

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

TEACHING NEWS BULLETIN

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

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BLACKBURN ADOPTS BLACKPOOL

Bringing heart-warming news of one more Local Assembly which has risen with full strength to support the final year of the Plan was a recent letter from Geraldine Cooper, Secretary of the Blackburn Assembly, in which she reports, "It has been our desire to talk the matter over with everyone in the Community, as the adoption of a Goal Town is a very serious matter and not to be taken lightly. As a result of our deliberations, we have decided to adopt Blackpool. First and foremost, we will remember Blackpool in our prayers, continually. Individually, we are prepared to help as follows. I know you will be delighted to hear that Stella Farnsworth is looking for a job in Blackpool and will move there as soon as she finds one. Those of us who are prepared to take a meeting in Blackpool and give a talk are Mrs. Armitage, Nancy Cooper, Geraldine Cooper, Stella Farnsworth, Cyril Hargreaves, and Frank Leetch. Nearly everyone will go over to Blackpool to support a meeting, and everyone is anxious to do all possible to help...We pray that Bahá'u'lláh will bless our efforts in Blackpool, however small and unimportant they may seem to be."

Very far from small and unimportant is this extensive and fine plan of teaching help, Stella Farnsworth's wonderful offer to pioneer in Blackpool constitutes a unique response to the Adoption Plan, and Blackburn now becomes the first parent Assembly to send a pioneer to its Goal Town.

In Blackpool, the news of Blackburn's eagerness to help was received with great joy by Alice, Tom and Prudence Curwen, who have for so long faithfully carried on the teaching work with only

occasional help from outside speakers. With the help and experience of the Blackburn friends and of Joan Wilkinson McCulloch, recently moved from Leeds to Blackpool, the Group feels confident that the teaching work is entering a new phase and that the formation of their Spiritual Assembly can not now be far off.

At a recent consultation meeting with Isobel Locke, N.T.C. representative, the Group planned to hold fortnightly firesides during the Summer months for the considerable group of contacts already attracted to the Faith in Blackpool. In the Autumn, the six-week study course will be inaugurated there. At the first fireside, held on 14th July, 12 contacts and five Baha'is were present. Isobel spoke on "The Old Churches and the New World Faith".

In early August, the Blackburn Assembly will meet with the Blackpool friends for their first joint-consultation, during which the teaching needs of the Group and the methods whereby the Assembly can assist will be discussed. We shall be saying special prayers for the confirmation of this new and important co-operative effort.

"AN ANSWERER OF THE CRY OF THE NEEDY."

Having heard that pioneer Ada Williams was desperately in need of accommodation in Glasgow, where she had been sleeping across two chairs, and that she had twice collapsed at her work due to lack of proper rest, Albert Joseph, from Ada's home-Community, Manchester immediately set out to, and was successful in finding her a comfortable room in a home not far from her work

Ada now writes of her deep gratitude to Albert and the friends for their loving assistance during those difficult weeks. She reports that she is very happy and healthy once again and that the teaching work in Glasgow is beginning to show fine results. Fourteen contacts came to a recent Public Meeting for which the Edinburgh Assembly supplied both the speaker, Olga Mills, and the chairman, James Robertson. Mrs. Kamming, of London, has been spending a busy fortnight in Glasgow meeting with the contacts and helping Ada to prepare for the firesides.

FROM THE NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

The N.T.C. would like to thank all those who have already sent in

their answers to the recent questionnaire on pioneering and resident teaching. Several fine offers of service have been received, and we eagerly look forward to the full and ready response which we know the Guardian's stirring cable has inspired in all hearts.

From Muriel Hayter, of Nottingham, comes these words about the recent letter sent by the N.T.C. to all believers, "It puts its case, without frills; and then it leaves it - leaves it to us, to our hearts and our consciences and our sense of duty. It doesn't plead! That's what I like about it. Yet to the true Baha'i, whose heart reads its message, the plea is there - not on paper, but within that heart. You have in effect said to the believers, 'The choice is yours; take it or leave it.' I was very sincerely touched and impressed by the letter."

"HIGHLY CONSCIOUS GLORIOUS OPPORTUNITY".

With joyful hearts, we report that the first life-giving trickle of what will certainly ultimately become a rushing stream of pioneers has now come forth from the well-springs of our beloved Community in this closing year of the Plan. Not one, but five stout-hearted souls have arisen to answer the desperate needs of the Goal Towns and Assemblies in these last, fast-ebbing months of the Six Year Plan.

Realizing the imperative need for as many of the believers as possible to be resident, during this coming year, in one of the established Communities or Goal Towns needing numerical support, Tom Twycross, isolated believer from Leamington, has moved for the next twelve months, to Cardiff, thereby releasing one believer for pioneering elsewhere.

Sheffield, which has never before in the Six Year Plan had either a pioneer or resident teacher, is the Goal Town to which Charles Dunning, newly released Cardiff believer, has joyfully gone. There he is already seeking accommodation and a job in preparation for the opening of this remaining Goal Town to the Faith. The N.T.C. is placing advertisements in the local newspapers; the Nottingham Assembly has eagerly adopted Sheffield; and plans are being laid for re-activating contacts made by David Hofman, when he lived there some years ago, and by Meherangiz Munsiff and Hassan Sabri when they spoke there during Summer School last year.

Una Townshend, of Dublin, eager to serve the Plan, has obtained an appointment as secretary to a well-known girl's school in Liverpool and will begin her pioneer project there on 1st September. Una is not only the first pioneer ever to arise to help the tenacious little Liverpool Group in its unceasing struggle to spread the Faith on the Merseyside, but she is also one of the first two pioneers to arise from the small but devoted Irish Community.

Mahboubeh Shakib, of Birmingham, though she will soon be leaving that Community to take her mid-wifery course in London, has offered the last six months of her stay in this country before returning to her home in Teheran for pioneering in any Goal Town needing Baha'is. She will be free to start her pioneer project before April 1950 and will remain here several months after that. Such a service at that crucial period will undoubtedly be of tremendous assistance, and we sincerely hope that more of the believers will find it possible to offer similar periods of pioneer activity during early 1950, if they are not now free to move to a Goal Town.

GOAL TOWN NEWS.

We are very happy to welcome Miss Jean Campbell to our beloved Faith. and to the Oxford Community, and to announce that both Cyril and Margaret Jenkerson are now happily settled in that City. It only remains for two more believers to be added to the Nottingham Community from which Philip and Mrs. Hainsworth have come as resident teachers to Oxford for that Goal Town to have the nine believers needed for the Spiritual Assembly. The friends in Oxford hold weekly fireside meetings for their contacts and to facilitate real Baha'i fellowship among the believers. Visiting Oxford from over-seas recently have been John Roberts, Chairman of the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly, and Mrs. Jetty Straub pioneer from the United States to Holland. Lilly Quistegaard Baha'i youth from Denmark, is now resident in Oxford. Hugh McKinley, Iran Maghnat, and Talieh Aga have visited the Baha'is there in recent weeks.

From Newcastle, comes news of a Public Meeting at which 12 very interested contacts were present. Dick Backwell, travelling teacher, reports that there are a number of sincere seekers among those who are now attending the Newcastle meetings. In August, Dick will help the Group to inaugurate the six-week intensive study course for them.