



AFRICA NEWS

Issued by The Africa Committee of the National
Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of
the British Isles.

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

No. 9 — August, 1952.

AFRICAN EDITION

"O army of God... Ye must conduct yourselves in such a manner that ye may stand out distinguished and brilliant as the sun among other souls. Should any one of you enter a city, he should become a centre of attraction by reason of his sincerity, his faithfulness and love, his honesty and fidelity, his truthfulness and loving kindness towards all the peoples of the world, so that the people of that city may cry out and say; 'This man is unquestionably a Baha'i, for his manners, his behavior, his conduct, his morals, his nature and disposition reflect the attributes of the Baha'is!'"

— 'Abdu'l-Baha —

UGANDA AFLAME

"The whole country-side is on fire with the news of the Cause. Dozens of people are coming in asking to be accepted as Baha'is. Our extension teaching workers are fully occupied with deepening and training the new believers. We do not have to confirm them from close contacts into Baha'is but just give them more knowledge about the Faith they are accepting in their hearts." In a number of thrilling descriptions such as this, the Kampala Community has continuously reported on the almost miraculously swift spread of the Faith throughout Uganda in the past month.

ELEVEN NEW DECLARATIONS

In August, the Kampala Spiritual Assembly accepted ten newly declared African believers into the Faith, while a specially appointed Uganda Subcommittee of the British Africa Committee has accepted one further believer from the distant village of Kobwin in the Eastern Province. This new friend had spent three weeks in Kampala studying and actively teaching the Faith as well. Among these newly accepted Baha'is are the first two African women to become believers since the beginning of the Africa Project, Mrs. Enoch Olinga and Mrs. Crispian Kajubi, the wives of two of Kampala's first African believers. Mrs. Olinga is of the Musoga Tribe, while two of the new friends come from the Kakumega Tribe, two from the Jaluo Tribe, and one from the Kabarasi Tribe, bringing the total to seven tribes represented in the Faith in Uganda.

EXTENSION TEACHING

In six provincial localities, Jinja, Tororo, Mbale, Kobwir, Ng'ora, and Gola, extension teaching work in Uganda

has resulted in 16 additional declarations which are now being closely studied by the Uganda Sub-Committee and the attracted contacts thoroughly deepened in the Cause before their final acceptance into the Faith. With the exception of the activity in Jinja, where Philip Hainsworth spearheads the work, all of this extension teaching work was begun by Enoch Olinga, Vice-Chairman of the Kampala Spiritual Assembly, when he went on leave for a month to his tribal home in the Eastern Province.

By the end of August, one report recounts, Ali Nakhjawani, Enoch Olinga, and Philip Hainsworth had set out to follow-up closely on this extension work so providentially inaugurated in the provinces. "All three travelled to Mbale and Tororo, while Ali carried on to the villages of the Teso district for a three week residential teaching project. He is living, sleeping and eating with the villagers, teaching ceaselessly. This is really going to the African people in their own homes. Philip and Enoch make the trip when ever their work permits, travelling as much as 380 miles in one week-end. It is all very exciting!"

AFRICAN PIONEERS In addition to this thrilling news of the teaching triumphs of the Faith in Uganda, comes the heart-warming information that already three dedicated African believers, Mr. and Mrs. Kajubi and Mr. Akurut, of the Muganda, Mutoro and Atesote Tribes respectively, will arise on September 1st as pioneers, leaving their homes in Kampala to settle in Jinja, 50 miles to the East. There, together with Philip Hainsworth, they will soon form the second historic Baha'i group of Uganda - the first collective result of the spirit of extension teaching so successfully kindled in the hearts of the Uganda friends in recent weeks.

The numerical strength of the Faith in Uganda is now 23. Kampala has 18, including 4 Persian and two American pioneers and twelve African believers; Jinja being one British pioneer and the three African pioneers, all of whom actually declared their belief in Baha'u'llah only a few months ago in Kampala; and one new Baha'i in Kabwin, Eastern Province.

TEACHING TEMPO "The problem in Uganda," writes the Secretary of the Kampala Spiritual Assembly, "is not how to make contacts but how to satisfy the many enquiries. The tempo of teaching has increased so that daily meetings are not always sufficient. It is not uncommon to have two or three groups meeting simultaneously in one district. For instance, on Sunday, 24th August, heavy rain kept a number of people away, but the 18 present at the Hazira split up for part of the evening into five groups, two in the main room, one in the bedroom and one each in the side-room and kitchen. Six languages were being used, including English, Luganda, Rutoro, Teso, Persian and Arabic. The Hazira is open daily for all Baha'is and their contacts during the lunch period for a cup of tea and a slice of bread and butter, and a talk on the Faith or a quiet read. The number grows daily, the last figure

being about eight to ten. We also send a teacher to a house in each of three districts so that all the local contacts can attend and bring their friends. This is valuable if the place is three or four miles away and walking is the only means of getting to the Hazira."

