

"The peoples of the world are fast asleep. Were they to wake from their slumber, they would hasten with eagerness unto God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."

Baha'u'llah.

This month your Assembly has asked one of its members to write the letter for the Bulletin, and it is published here, exactly as it was received.

Dear Baha'i Friends (All of you!),

This is just an intimate and friendly letter from a member of the L.S.A. (who have kindly given her a free hand to say what she likes!). Our great Cause is progressing splendidly in the provinces, thanks to the implementing of the Six-Years Plan - and with great enthusiasm and vigour. Now what about the London Community? I feel the time has come for our spiritual stock-taking - and the Cause of Baha'u'llah is our chief Asset and the bond which binds us all together in service. What does this Great Revelation mean to you? Face up to it! Each one of you as an individual. Is it just something to which you belong - a Society you joined and still like to contact when you have time? Do you get from it joy and refreshment, peace and great Bestowals? Or does it fill a vital need? Do you make it a part of your daily life? Do you hate to miss your 19-Day Feasts? and the privilege of serving? Do you really wish you could do more and so be in greater degree a recipient of the blessings that come from service in however humble or small a capacity? Where has the spirit gone that in the old days made the monthly meeting invariably so refreshing and strength-giving? "I love to be with Baha'is" once was said to me by 'one of us' - "I come away with such happiness and so comforted. It makes everyday life so much easier." Well God knows we want all the help we can get in these difficult days. We are very weary and coping valiantly often with more than we feel we have strength to do. Health is indifferent - work is over-whelming - pleasure remote. And yet there is strength and cheer for all, and if we each of us generate the desire and need in our hearts and make that effort of our own free will to enthuse and hearten our comrades as we rally to our Cause, and try each of us to do something - however little - not from duty but from love. If you can't give work or money, give yourselves (even more precious), but do something spontaneously without being asked. Sometimes I feel it is perhaps the L.S.A. may be at fault without knowing it. We serve you as faithfully as we can. We depend upon you for inspiration and to give us vitality and interest. If you can think of anything that will help the Community to renewed interest and activity please tell us, and we will help you to get it done, working together. We in the L.S.A. have, individually, as many disabilities to put up with as any member of the Community - overwork - ill-health - advancing years - the struggle for existence. We too are very weary - some of us sitting up till all hours of the night doing Baha'i service after a long day's work on the more material things which life and living nowadays impose. We get our Bestowals in strength to carry on, and joy in service, but how grateful we are for our Community's help and interest. Please don't forget this. Your Assembly needs you - depends on you always.

If we really want to do anything enough, individually or collectively, WE CAN DO IT! That has often been proved. Do we want enough? That is for you each to consider. Lamps are no good without oil to fill them. They must shine from within! Now this is a challenge to each and every Baha'i! Let us meet it together. Unity is strength! Let us trin

each Baha'i lamp so that it shines cheerfully in the dark of the days ahead for friends and strangers alike. Let us get together so that each Feast and Meeting is illuminated by a constellation of shining lamps! If we find small response now and then, disappointments, lack of individual so-operation, (we shall do sometimes), let it be something that we have to surmount and make good by our own efforts! Change failure into success. Nothing is so infectious as enthusiasm! If we care enough for our Faith we can do it!

London has given generously in personnel to the National Cause and depleted its own resources sorely thereby. But are not we who are left worth something? I certainly think we are! Here is our challenge! Let us face up to it and rally to our London Centre in every possible and individual way, and make it once more live and attractive and disappoint the Jeremiahs who say "Everybody's too tired, everything's too difficult. It can't be done".

"Go breast forward, never doubting clouds will break!
Hold we fall to rise - are baffled to Fight better -
Sleep - to wake!

Good-night friends, all of you!
In lively hope and love always,
A London Baha'i.

Summer School, 1947.

The largest Baha'i gathering ever assembled in this country, a place by the sea and perfect weather made this a unique Summer School in more ways than one.

The School started on August 16th, and was officially opened the next evening by a member of the Town Council. The lectures were in two series. The first, lasting for an hour and a half each morning, was on the theme "The Covenant of God". Six able speakers contributed to this course which culminated in an account of the Baha'i Revelation. The other course was of a more practical nature and lasted an hour.

