

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

TEACHING NEWS BULLETIN

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

Teaching Bulletin - No.7.

THE NEW TEACHING PLAN.

1. The Purpose.

The National Teaching Committee, faced at the beginning of this last year of the Six Year Plan with imperative need for rapid confirmation of a considerable number of new believers in the Goal Towns, called a Conference of several experienced Baha'i Teachers to consult on methods of accomplishing this end. The results of that Conference are embodied in a new teaching plan devised to fulfill the three-fold emphasis of our teaching activities to date, that of attracting new contacts, deepening their knowledge of the fundamentals of the Faith, and finally of confirming them in their beliefs. This teaching plan is at present working with some success in several of the Goal Towns, and it is hoped that by wide-spread application of the fundamental pattern, more and more contacts will embrace the truth of the Faith.

2. The Basis.

The fundamental feature of this new teaching plan is that it attempts to attract the contact to the Faith by emphasis on the most vital issue of the Faith - the Eternal Covenant; its essence, unfoldment throughout the Ages, and its consumption in the Dispensation of Baha'u'llah. After thus attracting the enquirers, the Course proceeds by consistent but easier stages to deepen them in the basic outline of the Faith. If the Course is carried out as planned, and if the teacher and Baha'is give the contacts the closest possible attention during the entire period, it is highly possible that one or several of the contacts may reach the point of confirmation thereby.

3. The Overall-pattern.

The plan of action covers a period, initially, of six weeks taking the following major outline.

- A.. One or more introductory public meetings, or a Reception.
At these meetings, the Course to follow is announced and all present are encouraged to attend.

- B.. A series of three or four talks given within a single week on the theme, "The Eternal Covenant". (see outline below).
- C.. A devotional meeting, which can either form a part of the final talk on the Covenant, or can be held as a separate meeting, preceding the further classes, and linking the Covenant Course to the succeeding stages in the teaching plan.
- D.. A five-week course given once each week and followed later in each week by a fireside meeting, having reference back to the study-class held earlier in the week. This five-week course to be titled

"The Covenant Unfolds in the Kingdom
of God". (see outline below.)

- E.. At the close of the five-week course, the final fireside meeting will begin with a brief devotional programme and the talk will be titled - "What It Means to be a Baha'i".

At the end of this six weeks study the contact should be well grounded in the Faith, as the whole general scope of the Cause will have been covered. During this entire time, close personal contact should be maintained between the Baha'is and the contact - especially between the teacher and the contact, and above all, ample "fireside" opportunity should be given to allow the seeker to ask questions.

4. The Prerequisites.

In order that this course will fulfil its purpose, it is necessary that contacts numbering 5 to 14 be willing and able to attend most of the meetings. It is also advisable that these enquirers

attend one or several meetings before the course begins so that the word 'Baha'i' and the most basic essentials about the Faith are familiar to them. It is well to have one teacher take all of the Covenant sessions, and either that same teacher, or another, take all of the major study-meetings during the successive five weeks.

STUDY COURSE OUTLINE .

"THE ETERNAL COVENANT"

First Day.

What is a Covenant? A Covenant needs periodic renewal.

Three types of Religious Covenant.

Purposes of Creation. Unfoldment of the Eternal Covenant. Love of God for Man. (Ref.H.W. "Love Me that I May Love Three.") Man's need to respond by loving God. Christ's Covenant: Matt. 26:26, Last Supper.

Covenant of Baha'u'llah

(a) Accept the later Manifestation.

(b) Accept immediate successor.

Discuss effects of Violation. Dispersion of energy. Break down into sects. Discuss tremendous energy and power available if all served the Covenant. Faith of Baha'u'llah, the one clear channel. Baha'is are the builders of the Kingdom of God on Earth. The New World Order.

Second Day.

Summarise facts of first day, especially the purpose of Creation and Man's need to love God as his part of the Eternal Covenant.

Discuss the Baha'i Covenant, especially the notion of freedom from Sects and Division resulting from specifically appointed successor. Faint brief, glowing picture of historical figures of Faith, showing how the Bab prepared the way for Baha'u'llah.

Explain state of Baha'i world after ascension of Baha'u'llah and later, of Abdu'l-Baha. The "Will", - a new Message of Hope. The Guardian. Discuss "Will" as Charter of the New World Order, and its provisions as the constitution of the Kingdom of God.

Third Day.

Salient points of the two previous meetings. Will and Testament. Oneness of Mankind being a statement indicating that Mankind is one organic whole, needing life from the Manifestation; that it is the power of the Covenant which sustains all. Need for the perfecting of man to become channels for this power. (ref. "25 Years of the Guardianship", Holley's talk "Dispensation".) Thrill of being a Baha'i in this age, and being able to take active part in the building of the Kingdom of God.

Fourth Day.

Summary of previous three days. The Call of the Guardian; Army of the Covenant marching on; all the Plans a response to the call of the Covenant. How can we build by responding to the call. Baha'is alone, by their voting and active spreading of the Word, can spread the knowledge of the building of the Kingdom of God.

Close with appeal to investigate, and announce the plans for following five weeks. Final Prayer. No.85.

"The Covenant Unfolds in the Kingdom of God".

- I. The source and purpose of Creation; The Reality of Man. Man's Knowledge of God - The Love and Worship of God - The Creative Word of God - Man's Spiritual Nature - Body, Mind and Spirit - Free Will - Rebirth - The Reward of Faith.

II. Revelation is Progressive.

Man's True Educator - Recurrent Cycles of Dispensation - The Unity and Distinction of the Prophets - The Fulfilment in this Day, the Day of God.

III. The Central Figures of the Baha'i Faith.

The History of the Faith - The Writings of the Founders - The Station of the Bab, Baha'u'llah, 'Abdu'l-Baha - The Baha'i World Order.

IV. Social Principles for a New World Order.

Universality of God - Individual, Collective, Administrative.

V. "The Earth, One Home".

The New Race of Men - Unity in Diversity - Fruition of the Covenant - Establishment of the Kingdom of God on Earth.

Confirmatory Talk. "What it means to be a Baha'i."

The Elements of Baha'i Relief - Community Life - Privileges of Service in the Kingdom.
How to become a Baha'i.

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE.