

LONDON BAHAI BULLETIN.

No. 112 Baha'i Centre, 158a, Old Brompton Road, S. W. 5. July 1947
RAHMAT, KALIMAT, 104

"Be unrestrained as the wind while carrying the Message of Him Who hath caused the Dawn of Divine Guidance to break".

(Baha'u'llah)

Beloved Friends,

Though we have already contributed pioneers and resources towards the steadily evolving Administrative Order in these Isles, we must now face the fact that ~~still~~ more zeal, and still greater sacrifices are needed to complete the Six Year Plan.

At its meeting on 3rd June, your Assembly "recorded its belief that its twofold task this year consists of encouraging pioneers ~~from~~ from our Community, and increasing the membership of the Community by attracting and confirming new believers

In order to attract people to the Faith we should strive to make our Alliance Hall Meetings more spiritually magnetic, not only from the platform, but in the audience by maximum attendances, and a warm and welcoming attitude towards new enquirers as well as old friends.

The confirmation of earnest enquirers may be better effected at Firesides, though each type of meeting can well supply the other with attendance.

With regard to pioneers your Assembly eagerly invites any of you who desire to reside in one of the goal towns to consult with them, so that difficulties may be removed, and every assistance, spiritual and material, may be given to enable you to fulfil this signal service. It is not necessary to be a public speaker or expert teacher; the movement into the goal town is ample qualification for the honoured status of pioneer.

Each one of us should sincerely examine all possibilities to enter the pioneer field remembering that "the unfailing assistance of Baha'u'llah" is promised to all who arise and put their faith in Him.

With loving greetings,

In His Fellowship,

THE LONDON SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL.

We have received some more information about the place where our Summer School is to be held this year, and it appears to be very attractive indeed, and pleasanter than any place we have yet had. It is the first time we have had a school on the coast. Hornsea is a pleasant, small seaside town, and we have a large building right in the middle of the promenade, in the most favourable position. The beach is sandy and the bathing safe, and we can bathe from the hotel. All the amenities of a seaside holiday will be there, together with the stimulation and inspiration of a Baha'i Summer School and of a holiday spent in the intimacy of the Baha'i Community.

How successful it is to be depends on the body of the believers, who by attending can help to make it an inspiring gathering of the whole community and an aid to those who are drawing near to Baha'u'llah's Teaching, and consequently to the Six-Year Plan. The Summer School Committee hopes that as many as possible will attend and also help by recommending it to as many of their friends as possible, since it has had to guarantee 140 guests a week and the community numbers only about 200.

You should already have received a prospectus and registration form, but we take the opportunity of reminding you that to book a place you should write to Dorothy Ferraby, at the Centre, enclosing £1 deposit for each week.

The Treasurer writes:

The first quarter has come and gone and to date only 13 of the friends have contributed to the Funds in varying degrees. Contributions have amounted to £52.7.0d. Total income has been £64.10.0d. Expenditure stands at £70.14.9d. Now I have to pay the quarter's rent of £25 out of last year's balance. Our contribution to the National fund this quarter has been only £5.4.9d. We cannot forge ahead on this basis. Let us make a much greater effort.

19-Day Feast of Kalimat (Words)

Sunday, July 13th at 3.30 p.m.

Hostess: Miss Freda Champion.

19-Day Feast of Kanak (Perfection)

Friday, August 1st at 7 p.m.

Hosts: Molly & Hasan Balyuzi.

The Martyrdom of the Bab - July 9th

Meetings at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Memorial Meeting for Annie Gamble.

Annie Gamble was one of the first few Baha'is of this country. The Master spoke at her house in London. Last February she passed on to the Abha Kingdom at the age of 99. We, in common with all the other local assemblies, will hold a meeting in her memory on the first day of Kalimat (July 13th); this will precede the 19-Day Feast and will be at 3 p.m.

Alliance Hall Meetings. Tuesday, July 8th at 7.30 p.m.

As announced in our last bulletin, the script "The Day of God" will be presented. It is a new departure and we hope as many as possible will be present. The programme will open and close with some violin music.

We were very glad to have Mildred Mottahedeh as our speaker on June 10th. There were 24 people present, 17 of them being Baha'is.

OUR PIONEERS.

We print this month a truly inspiring account from Walter Wilkins who left us just before Summer School last year. We had hoped to let you hear from Lady Hornell as well, but she has asked to be allowed to contribute later on. We therefore print the longer of the two accounts with which Walter rather providentially supplied us. He writes as follows from 81, Preston New Road, Blackburn, Lancs:-

"I set out on what was destined to be only the first stage of already nearly a year's wandering, with a feeling of adventure rather than exaltation. This was, no doubt, partly due to having no consciousness of much self-sacrifice. It is true I was living comfortably, but comfort is a negative sort of thing.

