

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

TEACHING NEWS BULLETIN

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

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17th May, 1949.

"ARISE AS ONE SOUL"

"I entreat them.. to arise as one soul, to exert onemore super-human effort, to fix steadily their gaze on the pinnacle they are visibly approaching and to disencumber themselves from any burden impeding their arduous climb, in a last determined attempt to scale and conquer the summit, from which alone they can catch a glimpse of the future glory of their destiny."

"We can but bow our heads in humility, awe and thanksgiving, renew our pledge of fealty to it, and, each covenanting with his own heart, resolve to prove faithful to that pledge, and persevere to the very end, until our earthly share of servitude to so transcendant and priceless a Cause has been totally and completely fulfilled."

Dearest friends,

Our beloved Guardian has raised the call of service for this final year of our cherished Six Year Plan. Aware, as he is, of the set-backs we have encountered by the loss of our prized Goal Towns for last year, Virgin Territory Belfast, Liverpool, and Oxford; of the scattering of our stout-hearted pioneers from these and other Goal Towns to preserve the tottering new L.S.A.s in the Virgin Territories - Olga Mills and Dick Backwell to Edinburgh, and Charles Dunning and Meherangiz Munsiff to Cardiff; and of the paucity of funds with which we begin this last lap "of the first historic collective enterprise undertaken in British Baha'i history", he has, nonetheless, cabled to us, "Be not distressed, redouble exertions. Perseverance will enable prosecutors Plan attain Goals. Arranging contribution." With these words and those in his recent

letter, we gain strength, courage, hope, and confidence to face the task ahead of us, a task which the Guardian emphasises will require the "entire Community exert remaining twelve months, effort surpassing noblest endeavours as yet made service Plan." We know, too, that though "victory within sight intervening period rapidly shrinking. Responsibility every single member Community growing graver hourly." Already, almost one month of our precious time has slipped irrevocably from our grasp.

We, your National Teaching Committee, are ready and eager to give our full support to help you in every effort which you, our dearly loved fellow-workers, will want to make in the coming months. We are always ready to consult with you about any aspect of service you may be eager to render our beloved Cause in these critical hours, and are anxious, as well, to receive your ideas, suggestions, criticisms, and comments about the progress of the Plan and the ways of achieving final victory. You have commissioned us to help you in our common emergency. We are your servants. We place deep faith in all of you and hope that you will do likewise for us. For we know that it is only the strength of our love for one another, our united and "redoubled" effort, and our fervent prayers which are capable of releasing upon the entire Community and the Plan "Baha'u'llah's sustaining grace, more efficacious readier bless last attempts made save fortunes Plan so in extricably interwoven destiny British Baha'i Community."

With deep love.

Your NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

"...ENOBLING EVIDENCES OF BAHAI ACHIEVEMENT

As crisis after crisis arose in recent weeks and as prized Goal after Goal was sacrificed to the preservation of already existing trophies we were forced to concentrate with sad hearts on this disquieting news of our evident failure in almost all fields of endeavour. At Convention, the Community faced the facts squarely, and earnestly consulted on methods of carrying on the work of the Plan under top speed and efficiency conditions. Now, as we once again turn our eyes toward our Goal Towns, we know, deep in our hearts, that it is the steadfastness and loyal devotion of our pioneers which will ultimately be the rock upon which we will build the new communities. These words of Ada Williams from Glasgow say, better than any of us are able, with what spirit our pioneers are in the field.

"I am sparing neither time nor money on behalf of the Cause. Knowing

how critical the funds are, I am not asking for any money; but, please, do not think that the Cause in Glasgow will suffer. If I cannot meet the necessary needs, I will appeal to the funds. I am afraid I will not be able to contribute much to the National Fund, but I will certainly do my best. Last Sunday week I spoke in Motherwell Church; fifty-six people were present, and afterwards three people came to me and said they would like to know more about my religion. Quite a number are interested. Mrs McKechnie, our new Glasgow believer, has known of the Cause for two years through her sister in Canada. I have been visiting her at least once a week; with her younger two children we have been reading from Paris Talks, Hidden Words, and New Era. We had a fire-side to celebrate NawRuz.."

