

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

TEACHING NEWS BULLETIN

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

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BELFAST - GOAL TOWN, VIRGIN TERRITORY!

The Guardian has affirmed that the Assemblies in the Virgin Territories are "the most important Assemblies formed under the Plan" and that they "must be built into strong and flourishing Communities." Belfast, last remaining Virgin Territory and Goal Town for this year, is consequently, a most vital point of concentration for our teaching effort between now and April 21st.

With only two valiant pioneers and two native believers to carry on the intensive teaching programme, Belfast, nevertheless, sends news of diligent and fruitful teaching activity. BUT THEY NEED HELP! Can you help them? Can you go on a teaching visit or a short or long term resident project? Or can you meet the "supreme challenge", of which our Guardian speaks, by going as a pioneer to Northern Ireland's shores!

In recent months, numerous people have heard of the Cause through valuable and extensive newspaper publicity appearing in the Belfast News-Letter and concerned primarily with the nature of the Faith and a favourable review of Mr. Townshend's book, "Promise of All Ages," also an excellent response written by Mr. Townshend, himself.

Following on this, Meherangiz Munsiff achieved good newspaper notices, successfully attracted the many new contacts who attended her several meetings, and was invited to speak at a meeting of a local Labour Union on "Labour Problems in India."

Brian Townshend, last month, journeyed from Dublin to take one of the Belfast Public Meetings. Writes Olga Mills, "He gave an excellent

talk, clear, convincing, and friendly. There were many new-comers much interested. The atmosphere was sincere and harmonious."

Thus Belfast and the other Goal Towns for this year, Liverpool, Norwich, and Oxford, are progressing along the road to Assembly status. But more believers are urgently needed to man these out-posts of the Faith. A confused and spiritually famished world is crying out. A Virgin Territory, four Goal Towns are crying out. Our pioneers are crying out! Can your Assembly release you? Can you, will you help them NOW! Our prayers are with you constantly, Goal Towns.

"BEFITTING RESPONSE"?

Manchester and London, in accord with the 5-point recommendation of the Leeds Teaching Conference, were, during this last fortnight, the scenes of intensely moving and spiritual sessions on pioneering and the pioneer spirit, miniature Conferences called in an effort to draw forth from these "numerically larger Communities" the "powerful, decisive impetus" which would provide the "befitting response" the Guardian has so urgently called for in his three most recent cablegrams.

In London, 30 believers from nine Communities gathered to listen to the NTC members and the pioneer representatives from the Goal Towns. Adding to their names to that of Meherangiz Munsiff, who has already responded to the Guardian's summons, were three newly arrived Persian believers who offered to settle for their studies in two of the Goal Towns, Mr. Alai and Mr. Samimi in Liverpool, and Mr. Khasrovani in Oxford. Our dear friends John and Dorothy Ferraby and Mrs. Slade have earnestly requested the prayers of the friends that their difficulties may be removed and that they may fulfil their cherished desire to pioneer.

In Manchester, 29 believers from six Communities gathered to listen and confer. The spirit of the occasion was very good and, though it could hardly be expected that many believers would arise on the Conference floor to offer to pioneer, we know that the hearts of many were deeply touched and that the Manchester friends will soon arise to help meet the "supreme challenge" now confronting the British Community in these vitally important days of the Final Phase.

Without a substantial number of new and courageous pioneers who will arise to take up posts in the Goal Towns, it will be, virtually, only the miraculous that can assure the winning of the Goals for this year. If we fail now in this hour of crisis, the glorious destiny of the British Bahá'í.

Community, already partially revealed by our Guardian, will have slipped from our grasp, perhaps forever. Our children, their children and future generations will bear the full burden of our failure.

" PRINCES OF THE FORCES OF LIGHT "

With these words 'Abdu'l-Bahá signified the station of all those who arise to teach the Cause of God. From our Goal Towns steadily flows news of the onward march of this Army of Light.

Dorothy Rose, new believer from Norwich, writes, "Have been a Bahá'í now four months, but have not regretted once the step I took back those four months past. My thoughts are with the Cause every minute of the day. I was thinking what a wonderful gift we could give to the seething masses if only they would investigate. It is indeed the most precious gift I have ever had." Already, we learn that Bob Cheek has found a house and a job. The Norwich friends have now formed themselves into a Bahá'í Group with Bob as Chairman; Walter Wilkins, Vice-chairman; and Prudence George, Secretary. Their most recent teaching activity was when Vivian Isenthal of London, took a Public Meeting and fireside, Vivian writes that the atmosphere at the meetings was very friendly and that there are several close contacts in Norwich.

From Liverpool, Vida Johnston writes enthusiastically of the visits of Meherangiz Munsiff and Muriel Mathews, "Present at the meeting when Mrs. Munsiff spoke on 'The World's Greatest Prisoner' were 10 friends and 6 Bahá'ís. Little Jyoti captivated all hearts in the buses, cafes and wherever we went. It was just lovely having Muriel to help at our socials. We had some hilarious evenings together." The continual social activity combined with serious teaching is certainly proving its worth in Liverpool, reports Jean Court, of Edinburgh, who spoke there on 30th January. Margaret Shanks writes that she has joined the British Amateur Press Association, in the hope of making contacts among the young writers. The officers of the newly formed Liverpool Group are Vida, Chairman; Margaret, Secretary.

Derrick Faux writes from Oxford about one of his many interesting pioneer experiences. He was invited to meet the Imam of the Woking Mosque at a tea given at Worster College. Says Derrick, "I don't know what he thinks of the Bahá'ís, but, of course, Abdu'l-Bahá was invited to speak at Woking Mosque during his visit to England." As a result of this fine opening for the Bahá'ís at the University, a Bahá'í speaker has been invited to speak for a group of international students at the

R E G I O N A L Y O U T H C O N F E R E N C E

Midlands, West and South-west Regions
BRISTOL - 26th and 27th February, 1949

Dunelm Cafe, 11, Gt. George Street.

SESSIONS

Saturday - 7.30 to 10.30 P.M. Public Meeting and Social Evening.
Theme: " A UNIFIED WORLD THROUGH UNIFIED FAITHS - HOW?"

Sunday - 10.15 A.M. to 1.00 P.M., 2.15 to 4.40 P.M. Conference.
Theme: YOUTHS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE FINAL PHASE.

Book your accomodation now! Write to the REGISTRAR:
Mr. Ralph Crates, 30, The Park, Kingswood, Bristol.

All Souls College next semester. David Hofman will be the speaker. The Oxford friends have decided to be known as the Bahá'ís of Oxford in order to avoid confusion with the Oxford Group Movement. Derrick has been chosen Group Officer to handle all correspondence until such time as the Community elects regular officers.

BREAKING GROUND FOR NEXT YEAR'S HARVEST

Evelyn Baxter, of London, responding to the urgent appeal for pioneers to complete the nuclei in the Goal Towns for next year, moves soon to Brighton to join Zara Warman in the work already begun there.

In Blackpool, the friends have organised as a Bahá'í Group. Tom Curwen was chosen to be the Chairman, and Alice Curwen, Secretary.

From Glasgow, Ada Williams sends thrilling news of the progress of Cause in this, the second largest city in the British Isles. With over 100 contacts to her credit, Ada tells of an invitation to speak to a group of 50 young people at a Church Fellowship. Providing ample evidence of her determination and initiative is the fact that Ada is already holding a small study-class for nine enquirers in a cafe once a week, teaching the Faith and Esperanto simultaneously.

(Newcastle)

Dick Backwell, pioneer to Newcastle, writes of the first Nineteen Day Feast held in that city. There is a nucleus of three believers in /