

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

TEACHING NEWS BULLETIN

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

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COMING TO SUMMER SCHOOL?

To every Bahá'í, new and old alike, one of the greatest joys is that of meeting and making friends with his fellow-believers in all parts of the country. At no other time of the year do we have such an ideal opportunity for the happiness of close Bahá'í fellowship than at Summer School.

It is the hope of the N.T.C. that this year as many of the believers as possible will come to Summer School bringing with them their friends and contacts, all of whom will be equally welcome whether they visit Eastwood Grange for a week, a week-end or a day. It often happens that this intimate association of a contact with the Bahá'í Community becomes the confirming factor in that individual's spiritual life. We hope that you will urge your contacts to take advantage of this opportunity of seeing and participating in Bahá'í communal life. For this is one way whereby our small Communities can grow to Assembly status, our L.S.A.s be expanded, and our National Community become even more closely united by the bonds of friendship, understanding and common activity established at Summer School and perpetuated throughout the year.

News has already reached us that four members of the Liverpool Group and four, possibly seven, of their contacts will be journeying together on the opening day of the Summer School and that the Manchester Community is arranging a special Sunday coach trip to Summer School for the Manchester and Liverpool Bahá'ís, their friends and families.

Speaker-training Study-circle.

The N.T.C. realizes the eagerness with which more and more of the friends are arising to help with the teaching work in their local communities and in co-operation with the R.T.C.s and N.T.C. This year at Summer School, therefore, a special study-circle will be available each week, during which the believers will be given an opportunity to develop more fully their talents as public and fireside speakers.

The following general division of the week has been planned:

- First Day. Theory and group practice of talk preparation.
 - Second Day. Individual practice and group discussion of preparation.
 - Third Day. Theory and group practice of delivery of a talk.
 - Fourth Day. Individual practice and group discussion of delivery.
 - Fifth Day. Theory and practice of chairmanship.
 - Sixth Day. Theory and practice of creative discussion leading.
- The believers attending the study-circle will be free to decide in consultation any aspects of the subject they wish to have emphasized, the hour of the day they wish to meet and the duration of each day's session. A group recorder will be chosen each week; and the N.T.C. hopes that from the material gathered at the School, a public speaking study outline can be written and issued for the use of the believers at home. All those who think they would like to attend this speaker-training study-circle should try to bring their Teaching Manuals to Summer School.

GOAL TOWN ACTIVITIES.

In Newcastle, the intensive teaching course is well underway with Dick Backwell as resident teacher. Dick received a special invitation to stay at the home of a contact he had met when speaking at a local Women's Club there some weeks ago. Hugh McKinley of Cardiff is spending a week in Newcastle lending a helping hand with the meetings, and Ursula Newman of Belfast stopped off there on her way home from the N.S.A. meeting this week.

In Brighton and Oxford the believers have organised themselves into properly constituted Bahá'í Groups. Claire Gung is Chairman of the Brighton Group and Evelyn Baxter Secretary. In Oxford, the Chairman is David Hofman, the Secretary, Margaret Jenkerson and the Treasurer, Connie Langdon-Davies. Alice Phillips, isolated believer from Hastings, is a welcome visitor at the Brighton Feasts. A small meeting room has been found by the Group, adverts placed in the local newspapers, and regular teaching activity begun in Brighton.

THE ADOPTION PLAN IN ACTION.

The Adoption Plan is functioning with excellent results in Blackpool and Liverpool. Frank Leetch, Blackburn Liaison member has visited and consulted with the Blackpool friends several times and spoke at their Fireside last week. The two Communities will celebrate their next Feast together in Blackburn. In Liverpool, John Craven and Louis Ross-Enfield of Manchester have given excellent talks at recent Sunday afternoon meetings, Mr. Craven making a deep impression on the contacts with his memories of the Master. We hope soon to have further news of the London-Brighton, Nottingham - Sheffield, and Edinburgh-Glasgow adoption activities.

LOCAL ASSEMBLIES RE-DOUBLE EFFORTS.

In no previous year of the Six Year Plan have we been able to report such an enthusiastic burst of summer-time teaching activity as that at present being carried on by almost every L.S.A.

In Bristol, the friends, with the help of speakers John and Dorothy Ferraby and Philip Hainsworth, carried out a very successful week-long Seminar programme. The follow-up meetings conducted by Fred Stahler, Alapur Alai, and Ralph Crates brought nine new enquirers. Elizabeth Gorvett of Cardiff spoke at the Public Meeting in Bristol last week, and Richard St. Barbe Baker will give a talk on "The Place of Trees in the New World Order" later in the month.

In Cardiff a weekly study-course on the spiritual qualities of Bahá'í life has been inaugurated. Speaking of a recent visit by Rashid Hakimian, of India, Joan Giddings writes, "On the first evening of his visit we held a Unity Feast, to include contacts not able to attend the Public Meeting. Rashid was able to enrich our knowledge

of the Faith in its early days. We were very impressed by the wonderful spirit shown by Rashid and his deep sincerity."

Vera Rate writes from Northampton. "We had a very successful devotional meeting at the Plough Hotel last Thursday, with an attendance of 18 people. Alma Gregory read the prologue on the Bahá'í House of Worship, and then we went straight into the readings from the Words of the Prophets through the ages. We closed with a beautiful recording of the Lord's Prayer." In addition to this special devotional gathering, a Public Meeting was held recently at which Ralph Crates of Bristol spoke.

From Edinburgh comes the suggestion that the friends make a special effort to submit written accounts to the local newspapers after each Public Meeting, as the papers are often more inclined to print reports of events which have already taken place than those yet to occur. Jean Court, pioneer to Edinburgh, holds a Fire-side meeting in her home each week. A different local Bahá'í is invited to give a brief talk on the Cause on each occasion. Such consistent individual efforts for close association with our contacts is that which the Guardian has stressed as a vital step in confirming new believers.

Tahirih Vatamparast of Birmingham and Iran, and Vida Johnston of Liverpool have been recent visitors to the Dublin Community. Peter Wilkinson of Leeds spoke last week in Blackburn. Dorothy Ferraby of London visited the Norwich Assembly in July, helping with the teaching work and bringing fresh inspiration to the friends there. Prudence George of Norwich is spending several weeks in Blackpool with her sister, Alice Curwen. Prue will help with the teaching work there and in Blackpool and Liverpool.

YOUTH DAYS AT SUMMER SCHOOL.

Using the "Qualities of the New Age" as the theme for the Youth Day Programme at Summer School this year, the National Youth Committee has planned two full Saturdays of activity, beginning each morning with a panel of talks by youth speakers and followed in the late afternoon by an auction of arts, crafts and white-elephants. The proceeds of the auction will go to the National Fund. Don't forget to bring or send your handicrafts or white-elephants to Summer School for the Youth Day auctions !