

## AFRICA NEWS

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African Edition

"Be not grieved if thou performest it thyself alone. Let God be all-sufficient for thee. Commune intimately with His spirit and be thou of the thankful. Proclaim the Cause of thy Lord unto all who are in the heavens and on the earth. Should any man respond to thy call, lay bare before him the pearls of the wisdom of the Lord thy God, which His spirit hath sent down unto thee, and be thou of them that truly believe."

Baha'u'llah

GOLD COAST      Despite the many discouraging difficulties which at  
ACCRA              first beset her when she reached the Gold Coast, we are  
                     glad to report that Mrs. Ethel Stevens, our pioneer to  
Accra, has now found a very excellent position and is rapidly settling  
into her pioneer post.

Mrs. Stevens writes, "I have brought along with me some 600 feet of movies of Baha'i subjects, mostly in kodachrome. In addition to these, I have kodachrome slides of the Baha'i Temple and adjacent territories, numbering about 60. Then there are slides prepared at Hampton Institute, U.S.A., at which my foster son, also a Baha'i is a student and at which institution, the Baha'is hold teaching and youth conferences from time to time. I have slides of miscellaneous scenes, including a negro hospital where my husband is a practicing physician and on the staff. I brought along a slide projector and a camera with flash bulbs."

We hope that with her zeal, irressible energy and unshakeable faith in Baha'u'llah, Ethel will make wonderful use of these fine teaching aides in her task of propagating the Cause on the western fringes of Africa.

KENYA              Once again we were made aware of the confirming power of  
NAIROBI           Baha'u'llah and of the unceasing aid He bestowes on his  
                     pioneers everywhere when we read the following words from  
Ted Cardell in Kenya, "As you will see by the increasing number of photos labelled "staff photographer", I'm properly in action now and getting some most interesting experiences too." Ted tells us the wonderful news that he has been appointed to the staff of the leading East African newspaper and that soon he hopes to be able to visit the friends in Tanganyika and Uganda, a prospect which brings joy to those who are so isolated and who long for the companionship of their fellow believers.

Ted's concluding words, we feel, express the sentiments of all the pioneers labouring in Africa, "The immensity of the task does not in the least dishearten me, but rather makes me realise the wonder of the Power at hand which will certainly accomplish the desired illumination of these spiritually impoverished people."

UGANDA      Seven Africans, five Baha'is and five children were  
KAMPALA    present at the festival of the Birthday of the Bab in  
              Kampala. The gathering was an historically significant  
one in that for the first time the meeting was held in the home of  
a Buganda and was opened with a prayer in Luganda from the newly  
prepared pamphlet in the language of Uganda.

The pamphlet was read aloud, and such was the enthusiasm reached  
that the reading was continued into the night by the light of a small  
hurricane lamp. The unanimous opinion of the Africans present was  
that the Words of Baha'u'llah and 'Abdu'l-Baha had new meaning when  
heard in Luganda and that the translation was indeed beautiful. One  
contact pleaded that the reading of the pamphlet be discontinued when  
he had to leave and that it be started again the following day when  
he would bring his fiancee to hear it, as he wanted his future wife  
to be a Baha'i as well, he said. Two meetings were, therefore,  
fixed for the following day.

The Group considers that this meeting and the many doors now  
being opened to the Faith in Uganda is evidence of the Guardian's  
indication that the "settlement" phase of their work has taken place  
and the "teaching" phase begun.

On Sunday morning, Philip Hainsworth had a class of five  
Africans, and Ali Nakhjavani went to visit some others who subse-  
quently came to the meeting in the evening. Five African men and  
four African ladies with three of their children were at that meeting  
when the reading of the pamphlet was continued. In all 11 Africans  
attended one or more of the three sessions. The quality of the  
questions and the degree of enthusiasm shown indicated tremendous  
progress made and gave the believers renewed optimism.

More recently the Kampala Group has written, "November is a full  
month for Baha'is the world over; for us in Uganda it has been ex-  
ceptionally full and exciting." Teaching has fallen into several  
parts; regular morning classes with three of the serious students,  
covering history, Baha'i proofs, the principles and the Covenant,  
regular weekly firesides; making new contacts; and the joint celeb-  
ration of commemorations and special occasions.

Joyfully but solemnly the Louis Gregory memorial meeting was  
held. Mrs. Preston came especially for the occasion from Kenya, and  
the gathering included 19 in all. Rapid and fluent translation by  
one of Uganda's best qualified translators; talks by Mrs. Preston,  
Ali Nakhjavani and Philip Hainsworth; and prayers in Luganda, Persian  
and English, combined to make it the most inspiring occasion of the  
month. A photograph of all those participating was taken.

On the Day of the Covenant four students of the Faith and the  
believers held a meeting entirely in English, (save for several  
prayers in Luganda) which reached a high level of interest and en-  
thusiasm during the readings and explanations on the Covenant, the  
Guardianship, and the Will and Testament.

