes the first steps and has the responsibility of trying to help him.

There are cases where a believer, obliged by circumstances to be completely inactive, feels badly about it and thinks it would be better to withdraw from the Faith than to do nothing to serve it. Such a friend must be reassured and helped to understand that the only basic requirement for being a Baha'i is belief in Baha'u'llah as the Manifestation of God. If he believes, he is a Baha'i. The Local Assembly should in such a case take every care to keep in touch, to encourage, and to urge them and all the local believers to pray for the removal of his difficulties. Friends thus deprived of active service can be reminded too, that constant prayer for the progress of the Faith and the believers, is in itself a very great service.

Sometimes the wish to withdraw is a result of personal feeling or friction, or a sense of injury. Then it is the Local Assembly's first duty to help the friend in question to understand that nothing matters except belief in Baha'u'llah, and the Faith cannot be judged by its human adherents, and that suffering in His Path takes various forms; and secondly to try and get the difficulties straightened out and harmony restored.

If, on investigation, it is found that the wish to withdraw really does indicate that belief in Baha'u'llah has been lost, or did not really exist, such a friend should of course be treated with kindness and understanding, and efforts can be made in the hope of fostering their faith in the Cause. If, however, after a time their desire to withdraw persists, the matter must then be reported to the National Assembly.

A Local Assembly cannot accept a withdrawel.

The Guardian has said:

"Life is a constant struggle, not only against forces around us, but above all, against our own 'ego' Generally speaking, nine-tenths of the friends' troubles are because they don't do the Baha'i thing, in relation to each other, to the administrative bodies or in their personal lives."

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TEACHING CONFERENCE

Every Baha'i heart has been thrilled and uplifted by the recent Message from the Universal House of Justice - giving a glimpse of the power and determination of that august body to prosecute with all speed and effort the beloved Master's Divine Plan. We look forward with ever increasing anticipation to the Nine-Year Plan to be given to us at Ridvan.

We thank God that He has given us this year to prepare ourselves for the tasks ahead - tasks that will bring our beloved Faith to the fore in the national life of our country - that will scatter us inevitably far and near in the expansion and world wide development of the Faith.

It behoves us to be ready, and at our Teaching Conference this year we shall not only be required to give account of our stewardship, but must show what reserves of manpower, funds and experience we shall have to draw upon when we receive the Plan at Ridvan.

Let us share together our hopes and expectations at Teaching Conference - to be held this year at The Shoe Trade Hall, St. James Street, Humberstone Gate, Leicester.

The date - January 11/12, 1964.

A list of hotels is included in this issue - please make your reservations as quickly as possible so that you are not disappointed. Please also make these arrangements direct with the Hotel of your choice.

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We very much regret that we are unable to obtain cheap travel facilities, as we were able to last year. British Railways' experiment in this direction does not seem to have encouraged them to continue this privilege. It is possible, however, to arrange cheap travel for parties, and the friends should make enquiries about this at their own Railway Stations.

The next issue of Home Front, due about the middle of December, will contain the Programme of Teaching Conference - and any other information we can give to the friends to facilitate their visit to Leicester and enable them to enjoy what we feel must surely be THE Teaching Conference of all Teaching Conferences.

Meanwhile make your plans to be there - at:

Shoe Trade Hall, St. James Street,
Humberstone Gate, Leicester.

All Corporation 'bus services (except Outer Circle) run to the Clock Tower, the geographical centre of Leicester, and ALL Hotels are on or very close to a 'bus route. The Shoe Trade Hall is about 200 yards from the Clock Tower, but many of these 'bus routes actually terminate closer to St. James Street.

The address of the:-

Y.M.C.A. is Granby Street ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile from
Clock Tower)

Y.W.C.A. is Granville Road ($\frac{3}{4}$ ditto)

but both are almost always full with permanent bookings.

HOTELS and GUEST HOUSES in LEICESTER

<u>Name</u> <u>£1 or under</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Tel.</u>	<u>Rooms</u>	<u>Distance</u>
Cobden	106 New Walk	21592	26	$\frac{3}{4}$ mile
Barclay House	21 Saxby Street	22617	7	$\frac{3}{4}$ "
Ingledene	368 London Road	76969	11	$1\frac{1}{4}$ "
*Rainbow & Dove	185 Charles Street	59872	6	$1\frac{1}{2}$ "
*Victory	Gt. Central Street	22421	5	$1\frac{1}{2}$ "
*De Montfort	Wellington Street	27079	2	$1\frac{1}{2}$ "
Comfort Guest House	20 Saxby Street	28767	11	$1\frac{1}{2}$ "

21/- to 23/-

*Albert	222 Humberstone Rd.	21453	8	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
*Carlton	25 Loughborough Rd.	61929	12	1 "
*Empire	217 Fosse Rd. North	21602	7	1 "
*Freemans Arms	Aylestone Road	21661	7	1 "
Knighton Lodge	5 Knighton Pk. Road	73501	14	1 "
Prebend	Prebend Street	22181	18	$\frac{3}{4}$ "
Burlington	Elmfield Avenue, London Road.	75112	16	1 "
Kenilworth	21 De Montfort St.	27996	12	$\frac{3}{4}$ "
Stoneycroft	Elmfield Avenue, London Road.	76067	15	1 "
Malvern	37 Upper Tichborne St.	57321	10	$\frac{3}{4}$ "
Gordon Lodge	344 London Road	74608	18	$1\frac{1}{4}$ "

23/6d. to 26/-

*George	Haymarket	21134	24	$\frac{1}{4}$ "
*Rowans	290 London Road	75364	15	$1\frac{1}{4}$ "
*St. Albans	St. Albans Road, London Road.	22002	40	1 "
Merridale	263 London Road	76771	14	$1\frac{1}{4}$ "
Park	125 London Road	24835	18	1 "
Thornwood	1 Stoughton Road	77264	9	$1\frac{1}{4}$ "

27/6d. to 28/6d.

