



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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"Blessed is the spot, and the house, and the place,
and the city, and the heart, and the mountain, and
the refuge, and the cave, and the valley and the
land, and the sea, and the island, and the meadow
where mention of God hath been made and His praise
glorified."

- Baha'u'llah -

OPENING THE HAZIRATU'L-QUDS CELEBRATION

A project, begun only five months ago, during the pilgrimage of Mr. and Mrs. Moussa Banani, of Kampala, Uganda, to Haifa and publicly announced by our beloved Guardian in his cablegram of March 3rd, the purchase and occupancy of the new local Haziratu'l-Quds in Kampala, has now been completed and on 5th July, as reported in a letter from the Kampala Spiritual Assembly, the opening celebrations took place.

"Yesterday, we had a most wonderful meeting on the occasion of the opening of our Hazira. Over sixty people attended, including a few children. Representatives of more than twelve tribes were present. From Jinja, also, came four contacts. Most valuable teaching work was done."

The programme began at 9 in the morning with half an hour devoted to a special dedication meeting. At 4 in the afternoon, a special meeting was convened at the Hazira. Tea and sandwiches were served, music was enjoyed and photographs were taken. The programme which followed included talks on "The Spiritual Significance of the Hazira", "The Kampala Haziratu'l-Quds", specially selected readings from the Writings, and brief talks by Enoch Olinga, Vice-Chairman of the Kampala Spiritual Assembly, and by two African gentlemen and one lady, all close friends of the Faith. This historic occasion was concluded with the Prayer for Unity read in Luganda. Much literature was distributed on this opening day, and a "wonderful spirit of fellowship prevailed the house and grounds".

CONTRIBUTIONS

World wide interest has been shown in the acquisition of the new Hazira. The purchase price, plus legal fees, totals £6,161. in all, of which £5,203

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has already been received in the form of contributions from the Guardian and from Baha'i Assemblies, Groups and individuals the world over. The balance still required is £958., plus an additional £76., representing the amount expended for furniture, crockery, and garden and kitchen utensils. It is estimated that the monthly running cost will be approximately £9. A steady flow of contributions is still required from all of us in order that the remaining funds may be swiftly collected. Send your contributions to Mr. Moussa Banani, Pioneering Private Bag, Kampala, Uganda, East Africa.

ARCHIVES Shortly before Moussa Banani, Hand of the Cause of God, left Haifa, the beloved Guardian entrusted to him a number of precious gifts for the new Hazira. The most cherished of all is a rug from the Inner Shrine of Baha'u'llah. In addition, photographs were sent of the Greatest Name; the Baha'i Temple in Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.; the architect's drawing of the Shrine of the Bab; Baha'u'llah's seals; and a facsimile of the hand-writing of Queen Marie of Rumania. A gift destined to be a lasting joy and inspiration to the visitor to Kampala is the roll of film of the Shrines and gardens at Akka and Haifa. And lastly, Ruhiyyih Khanum sent a beautiful Persian carpet with the Greatest Name woven into it.

TWO NEW CONQUESTS This month reports have reached us of the opening to the Faith of two more of the twelve territories included within the Africa Project, Nyasaland and Algeria. This joyful news impresses us with the realization that now only Madagascar, Zanzibar and Somaliland remain to receive the Light of Baha'u'llah during this last year of the first African Teaching Plan.

Unique in the history of the Africa Project is the settlement of Denis Dudley-Smith Kutendele in Zomba, capital city of Nyasaland. Dudley, while having had the honour of being the first African believer in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika, and having been a member of the first Spiritual Assembly of that city, has returned with his family to his own country and people, there becoming not only the first Baha'i to settle in Nyasaland but also the first African believer to carry the Faith into a new territory. He is eagerly hoping to hear from his many Baha'i friends at c/o Dept. of Survey, P.O. Box 79, Zomba, Nyasaland.

To Algiers, Algeria, North Africa, Mr. K. Attar, one of our Persian Baha'i friends, has come in the hope of being able to settle and pioneer the Faith in that vast territory. Our prayers are much needed that both he and Dudley-Smith Kutendele will be richly blessed in their services to our beloved Faith. Mr. Attar's address is c/o Hotel de Geneve, 30 Rue Colonne d'Ornano, Algiers, Algeria, North Africa.

