

TEACHING BULLETIN

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Letter from the National Teaching Committee.

Beloved Friends;

Now that the promise of Bahá'u'lláh is so rapidly approaching its fulfilment, the urgent necessity for each one of us to arise and do our part can no longer be overlooked. Disregarding the smallness of our numbers and the weakness of our talents, let us each and every one, draw comfort and strength from the innumerable assurances of Bahá'u'lláh and our beloved Master that "God will assist all those who arise to serve Him".

Shoghi Effendi, in urging us to greater and continuous efforts has quoted the following. "O ye servants of the Sacred Threshold! The triumphant Hosts of the Celestial Concourse, arrayed and marshalled in the realms above, stand ready and expectant to assist and assure victory to that valiant horseman who with confidence spurs on his charger into the arena of service".

In a more recent communication, the Guardian through his secretary, has said: "What the Cause now requires is not so much a group of highly cultured and intellectual people who can adequately present its Teachings, but a number of devoted, sincere and loyal supporters who, in utter disregard of their own weaknesses and limitations, and with hearts afire with the love of God, forsake their all for the sake of spreading and establishing His Faith."

Dear Friends! Can we refuse this appeal to perform our manifest duty? Knowing that our Baha'i brethren throughout the world have, with fresh energy and enthusiasm, inaugurated a new Teaching campaign, can we remain idle or refuse to co-operate with them? The National Teaching Committee, confident of your response to the Guardian's appeal for a re-dedication of our lives and the carrying out of a new campaign greater than any we have yet attempted, is eager to do its utmost to co-operate with all the friends and to help with Teaching plans, suggestions, consideration of local problems or in any other way possible.

Mrs. Bishop is back in England and a special section of this bulletin will be devoted to consideration of plans for making her visit highly successful. We present below special recommendations for the beginning of new teaching work and would urge the friends in every locality, whether isolated or in a group, to start work immediately, knowing that the assistance of the Supreme Concurrence will be given to every sincere effort.

May we close with those stirring words of the Bab, addressed to His Letters:- "Arise in His Name; put your trust wholly in Him and be assured of ultimate victory".

National Teaching Committee.

Teaching Methods.

The most effective method of teaching is undoubtedly the fireside group. Everybody has friends and acquaintances and these should be asked to the fireside meetings and urged to bring their friends. The special advantage of this form of teaching is that it is informal and requires no great talents of oratory or learning. It is important that the meetings should be held regularly at a definite time, so that people know that always at that time there is a Baha'i Study class being held.

The friends are earnestly asked to begin meetings of this sort, no matter how small. In large towns many such meetings can be held---wherever there is a Baha'i home or other place available. The National Teaching Committee will be very pleased to answer any enquiries on this subject.

Many of us are shy or diffident about speaking to acquaintances and even friends about the Teachings. We need not be. We should not hesitate to give water to a man dying of thirst and we need never hesitate to give this 'Water of Life'. If it is refused there is no harm done. All of us know people to whom we have not even mentioned the Name of Bahá'u'lláh. Let us remedy this at once and invite them to our homes to hear this great Message.

Visit of Mrs. Bishop.

In order to make Mrs. Bishop's visit as fruitful as possible the co-operation of all the friends is required. This can best be given in the following ways.

1. By having fireside groups and classes organised by the time Mrs. Bishop visits your locality. In order to do this work should be begun at once.

2. By securing appointments for Mrs. Bishop to speak on other platforms. There are many places where a Baha'i speaker would be welcomed. Theosophical Centres, Esperantists, Toc H, Women's Clubs and other organisations have already opened their doors to us. Mrs. Bishop will be glad to speak at as many such places as can be arranged. The responsibility for this rests with the friends.
3. By securing newspaper publicity. Local newspapers should be advised that Mrs. Bishop, from the International Baha'i Bureau in Geneva will speak to a certain group at a certain time. It is best for a reporter to interview Mrs. Bishop, so that there is less danger of the Cause being presented inaccurately.

These are the chief ways in which we can best make use of Mrs. Bishop's services during her visit. The National Teaching Committee will be fully informed as to her itinerary and can supply all centres with the dates of her visit there.

Follow up work is most important. Mrs. Bishop herself will speak to the friends about this and it will receive attention in a subsequent bulletin.

For a consideration of your Teaching problems and for information about fireside groups, study outlines and other Teaching methods, will you write to the National Teaching Committee. The address of the secretary is David Hofman, 67 Guildford Street, Russell Square, London, W.C.1.

Confident of your devoted efforts and wishing you every success, we are,

Your fellow workers,

National Teaching Committee.

"Every eye, in this Day, should seek what will best promote the Cause of God. He, Who is the Eternal Truth, beareth me witness."

Baha'i Elections.

For the proper conduct of elections the friends are referred to the Book of Administration, especially pages 36, 54 and 55. If any points are not clear will you please communicate with the N.S.A. or the Teaching Committee.