Much work has been done recently in the checking of the Luganda  
pamphlet, and a mimeographed edition is soon to be produced in Uganda.

JINJA Our dear Philip Hainsworth has been transferred from Masaka to the Jinja Health Office. Jinja, being nearer to Kampala, he is now able to take part in the Community activities there on the more important occasions. We wish him the utmost success in his spiritual activities.

EGYPT The National Spiritual Assembly and the entire Baha'i Community of Egypt are thrilled at the prospective visit of Mrs. Amelia Collins, Vice-President of the Baha'i International Council. Mrs. Collins is expected to arrive early in December. Great results will undoubtedly accrue through her visit. This is the first time that a member of the International Council visits the African Continent, and we feel sure that the love and inspiration of the beloved Guardian will accompany her and through her bring light and guidance to the Africa project.

SUDAN News has reached us that the Community in Khartoum has  
KHARTOUM been successful in establishing two new centres in Fashir and Waan. Extension teaching work carried on by the Khartoum Assembly is under the supervision of the Egyptian National Assembly. This success which has crowned the selfless endeavours of our sister Community in Khartoum should be a great encouragement to us all.

TRIPOLITANIA In a report from the Egyptian National Assembly we  
NALOUTH read the joyful news of the establishment of a Baha'i Centre in Tripolitania, North Africa. We hope to have first-hand news of the activities of these friends very soon.

TANGANYIKA Mr. M. Thomas, describing his teaching activities in  
MIKINDANI Mikindani, says, "This is a small town with a few shops and native huts. I am staying with a few friends and have already brought to the notice of some of them several pamphlets about the Cause. While in Lindi, I spoke about the Faith with two of my colleagues. Both are from India and one seemed to have known of the Faith at home."

From a further report, we understand that Mr. Thomas has given the Cause to a large number of his acquaintances in Mikindani. We wish him great success in his ceaseless efforts in the teaching field.

LUSHOTO. We would like to share with the friends a very moving account which Miss Claire Gung has written of her solitary celebration of the Master's Ascension in her mountain home high in the up-country of Tanganyika. "I got up in the night of the 28th to join in the World Community prayers, and I saw the most big and radiant star rising just over the mountain. I have never seen anything like it, nor shall I ever forget the sight and the star's radiance. The words of a recording which I have come to mind. 'There rose one radiant star and every other star grew pale before that heavenly glow. It seemed but to follow me and I could not but go! And I could not go back to sleep with that lovely sight and the power of the prayer.'

Claire will spend her Christmas holidays in Dar es Salaam. The Group there is delighted at this news and looks forward to many happy days with Claire.

DAR ES SALAAM Many of the students of the Cause in Dar es Salaam have expressed their desire to learn more about the Faith and have been invited to join the Baha'is in their weekly study-classes. Great enthusiasm has been shown, and almost all have voiced their desire to study more and more deeply the Teachings of the Faith. The Group is expecting great and encouraging results from this activity. The Group writes, "Our contact work is not centred on any one group but rather on the whole of the Community without discrimination as we feel that receptive souls are ready everywhere. It is with great impetus and activity that each member of the Dar Group is doing his utmost to widen the circle of contacts, and day by day the number of those who have heard of the Faith grows".

"We are pleased to say that our new believer, Mr. Nayer, has taken keen initiative in teaching the Faith and has already been successful in interesting several of his friends in the Cause."

"Our friends Jalal Nakhjawani and Nayer, have been elected by an African Society as honorary members to help them in organising their activities. Jalal Nakhjawani was appointed as financial advisor for their commercial activities."

"On Saturday November 24th a memorial meeting for our dearly loved Louis Gregory was held. Tributes were paid to him and prayers were chanted in English and Persian. On the anniversary of the Ascension of the beloved Master, the Group met to commemorate this most sorrowful occasion. The account of the passing of 'Abdu'l-Baha and several excerpts from the Will and Testament were read, and at the exact hour of the Ascension the Tablet of Visitation was chanted in both Arabic and English.

"The Community, conscious of the need of the fund, has decided to make regular contributions which will enable the Group to contribute towards the expenses of the local, national and international activities of the Faith.

"Mrs. Darakhshandeh Nakhjawani was appointed Librarian to the Group at its last meeting. We are pleased to say that the literature in Swahili and Chinyanza are proving very helpful in our teaching activities."

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Dear Friends,

With full gratitude to all the Baha'i Groups and isolated believers in Africa who have kindly sent in reports of their Baha's activities; we would, nonetheless, greatly appreciate it if every Community and believer would send a contribution of news regularly in order that this bulletin can be made to be a true and complete reflection of the spiritual progress of this vast continent and so that, as our beloved Guardian stated recently, "the zeal kindled in the hearts of the administrators, pioneers, teachers, and supporters, jointly contributing to the success of this meritorious enterprise" will "burn ever more brightly".

Africa News Sub-Committee.

Please send your news to this committee by the 5th of each month.

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