

AFRICA NEWS

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African Edition

"By the righteousness of God, should a man,
all alone, arise in the name of Baha and put on
the armor of His love, him will the Almighty
cause to be victorious though the forces of
Heaven and Earth be arrayed against him"
Baha'ullah.

Dear Baha'i Friends,

As announced in the English edition of Africa News, No.8, dated November 1st, 1951, you will have seen that this bulletin is published to convey to you the news of the friends in Africa. No doubt the success of its publication depends upon the kind cooperation of all the friends, whose ideals and cherished aims are to propagate the Faith amongst the indigenous inhabitants in this Dark Continent.

The progress of the Africa project has been described by our Beloved Guardian as "Truly miraculous", and indeed from the time the Two Year Plan was launched, all of us realize that great miraculous advancements in both pioneering and teaching have been successfully brought about towards the ultimate fulfillment of our Beloved Guardian's desires.

We trust that all the friends in Africa will collaborate to bring about a Continent-wide Unity and that an International Spiritual Brotherhood will crown our humble efforts.

Africa News Sub-Committee.

Egypt The Egyptian National Spiritual Assembly has appointed a committee to carry out the provisions of the Five Year Plan. This plan has National and International objectives, the latter is mainly concerned with the Africa Project. The membership of this Committee is as follows; Iskandar Hanna, Abdul Rahim Yazdi, Hussein Amin, Abdul-Fattah Sabri and Mohamed El Sayed El Azzawi.

Our prayers are with them and we wish them every success in discharging their arduous task.

Baha'i Youth of Egypt The N.Y.C. of the Baha'is of Egypt sponsored meetings for local youth to be held in Alexandria, Cairo and Port-Said, concurrently. The purpose of these meetings was to clarify the conception of pioneering and to emphasize the importance and the need for individual action and self-sacrifice. These meetings have been very successful. From Cairo news came that the representative of the N.Y.C. Mr. Ragi Enayatullah opened the meeting with a very enthusiastic speech pointing the need for individual effort and sacrifice, following by Nabil Mustafa on behalf of the L.Y.C. who spoke on the "Importance of Pioneering in the Religions and especially in the Baha'i Religion". The chairman of the L.S.A. Mr. Abdul-Fattah Sabri in his concluding remarks expressed the ultimate need for deeds rather than words. He urged the Youth to rise and serve and wished them success.

Gold Coast Accra We are very happy to welcome Mrs. Ethel Stevens of U.S. in the African field. Mrs. Stevens has achieved a double victory by being the first American Baha'i to reach Africa and the first Baha'i to open the Gold Coast, the third territory under the Two-Year Plan. Mrs. Stevens sends her loving greetings to all the friends in Africa. She asks for the prayers of the friends to help her overcome many of the difficulties that she may meet.

News from Kenya "Approve re-inforce Kenya"
With this instruction of the Beloved Guardian, to the British N.S.A. and the Africa Committee, our dearly loved brother Ted Cardell achieved his noble desire to enter the pioneering field, after a considerably long time of waiting for an opportunity. Ted left England on October 7th and the hearts of the friends flew with him, to, Rome, Cairo, Khartoum and finally to Nairobi, Kenya. Ted explains in the following excerpts some of the events and adventure-like incidents with which he met in Cairo and Khartoum.

Cairo: "Queuing up at the customs shed in Cairo, I was met with great love by 6 or 7 Baha'is who had recognised my ring stone. The journey to Cairo is 20 to 25 miles, but it seemed like 5 miles sitting in a crowded taxi with all those Baha'is and gently gliding through the balmy night. I was taken to the Hazirah which is a nine sided building which they showed me in detail, the dome is like the Temple. They showed me to my room which is pleasant and comfortable. Mr. Nabil Mustafa was appointed to be my guardian angel for the day, until I met with the N.S.A. Nabil and I visited the Pyramids and I was, to say the least, deeply impressed by these gigantic edifices. We had a very memorable trip through Cairo before we returned to the Hazirah where I met with a committee of the NSA. and the L.S.A.

There was much discussion and messages of love sent to the English Baha'is and those I was to meet in Africa. They proudly showed me the treasured relics which included garments and lock of hair of the Blessed Perfection. Thus my visit to Cairo ended with a loving send-off at its aerodrome. The friends insisted in kissing both cheeks, I was much affected....

Khartoum:... "I arrived at Khartoum aerodrome in the early morning and was informed by phone that the friends awaited me at the Grand Hotel in town. At the Grand Hotel Mr. and Mrs. Hamamsi and Mr. Hassan el Said met me with much pleasure and took me to Hamamsi's house in North Khartoum. There I met with about 15 Baha'is, 4 speak English. All were entranced to meet an English Baha'i. I showed them some photographs of other Baha'i communities which they devoured eagerly. They said that my visit was the biggest event in 3 years. They are eager to secure some English books about the Cause, especially "God Passes By", other books needed are, "New Era", "Some answered Questions" and "Baha'i Prayers". There is a grand opportunity for any charitable Baha'i who would like to do a good deed. Such books could be sent to P.O.Box 28, Khartoum North, Sudan.

