

The HOME FRONT

A News Bulletin

No.3

October, 1956

"THE DEEPEST YEARNING OF MY HEART..."

We in Britain have been blessed by a wonderful letter from the beloved Guardian, full of praise for past efforts and soul-stirring promise for the future if we do our part. To surpass the splendid victories in Africa, this is his promise for the Home Front and the near-by Islands!

THE CALL IS FOR:

"...A flow of pioneers and a concentration of material resources unexampled in British Bahá'í history."

THE TWO-FOLD FORMULA FOR SUCCESS:

"The phenomenal progress achieved" in Africa "will be duplicated, nay surpassed.." : "Provided that a determination no less unyielding and a dedication no less whole-hearted and complete, will be displayed.."

Bahá'u'lláh "can well enable": If we "but arise to the occasion us "to conquer, with no less : now presenting itself..." rapidity and even greater : effectiveness, the citadels : of men's hearts..." :

"That the entire Community may befittingly respond to the call of the present hour and bring to a final consummation the Mission with which it has been entrusted is the deepest yearning of my heart and the object of my unceasing prayers".

July 11, 1956.

SHOGHI

THE SOUTH EAST REGION

How inspiring it is to be able to report Area News in this Bulletin. The strength of the Early Christians was their Unity. We are so much luckier than they were...this is worth thinking about.

Portsmouth: It was a joy to meet the two new declarants at the Hazira, together with a close contact, brought up by Prudence George. Their meetings are every second and fourth Tuesday in the Rechabites Hall, with weekly firesides in various homes.

Cambridge: On September 5th Prof. Zeine opened the monthly Public Meetings at the "Scotch Hoose" on the first Wednesday of every month. Valerie Morley spoke on October 3rd, a good start for a new Bahá'i from Tilehurst. Firesides are held when possible. Ellen and Shirley Rogers of Newmarket hold firesides and support Cambridge with vigour. Joan Benfield moves into Cambridge in December, making four Bahá'is certain.

Reading: Monthly meetings are held in the Abbey Gateway Room on the second Thursday of the month. Firesides are held every Monday at 8, High St. and Mr. Sabit holds a study group there every Wednesday. The four youths are formulating a Youth Programme, and have been asked to provide a speaker for the International Youth Club.

Brighton and Hove: We congratulate the youth on their new believer and are thrilled to learn of the Ugandan student recently arrived, Nathan Ocaya.

London: Considering the depletion of their numbers all the Friends will be glad to hear of the wonderful meetings attended now by as many as seventy people at their open Thursday meetings. They have three new declarants. A Week-End School was held on October 20th-21st.

In Winchester Miss Kilford is ploughing the ground alone for great things as is Cherry Viveash in Chichester and Miss MacWilliams in Petersfield. John Wade visited Olive Stockley in Thetford and found her so inspiring.

Mrs. Slade in Wraybury wields her pen effectively.

We are holding a Weekend School on March 23rd-24th at The Rosehill Conference Centre, Berkshire. From Saturday tea to Sunday tea, one guinea inclusive.---

South East Regional Teaching Committee
Jeannette Battrick, Bobbie Leedham, Beryl de Gruchy, Bob Jackson,
John Wade.

THE SPIRIT OF PIONEERING

To a recent pilgrim our beloved Guardian observed that the true value of pioneering is to rise voluntarily and with sacrifice.

Writing to a British pioneer and referring to his qualities of "instant decision", "consequent action", and "sacrifice", the Guardian said: "It is qualities such as these, which the pioneer carries to his new post, which attract a reinforcing power from on High, and enable him to create in the hearts of those who meet him a longing to have what he possesses, and ignite in these new hearts the flame of the love of Bahá'u'lláh".

Since last report a number of friends around Britain have arisen to pioneer. We record their names with deep gladness. Barbara Simmonds has taken a resident post in Cardiff. Bobbie Leedham has moved to Reading while still working in London. Shoa and Lamea Nikanpour have left Stockton and are with the Jameson family, the first stage to their pioneering in Newcastle where Shoa has found work. This is a notable project, undertaken with a new baby expected this month. Nuri Sabet has settled in Eccles which is close to his training. Joan Benfield has obtained a post in Cambridge which she will take up in December.