*Midland	Princess Road	22097	42	$\frac{3}{4}$	mile
Alexandra	342 London Road	73056	16	$1\frac{1}{4}$	"
Tranby	Elmfield Avenue,				
	London Road.	78119	27	1	"
Heathfield	236 London Road	77571	34	1	"

32/6d.

*Belmont	De Montfort St.	24968	56	$\frac{3}{4}$	"
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40/- (Trust House)

*Bell	Humberstone Gate	29351	95	150	yds.
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N.B. * Indicates licenced premises, the smaller ones being of the 'public house' type.

Rates are for Bed and Breakfast for single rooms, the number of bedrooms quoted is the total of both single and double.

Distances are quoted from the Clock Tower.
(see page 6).

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THE BAHAI' I FUND

The Cause of God is a growing organism whose life blood is the Baha'i Fund. The only purpose of the Baha'i Fund is to help the Cause of God to grow.

Whatever we possess is by God's grace. To give part of it back in His Service and to help His Cause to grow is our privilege and glory. This is why our actual giving, little or much, regular or irregular, is a measure of the vitality of our devotion, and our measure as healthy functioning members of His Cause.

At this hour, the beginning of a new epoch of unprecedented growth and development of the Cause, the need is great; urgent. No time is inappropriate for giving, no amount is too small, and we should give as regularly as we can. The widow's mite given in love and with sacrifice can help to conquer the world and hasten the Golden Age of Baha'u'llah.

Every single believer is called upon to help.

Let us ponder the needs of the Fund constantly on our own. Let us insist on full consultation together about the Fund at the Nineteen Day Feast.

These are the Funds - all parts or aspects of the Baha'i Fund - which need our constant prayerful support:

1. International Fund - administered by the World Centre of the Faith, "the supreme organ of the Baha'i Commonwealth" of the future.
2. European Continental Fund - finances the work of the Hands of the Cause of God in Europe and their Auxiliary Boards, thus helping them to

discharge the functions set forth for them in 'Abdu'l-Baha's Will and Testament: "to diffuse the Divine Fragrances, to edify the souls of men, to promote learning, to improve the character of all men and to be at all times and under all conditions sanctified and detached from earthly things".

3. National Fund - finances expansion and consolidation work of the Cause in the British Isles and in the territories overseas allotted to the British Baha'i Community to open and sustain. The manifold activities and interests for which the British Baha'i Community, through its National Spiritual Assembly, carries responsibility includes pioneers, travel teaching, youth work, child education, national publicity, public relations, Summer Schools, Tea Teaching Conference, Convention, National Haziratu'l-Quds, Baha'i Journal, together with numerable and increasingly complex inter-relationships of every degree and kind.
4. European Temple Fund - finances the completion of the Mother Temple of Europe at Frankfurt to which we have pledged £1,000 this year. Great benefits will flow for the entire spiritually starved continent once the project is brought to full fruition.
5. Local Fund - finances work of the Cause in the locality to which we individually belong, in all its potential variety and scope.

In a paragraph headed "The Secret of Right Living" (page 93 of "Principles of Baha'i Administration"), the beloved Guardian has said:

"We must be like the fountain or spring that is continually emptying itself of all that it has, and is continually being refilled from an invisible source. To be continually giving out for the good of our fellows undeterred by fear of poverty and reliant on the unfailing bounty of the Source of all wealth and all good - this is the secret of right living".

Give or send to your Local Treasurer, or to the National Treasurer (Mr. C.R. Macdonald, 75 Eglantine Avenue, Belfast 9, Northern Ireland) who will always apportion a contribution in any way desired.

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Editor's Note

Grateful thanks to those friends who have sent articles and news - which unfortunately for lack of space cannot be included in this issue. We hope to rectify the omission next time.

Items of interest to the friends should be sent by the 25th November for inclusion in the December "Home Front", to:-

Miss Elizabeth Chapman,
36 Park Town, Oxford.

C A L E N D A R

Holy Days - Birth of Baha'u'llah - 12th November
Day of the Covenant - 26th November

Nineteen Day 4th November - Power
Feasts 23rd November - Speech
12th December - Questions

Teaching Conference - 11th/12th January 1964.

World Religion Day - 19th January 1964.

Weekend & Day Schools

Nov. 23/24 -- Pontypridd (at Rhoose).
Nov. 24 - Cambridge
Dec. 14/15 - Leicester

Northern Area Weekend School

Dalston Hall, near Carlisle - Feb. 15/16.

Arrangements for this Area School are in the hands of the Newcastle L.S.A. - applications should be made to the Sec. - Mrs. M. Jameson, 78 Wingrove Rd., Newcastle-on-Tyne 4.

Southern Area - we still need to find a suitable venue for this event - to provide a Weekend School for the whole of the Southern area. Will all the friends in that area please search and let us know at once if they know of a place - to accommodate up to 75 (adults and children).

Issued by the National Teaching Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the British Isles.