

L O N D O N B A H Á ' Í B U L L E T I N

LONDON BAHÁ'Í CENTRE at the NATIONAL HAZÍRATU'L-QUDS

No.229

ASMA', 'IZZAT 114

September 1957

"Darkness hath encompassed every land, O my God, and caused most of Thy servants to tremble. I beseech Thee, by Thy Most Great Name, to raise in every city a new creation that shall turn towards Thee, and shall remember Thee amidst Thy servants, and shall unfurl by virtue of their utterances and wisdom the ensigns of Thy victory, and shall detach themselves from all created things."

(Bahá'u'lláh)

NINETEEN-DAY FEASTS

Feast of 'Izzat (Might) Sunday, September 8th - 3.30 p.m.
Hostesses: Miss B. Chapman and
Mrs. M. Elliott-Smith.

Feast of Mashíyyat (Will) Friday, September 27th - 7.30 p.m.
Host: Mr. Farhad Tehrani

PIONEERS ARE NEEDED NOW

Thursday Evening Meetings - 7.45 for 8 p.m.

September 5th	"The Path of God"	Mrs. Jeanette Battrick
" 12th	"Jesus Christ, Herald of the Kingdom"	Mr. John Wade
" 19th	"Religion for Mankind"	Miss Vivian Isenthal
" 26th	"God's Call to the Christians"	Mr. H.M. Balyuzi

Fireside Meetings

Fridays at 7.30 p.m. in the Library of the Hazíratu'l-Quds

Last Saturday of the month (afternoon) at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wade,
14, Northumberland Road, New Barnet, Herts. (Barnet 4232)

Our Community

A very warm welcome to Miss B. Chawgizi and Miss K. Hakim, who have come from Persia to take up training in nursing, and to Mrs. G. Sangana (from India). Mr. and Mrs. D. Kelly, Miss Shirin Hakimiyan, Mr. A. Salmanpoor and Dr. M.A. Samimiyan have left London.

Finances

We have not yet made the effort to increase our donations.
Shall we make it now?

P.T.O.

INDIVIDUAL FIRESIDES

The following is an excerpt from a letter written on behalf of the Guardian by his assistant secretary, quoted in "Bahá'í News":-

"The friends must realize their individual responsibility. Each must hold a Fireside in his or her home, once in nineteen days, where new people are invited, and where some phase of the Faith is mentioned and discussed. If this is done with the intent of showing Bahá'í hospitality and love, then there will be results. People will become interested in 'what' you are interested in, and then be interested in studying. Individual firesides will bring the knowledge of the Faith to more people, under favourable circumstances, and thus constantly enrich its circle of friends, and finally its members. There is no substitute for the teaching work of the individual."

Friends will note that the Guardian does not suggest a formal meeting, but a simple giving of hospitality, at some time during which the Faith is spoken of. But the fireside should be held regularly.

The London Teaching Committee will be glad to help anyone holding a fireside in any way it can. It offers the following general suggestions:

1. A Fireside Meeting should be informal, not modelled on a public meeting. There should not be too many people at a time and it can be held with even one. It is important that a small number of contacts should not be swamped by a large number of Bahá'ís - it is better to ration your Bahá'í visitors.
2. If your Fireside is to take the form of a straight discussion meeting, rather than a tea party, it is good to have something ready to start the meeting, either a short talk by yourself or another Bahá'í or a reading, but keep it short and simple. Encourage everyone, especially the non-Bahá'ís, to take part in the discussion, and make sure that one person does not dominate it. You can use your own discretion about opening or closing with a prayer. Many people do not do this - it surely depends on the people present.
3. Refreshment is better kept simple. People may be shy of coming too often if your hospitality is elaborate.
4. Regularity is important - make an arrangement, weekly, monthly, as it suits you best, and stick to it so that people know when to come.
5. If you do not have a home in which to hold a fireside, you could meet the Guardian's wishes by meeting some friends in a cafe for tea or coffee once every nineteen days, bringing the Faith into your conversation.