Our Home Front has also been richly blessed by Bahá'í students from overseas. The pace of their arrival is breath-taking. Nathan Ocaya and Marshall K. Guayambade came from Uganda to Brighton and Leicester. Peter McLaren, recent chairman of the National Youth Committee in the U.S.A., has arrived in Glasgow, where Bijan Ghatan of Persia has also come, as well as Robert Spio-Quansah from the Gold Coast. Shaheen Azadeh and Parveen Arfaie have come from Persia to study nursing in Northampton. Rustom Jamshidi flew from Karachi, Pakistan, to Belfast in time for the Weekend School. Barbara Saunders of U.S.A. and Minou Naimi have come to Dublin. Sheffield has been strengthened by Simi Bohi of Persia. Surely our Home Front is under Divine care!

A CALL FOR DUBLIN

This pivotal centre, so closely associated with our beloved Hand of the Cause George Townshend, is in need of at least two adult pioneers. Who-ever can arise should write Miss Jean Campbell, Secretary, E.A.T.C., 106 Banbury Road, Oxford.

THE DISSEMINATION OF LITERATURE

9000 CONTACT MAKERS

Seldom have the time, the opportunity, and the means been better synchronized to implement one of the Guardian's desires. The new leaflet, "Facts about the Bahá'í Faith", has many virtues and is low in cost. It is admirable for the first glad tidings of the Faith.

We learn that there are 9000 copies now available. How many of these can you place in the next few months?

Distribution in the streets and from door to door is not ruled out, but is not considered a satisfactory method, due to the heavy wastage; but all acquaintances however slight, all casual contacts, the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker, all should be presented with a copy. They at least will not destroy it whilst you are present. Send one to all those people you owe a letter to, and to those to whom a letter will be welcome. Give it to that person in the train or bus. Include one when you invite someone to a meeting; give them to inquirers who attend your meetings; take them when you visit other groups, especially when there is a Bahá'í speaker. In short, distribute the leaflet to everybody and his relations!

To encourage this wide dissemination, the N.T.C. will subsidize the price of these leaflets so that from now until Teaching Conference you can obtain them in parcels of one hundred (100) for 5/-d. post free. We make this offer to all Assemblies, Groups, and individual believers in Britain and the neighbouring Islands. Orders should be sent to the Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 39 High Street, Manchester 4.

This is simple and exciting, something easy for everyone to do. So send for the first hundred to-day and "get disseminating"! NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION and the goal is: nine thousand leaflets in the hands of nine thousand possibly interested readers this Bahá'í year.

(Note: Assemblies will soon receive from the Public Relations Committee a suggestion for planned distribution)

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Now that the door has been opened "on a new phase of the unfoldment of the Faith in the British Isles", it is timely and will contribute to public knowledge to see that Bahá'í books are available in public libraries. As there is no national budget for this work, we look to local communities and groups to do what they can. Here are a few suggestions:

- 1) Ask your Librarian to buy a book, but if he will not, donate a book when possible. We suggest :
 - "The Bahá'í Revelation" (compilation by Bahá'í Publishing Trust)
 - "The Glad Tidings of Bahá'u'lláh" (John Murray in "The Wisdom of the East" series)
 - "Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era" by Esslemont (Bahá'í Publishing Trust)
 - "Prescription for Living" by Ruhyyih Rabbani (George Ronald)
 - "The Promise of All Ages" by George Townshend (George Ronald)
 - "Religion for Mankind" by Horace Holley (George Ronald)
- 2) See that you and the other believers borrow Bahá'í books to keep them "alive" and on the current shelves. (The Leeds Public Librarian advised that "Prescription for Living" had been borrowed 71 times)
- 3) Ask the Librarian to classify Bahá'í books according to the standard classification used by the British National Bibliography. The correct number is: 299.15 (Bahá'í).

GETTING BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS KNOWN

It is very important that believers and contacts see and get to know our literature. Here are a few ways that may help:

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| 1) Arrange attractive displays at all meetings and Weekend Schools | : | 3) Give to friends and contacts our inexpensive pamphlets |
| 2) Be sure it is convenient for people to buy and order books | : | 4) Include notes about books in Regional Bulletins. |

TEACHING CONFERENCE AT SUMMER SCHOOL

"One thing and only one thing will unfailingly and alone secure the undoubted triumph of this sacred Cause, namely, the extent to which our own inner life and private character mirror forth in their manifold aspects, the splendour of those eternal principles proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh".

(From "Guidance for Today and Tomorrow", p.194)

The Sunday morning conference at Summer School, planned to quicken the spirit of faith and individual action, were both inspiring and productive. Each consisted of several brief talks followed by general discussion.