The beach and the sea were a constant attraction for all, especially since the water was warm and the sun shone for almost the entire fortnight. One day-expedition was made to Bridlington, and there was also the attraction of boating on the mere.

Entertainments followed a non-Baha'i lecture in the evening, London taking its part here along with some of the other communities.

Another feature was Youth Day, which ended with a most successful production of Mrs. Hall's script "Son of Earth", and a fancy-dress dance.

We were very glad to have amongst us some visitors from Persia, America and Switzerland. So large an attendance - 140 at a time - inevitably brought new problems, solutions to which will be incorporated with the plans for next year's Summer School to make it even more successful. And so we grow!

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER.

Contributions to the Fund since April, 1947	£ 66. 7. 0d.
Total Income	£ 88. 9. 4d.
Expenditure	£112. 1. 3d.

The balance from last year was £65. 7. 4d., more than half of which has been used up in the first five months of this year.

Contributions to this date last year was £95, total income £140.

The number of people who have contributed since April is 16.

PLEASE GIVE THIS REPORT VERY URGENT ATTENTION.

OUR PIONEERS.

Here we publish the first report, for this Bulletin, from Richard Backwell. Richard was present at our 19-Day Feast of Izzat, and also took part in the programme of the Alliance Hall Meeting on the next day. To him we send our deepest love.

"He that secludeth himself in his house is indeed as one dead". E.S.W. p.49.

The truth of the above saying may be illustrated over and over again when a comparison is made between the quality of living displayed before and after emergence from the cotton wool shell of a comfortable home.

My return to England (and demobilisation) was in June last year. On advice of Guardian, when my demob. leave ended in September, I looked for "some occupation that will, if possible, enable you to help achieve the objectives of their present Six-Year Plan". N.T.C. was consulted in August and approved the action of making for Nottingham when opportunity arose to enter upon a diploma course in Adult Education at its University College.

Removal to Nottingham therefore took place in October after assistance at the Exhibition in Altrincham and on the day when my election to London L.S.A. would have become effective by first attendance at L.S.A. meeting.

Strictly pioneer activity has been slight. It includes such minor work as footslogging it on two or three occasions in the snow to lock out names and addresses in our contacts list, when, incidentally, it was found that we had steadily been inviting a man to our meetings who had been dead six months. It includes, perhaps, participation in local study group work and occasionally speaking publicly in Nottingham. It perhaps includes making the Faith known in greater or lesser detail to some 6 or 8 persons in the milieu of the educational world into which I was thrown.

This has been the least of the total of activity merely to list which makes me giddy.

The activity includes:- (1) Diploma course in Adult Education with examination, thesis of 20,000 words, lecture courses, etc.

(2) Conduct of tutorial class in philosophy for W.E.A. during the winter.

(3) Preparation of index to "God Passes By", 6,400 refs.

(4) Compilation of 14,000 word booklet "Pattern of Baha'i Conduct".

(5) Sundry articles for the Baha'i Youth Bulletins.

(6) National Baha'i work:-

(a) N.S.A. membership since February.

(b) Membership of six national committees.

(c) Teaching work (i) in Seminar at Leeds.

(ii) prolonged Easter visit to Edinburgh.

(iii) Lengthy and recent tour of S.W.

(iv) Several brief week-end visits to speak at different towns.

(7) Local Baha'i work:-

(a) L.S.A. membership since foundation on April 21st.

(b) Membership of three local committees.

(c) Representative of L.S.A. on Nottingham Council of Social Service.

(d) Attendance at Feasts and Anniversaries except when, rarely, I have been absent from Nottingham, and taking turns at being host.

contd.

A great part of this activity strictly belongs to the period after Nottingham became a fully fledged Assembly, but since it seems the London segment regards me as in some sense still a member of their community, it cannot be wholly irrelevant.

As a pioneer or settler in the midland jungle of Nottingham area I have added one to make up the number needed for the formation of our local assembly which took place on April 21st. At least initial success may be claimed. As to the future, the prayers of the parent communities of London and Bradford, which supplied the founder ingredients of our community, are greatly needed.

Wednesday Meetings at the Centre.

The first meeting will be on October 8th at 7.30 p.m.

These meetings will be both instructive and social. The Study Course outline brought out by our Publishing Trust will be followed, and also some of the Summer School papers will be presented.

Come and bring friends.