Opportunities for study, confirming, practice in giving talks, getting to know each other better and deepening themselves in the Faith is the purpose of a new series of meetings worked out by the Kampala Teaching Committee. The first one held in August was very successful. They are for the purpose of increasing knowledge of the Faith and of promoting fellowship, being open to enrolled Baha'is and very close contacts by invitation only. The programme includes prayers to open and close, a five minute talk on some book in the library and two short talks on Baha'i history or teachings. The speakers prepare short simple summaries of their remarks to be given for translation into Luganda several days before the meeting.

"The morning class has a regular attendance of six (7:30 to 7:55 A.M.) Our bi-weekly open meetings have between 12 and 24, which includes at least a couple of new faces each week."

"We are also happy to announce that the Bank loan for the Hazira has now been paid off and that there is a balance of almost 1,200/ which has been given to our Hazira Fund for capital expenditure, including furniture and beautifying the building and grounds."

"Please, ask the friends to pray that all this work may continue to progress."

ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE The long awaited and happy news has now reached us through the pages of the British edition of Africa News that the All-Africa Teaching Conference, first of the series of inter-continental teaching conferences to be convened during the Baha'i Holy Year, will be held in Kampala, Uganda from 12th to 18th February inclusive, 1953. It is the ardent desire of our beloved Guardian that as many believers as possible across the length of the African Continent attend this all-important Conference at which plans for the future activities and spread of our Faith throughout Africa and its precincts will be revealed by him and consulted upon by all of us. Each of us should spare no effort to attend this historic gathering which will be blessed with the presence of a galaxy of the Hands of the Cause of God and representatives of the five National Spiritual Assemblies participating in the Africa project. Do not delay. Pray and consult together now. Make arrangements for all to be there.

In the months ahead, we will keep you fully informed of the details of the Conference preparations through the pages of Africa News.

INTRODUCTION
K. ATTAR FAMILY

The story contained in a recent letter from Khodabokhsh Attar, Persian pioneer to Algeria, is a lesson of perseverance in quest of one's heart's desire.

"A few days ago I received instructions from the Africa Committees of Iran and the British Isles to send to you the glad news of my arrival in Algeria. My pioneering statement is brief. Fifteen years ago, by the instructions of the Guardian, I tried to pioneer to Afghanistan, but I was not successful. Nearly two years ago I sent a telegram to the Guardian and wished his guidance about pioneering to India or England. In reply I received this telegram, 'Advise India. Shoghi.' So I began to try to go to India, but I didn't succeed here either. Afterwards, I wrote a letter and wished the Guardian's guidance again. I received the following, 'Tell Khodabokhsh Attar to go to Africa, if possible. It would be a great service. I pray for him. Shoghi'."

"I contacted the Africa Committee of Iran and by their approval I tried to go to Nyasaland. For the third time, after a year of wondering in Teheran, I did not succeed. By the Guardian's advice the Committee approved my pioneering, with my wife and four sons, to Algeria. We got a visa of three months and left Teheran for France. After residence of two weeks in Paris, I got a visa of the same validity for Algeria. We started for Algeria via Marseilles on the ninth of June, and we arrived on the eleventh. We are still living in an hotel and have not yet settled because we have not been able to find a house. Three of my children go to kindergarten to learn French. We are all doing our best to study French. Algeria has no Baha'is. We are the first who have entered this country. I have taken steps to become a permanent resident."

"Will you, please, send our best love and good wishes to the dear pioneers of Africa by your edition and beg the Baha'is of other countries to come to Algeria and not leave us alone."

The friends are urged to correspond frequently with this valiant family, who after such long and persistent efforts have now been enabled not only to pioneer in Africa as the Guardian desired, but also to become the first to open a new and virgin territory to the Faith. Address your letters to K. Attar, Esq. Hotel de Geneve, 30 Rue Colonna d'Ornano, Algiers, Algeria, North Africa.

CLAIRE Recent reports from Nairobi, Kenya, tell of the visit
GUNG to that city of Miss Claire Gung, Matron of the Lushoto school in Tanganyika. Ted Cardell speaks enthusiastically of the visits of both Claire and Aziz Yazdi, both of whom have done much during their stays to assist in the vital work of spreading the Faith in Kenya where Nairobi is slated for Assembly status by next Ridvan.