



# AFRICA NEWS

Issued by The Africa Committee of the National  
Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of  
the British Isles.

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

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AFRICAN EDITION

"O My beloved friends! Ye are the bearers of the name of God in this Day. You have been chosen as the repositories of His mystery.. Ye are even as the fire which in the darkness of the night has been kindled upon the mountain top. Let your light shine before the eyes of men.. Arise in His name, put your trust wholly in Him, and be assured of ultimate victory."

- Bab-

**FIRST VICTORIES** "Assembly warmly congratulates Group first victories. Please convey loving greetings to two new believers." With these thrilling words cabled to the Baha'i Group of Kampala, Uganda, on December 18th, the British National Spiritual Assembly welcomed into the Faith Crispian Kajubi and Frederick Bigabwa, the first African believers to be confirmed and received into the Baha'i World Community since the inauguration of the Africa project.

The Kampala Group writes that "after almost three months of study and discussion of the Faith, Crispian and Frederick, members of the Baganda and Batoro Tribes, respectively, wrote their declarations early in December. The National Assembly's cable was quickly followed by welcoming letters addressed to each of the new believers individually. Now they are attending all of our meetings. It is indeed most thrilling to note this entirely new and extremely valuable contribution to our Group consultations."

**PIONEER JOURNEYS** In the past nine months since the beginning of this initial two year Africa project, 13 pioneers have settled in four of the 12 territories assigned by our beloved Guardian to the National Spiritual Assemblies of Great Britain, Persia, Egypt, America, and India. Tanganyika, Uganda and the Gold Coast have been added to the 15 other countries on the African continent where Baha'is are resident, and Kenya has been re-inforced. Now the thrilling news has reached us that two further pioneers have departed for two additional territories, bringing the total to six,

and providing the encouraging realisation that work in one half of the territories assigned has now been undertaken.

William Foster, American Negro Baha'i, and first American to volunteer for pioneering in Africa, winged his way, on January 1st, to Monrovia, Liberia, on the western coast of the continent, thus becoming the first herald of the Faith in that country the responsibility for which was recently assigned by our Guardian to the United States. Mr. Foster travelled via Great Britain, and there consulted with the British Africa Committee.

Eric Manton and his 13 year old son, Terry, sailed from England on December 29th aboard the s/s "Modasa" bound for Beira, Mozambique, Portuguese East Africa. From there they will travel up-country by rail to Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia, their pioneer post. Northern Rhodesia is one of the territories assigned by the Guardian to the Persian National Spiritual Assembly. Thus Eric, a veteran pioneer of the British Six Year Plan, not only becomes the first Baha'i to settle in that Colony, but also the first British believer to assist the Persian Baha'is to accomplish their part of the Africa project, in accord with the wishes of the Guardian as expressed in a recent letter to the British Community. The "Modasa" is expected to anchor at Dar-es-Salaam for several days while en route. The friends there are eagerly making preparations to welcome Eric and Terry and to give Eric the fullest opportunity to participate in the teaching work of the Dar Community.

#### FIRST PUBLIC MENTION

The friends in Uganda were doubly blessed during December, for it is in Kampala, too, that the Faith has received its first public presentation in the newly opened territories of Africa. The Group writes of this unique occasion, "On Saturday evening, December 1st, one of our contacts, who is now in charge of the newly established all-Uganda African social centre in Kampala, gave a twenty-minute talk about the Baha'i Faith and its Teachings to an audience of some 300 Africans of various tribes, including two African Kings, namely the Kabaka of Baganda and the Mukama of Batoro."

"At the close of a programme conducted as part of the Young Christian Conference, during a period when the floor was free for anyone to say anything thought to be of interest to the audience, he presented the Faith quite objectively and without adding his own personal feelings. After his talk, questions were asked, to which he replied within his knowledge of the Faith. With the exception of a few of our contacts who were present, the Faith was entirely new to this African audience, and quite an interest was evinced. This first unexpected providential public mention of our beloved Faith in Uganda by an African to such a representative African group has indeed humbled our hearts in thanksgiving."

TROPICAL  
REUNIONS  
DAR-ES-  
SALAAM

A 24 hour journey, first by road over the rugged mountain terraine of northern Tanganyika, then overnight by rail to sultry, **steaming** Tanga on the coast, and finally by air to the "Abode of Peace" - so came Claire Gung from her isolated pioneer home at Lushoto School to a long-awaited reunion with the friends in Dar-es-Salaam.

