

The HOME FRONT

A News Bulletin

Beloved Friends, this is the third phase of the Ten Year Crusade. In less than seven years we shall celebrate through all the world that 'Most Great Jubilee' of Ridván, 1963, perhaps the time of greatest joy which any in our generation may ever experience.

For us in Britain the prospect has never been so hopeful. The toilsome and often thankless service so long and faithfully given by a handful of believers shows every sign of breaking forth into leaf and bud. Already our ranks are wonderfully strengthened. The Cause is vigorous and alert in many towns. The public begins to take note of us. The spirit of the friends is loving and optimistic. Nothing whatever stands in the way of the greatest victories ever won on the Home Front, and we are pledged to a long start in this very year.

Our beloved Guardian has recently expressed the hope "that the work will go forward on the Home Front in a notable manner..." Now, with the tide running with us, let us seize this hour, for it has a great purpose. Our destiny in these islands is "to play a leading role in the future proclamation of the Message of Bahá'u'lláh to the multitudes that live beneath the shadow of the British Crown". Here is the base of future operations, and now is the time to reinforce and supply it.

"If the Bahá'is remaining 'at home' would arise with the same spirit of devotion and fervour as animates the pioneers, there is no question of the remarkable results that would be achieved." Such is the guidance from Haifa to us all. We salute you with love and confidence, as we close ranks on the highroad to Ridván, 1957!

July 1956.

— National Teaching Committee

TEACHING WITHOUT MONEY

With Goal Towns equal to one-third of those won in the Six Year Plan, and with seven lapsed assemblies to re-establish, — a total of 13 Goals for next Ridván, — we find ourselves with a total budget for the Home Front of only £1,000. Were teaching dependent on money, we should throw up our hands! Happily, our beloved Guardian has been guiding us to learn to do without, and even assures us that greater success lies in personal teaching than by any other way.

Half our budget has to be reserved for pioneers and administration, leaving not quite £500, for the circulation of teachers, meetings, publicity, and the expenses of Regional Committees. We have doled this out in all conscience to the seven regions, with an eye to the Goals to be achieved in each.

As we wrote to the R.T.C.'s: "Our Community has undertaken a task this year which will require real vision and ingenuity, devoted individual work, and honest sacrifice. We do not wish you to feel depressed for one moment by the smallness of means, but to get to work to see how you can achieve your Goals despite the means! For our part, we feel sure that this challenge will do us all good, and unite us in love and service as never before."

So, pulling in our belts, shall we not look to the guidance our Guardian has given us? We cannot look to it enough in the months ahead!

"It has been found over the entire world that the most effective method of teaching the Faith is the fireside meeting in the home. Every Bahá'í, as a part of his spiritual birthright, must teach, and the one avenue where he can do this most effectively is by inviting friends into his home once in nineteen days, and gradually attracting them to the Cause... This method is far more effective than advertising in newspapers, public lectures, etc. The Guardian is encouraging the believers over the world... to engage in this method of teaching."

(through his secretary, 31/3/55)

PRIORITIES FOR PIONEERS

We were told by a pilgrim at Convention that now we must translate sentiment into action. We must scatter and spread the Faith. Scattering, our Guardian said, is a spiritual obligation. It was the mandate of the Báb. Bahá'u'lláh has given wonderful promises of assistance. It was the last wish of our beloved Master.

For those moved by this call, we earnestly invite consultation. All Goal Towns and lapsed Assemblies can use pioneers, but some are in greater need than others.

For top priority, where the work depends on the early arrival of more Baha'is, we give:

CAMBRIDGE

NEWCASTLE

BLACKBURN

Are there any stalwarts who will accept the challenge of these towns? If so, please write to us. The power of our Faith will do the rest!

ONE HUNDRED LOCALITIES

We include in this issue a chart naming the one hundred localities in the British Isles where our Faith is represented. We show these by region, as assigned to the seven Regional Committees.

The top three sections, - Assemblies, lapsed Assemblies, and Goal Towns, - are the really important ones just now. They contain the thirteen Goals for next Ridván, the pivotal centres, some small Assemblies needing greater strength, and the thriving Assemblies whose help radiates to all around.

But the future lies very much in the bottom sections, where we must find ways of encouragement without much expense. Letters and visitors are the most promising ways. Who will arise to help?

	<u>IRELAND</u>	<u>SCOTLAND</u>	<u>NORTH EAST</u>
<u>LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES</u>	Belfast Dublin	Edinburgh	Bradford Leeds Sheffield
<u>LARGED ASSEMBLIES</u>		Glasgow	Newcastle
<u>GOAL TOWNS</u>	Newtownards		
<u>GROUPS</u>	Dundrum		Hull Ilkley Normanton Stockton Thornbury Wallsend
<u>CENTRES</u>	Ballynahinch Crawfordsburn Greenisland Helen's Bay Port Stewart	Brechin Humbie Langholme Motherwell	Gateshead North Shields Porteland Rossington Sacrison
Totals	9	6	15