That I should ever look back with affection on the streets and throngs of London I did not dream. Since then I have found much to like in Birmingham, Leeds and Blackburn. The mechanic in me warms to the forests of chimneys and the quaint intricacies of the older factory buildings, while the artist revels in new and weird atmospheric effects.

I have known the kindness of the peoples of other cities and seen some of the variety of ways they show it. I am now in the region where one is addressed as 'loov', and in such a musical tone that one is sure it is meant. If only one could find a place to live and if only the trams and 'buses weren't so secretive about where they are going (space for advt. of LPTB "It's all in the map"). I could go on wandering from town to town till I pass on. Probably I shall.

I feel I have not much to show for my pioneering, but there is a certain egotism in wanting to point to

concrete results.

What does it matter if one cannot say: this I made possible, this believer I scalped - pardon me - confirmed. If no one had acknowledged I have been of use, I should still know that in answering the Guardian's call I have accomplished more than if I had stayed in London, much as that community now needs workers; I am sure London will get its reward for the difficulties it cheerfully accepted in releasing so many to pioneer.

And now a few facts. I left London for Birmingham in July '46. Beyond bringing the Group along a few steps towards functioning as an assembly, there seems nothing to report. Later on, Marion and David Hofman's magnetic personalities enlivened the affairs at Birmingham, and in February this year, the confirmation of George Rowley made us ten, and the N.T.C. thought it possible to send me on a project to Leeds. Before I started Leeds confirmed their ninth believer, but as I was already uprooted I went all the same in the hope I would be useful. To replant me in Birmingham was hardly worth while in view of the high probability that Blackburn would want another settler.

There, in fact, I did take part in the thrilling ceremony of signing the declaration that we nine were the Local Spiritual Assembly of Blackburn. When this is printed we shall probably be ten, but for a while we numbered twelve, five of whom were pioneer settlers. I like Blackburn and am quite prepared to make a home here.

But Birmingham has special claims on my regard as the first location of my pioneering.

I remember, with special affection, Mr. Marshall, and, to the same degree, his son George, whose hospitality and kindness never wavered (during the long time I remained without finding a room of my own). Also, Miss Eastgate, who during the last year saw her long struggles, together with Mr. Marshall, to spread the Message, bearing fruit, to ripen not only in the establishing of a Spiritual Assembly but in the sending out of two pioneers, one to Edinburgh and one to Leeds and Blackburn. I should like to mention others, the devoted Persian students in Birmingham, for instance; but there are also the many friends in Leeds and Blackburn who have their own particular claims on my remembrance.

It is the Summer School experience over again. One comes away with one's personal regard for all one has met there enlarged by understanding. And so it is with pioneering. Names have become people, and people dear friends. This is not the least of the rewards of pioneering."

We have had good news from Ursula Newman of progress in Dublin and hope to let you hear from her again soon. Next month: Sheila Worrall and Robert Cheek.

VOLUNTEERS are required to take turns in helping to look after children under 5, at Summer School. If you can take part of a morning or more, please write to Miss Janet Howes, 23, Holly Road, Northampton, and say between what dates you will be there.

NOTES AND NEWS

Charles Mason Roney was in London for a couple of days, on his way to Sweden. It was indeed a great privilege to have him at the Centre. Mr. Roney has been a stalwart member of the Faith for 47 years. His outstanding services to the Cause are too numerous to recount here. He was in London just before the first World War at a critical stage in the life of our Community. Farid's violation of the Covenant had brought great tests in its wake. Mr. Roney lent his support to the efforts of the faithful friends in London and our Community came through united and triumphant.

Mildred and Rafiullah Mottahedeh were with us for a few days in June. As reported elsewhere, Mildred spoke at our meeting at the Alliance Hall. They had with them recordings of radio programmes which the American friends are putting to such good use. Some of us managed to listen to these records at the Centre, and were enchanted by them. We are extremely grateful to the Mottahedehs for all the valuable help these dear friends have given us on their recent visit as well as before.

Manuchehr Zabih, who was with us for a short while last year, is back in this country at the Guardian's instructions to help us with the Six-Year Plan. Manuchehr has spent some months in Germany and he spoke at our 19-Day Feast of Rahmat (June 24th) on his work with the German friends who are taking great strides forward in the service of the Cause. We extend to him a most loving welcome, and are very glad to see him once again.

Teddy Alizadeh, once a very active and devoted worker in our Youth Group, who left with her husband for Persia in 1936, is now in London on a short visit. We were exceedingly happy to meet her after all these years. Needless to say we wish that she could be with us for a longer period, and that her husband who, in the past has served the Cause well in our midst, would also be here, so that we could tell them both "most welcome dear friends".

LOST at the Nawruz Feast at the Alliance Hall, a white and green enamelled biscuit tin. If anyone took charge of it will they please notify the Secretary.