The theme for the first conference was taken from the letter from the Guardian, "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."

Adib Taherzadeh opened with a talk on the theme and Ted Cardell spoke on prayer. This was followed by three talks on achievements in the teaching field. Lady Hornell and Dan Jordan spoke on the work in Belfast, Ian Sinclair and Micky Mihaeloff on Firesides, and John Long on the art of speaking. Philip Hainsworth closed the first part of this conference.

The second part was an open discussion on the practical aspects of "arising with the same fervour". Important points were made on publicity and disseminating literature. New circles need new techniques. Quoting from literature encourages contacts to buy Bahá'í books. Use of railway bookstalls, public, prison and hospital libraries was suggested. Pamphlets on different aspects were called for. Dissemination is the responsibility of everyone.

The importance of prayer was also stressed. We should pray in the spirit of humility, seeking guidance, and not trying to impose our own will. Bahá'u'lláh's prayers carry special power because they are the Words of the Manifestation. Prayer was defined as the practice of the presence of God, longing to serve God, and turning to God emptying ourselves of all else.

It was agreed that the older Bahá'is must give the younger and less experienced ones their chance to teach so that they will gain maturity. Teaching should be by attraction. Firesides should express the warmth of the Cause.

"The Spiritual Aspects of Teaching the Cause of God" was the theme for the second conference. Kathleen Hornell opened with a talk on the spiritual life and John Wade spoke on daily living. Pat Sinclair followed on associating with many people, Betty Shepherd on Humanitarian service, and Ian Sinclair on gaining knowledge to teach. Bob Cheek then spoke on the believer in the Bahá'í community, and Marina Nazar on participation in collective enterprises. David Hofman wound up with a lively talk on the believer as a tool of the Guardian.

The Guardian's words "The people of the world are seeking a high standard and pure example and the degree to which they see the Bahá'í life lived by the believers will be the degree to which they accept the Faith", quoted by Prof. Zeine, epitomized the discussion. We must have a happy relationship with fellow Bahá'ís to attract. Love and unity must be noticeable to all. This is often difficult and involves self-sacrifice, as we cannot love everyone personally, but we can behave as Bahá'u'lláh teaches us to do. The work of the youth should be especially encouraged.

Another point was that we must be able to understand rationalists, fundamentalists and other movements of thought, to be able to teach the Faith. A manual answering typical problems was suggested.

It was pointed out that as long as we are the instruments of the Guardian the Faith will progress. We should not worry about it, but do our best. "Once we truly love the Cause", said one speaker, "we long to serve it".

These and many other suggestions were recorded and have been a guide to a number of actions by the National Teaching Committee.

Pat and Ian Sinclair.

FROM HEARTS DEAR TO US

Scattered throughout Britain are believers not able to join in our activities, but who are with us at all times in heart and soul. We share messages from two precious believers, both bearing a load of illness with shining spirits.

Olive Stockley, Mundford, near Thetford, Norfolk, writes:

"Because I know the Faith is the foundation of Good, I see understanding, love, and most of all sympathy shine from all who are Baha'is, who visit or write to me

"When God allowed Evil (pain), He gave the world sympathy and love as His gift, and the good friends, worldwide, grasp both with eager hands and give me much of each. For such hour, evil is turned into a gift, and all who hold on, in whatever way is their portion, help God, and the Faith of the World, Baha'u'llah's. Thank you all".

Dr. John Mitchell says "It was wonderful to have a message from you and I am delighted to be able to send my love to all my Baha'i friends.

"Your prayers have worked miracles; will you continue them for it will be some time yet before I can write my own reply."

FAREWELL, DEAR FRIENDS

Friday, October 5th, saw the departure from Britain of four whose going leaves us both glad and sad. Dan and Nancy Jordan, married in Belfast on September 27th, and Philip and Lois Hainsworth, married at the Haziratu'l-Quds in London on September 29th, carry with them our gratitude and love. Dear Dan sent this message as he went: "The goals of the Ten Year Crusade here are so much in our blood that we'll always keep our eyes eagerly fixed on the British Isles, and every victory and triumph, and all your achievements will bring joy to our hearts. So please know that you will constantly be in our prayers, we'll be back someday-soon we hope- to lend a hand". (For those who care to write the addresses are: Jordans, 922 Laramie, Alliance, Nebraska, U.S.A. Hainsworths, Box 2662, Kampala, Uganda, B.E.A.)