PIONEER ARRIVALS June has seen the arrival of three more Persian pioneers to East and Central Africa, with a promise

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of still more to come. Travelling by way of Egypt and Uganda, where they met with the friends and helped with the teaching work in Cairo and Kampala, Mr. and Mrs. Mohamed Yazdani and their two children arrived in Dar-es-Salaam where they are now rapidly settling into their pioneer post. Mr. Yazdani, who is a rubber engineer, hopes to enter that field of manufacture in the near future. Both of these friends are already actively participating in the teaching work of the Faith in Dar-es-Salaam. Salaam.

Also winging his way through Egypt and Uganda was Mr. Aziz Yazdi, former member of the Persian Africa Committee, who hopes to settle in one of the Central African territories. His arrival in Northern Rhodesia is joyfully reported by our pioneer there, Eric Manton. "At last we are able to send you some good news. Yesterday, June 18th, at 12:45 P.M. the Comet landed on Livingstone airfield, and from it stepped our dear brother Aziz Yazdi. From then onwards, Livingstone became a much, much brighter place. Teheran's loss was Livingstone's gain. This evening Terry read a prayer of thanksgiving on behalf of our Group, and on Tuesday, next, the first Baha'i Feast will be held in Livingstone, God willing. Baha'i love to all and sincere gratitude for the prayers raised on our behalf in the past and for our success in the brighter future."

DAR-ES-SALAAM On Sunday, June 29th, the Dar-es-Salaam Com-
AFRICA NIGHT munity sponsored the first of what has now become a regular series of "Africa Nights", being informal social evenings to which the widest possible group of African friends are invited. During the course of the evening, several African speakers give brief talks about the life, work, customs, beliefs, and traditions of their own and neighboring tribes or country, each followed by a period for questions and discussion. This first such gathering heard talks by two close contacts of the Faith on the Yao Tribe of Nyasaland and the Mbondei Tribe of Tanga Province, northern Tanganyika. Fourteen African contacts and nine Baha'is attended the meeting, and the discussion waxed in a friendly informal manner, everybody taking an active part. At the conclusion of the meeting the host proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and briefly spoke of the unifying principles of the Faith. This and similar meetings are now providing the Dar friends with informal opportunities of introducing the Teachings to many new contacts, who, when attracted, are being invited to the regular discussion and teaching meetings for deeper study of the Faith.

DEEPENING The Dar-es-Salaam Teaching Committee, at the direction of the Spiritual Assembly, has given serious attention to the necessity of carrying on a continuous programme for deepening the Community in the knowledge and spirit of the Faith. An interesting two-fold series of classes has now been inaugurated on "Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Believer" and on all aspects of the "Covenant", including the

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status of the Founders of the Faith and the Baha'i Covenant and Administration. These classes are held fortnightly, but once a month they form part of an all day picnic at the beach, during which the atmosphere of a Baha'i Summer School prevails, including devotional programmes, study and reading from the Writings, recreation and feasting.

SPEAKER INVITED Several members of the Dar-es-Salaam Community belong to an inter-racial discussion group of business and professional men and their wives at which topics of wide variety and interest are discussed. The friends have long been known to this group as Baha'is and have frequently promulgated the Baha'i social and spiritual teachings in its meetings. In June, Mrs. Isobel Sabri was invited to give a full talk on the Faith to be followed by a question period. This invitation, the first of its kind in Dar-es-Salaam, was happily accepted and the meeting took place in early July. Very considerable interest was evinced both during the talk and during the long and lively question period which followed. The other Baha'is present joined in the discussion, assisting the speaker to answer the many questions which arose.

KAMPALA Through the presentation of a donation to the
OXFORD TO Building Fund of the Faculty of Medicine of Mak-
MAKERERE erere College, Kampala, Uganda, from the Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Oxford, England, excellent relations have been fostered between the Dean of this Faculty and the Baha'i Community of Kampala. The Medical School buildings at Makerere were damaged recently by an explosion in the laboratory during the night.

RIDVAN An interesting account of a meeting held in Kampala at Ridvan has been received.

"Ten believers, four friends and four children commemorated the Twelfth Day of Ridvan at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Olinga. It was a happy and most precious meeting in the life of our Community. After a brief devotional programme, Enoch announced the names of his month old daughter, and prayers were read for the little one. A few words were said by the father, Vice-Chairman of the Kampala Spiritual Assembly, and by several other members on the significance of the occasion, as the first Feast held in the home of one of our African friends."

CHANGES OF Please, note the following two changes of address:
ADDRESS

Tunis Baha'i Assembly, Mustafa Bey Boushousha
Rue 1' Anjan Megrine, Coteau, Tunis, Tunisia

Mr. Mahmoud Hussein Ismail
Chief Translator, Governorate, Tripoli, Libya.