"In the afternoon I was escorted round the town by Bashir Gou da, a Sudanese of about 28, the first Sudanese Baha'i and of some 12 years standing. A meeting was held in the evening when we exchanged news of the friends in England, and I observed that the greatest weapon in the hands of the Baha'is here was the high regard they were held in by everyone. As all wonderful things must come to an end, so my most memorable though short visit to Khartoum ended at its aerodrome. On arrival in Nairobi, I was taken to the hotel where a nice good night-sleep was the cure for my tiredness."

Editors: We are very happy to report that Ted has found a very good job in Nairobi and we extend to him a very hearty welcome to Kenya. Ted's address is: c/o Barclays Bank.

Tanganyika Thrilling news:- The Beloved Guardian in a letter to Jalal Nakhjawani, dated September 5th, 1951, gave the thrilling news that the photograph of the group of friends sent to him from Dar es Salaam will be put in the Mansion of Bahji for all to see. The Dar es Salaam group is humbly grateful to Our Beloved Guardian for His kind Benevolence. The highlights of the report of Dar es Salaam are the following:

Contacting Pioneers: You will be pleased to know that the Dar es Salaam group is pursuing a scheme whereby every member of its group is having an effective and successful contact with the Africans through attending their social gatherings. Much fruitful contacts were made. Several members of the group have offered their services to teach the Africans, sewing, languages, etc. Darakhshandeh Nakhjawani has already started conducting classes on sewing for some African ladies. One of their contacts is very near to declaring himself a Bahai.

Study Classes: Two courses, of eleven sessions each, on the fundamentals of the Faith and the History are being conducted by the group. They are happy to report some real progress.

Anniversaries, 19 Days Feasts and Group Meetings: Commemorations and meetings are held and in addition the group has purely devotional meetings where prayers for the plan and the international development of the Cause are read and chanted.

Lushoto: We are happy to report that our dear sister Claire Gung is doing her best to acquaint all those with whom she comes into contact, with the teachings of the Faith. She considers it a great service to teach and train her African staff by action and example rather than by words. She has volunteered to prepare the devotional programme for one of the 19 Days Feast and ask some of the friends in Dar es Salaam to deputise as hostess on her behalf. Claire will be glad to receive any letters from the friends wherever they may be. Her address is:-

c/o Lushoto School, Lushoto,
Tanganyika.

Mikindani: Our dear brother Mr. M. Thomas, who was an active member of the Dar es Salaam group, has been transferred to Mikindani. The Dar es Salaam group while expressing their deep regret for this office transfer of Mr. Thomas, wish him the best success. Though this departure is a decrease in number of the Dar es Salaam group, yet fruitful results will no doubt accrue as the light of Baha'ullah's Teachings is being difused in another part of Tanganyika. Mr. Thomas will be very pleased to receive any correspondence from the friends at his address:-

c/o P.O.Box No.I, Mikindani, Tanganyika.

Uganda: From the Kampala Baha'i Group we share the following:-

Dawn Prayers: "Members of our group have made it a habit now to get up early at dawn every morning for joint prayers and chanting of Baha'i verses. As we are still in the hotel, from fear of inconveniencing others, we leave the hotel, and as we have no house, no place to go to, we simply climb in our car up this or that hill of this beautiful township, and with a good view under our eyes we offer our humble fervent prayers hoping

that "the scattering angels of the Almighty shall scatter abroad the fragrance of the words uttered.... and shall cause the heart of every righteous man to throb". Every righteous man... at least in Kampala."

Teaching: "August 22nd should be considered as the key date to the teaching activities in Uganda. Although before that the Cause was mentioned and discussed with a few, both European and Indian, even pamphlets were given, but the real date was when three African adults, (two District Scoutmasters to whom the Faith was introduced by Philip while he was attending a week's Scout camp, and another African, a dispenser, to whom the Faith was introduced by Ali Nakhjawani, while watching a cricket game) got together on the afternoon of August 22nd, in the Resident's lounge of the Imperial Hotel of Kampala, and where together with Philip and Ali, Uganda had its first Baha'i fireside meeting. The first two after a following meeting had to go to Port Fortal and Entebbe, where they are actually residing. Contact is maintained with them through correspondence, but the third became the nucleus of future Baha'i African contacts. He gradually interested one of his relatives passing on to him pamphlets that he had been given, who in turn passed them on to others. The circle of interested contacts gradually grew in Kampala. It has now arrived to about twelve Africans, this number includes two ladies as well. Every morning from 7.30 to 8.30 at the house of one of the more better of our contacts, we have a short class at which very gradually and slowly the Baha'i history, teachings and proofs are being given by Ali. Of these twelve contacts only four of them attend and show more deeper interest. Three times a week we have an afternoon fireside at the home of the same African who is offering his house in the mornings. In this meeting the ladies also join. Violet and sometimes Mr. and Mrs. Banani also participate.

Societies: To extend the circle of our contacts, members of our group have become members in two local societies who have no race discrimination and have general welfare, educational purposes.

Masaka: Our dear brother Philip Hainsworth has left Kampala on 1st September, for Masaka, 85 miles away. He is the Sanitary Overseer and as such is in control of Malaria swamps etc., and a total area of about thirty square miles. Philip writes "A few know I am a Baha'i. I have discussed the Faith with 4 or 5 of them and had two Indian doctors to tea. They came to know what the Faith was. Some Africans know that I am a Baha'i but they have not yet enquired as to what it is."