

"Blessed is the spot..... where mention of God hath been made"

TEACHING NEWS BULLETIN

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

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ADOPTING A GOAL TOWN

Dear Friends,

Arising from what was probably the most stimulating recommendation from Convention, the N.S.A. reported to the Community in the Programme of Action, that, "The adoption of a goal Town by a Spiritual Assembly is welcomed.. and the N.T.C. will work it out with each Assembly.."

On investigating the principles upon which Adoption can be based, the N.T.C. recognises that whilst Adoption may be different in each individual case, depending upon the amount which each Local Assembly can do and the facilities they can extend, the same general principles are everywhere applicable; and we feel sure that the zest with which the idea was welcomed, and the impetus which was imparted to it by Convention will make certain its success.

What can the parent Assembly do?

An Assembly may be able to do no more than enter into a spiritual relationship with a Goal Town and support it with its prayers. Or, on the other hand, it may be able to adopt a Goal Town in the fullest possible measure by providing pioneers, teachers, and all other facilities. A Spiritual Assembly may:

1. Provide pioneers
2. Provide teachers. Whenever the adopting Assembly can support these teachers financially, it will be a great help to the National Fund.
3. Send other Baha'is to give support at meetings.
4. Provide, make, and follow-up contacts.
5. Provide a nucleus for a lending library, or make gifts of literature

for free distribution or placement in libraries.

6. Pray regularly for the work in the adopted town.
7. Maintain constant, personal and vital interest in the success of the Goal Town.

Principles of Adoption

1. "The N.T.C. is responsible for work in the Goal Towns and should, therefore, co-operate with each Local Assembly in arranging for the Assembly's contribution to the work of the Goal Town." - N.S.A.
2. "The adoption of a Goal Town by an Assembly does not complete the obligation of that Assembly to the Six Year Plan." - N.S.A.
3. There is one programme worked out by the N.T.C. in consultation with the Group and the Local Assembly, just one teaching programme being implemented at any time. This programme involves:
 - (a) The activities of the local believers
 - (b) The contributions of the adopting Local Assembly
 - (c) Visits of other teachers arranged directly by the N.T.C.
 Thus, the settling in of pioneers and all the many activities which go towards the winning of a Goal Town are viewed as one whole; and the N.T.C. will work most closely with the L.S.A. and the Group, keeping all fully informed.
4. The adopted town becomes a rallying point for the Community, and the Assembly should seek to get the whole Community behind the adoption and devote a large part of the consultation period of its Feasts to the work in their Goal Town.

Practical Steps to be Taken

1. Decide which town you wish to adopt
2. Consult with the N.T.C. and see just what is possible for your Community to do
3. Keep in close touch with the N.T.C.
4. Keep in close touch with the Group, either through a liaison committee or member
5. Have full periodic consultations with your Goal Town

These, in broad outline, are the ideas upon which the N.T.C. is initiating the plan of Adoption. As it is an entirely new departure in this country, it naturally is in the experimental stage; but we can already get a glimpse of the tremendous possibilities of the scheme. It is with real joy and excitement that we seek to put it into operation, with the close and loving co-operation of the L.S.A.s which are able to take it up. With its success, the whole National Com-

munity will be more closely knit than ever before in its history, and it will become one more milestone in our journey towards the opening of that door which "...will disclose.. a vista of vast dimensions.. of majestic beauty.. of infinite promise.."

This step forward in the field of regional work is one step nearer the day when the establishment of an Assembly in every country, as the preliminary to taking the Faith to the masses of our fellow-countrymen, will be our goal. Then we will see what the Guardian meant when he promised, as long ago as 1940: "Upon this basis the rising generation will erect a noble structure that will excite the admiration of their fellow-countrymen.." And in 1942, he said".. to build an edifice.. which needs must become the sole refuge for their sorely-tried countrymen.."

It is a thrilling task. The time is short. YOUR Goal Town awaits your help. We are looking forward to our future co-operation with you, with eager anticipation.

Faithfully in Bahá'í Service,

THE NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE.

INTENSIVE TEACHING

At the close of last Bahá'í year, the Guardian cabled his permission for the new Local Assemblies to be formed during this final year of the Six Year Plan as soon as nine Bahá'ís are resident in any Goal Town. Knowing that, as the result of continuous teaching effort last year, a sizeable group of contacts are interested in the Faith in Liverpool, Belfast, and Glasgow and that there are several believers resident in Blackpool, Newcastle and that contacts have been made in these towns as well, the N.T.C. called a special Teachers' Conference over Whit-weekend, when five of the pioneers and resident teachers from these northern towns gathered in Liverpool to study methods of intensive teaching and to formulate a programme of teaching work which could be inaugurated in any town where a small core of close contacts exist. Philip Hainsworth, representing the N.T.C., was chairman of the Conference, the first of its type held in Britain. Ursula Newman, pioneer to Belfast, Ada Williams, pioneer to Glasgow, Dick Backwell, pioneer recently to Newcastle and now resident in Edinburgh, and Isobel Locke, resident teacher in Liverpool, were those who came together to

plan the six weeks course of teaching which this month begins in Liverpool, Glasgow and Belfast. Based on a two-fold study course titled The Changeless Faith of God, the plan includes a one week intensive course on the Eternal Covenant, opened by a Public Meeting and closed with a Devotional evening. This is followed by a five week course, on The Covenant Unfolds in the Kingdom of God, given once each week and followed by an informal fireside later in the week. A final closing Devotional and a talk, What It Means to be a Baha'i, completes the pattern. It is hoped that the friends will direct their special prayers toward these three towns during this crucial period of intensive activity.

ADOPTION IMPLEMENTED.

Already busy with their plans for adoption are Manchester, acting as parent Assembly to Liverpool, and Edinburgh, now assuming her role as "Mother Assembly of Scotland" by adopting Glasgow. The Manchester Assembly has appointed a special adoption Committee which has met with the Liverpool friends to plan the best methods whereby help can be extended. Vida Johnston has been asked to serve as liaison member between the Assembly and the Liverpool Group. Several speakers have already spoken at the Public Meetings and the Manchester friends were present to support the meeting addressed last Sunday by Mildred Mottahedeh, of New York City. Mrs Mottahedeh also spoke in Manchester on Monday at the International Club.

ADDRESSES TO NOTE

Philip Hainsworth and his mother are at present on a resident teaching project in Oxford. The N.T.C. Secretary's New Address is:
179 Woodstock Road, OXFORD.

Please, note a correction on the list of Group Correspondents in the last issue of the Bulletin: Ursula Newman, 226 Antrim Road, BELFAST.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE NEEDED

Margeret Sullivan has had to leave Dublin, her pioneer post, for a long rest, as prescribed by her doctor. John Hargraves of Liverpool is ill in Walton Hospital, Liverpool. Your letters of encouragement and love will help these friends.