

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

# TEACHING NEWS BULLETIN

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

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## IN NORWICH - A NEW RECORD SET !

For a Goal Town to have had four declarations by only November of its crucial year is undoubtedly a new and inspiring record for which pioneers and Groups in all parts of the country might well yearn! But so it is in Norwich, where last month two more new believers embraced the light of Bahá'u'lláh's glorious Message.

Writes happy, hard-working pioneer, Prudence George about new believer, 19-year old Mrs. Agnes Haines, "She has convinced Walter Wilkins and me that she is capable of understanding the Faith and all it stands for, also her part in the Plan. She hails from Glasgow and has many friends there which will help soon.." The other new believer is Donna Cheek, who did such grand work for the Faith before becoming a Bahá'í, by entertaining many teachers and visitors to the Bristol Community when she was living there with her husband, Bob, our diligent pioneer who soon moves to Norwich to start his third resident project.

The Norwich Group bases its teaching work on close personal association with the contacts, sustained through weekly firesides at Prue's home and by additional firesides at the homes of contacts, where other members of the family are met and introduced to the Faith as well. Those Norwich friends who are able, unite in daily prayer for the teaching work. Writes Prue, "We feel that prayer is one of our greatest methods of teaching, since it is followed by action. And we find it helps us in administering; we are better able to carry out our duties together." Our prayers are with you, Norwich. Keep up the excellent work!

"..THE SEEDS SOWN.. HAVE AT LAST GERMINATED.."

From Belfast, Charles Dunning tells the interesting story of Mrs. Hetty Englesman, newly declared believer, who first heard of the Faith in South America. She was resident and active for the Cause in Bahia, Brazil, until recently when she returned to her native soil, Northern Ireland, and chanced to meet the Belfast friends when they sought accommodation at her home. Mrs. Englesman has now become the Chairman of the newly constituted Belfast Group and is rapidly proving herself an able Public Speaker. Olga Mills was chosen Secretary of the Group and Charles Treasurer and Librarian. The Belfast Community has inaugurated a weekly study-class and has recently welcomed, as guest teachers, Ursula Newman and Dora Coleman, of Dublin, and Meherangiz Munsiff of London. Writes Olga of their celebration of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh, ".. it was dignified, harmonious, and friendly.. We were 15 in all.. David Hofman gave an inspiring talk; I took the chair, and everybody joined in bringing and serving dainties and tea.. A contact offered his office free of charge, even supplying teapot, cups, and boiling water. Charles sold three of David's books which were on display, among flowers and quotations from the Tablets and Scriptures.."

The story of Mrs. Billan, newly declared believer of Blackpool, was equally interesting when it was learned that she had studied the Faith in Toronto at the home of Laura Davies, Secretary of the newly formed Canadian N.S.A., and had, since her arrival in this country, been searching for Alice Curwen. Mrs. Billan is already actively spreading the Faith in Blackpool and assisting the Group in its teaching work.

"Yesterday we received a declaration, and at the L.S.A. meeting the unanimous decision was to accept it. Although Elizabeth Gorvet, 21-years old, a short-hand typist, has only been studying the Faith since September, it has always been apparent that she was a soul waiting to hear the Message." And so once again Cardiff has its full nine believers. Joan Giddings writes further, "The first study-class started in fine style with Hassan Sabri taking it. He gave a wonderfully clear picture of "God and His Manifestations". We had our five regular students, and we felt from their reception of it that if they attend the course, they will be our goal achieved by next April." The translation of a Bahá'í pamphlet into Welsh has recently been completed, thus adding one more language to the already long list the Guardian has so joyfully enumerated.

IN HIS SERVICE..

The N.T.C. is grateful to Ralph Crates, of Bristol, for his attractive masthead design for the Teaching News Bulletin.

TEACHING CONFERENCE

Leeds - 8th and 9th January, 1949.

Saturday

SESSIONS

Sunday

2:30 to 6:30 P.M.

10:00 A.M. to 12.30 P.M.

8:00 to 10:00 P.M.

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2:00 to 5:00 P.M.