LOCALITIES

<u>NORTH WEST</u>	<u>MIDLANDS</u>	<u>SOUTH EAST</u>	<u>SOUTH WEST</u>
Blackpool Liverpool Manchester	Birmingham Nottingham Oxford	Bournemouth London Norwich	Bristol Cardiff
Blackburn Cheadle	Northampton	Brighton-Hove	Torquay
Eccles	Leicester	Cambridge Portsmouth Reading	
Swinton Hyde Middlewich Sale Salford Stretford	Ilkeston	Hove-Brighton Canterbury High Wycombe Newmarket Salisbury Winchester	Wellington Portland
Altrincham Bebington Lupton Maughold Pleasington Preston Prestwick Walkden	Birstall Coventry Duckmanton Hartwell Loughborough Redditch	Amersham Arundel Botley Burgess Hill Chichester Denmead Grays Old Coulsdon Petersfield Sevenoaks Thetford West End Westcott Wimborne Wraybury	Aberdare Hartpury Newport Paignton St. Ives Talybont
20	12	28	11

THE BIG WEEKEND

Had television looked in on us the weekend of June 16th-17th, the pictures reflected would have lifted our hearts. In London where the N.T.C. was in session, a numerous and happy throng of believers from the South East Region held a Teaching Conference. We do not know details, but we saw believers from many parts, including our joyful Canadian pilgrims, Joyce Noble and Kathleen Hamilton, just before their final leave-taking; and Miss Farrukh Toas, daughter of our honoured Hand, on a flying visit from Paris.

In Greater Manchester, now a hive of activity and plans, Philip Hainsworth spoke in three meetings, - a fireside in Eccles, at the home of Mr. Habibi, and the Manchester public meeting. In recent weeks Eccles has had two new declarations, and is now an organised group and Goal Town. "There is no doubt in my mind," writes Ernest Gregory, "that a growing maturity is apparent and they will go from strength to strength."

In Dublin a joint consultation was held between the Dublin friends and twelve Belfast believers, who had travelled down in Jane Villiers-Stuart's Bedford van. "We certainly shall work with them and they with us," writes Kathleen Hornell, exchanging speakers and conferring on teaching and consolidation. John Craven spoke about meeting the Master in Liverpool. This touched our new Belfast believers deeply." Most unexpectedly, for he was thought not to be well enough to see the Belfast friends, dear George Townsend arrived with his wife and Una. It was a wonderful climax and reward.

The happy tumult of such weekends must bring smiles even to the Supreme Concourse, ever looking down upon us with eager longing to reinforce our affairs. It is just such expeditions and teaching, spreading to all parts of our islands and synchronizing in praise of this glorious Faith, that will attract new souls to the Kingdom of Bahá'u'lláh.

MIDSUMMER MADNESS

Belfast, once the dark spot of the Six Year Plan, is now a heavenly point of light, a bright star of promise. All who go there return to sing its praise. Joining with the new Northern Ireland R.T.C., the Belfast Assembly has just sponsored a Midsummer Symposium, staffed by Philip Hainsworth, Dan Jordan, Adib Taherzadeh, and local friends. Centring around the theme, "The New Era", five public meetings were held from June 22nd-24th. Before that Philip spoke for the I.F.L. And in the week following, several firesides were held. Three new believers have declared during this campaign, bringing the number of recent new Baha'is to five. The energy of these blessed souls, pioneers, old and new believers alike, seems without bounds. Mad and marvellous they appear! May they ever be so.

HIGHLIGHTS OF GOOD NEWS

Birmingham Centre was officially opened and dedicated on June 23rd, with a programme of lively interest and an air of charming hospitality. About thirty guests from eight localities came.

Norwich, a mainstream for all its splendid isolation, is deeply grateful to Ernest Gregory for a feast of teaching on the weekend of June 23rd-24th. His theme of "Automation and Revelation" was a topical approach, "a really wonderful talk".

Nottingham has a new Centre which is in use five times weekly. Here, in the meetings of other Groups, and at noon in the public Square, the friends are making many new contacts. All who know him will rejoice that Joshua Green, our Jamaican brother, is Chairman of the Assembly.

Ted Cardell and Philip Hainsworth, much-loved British pioneers in South West Africa and Uganda, are junketing around these islands at a great rate. We shall later report their tours. Now only these words, on behalf of friends everywhere, to say 'Thank You' for their generous and invaluable help.

WHAT SOME BELIEVERS SAY

"I feel so strongly that it is not a question of finding time for the Faith, but of making every action and every word speak with supreme confidence and absolute humility, that the Truth will one day be known to all. Thus each and every one of us can express our spiritual convictions in all we do every day."

— John Wade, London.

"Pioneering must be experienced; it cannot be adequately described, but must be lived. The uncertainties, the trials and tests, even the failures, and of course the triumphs, give a new feeling of the presence of Bahá'u'lláh's ever-flowing Bounty... Our only regret is that we hesitated so long, considering family, home, jobs, health. Now we know that these matters are relatively unimportant. Bahá'u'lláh takes care of such things. But to us He leaves the choice to pioneer or not. This decision He will not make for us. And it is this choice that can bring such rich rewards."

— Amos and Mary Gibson,
pioneering among the American Indians.

"I suggest ... that all members of the community be invited to consult with either the Local Teaching Committee or a single member of it so as to review the circle of acquaintance they have and their opportunities to serve the Cause and spread the Faith... It combines the obligation to teach with the law of consultation and might encourage people to consider ways of teaching and serving that had never before occurred to them, as well as giving them a stimulus to undertake some helpful service and contribute to the work in the manner that is appropriate."

— Dick Backwell, British Guiana.

"Your Knights are praying and we want you to join us... It is so lonesome at the pioneer posts, but we are happy and believe the Assemblies can give a wonderful answer this year to the Guardian by taking it to their hearts what each one can do... It is not in writing anywhere that Bahá'is cannot do it. We are the ones who have to inspire the world." — Charles Dunning, Orkney.