Alliance Hall Meetings.

The meeting in September dedicated to the Commemoration of the Master's first public address to a Western audience was well attended, although there was room for many more.

There will be no meeting at Alliance Hall in October.

Next meeting in November.

Message from your newly-formed Teaching Committee.

"Every Baha'i should feel it his duty to bring at least one visitor to a public meeting".

Anniversary of the BIRTH OF THE BAB.

Monday, October 20th. Meeting at the Centre - 7 p.m.

Your contributions towards the refreshments is requested. Programme will include gramophone records.

Nineteen-Day Feast.

Feast of ILM (KNOWLEDGE)

Thursday, October 16th at 7 p.m.

Hostess: Miss Rachel Champion.

VISITORS.

We have been very happy to meet ARDESHIR KHOSRAVANI, a member of the Tihran Baha'i Youth Group. Mr. Khosravani plans a long stay in this country to study at London University. So he may be a member of our Community for a long time. Warmest welcome to him.

Also MRS. WEIR, a Baha'i of many years' standing, who came to see us on her way back to California from Europe.

----- News from Europe.

Sweden: The first believer, under the Seven-Year Plan declared himself on July 30th, according to a report from America's pioneer there.

Holland: First believer, under the Seven-Year Plan, enrolled.

Italy: Five new believers; nine Baha'is.

Madrid: Nine believers, including two pioneers.

In a recent cable to the Persian believers the Guardian says:

"Number Countries opened light divine Cause approaching ninety. America's second Seven-Year Plan already introduced Faith Spain Luxemburg. Portugal soon receiving pioneers. Groups already established Scandinavian States.. Holland, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium

are swiftly evolving into assemblies. Even Morocco receiving share divine guidance through settlement pioneer from Equador."

Eire: The feast of IZZAT was kept by the three Baha'is of the Townshend family at 6.45 p.m. in their Rectory in Co. Galway. Una chose the readings and Brian was chairman of the business part, which consisted of a discussion of some of the problems involved in their moving to their new home.

DO YOU WANT ANY BAHAI BOOKS?

We have received the following communication from David Hofran, the Manager of the Publishing Trust, which we pass on to you in full.

Please send your orders for American books directly to the Publishing Trust in Manchester, but the "Prayer Books" and the "Kitab-i-Iqan" are obtainable from our own Centre.

Dear Baha'i Friends,

We have received an order of books from America, and can make available to you the ones shown on the attached list, at the prices mentioned. We are so short of these books, dear friends, that we have had to consider the fairest way of distributing them among all the believers, and we have decided on the following plan: (1) we cannot supply any of them for keeping in stock. (2) We will fill immediately orders which you send in on the basis of cash payment. This will ensure that books are supplied for immediate sale only, and we ask you to co-operate with us in this way. It would be advisable to send the money with the order, as it is possible there may be more orders than books available, and obviously priority will be given to orders enclosing the money.

We are glad to tell you that the new Prayer Book, comprising 'Some Baha'i Prayers' selection, as well as the Obligatory Prayers, the Tablet of Ahmad, Prayer for the Fast, Tablet of Visitation, and a Prayer for the Departed, is now ready. This is bound in red cloth with gold lettering, and we can supply it at 5/-d. per copy.

Kitab-i-Iqan: Our own edition of this important and basic book is available, bound in red cloth with gold lettering, at 7/6d.

We are trying to obtain a further order of books from America, and will advise you when we are successful.

With loving greetings,

In His Service,

DAVID
Secretary.

N.B. Please send your orders and money to Baha'i Publishing Trust, 39 High Street, Manchester, 4.

LIST OF BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM AMERICA.

Seven Valleys and Four Valleys	2/6d.
Gleanings from Writings of Baha 'u'llah	10/-d.
Prayers and Meditations	10/-d.
Some Answered Questions	10/-d.
Baha'i Peace Program	2/6d.
Reality of Man	2/6d.
Baha'i Administration	7/6d.
World Order of Baha 'u'llah	7/6d.
Advent of Divine Justice	1/3d.
God Passes By	12/6d.
Epistle to Son of Wolf	7/6d.
Baha'i World Faith	7/6d.
Security for a Failing World	2/6d.
Industrial Justice	3d.
Baha'i Peace Program - San Francisco	9d.