Prudence George writing for the radiant new Norwich L.S.A. tells of the activities therein those last crucial weeks before April 21st. "At a Public Meeting on March 7th, a panel of speakers gave talks on the principles, with Muriel Mathews as guest speaker.. A newcomer attended for the first time and has been to every meeting since and is now our 10th believer, Harry Fowles. Muriel spoke to many youth and did much contact work. When we had only 8 believers, one of the new Baha'is, knowing the value of prayer, repeated the Ahmad Tablet 9 times, and the L.S.A. was assured with the declaration of Harold Haines. Emily Eastgate gave a very interesting talk while she was here and visited many contacts. We also had a social tea during which Philip Hainsworth spoke on his visit to Haifa and I, on Canada and the Baha'i Faith. We feel assured of Baha'ullah's blessing on this ancient city of Norwich, the city of many churches, and now blessed by 6 Norwich believers"

ANNUAL REPORT OF PROGRESS MADE

From Bristol, Dora Weeks writes of the fine record of this new L.S.A. "Since the formation of the Assembly in April 1948, we have enrolled three new believers. Besides the 19 Day Feasts, and L.S.A. meetings we have had guest speakers, including among others Mason Remey and Rafi Mottahedeh from America, and Mrs Olive Routh and Ethel Dawes from Australia. Among the area teachers that have visited us regularly are Claire Gung, Fred Stahler, Hugh McKinley, Susan Solomon and AtaOllah Khochbine. The Regional Youth Conference was held here, with eight visiting youth attending. A Public Reception opened the session, and real interest in the Faith was shown. Evelyn Baxter returned to London in October ultimately to pioneer in Brighton. Bob Cheek and his family pioneered to Norwich in December."

Writes Stella Farnsworth from Blackburn, "We decided, when without a speaker for our Public Meetings, to follow the study-outline, by taking turns in leading meetings. After the talk, questions are handed out to all present, who, if they have paid attention should know the answers. We think that the non-Baha'is appear to enjoy this quite as much, and sometimes more than ordinary meetings, as they hear the Baha'i point of view from every member."

Birmingham reports a most excellent and regular teaching schedule. Writes Emily Eastgate, "We hold a Public Meeting once in eight weeks, and during the intervening period a Study Course is held once a week. The first Course was of a preparatory nature, leading up to the history and teachings of the Faith, given in the second Course. Plans are complete now for the third Course to begin soon. .. The L.S.A. sends a contribution every Baha'i month to the National Fund. As a result of Marion Hofman's visit in January, giving us a picture of pioneer needs and funds, a special donation of £22. was raised amongst the friends. A total of £108. 15. 0 has been sent to the National Fund during the year"

In London a series of talks and discussions has been held at the Centre on Wednesday evenings during the past three months. Nineteen non-Bahais were welcomed to one or more of these meetings. Interesting discussion followed the talks, and, judging by the late hours of dispersal, the gatherings were really enjoyed, talks and discussions appreciated.

ADDRESSES - GOAL TOWN SECRETARIES

Below are given the addresses of the secretaries or group correspondants of the nine remaining Goal Towns. A constant flow of letters of encouragement and help from all of us to the pioneers and new friends in these towns, as well as the outpouring of good news of their own activities will surely serve to knit our whole Community ever more tightly together with the lasting bonds of common understanding, activity, love and fellowship.

- Blackpool - Mrs. A. Curwen, 6, Mansfield Road, W. Blackpool
Belfast - Miss Ursula Newman, 266 Antrim Road, Belfast
Brighton - Miss Evelyn Baxter, 45, Tisbury Road, Hove 3, Sussex
Glasgow - Miss Ada Williams, 86 Chester's Crescent, Motherwell
Liverpool - Miss Margaret Shanks, 132 Sussex Road, Southport.
Newcastle - Miss Hilda Strong, c/o Smith, Lemon, and Stewart, Ltd.,
6 Nixon Street, Newcastle, 2
Oxford - Cyril Jenkerson, c/o Hofman, George Ronald Publisher,
2, Alfred Street, Oxford
Sheffield - We would like to put your address here
St. Ives - Miss Marion Hocken, meadow Way House, Porthmeor, St Ives,
Cornwall