It is hoped that a distinguished visitor to these shores, Mrs. Loulie Mathews, of the United States, will be our guest on this most important occasion. Mrs. Mathews is at present pioneering in South Africa at the Guardian's request. Her visit to this country will indeed be a bounty to us all.

Book your accommodation early! A record Conference attendance is anticipated. Write to THE REGISTRAR:

Mr. Marcel Mihaeloff  
18 Reginald Terrace,  
Chapelton, Leeds.

".. PROPELLED ALONG THE BROAD HIGHWAY.."

Having been in the land of bagpipes and haggis for a month, Ada Williams writes from Glasgow that she has succeeded in arousing interest at the public library by enquiring for "The Promise of All Ages". "I have already made a few friends who have made me welcome in their homes. Please, help me with your prayers.."

Demonstrating the value of personal contact with association secretaries about the Faith and of leaving inexpensive literature for their perusal, Dick Backwell writes of a resulting opportunity to speak on the Faith to some 20 young people at the Newcastle Y.M.C.A. on 28th November and of a further invitation to speak to the local Theosophical Society in January.

In Edinburgh, the new believers are rapidly taking their place as workers for the Cause. May Wood spoke on "Let God Be True" at one of the weekly Public Firesides in November, and James Robertson was in the Chair. Mrs. Wood was recently elected Vice-Chairman of the L.S.A. at the bi-election. An all-Scottish Committee, Alex Wood, Mr. Robertson, and Dr. Johnston, has succeeded in locating an excellent new part-time centre for the Edinburgh teaching activities.

ON FINAL PHASE DAY..

Enthusiastic letters recounting the success of Final Phase Day, on 14th November, have been flowing in, each telling of a week-end crowded with teaching and community activity.

"..The whole day was a huge success," writes Vera Rate from Northampton. "We had about 20 people from London alone; altogether there were 35 of the Conference.. and at the Public Meeting there were at least 25 non-bahá'is to hear Marion Hofman and Hasan Balyuzi.."

"In Cardiff," writes Joan Giddings, "the feeling was that the splendid efforts.. to bring to all believers the import of the Final Phase was welcome and deeply appreciated.. The Brains Trust, on which John Ferraby served, was a success.. 16 non-Bahá'is present." Ralph Crates, of Bristol, adds, "Teaching by individual initiative was stressed.. the N.T.C. section was a success and much benefit was gained.."

Reports Dick Backwell on the Bradford meetings, 12 Bahá'is attended the Community session, 5 having travelled from Leeds. Of the Public Meeting in the afternoon, Dick writes, "The audience was appreciative.."

In Dublin, a Reception and Public Meeting, attended by 13 non-Bahá'is, were combined with the Final Phase Day activities, David Hofman serving as guest speaker. "Three of the Belfast friends," writes Ursula Newman, "and nine from Dublin attended the Conference. The play reading was greatly enjoyed.. The whole session roused the friends to a greater feeling of responsibility and understanding of the tasks of the Final Phase.."

The Torquay friends welcomed Bernard Leach and Marion Hocken from St. Ives and Alma Gregory as the N.S.A. representative.

To Bournemouth, travelled Zara Warmar, pioneer to Brighton. Writes Anne Stacey, "Bournemouth was most grateful for Mrs. Basil Hall, who was a continual source of inspiration.. The particularly fine statement on intensive teaching was much appreciated.. the great importance and value of individual effort and example was felt." Writes Mrs. Basil Hall, "At the Public Meeting great interest was shown in the Faith. Florance Pinchon was Chairman and gave a brilliant introduction to the theme.."

In Edinburgh, Phillip Hainsworth and N.T.C. representatives, May Wood and Eric Manton were so inspired that Scotland only narrowly escaped losing half of its first Assembly to the "pioneer fields abroad."

Thirty-three people gathered in Manchester, including 2 from Liverpool, 4 Blackpool, 3 Blackburn, Dorothy Ferraby for the N.S.A. and Hassan Sabri for the N.T.C. Twenty-seven people attended the very successful Public Meeting in the evening.