



AFRICA NEWS

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the British Isles.

*"The earth is but one country, and
mankind its citizens."—Bahá'u'lláh.*

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"Gird up the loins of thine endeavour, that haply thou mayest
guide thy neighbour to the law of God, the Most Merciful.
Such an act, verily, excelleth all other acts in the sight
of God, the All-Possessing, the Most High."

Baha'u'llah.

UGANDA From Kampala comes the joyous news of the purchase of the land on which the future Mashriq'ul-Adhkar is to be built. This is the culmination of many months of work by the Kampala Assembly, which set up a special committee to investigate the various plots available. Reports were sent to London on the complicated laws of land tenure in Uganda and on the position of these plots. From London the guidance of the beloved Guardian was sought. His advice was that the land should be within a maximum radius of three miles from Kampala. Finally, after a number of plots had been submitted for the Guardian's approval the land was chosen, six acres to the south of Kampala, only one mile from its municipal boundary, on an elevation commanding a beautiful view of Lake Victoria and much of the town. This is the site of a Temple of Light to be reared to the Glory of Baha'u'llah in days to come.

Another piece of really thrilling news from Uganda is the fact that twenty-six Local Spiritual Assemblies were formed in that country during Ridvan this year. The heart of Africa is setting a real example for the whole world!

Naw Ruz was celebrated at the Baha'i Centre, about seventy people attending including about eight non-Baha'is. Talks were given on many aspects of the Faith and on teaching, most of the speakers being African Baha'is. Refreshments consisted of both African and European foods, which were contributed by the members of the Community. The students of Aggrey School gave a recital of African songs. The whole programme was an occasion for great rejoicing.

A survey has been made of the home of each member of the Kampala Community. It has been discovered that they are residing in over thirty different localities, of which Kampala township is only one, and the others villages ranging in distance from 1 to 17 miles from the town.

This fact was reported to the Africa Committee which decided that, for this year, people living up to three miles outside the town limits should be counted as part of the Kampala Community. The others will be recognised as separate groups, though great efforts will be made to bring the most promising up to Assembly status. This will mean intensive teaching work and the prayers of all the friends are asked for by the Kampala Assembly in their activities.

The membership of the Kampala Assembly this year is as follows: Ali Nakhjawani, Chairman; Erisha Kiwanuka, Vice Chairman; Mary Elston, Secretary; Musa Banani, Treasurer; Damian Agengar; Allen Elston; Joseph Mbogo; Violette Nakhjawani; Walter Okombo.

Quotes from a recent letter from Jinja may interest the friends. "A piece of land has recently been 'acquired' in the name of one of the members of the Jinja Local Assembly. This land is for the Jinja Community as soon as registration becomes possible. Although the majority of the community enjoy a salary which is just at subsistence level, it was decided to make a supreme effort to build the Centre and cultivate the land entirely as a Jinja project, and most members of the Community have since spent some time working there, clearing, draining, cultivating, building. About Shs.500/- have been expended as well as hundreds of hours of work. Now we face a great crisis.

Philip Hainsworth, in whose home we have been meeting, leaves us in five weeks time. We need about Shs.2,500/-, Shs.500/- immediately, to build our Centre. The friends are contributing to their limit, and we have less than Shs.50/- in the Fund to do the job. We have therefore swallowed our pride and are taking the desperate step of writing this letter to a few Baha'is who know us, or of us, in the hope that some of them may feel our efforts are worthy of a little encouragement. Please send any monies you may wish to contribute to our Treasurer: Mr. Yeseri Kagobe, P.O. Box 92, Jinja, Uganda, or cable it to: Hainsworth, Health, Jinja."

KENYA During the last three months Nairobi reports the addition of one new centre opened to the Faith as a result of the transfer of our Kikuyu Baha'i to Fort Hall very recently upon the completion of his medical studies.

Of the many declarations received from Nairobi and other centres, of which thirty are still pending sufficient deepening, we have accepted into the Community Mr. Simion Nairi Musa, our first Masai Baha'i, and Miss Joan Powis who has since left Nairobi to join the pioneers in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. Mr. Herbert Karisa has also been accepted into the Community of Mombasa making two confirmed Baha'is there.

TANGANYIKA During the past few months Dar es Salaam, as with Kampala and Nairobi, has been blessed with a flow of distinguished visitors.

The visit of Bill and Marguerite Sears in particular, who stayed in Dar es Salaam for a month while awaiting the visa that would allow them to settle in Johannesburg, was too good an opportunity to miss. The Community held its first public meeting with Bill Sears as the principal speaker. He entitled his subject "A Faith for this Atomic Age", and the reception which was given to the talk by the seventy people who attended the meeting was extremely cordial. During the question period that followed great interest in the Baha'i Faith and its tenets was expressed. Mr. and Mrs. Sears left at the end of January and took with them the heartfelt prayers of all the friends that they will be enabled to carry the light of Baha'u'llah's teachings wherever their travels may take them.

