

TEACHING BULLETIN

issued by

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís
of the British Isles

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Letter From The Guardian

The following is an extract from a letter received by the National Teaching Committee.

"His chief advice to you is perseverance without which, he strongly feels, no success is attainable. The difficulties in your way are undoubtedly manifold and not always easy to overcome. But provided you persevere, and face with courage, full faith and confidence such obstacles, you can be sure of attaining the goal you have set yourselves to achieve.

Now is the beginning of your work. And as in the beginning of every task, you are bound to meet all sorts of difficulties. The more you strive to overcome these, the greater will be your reward, and the nearer you will get to that glorious success which, as repeatedly promised by Bahá'u'lláh, must needs crown the efforts of all those who, whole-heartedly and with pure detachment, strive to work for the spread and establishment of His Cause.

With cordial greetings and every good wish,

Yours in His Service,
(signed) H. Rabbani."

In the Guardian's own handwriting:-

"With the renewed assurance of my loving and constant prayers for the extension of your meritorious activities and services,

Your true brother,
(signed) Shoghi."

Beloved Friends;

The National Teaching Committee would urge each and every one of Bahá'u'lláh's servants in this country to study this letter and to take its message seriously to heart. Our Guardian is aware of the difficulties we face and of the limitations which hamper our work. Yet, knowing that his loving thoughts and earnest prayers are being directed constantly towards us, and with 'full faith and confidence' in the promise of Bahá'u'lláh, can we not fulfil those high hopes which he has for us...namely the spread and establishment of the Faith in this land?

"Now is the beginning of your work." This statement, surely a promise as well as a challenge, is a clear call to service. Through the loyalty of those faithful servants who, during the past trying years, have maintained the Faith in this land, a foundation has been built. Now we must gather the reward of their steadfastness. The Teaching work has begun!

We would again urge the friends to adopt the method of home meetings or fireside groups. A few personal friends invited to your home (in the summer picnics are a good idea) will provide the nucleus of a study class. The Teachings are best presented in a simple and straightforward manner. Arguments over the respective merits of various movements should be avoided and while we are in sympathy with every move to bring about the verification of humanity, we cannot compromise the Teachings for the satisfaction of man made ideas and theories. Tact and wisdom are required at all times, but it should be always remembered that our aim is to spread the Message of Bahá'u'lláh.

During these summer months contacts may be made during recreation, such as walks or games, which, if carefully tended, will result in new friendships, and the people thus encountered can be asked to come to our homes later on in the winter, to hear more of the Teachings.

Dear Friends; we join hands with you in dedicating ourselves to the Teaching of His Faith.

Your fellow workers,
National Teaching Committee.

A Bahá'í Summer School.

The N.S.A., with the full approval of the Guardian, and bearing in mind the valuable experiences of Bahá'ís in other lands where Summer Schools have been held and realising the eminent place given to these institutions in volume V of 'The Bahá'í World', has resolved to do everything possible to inaugurate a Summer School in England this year.

The N.S.A. earnestly seeks the co-operation of the friends in making this project a success. Our beginnings must naturally be small but the opportunity for association, for mutual exchange of problems and for common study of the Cause, which a Summer School would provide, will, in the opinion of the N.S.A. prove invaluable to the firmer establishment of the Faith and the greater inspiration of the friends. Not only will it serve to widen and deepen our knowledge of the Teachings but will help to create a strong bond of fellowship and mutual understanding. It will also prove a means of attracting new people; every effort should be made to encourage non-bahá'í friends to attend. The N.S.A. is keeping in mind the desirability of combining recreation with study so that attendance will indeed be a profitable holiday.

A Committee has been appointed to deal with this project and the following report has already been received:-
 In order to avoid a clash with the Summer School at Esslingen which opens at a date after August 20th, or with the World Congress of Faiths which meets in London from July 3rd to July 18th, and in order to avoid holding our School during September which is a difficult month in which to obtain holidays, it is recommended that the Summer School be held at a time between the 20th of July and the 20th of August. This will enable Bahá'ís travelling in Europe, who normally attend Esslingen, to attend our School. It is further recommended that the School should not last longer than two weeks; the friends, of course, are welcome to attend either for a part or all of this period. The present estimate of cost is £2.2.0. per week per person, though this may not be the final figure.

Will all friends who are interested and think they will be able to attend please submit the following information to the secretary of the Summer School Committee.

- a) What date between July 20th and August 20th is most convenient for you? (A time most favourable to the majority will be chosen)
- b) What particular locality do you think would be most suitable? Have you any preference?
- c) Information regarding cottages which may be available in any suitable place, particularly if easily accessible from all parts of the country.

Please send your letters to Mr. Hasan Balyuzi, 14, Frogmal Mansions, Hampstead, so as to reach him not later than June 13th

Dear Friends; the achievement of a Summer School will not only widen the scope of our activities and demonstrate our determination, but will prove a landmark in the progress of the Faith in this land. Let us use this opportunity.

National Spiritual Assembly

At its last meeting, in addition to other matters affecting the welfare of the Faith, the following subjects were dealt with.

Summer School (see above)
 National Teaching Committee;

A new Committee was appointed for the ensuing Bahá'í year with the following membership:- Mr. Sugar (Chairman); Miss Baxter (secretary); Mrs. George; Mrs. Weeks; Mr. Hofman. Kindly note the new address of the secretary:- Miss A.E. Baxter, 'Timberscombe', Station Rd., Orpington, Kent. The friends are requested to deal with all matters affecting the National Teaching work, through Miss Baxter. Reports of Teaching activities and information about opportunities for Bahá'í speakers will be welcomed. ©Afnan Library Trust, 2023

The N.S.A. resolved that secretaries of local Assemblies and secretaries of National Committees should be asked to make regular reports of their activities to the N.S.A. In this way the National Assembly can keep in touch with all Bahá'í activities throughout the country. It is especially urged that isolated believers keep in touch with the Administrative Order of the Faith, either through the National Teaching Committee or direct to the N.S.A., whichever is the proper channel. In any case, whether there are special matters for discussion or not, letters from the friends are always welcome.

The next meeting of the N.S.A. is called for June 14th. Consideration will be given to recommendations made at the Convention and not dealt with at the last meeting.

Faithfully,
National Spiritual Assembly.
David Hofman, Secretary.

"The Unfoldment of World Civilisation"

A new general letter, bearing this title, has come from the pen of the Guardian. The N.S.A. has gratefully accepted a gift of a large number of copies from the N.S.A. of the United States and Canada, and is distributing one copy free to each believer. We believe that every servant of Bahá'u'lláh should have the opportunity of reading it thoughtfully and with attention. Its profound analysis of the historical trend of the past ninety years, together with the deep significance of its presentation of current conditions, both in their direct relationship to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, render this essay of such importance that we feel it is not only the privilege, but the sacred obligation, of every Baha'i to study carefully and deeply its contents.

Bahá'í Administration

Lack of space makes it impossible to fill this section in this number of the Bulletin. It will be continued, however, in subsequent numbers. The friends are urged to study continually, the Guardian's general letters.

"O Kamál! The heights which through the most gracious favour of God, mortal man can attain in this Day are as yet unrevealed to his sight. The world of being hath never had, nor doth it yet possess the capacity for, such a revelation. The day, however, is fast approaching when the potentialities of so great a favour will, by virtue of His behest, be manifested unto men. Though the forces of the nations be arrayed against Him, though the kings of the earth be leagued to undermine His Cause, the power of His might shall stand unshaken. He, verily, speaketh the truth, and summoneth all mankind to the way of Him who is the Incomparable, the All-Knowing." Bahá'u'lláh.