

LONDON BAHAI BULLETIN

BAHA'I CENTRE, 158a, OLD BROMPTON ROAD, S.W.5.

No.110

JAMAL, AZAMAT, 104.

MAY, 1947.

"Baha'u'llah has drawn the circle of Unity, he has made a design for the uniting of all the peoples, and for the gathering of them all under the shelter of the Tent of Universal Unity. This is the work of the Divine Bounty, and we must all strive with heart and soul until we have the reality of unity in our midst, and as we work, so will strength be given to us. Leave all thought of self, and strive only to be obedient and submissive to the Will of God. In this way only shall we become citizens of the Kingdom of God, and attain unto life everlasting".

('Abdu'l-Baha).

Beloved Friends,

We are at the portals of a new administrative year, and your Spiritual Assembly sending you its loving greetings, hopes and prays that we will now all arise with unsurpassed zeal and vigour to serve the Cause of God.

The Spiritual Assembly will soon present you with a plan for the year. The Contribution which everyone can make, whether it is to the administrative or the teaching work, or to the Funds, is of utmost importance. Nothing can be insignificant. Our watchword must be, ever greater sacrifice.

You have received by now the Cable which the Guardian has just sent to our National Community. We bow our heads in gratitude and thanksgiving, begging to prove worthy of his praise and trust. Let us read this cable over and over again and meditate over its message. Elsewhere in this bulletin you will see a report of the Convention and the targets for this year. We attained the goals of the "Crucial Year". This year more is to be done, and greater effort is needed. We must not and shall not fail.

With loving greetings,

Yours in His Fellowship,

THE LONDON SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

CONVENTION AND THE SIX-YEAR PLAN.

Convention, which was held in Birmingham this year on April 26th & 27th, was permeated by the consciousness, in the minds of all present, that we had achieved our goal for the year which has been so often described by our beloved Guardian as "crucial", and "constituting a landmark in British Baha'i History". It was attended by about 75 Baha'is and a few non-believers. A reception was given by the newly-formed Birmingham Assembly on the evening preceding the opening to all the friends and a large number of visitors. The Baha'i speakers included Hasan Balyuzi and Mrs. Slade, and the Baha'i Exhibition was on view. A brief discussion was followed by refreshments. It was a highly successful evening from the teaching point of view as about 90 of the 130 people who attended were enquirers.

The new N.S.A. was elected on the Saturday evening, some delegates voting by post and some others by telephone, as many of those who were working were unable to arrive in time. Results were announced as follows:-

Richard Backwell	Hasan Balyuzi
Marion Hofnan	Dorothy Forester
Mary Basil Hall	John Ferraby
Ursula Newman	Philip Hainsworth

A cable was sent to the Guardian and messages to Marion Hofnan and Una Townshend.

Reports were made by all the National Committees - Teaching, Youth, Publishing Trust, Summer School, Journal, Scripts, Archives, Child Education, Reviewing and Study Course. Paramount among these was, of course, that of the N.T.C. dealing with the progress of the Six-Year Plan.

The Guardian had given us three tasks for the year:- to establish assemblies in the five most promising Goal Towns, form nuclei in Scotland and Ireland, and re-establish the assemblies in Bournemouth and Torquay. Northampton, the first Goal Town to achieve nine members, did so in October. Birmingham and Nottingham in January, and Leeds in April. The number in Blackburn was achieved at the last minute by the transfer of Walter Wilkins there from Birmingham. Mrs. Slade had also gone to Blackburn but a new declaration in the town enabled her to return to London. The fact that this measure was resorted to shows how determined was the N.T.C., and those who supported it, that this year's target should be achieved at all costs. As was stated at Convention, the importance does not attach to enrolling nine new believers but to the establishment of an assembly on new territory. With the completion of the other tasks as well, the target for the year just ended has been achieved, with a safety margin of ONE believer. Twenty-two pioneers have arisen during the year, including five from London:- Sheila Worrall, Walter Wilkins, Robert Cheek, Dick Backwell and Miss Baxter - bringing the total of London's pioneers to seven. We have thus provided, as we should do, more pioneers than any other town in the country, and our members have fallen to 38, making us now only the second largest British Baha'i Community. No amount of success, however, gives a reason for complacency, and in stating our contribution we do not suggest that we have done our share, since the tasks given to us by the Guardian will increase with each milestone we achieve, as his letters frequently show; and the report of the N.T.C. was concerned as much with the future as the past.

Four Goal Towns have been selected for this year: Liverpool, Blackpool, Edinburgh and Bristol. In these towns we do not start with the same advantages of resident believers as we did last year, and the Secretary stated that this year's goals would require a greater effort. The Committee has also decided to strengthen the nuclei already formed - only shortly before a Convention - in Dublin and Cardiff, and to establish teachers, (which the Convention intended to be nuclei or pairs of teachers) in Newcastle, Oxford, Exeter, St. Ives and a town in Northern Ireland. This year's budget is estimated at £4,000, as against £2,414 last year. Much of the money is spent on financing pioneers and travelling speakers. No financial source was mentioned as being likely to provide this sum, but confidence was expressed that it would be found. One of the more dramatic incidents of Convention occurred later with the announcement of an anonymous gift of £100 to the Fund.

This year's teaching programme requires at least 25 new pioneers before Ridwan next year, and 44 believers on new territory, either pioneers or newly-declared Baha'is. The call to the larger communities, like ours, is obvious, for very few of those who have so far gone to pioneer are free to move again, since a community which allows its members to fall below the required nine members would lose assembly status and throw away a gain already made; nor can other voting members leave the new assemblies to pioneer for the same reason.