Dar es Salaam has had the privilege of accepting into the Faith Mr. William Bazila, a Buganda now living in Tanganyika, and also Mr. D.V. Dhumal, a schoolmaster and previously of the Hindu Religion. We extend a very hearty welcome to both of these new friends.

A programme of fifteen sessions has been drawn up by the Assembly for use in the teaching classes which are now taking place in four villages on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam. This programme has been carefully selected to give a basic idea of the Faith to the contacts.

The Local Assembly for this year consists of the following members: Morris Cooper, Chairman; Jalal Nakhjawani, Vice Chairman; Hassan Sabri, Secretary; P.K.G. Nayar, Treasurer; Alexander Buzuka; Zachariah James; Musa Hussein; Mohamed Yazdani; Isobel Sabri.

VISITORS In recent months the East African Communities have been happy to welcome a steady stream of Baha'i visitors, who have not only greatly assisted in the teaching activities wherever they went, but have also brought joy and inspiration to all hearts with their eagerly-sought flow of Baha'i news. Included were Bill and Marguerite Sears, during their patient wait for visas, and also Bill as a returning pilgrim; Meherangiz Munsiff, en route from Madagascar to England; our beloved Hand of the Cause Musa Banani and Samihah Khanum, returned at long last to Africa after their blessed trip to East and West; Dorice Ballard, flying from London to South Africa; John and Valera Allen, en route from California to Swaziland; and Isobel Sabri returning home to Dar es Salaam. In addition to these international visitors were a number of the East African Baha'is who visited neighbouring Communities - Rex and Mary Collison of Ruanda Urundi, Mamem Thomas from Dar es Salaam, Aziz Yazdi of Nairobi, and Irene Bennett, also a recent and joy-inspired pilgrim to the Holy Land.

NAIROBI The new Nairobi Assembly is as follows: Mr. Yazdi, Chairman
ASSEMBLY Mr. Kisombe, Vice Chairman; Miss Bennett, Secretary;
 Mr. Zahrai, Treasurer; Mrs. Yazdi; Mrs. Samandari;
 Mr. Kithongo; Mr. Larby; Mr. Bolo.

BUKOKA It is a great joy to announce the formation, this Ridvan, of an Assembly at Bukoba, the first all-African Assembly in Tanganyika. The diligent pioneer in Bukoba is Peter Mutabazi of Uganda, who has been working for many months with the assistance of the Uganda Teaching Committee. We are sure all the friends in Africa send their loving greetings to this new Assembly and pray that all their efforts in teaching the Faith in their area may be crowned with success. The members of the Assembly are: A. Kafanabo, G. William Kamara, A. Bigirwa, A. Kataiza, Mrs. B. Kataiza, J. Mutashaba, Ayubu Ruba, S. Kalyesheza, and P. Mutabazi.

NYASALAND Mr. Ennayat Sohaili writes from his pioneer post in Nyasaland that he has obtained a job in Limbe and has been granted a permit that will enable him to stay there for a year. He is thus living in the same town as the only other Baha'i in Nyasaland, Mr. Dudley Smith Kutandele, who was one of the first Africans to declare himself in Dar es Salaam. Mr. Kutandele returned to his native country over a year ago, first to Zombe, but now he has obtained a post in Limbe. He and Mr. Sohaili can now undoubtedly meet together and co-operate in serving our beloved Faith.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA A letter from Salisbury informs us of the formation of a Baha'i Group there, with the following membership: Kenneth Christian, Secretary; Roberta Christian, Secretary; Claire Gung, Treasurer; Mr. and Mrs. Ala'i; and Roger Christian (youth).

Claire Gung has fortunately found employment and has a home five miles outside the city. The prayers of all the friends are asked for these pioneers. Dr. and Mrs. Christian are now living at 2 Lincoln Court, Lincoln Road, Avondale, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, and they would be very happy to hear from any other African pioneers. Letters should be addressed to the friends personally and not to the Community as such.

FRENCH MOROCCO Good news from Casablanca tells of the formation of an Assembly in that city with Mr. and Mrs. Masrour, Mr. and Mrs. Ardekani and Mr. and Mrs. Rezvani from Persia, Madame Claudette from France, and Mr. and Mrs. Walters from the U.S.A. Shortly after the formation of this Assembly they were able to enrol the first new believer, Miss Denise Douvere, newly arrived in Belgium. The friends are all active in teaching and hope very soon to be able to increase their numbers. The friends all send their congratulations to this latest addition to the number of Local Spiritual Assemblies in Africa.