During 12 too short days, Claire was given the opportunity to meet and speak to some 20 or more contacts of the Faith at meetings and informal gatherings. On one warm sunny afternoon, Claire and the Dar-es-Salaam Community welcomed 10 of their African friends, including six men, four women and one lovely child, to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Jalal Nakhjawani for an informal social gathering and tea. Four of the men present had been attending regular discussion meetings and had returned time after time to hear more about the Faith and to express their warm approval of its tenets. The afternoon with its lively, friendly conversation was a tremendous success and has now paved the way to plans for a further social gathering on January 19th, to be followed by weekly study-classes on the Faith for close contacts and a number of supplementary discussion meetings to be held informally in the homes of the believers.

On another afternoon, Claire and Mr. Nayer helped welcome seven contacts to tea at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hassan Sabri, where the discussion waxed eagerly on the international affairs of today and the role of Africa in the world community.

Claire's evident spirit of love and understanding won many hearts, and her numberless deeds as well as words of kindness spoke to all alike of her great love of the Cause. For the first time in one long year of isolation, Claire was hostess at a Nineteen Day Feast and attended and consulted at a Group meeting. The exchange of thoughts, enthusiasm and spirit provided inspiration for every member of the Group and for Claire as well, we are sure.

She told the friends of the only kind of Baha'i work possible to her in Lushoto, where there are almost no educated or English-speaking Africans. Mending and patching their ragged garments, teaching them cleanliness and personal hygiene, and demonstrating the meaning of human kindness - these are Claire's teaching methods. Not by books, lectures or meetings can she work, but purely by striving to live the Baha'i life.

Contrasted to this description of primitive Africa, were the stories the Dar-es-Salaam friends told of their frequent attendance at the intelligent, constructive and thought-provoking African discussion meetings held at the African social centre in Dar and of the well-educated and deeply thoughtful Africans who have heard of and been attracted to the Cause in this way. Recently one such African wrote, "Many thanks for your book, 'Baha'u'llah and the New Era'. I have enjoyed almost the whole book and the content is nothing but wonderful. I am too keen on this Faith, although I can't in the meanwhile tell you where I am. On the whole I can now comment that if the whole of mankind belonged to this wonderful Faith, this world would turn into a paradise".

"Dini Baha'i", Swahili for "Baha'i Religion" are words very much on the tongues of the Africans of Dar-es-Salaam these days and mentioned openly at their gatherings. Community life amongst the Africans is such that anyone hearing something of interest imparts it to whomsoever he meets, and the news travels like wild-fire here. Likewise all printed literature passes swiftly from hand to hand.

KAMPALA From Nairobi, Kenya, Ted Cardell enthuses, "I write to tell you of a most wonderful holiday I have had. Two days before Christmas I suddenly thought of going to Kampala. An exchange of cables brought me a warm invitation, and I did the trip of 450 miles in 15 hours. One stretch was literally impassable, but miraculously I got through. Much rain then made it seem impossible to return, but again the heavenly hosts were on the job, and now I have a most treasured memory of three precious days spent at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Banani. The talks I had with the friends in Uganda have immensely strengthened me, I feel, and clarified my own tasks in Nairobi."

Of that same visit the Kampala Group writes, "It was a most blissful experience for our contacts and us to meet Ted Cardell during the three pleasant days he was with us. He infused into all of us a new spirit of calm resignation and radiant devotion. Particularly to our two new believers, here was a new and shining Baha'i face, reflecting the light and warmth of Baha'u'lla's love. To the contacts he met, Ted gave his exposition of the Faith, its principles and evidence of its truth, greatness and influence; and indeed he led them many steps closer to the real recognition of its truth.

"On a beautiful 50 mile tarmac road, all the Kampala Baha'is, now six in number, (with Philip in Jinja, seven); together with dear Ted and three contacts, drove on Tuesday afternoon, the 25th December, to Jinja, where Philip Hainsworth, in his new home, received the happy party. Two Jinja contacts soon joined us. The spirit of happiness that predated the party, the Baha'i talks with the contacts, during and after the drive, the hasty yet interesting visit to the town, and finally, the pictures that Ted took of the day - all combined to make this occasion a memorable one.

THE NORTHERN FRINGES  
EGYPT Despite the many difficulties and heart-breaking obstacles which have stood in their paths, a number of the Egyptian believers are steadfastly making preparations, with the full support of the National Assembly, to depart soon for Algeria and Libya, the two territories assigned to Egypt by the Guardian.

The prayers of Baha'is everywhere are focused at this time upon the efforts of the Egyptian National Assembly to obtain official recognition of Baha'i marriages in that country. The case will come up before the Council of State in the near future.

As one goal of the Five Year Plan, the Egyptian National Assembly is now taking steps to purchase a piece of property in Alexandria as the permanent site of the Egyptian Baha'i Summer School.

EGHIOPIA The Local Spiritual Assembly of Addis Abeba reports that a large room has now been found for their meetings and that they have established a Baha'i library for the use of the believers and their friends. A considerable sum has been raised and dispatched for the building of the Shrine of the Bab on Mt. Carmel.