In conclusion, we would like to pass on to those who were not present a recommendation made at Convention that we should, from time to time, re-read our Guardian's letters about the Six-Year Plan.

 RESULTS OF THE ELECTION OF THE
 LONDON SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

Donald Millar	21
H.M. Balyuzi	20
Mary Basil Hall	19
John Ferraby	18
Vivian Isenthal	17
Isabel Slade	17
Abbas Dehkan	15
Kathleen Hyett	14
Brian Townshend	12

Dorothy Ferraby	11
M. Cheesman	9
Doris Govey	6
Nuran Dehkan	4
A.E. Baxter	4
Freda Champion	3
Marjorie Parker	3
S. Golden Kilford	2
M. James	2
Edith Kahn	1

Officers of the Assembly.

Chairman: Isabel Slade
 Vice-Chairman: H.M. Balyuzi
 Joint Secretaries { Brian Townshend
 { H.M. Balyuzi
 Treasurer: Donald Millar

Appointment of Assistant Secretary.

Doris Govey is appointed by the Assembly to be the Assistant Secretary.

Committees

The following Committees are appointed so far, More Committees are to be appointed.

Programmes

Donald Millar	Chairman
Vivian Isenthal	Secretary
Abbas Dehkan	
Mary Basil Hall	
George Mabbutt	

Centre

Kathleen Hyett	Centre Warden
Freda Champion	
Huran Dehkan	
Mina James	
Edith Kahn	

George Mabbutt

We joyously offer George Mabbutt the warmest welcome into our Community. He declared his faith just before Ridvan and was present at the annual meeting.

19-Day Feast of Azamat (Grandeur)

Saturday, May 17th at 8.30 p.m.
Hosts: Dorothy - John Ferraby.

The Feast of the Declaration of the Bab.

Friday, May 23rd at 7 p.m.

Contributions in kind invited. Please let the Centre Warden know what you are bringing.

A midnight meeting will not be held this year at the Centre, but the devotional programme for this Feast as well as the programme for the anniversary of the Ascension of Baha'u'llah is included with this bulletin, so that the friends may use them individually or in groups, if they can, at the right time.

The Commemoration of the Ascension of Baha'u'llah.

Thursday, May 29th at 5 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Alliance Hall Meeting.

Tuesday, May 13th at 7.30 p.m.

You have already received cards for this meeting.

This is our first public meeting this year.

Come and bring your friends.

Our April meeting was held on Tuesday, 8th April. The attendance was not as large as it has been at some meetings. The programme consisted of a Frains Trust,

with Hasan Balyuzi as question master and the panel consisting of Mary Duffell Hall, Victoria Isenthal, Mrs. James and Brian Townshend.

NOTES AND NEWS.

May Mildred Hofman was born in Birmingham on the 9th day of Ridvan. A long and happy life to her, and heartiest congratulations to Marion and David from our Community.

Our dear friend Annie Gamble, who went to live in Bath at the outbreak of the war, passed into the Abha Kingdom last February. She was in her 99th year.

We have been very happy to see at our Centre Mr. and Miss Maanavi, friends from Tihiran.

Ursula Newman was present at our 19-Day Feast of Jalal (April 9th). It was a great joy to see her at the Centre. Ursula is now pioneering in Dublin.

DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE
FEAST OF THE DECLARATION OF THE BAB.

1. Prayers of the Bab. "Some Baha'i Prayers" -P.7.
2. Readings from "God Passes By".
 - a. Page 3: first 13 lines ending with these words, "of His Messengers and Propnets".
 - b. Page 4: "The first seven lines.
 - c. Page 5: "the opening scene..." to the beginning of the 1st paragraph on Page 6.
 - d. Page 6: the 2nd paragraph.
3. Baha'u'llah's tribute to the Bab.

The Book of Certitude:
Middle of page 230 "though young and tender of age" to the end of the 2nd paragraph on page 231. Then paragraph 2 on page 232 "Could the Revealer..." to "...renounce their lives and sacrifice their souls" on the same page. Then paragraph 3 "And now consider..." on page 233 to the end of the same paragraph on page 234. Then middle of page 234 "No sooner had that eternal Beauty..." to the end of the first paragraph on page 236.
4. Readings from the "Dispensation of Baha'u'llah".
 - a. Page 31 - paragraphs 1 and 3 (ending on page 32.
 - b. Page 33 - paragraph 3 till the end of the first paragraph on page 34.
 - c. Page 35 - paragraph 2 to the end of page 36.
5. Prayer of Baha'u'llah.

"Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah".
Page 300 - "Do thou bless ..." to the end of the prayer.

DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE COMMEMORATION
OF THE ASCENSION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH.

1. The Tablet of Visitation.
"Special Prayers" P.84.
2. A Prayer of Baha'u'llah.
"Prayers and Meditations" P.186 cxi.
3. Reading - "If ye be intent..."
"Gleanings" PP.101-102
4. Reading - "Recall thou to mind my sorrows"
"Gleanings" p.119.
5. Reading from "God Passes By".
p.221 to the end of the 2nd paragraph on p.223.
6. A Prayer of Baha'u'llah
"Prayers and Meditations" p.190 cxiii.
7. A Prayer of 'Abdu'l-Baha.
"Some Baha'i Prayers". No.86 - p.83.

LATE NEWS.

Archdeacon Townshend is visiting London and will speak at the Alliance Hall Meeting on Tuesday May 13th. Friends may be glad of this opportunity to meet him.